



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2022**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1488, RELATING TO RESIDENCE FOR TUITION PURPOSES.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309, Via Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Holly T. Shikada, Attorney General, or
Lori N. Tanigawa, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of the bill is to require the tuition residency rules for the University of Hawai'i to grant the resident tuition fee for enrollment at any University of Hawai'i campus, including any community college, to all Hawaii high school graduates and persons who have received equivalent graduation credentials in the State should they choose to return from out of state and pursue higher education in Hawaii, under certain conditions.

Section 6 of article X of the Hawai'i State Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "[t]his section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/09/2022

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Higher Education &
Technology

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi
Hawaii State Department of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1488 RELATING TO RESIDENCE FOR TUITION
PURPOSES.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the tuition residency rules for the University of Hawaii to grant the resident tuition fee for enrollment at any University of Hawaii campus, including any community college, to individuals who have obtained a Hawaii high school diploma or equivalent credential, register to vote in the State, and are working toward an undergraduate degree, under certain conditions.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1488.

Extending the resident tuition fee at any University of Hawaii (UH) campus to individuals who earn a Hawaii high school diploma or equivalent credential and initially enroll in an out-of-state institution of higher education but later return to Hawaii to complete their undergraduate studies increases access to postsecondary education in-state. This bill has the potential to positively impact students who wish to pursue higher education within the UH System and reduce barriers students may face when applying to UH.

Increasing access to postsecondary education for all students is also part of a larger collaborative effort in workforce development, as a significant number of jobs, particularly those affording a living wage, require postsecondary credentials.

The Department defers to the University of Hawaii on the implementation of these

changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1488.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

By
Hae K. Okimoto, Associate President for Student Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1488 – RELATING TO RESIDENCE FOR TUITION PURPOSES

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill (HB) 1488 relating to residence for tuition purposes. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the bill.

HB 1488 would allow graduates of Hawai'i high schools or high school equivalency programs to be recognized as residents for the purpose of in-state undergraduate tuition at the UH. HB 1488 would require that graduates demonstrate their intent to reside in Hawai'i by registering to vote. HB 1488 would not provide for in-state resident status based on Hawai'i high school graduation for those who have lived away from the state (not a "bona fide resident") for more than twelve (12) years.

UH supports recognizing Hawai'i high school graduates as residents for the purpose of in-state tuition. UH is especially supportive of recognizing the current high school graduating class or recent graduates as residents. UH believes simplifying the residency determination would reduce barriers to local students enrolling at UH to pursue additional education and training.

As written, HB 1488 would provide for resident status to Hawai'i high school graduates who have not resided in Hawai'i and/or may have paid taxes in other states for up to twelve (12) years. If the Legislature intends to provide taxpayer-supported higher education to those who have resided out of state and/or paid taxes in other states, then UH recommends a duration of less than twelve (12) years.

Respectfully, UH requests that the limitation on Hawai'i high school graduation as the basis of residency determination--proposed Section 402(2)(C), Chapter 304A--represent the *number of years since high school graduation* rather than the number of years that an individual may have lived out of state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Relating to Residence for Tuition Purposes
Testifying in **Support**

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports HB1488, Relating to Residence for Tuition Purposes. This measure would allow Hawaii high school graduates who leave the state and return to pay in-state tuition if attending any UH campuses, including community colleges.**

The cost of living is high in Hawaii. Allowing these young people a way to save money and move back to Hawaii to learn and work will support local businesses and our economy. If student needs to come home, for whatever reason, they should be supported and encouraged to continue their education in Hawaii, allowing them to pay in-state tuition would help them achieve that.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to **vote in favor of HB1488.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

HB-1488

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:41:08 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/9/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alex Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony. I write in support of HB1488. Folks who graduated from Hawai'i High Schools should have the opportunity to receive in-state tuition rates. They are obviously people with a strong connection to Hawai'i and making in-state tuition more available means more people will be able to access post-secondary education at UH. Public education is a public good and should not stop at 12th grade in a world increasingly demanding 4-year university degrees.

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Miller

HB-1488

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:52:43 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/9/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jeanine Mentnech	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-1488

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:57:49 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/9/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cyd L. Hoffeld	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark and Members of the Higher Education and Tchnology Committee,

My name is Cyd L. Hoffeld, a resident of Hilo, and I **support HB1488** because education is the great equalizer. Yet, many individuals may find their post-secondary educational attainments out of reach due to its high cost.

Please **support HB1488** so we can build a qualified homegrown workforce in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Cyd

HB-1488

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 3:14:15 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/9/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dean Cevallos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I am Dean Cevallos Principal Kea’au High School. I would like to ask the legislature to approve this Bill as it will assist our Students with the application process to college a smooth transition. Since our school is situated in the poorest community in the state this allows the students the capability to apply to any of our state colleges. This would be a great boost and opportunity for my students and their families. We already have a difficult time convincing our clientele they are able to go to college. This step will assist them in knowing the State cares about them and is trying to make it easier for them to apply to any of our Colleges or Universities and that we want them. Please consider voting through this Bill.

Mahalo

Dean Cevallos, Principal Kea’au High School

HB-1488

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:58:31 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/9/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: I am writing in support of HB 1488. This bill would allow those that graduated from a Hawaiian High School or equivalent but left the islands to be able to receive in-state tuition status after returning to Hawaii. It is common knowledge that many young Hawaiians, after graduating from high school, leave the islands looking for employment opportunities. The cost of living in our beautiful state is a major factor in driving young people away. Unless we intervene in meaningful ways, Hawaii will become a residential retirement community.

We need the talents and drive of young people to ensure that Hawaii thrives in the years to come. Allowing Hawaiian that return to their homeland after seeking opportunities elsewhere, to participate in higher educations without being penalized by non resident tuition cost, would be a wonderful incentive to attract young people back into our economy. I urge your support for this common sense measure.

Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI 96749