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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CENTER FOR PACIFIC ISLAND STUDIES AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO  
IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN  
HAWAII AND REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF  
REGENTS TO CHARGE RESIDENT TUITION TO PACIFIC ISLANDER  
STUDENTS.

1           WHEREAS, the Center for Pacific Island Studies (Center)  
2 within the School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies at the  
3 University of Hawaii at Manoa is the only  
4 congressionally-recognized national resource center for the  
5 study of the Pacific Islands; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the Center, with its 42 core and affiliate faculty  
8 members, possesses unparalleled expertise in the field of  
9 Pacific Island studies; and  
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11           WHEREAS, the Center serves the Pacific region and its  
12 people through its commitment to the dynamic, active, and  
13 constructive exchange of knowledge on the Pacific Islands; and  
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15           WHEREAS, the Center functions as both an academic  
16 department and a larger base for initiatives that bring together  
17 people and resources to promote an understanding of the Pacific  
18 Islands and issues of concern to Pacific Islanders, including  
19 the Pacific Islanders currently residing within Hawaii; and  
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21           WHEREAS, according to a Census 2000 brief, the Pacific  
22 Islander population is 283,000 in Hawaii; and  
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24           WHEREAS, more than 25 percent of the population of three of  
25 Hawaii's five counties were reportedly Pacific Islanders, with  
26 the remaining two counties estimated at 20 to 25 percent; and



1 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii  
2 (BOR) last year eliminated the non-resident tuition waiver for  
3 Pacific Island students who are from Pacific island  
4 jurisdictions that have historical ties to the United States and  
5 have degree-granting public higher educational institutions; and  
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7 WHEREAS, there is a need to identify and address the needs  
8 of Pacific Islanders in Hawaii; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the Center would be the appropriate choice to  
11 convene and lead a task force to identify and address the needs  
12 of Pacific Islanders in Hawaii; now, therefore,  
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
15 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
16 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Center is  
17 requested to convene and lead a task force to identify and  
18 address the needs of Pacific Islanders in Hawaii; and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
21 submit a report, including any proposed legislation, to the  
22 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the  
23 Regular Session of 2008; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BOR is respectfully requested  
26 to reinstitute non-resident tuition waivers for students from  
27 Pacific Island jurisdictions that have historical ties to the  
28 United States and have degree-granting public higher education  
29 institutions; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BOR is requested to submit a  
32 report on its progress in granting non-resident tuition waivers  
33 to Pacific Islanders to the Legislature no later than 20 days  
34 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the School  
38 of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies at the University of  
39 Hawaii at Manoa, Chair of the University of Hawaii Board of  
40 Regents, and President of the University of Hawaii.

