
HOUSE 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, that the Center is requested to convene and
17 lead a task force to identify and address the needs of Pacific
18 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 Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the School of Hawaiian,
38 Asian, and Pacific Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa,
39 Chair of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents, and
40 President of the University of Hawaii.

