

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM
WIDE SENIOR CITIZEN VISITOR PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZEN
STUDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, prior to 1995, there existed a Hawaii state law
2 that required the University of Hawaii to allow senior citizens
3 who were age sixty or older and Hawaii residents to enroll in
4 university courses without payment of tuition or fees; and
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6 WHEREAS, Act 161, Session Laws of Hawaii 1995, repealed
7 this and other statutorily mandated tuition waiver programs as
8 part of an initiative to allow the University of Hawaii System
9 to set tuition policies and thereby exert direct management over
10 the resources being generated at the university and community
11 college campuses; and
12

13 WHEREAS, since the repeal of this law, the University of
14 Hawaii at Manoa campus has instituted the Senior Citizen Visitor
15 Program, which allows seniors to visit university courses free
16 of charge; provided that they have the consent of the
17 instructors, are not awarded university credits, and there is
18 space available in the course; and
19

20 WHEREAS, amongst the other University of Hawaii campuses
21 and community colleges, there seems to be disparate treatment of
22 senior citizens who request to attend courses as visitors,
23 ranging from a strict prohibition, to a case-by-case exception
24 by campus administration, to permission being extended by
25 individual faculty members; and
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27 WHEREAS, many other state university systems still maintain
28 either through law or policy, programs to allow tuition-free
29 attendance by senior citizens in university courses; and
30

31 WHEREAS, as expressed in the University of Hawaii at Manoa
32 program policy, the presence of senior citizens on the



1 university campuses "adds to the diversity of campus culture and
2 they contribute from their life experience to the classroom
3 setting;" and
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5 WHEREAS, allowing senior citizens to attend university
6 courses without cost to the senior citizen supports the
7 important concept of lifelong learning that the State wants to
8 instill in our children and youth; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
13 Hawaii System is requested to implement a system wide Senior
14 Citizen Visitor Program to allow senior citizen students to
15 visit university courses free of charge or at reduced rates;
16 provided that they have the consent of the instructors, are not
17 awarded university credits, and there is space available in the
18 courses; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii system
21 provide information about the Senior Citizen Visitor Program on
22 each campus and community college website, and provide
23 information about the program to the Executive Office on Aging,
24 each county area Office on Aging, and each library within the
25 public library system; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii submit
28 a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
29 the convening of the Regular Session of 2008 on its plan and
30 efforts to establish and implement a system wide Senior Citizen
31 Visitor Program; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
35 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, the President of
36 the University of Hawaii System, the Chancellor of each
37 University of Hawaii campus, the Provost of each community
38 college, the State Librarian, the Executive Director of the
39 Executive Office on Aging, and the County Executive of each
40 county Office on Aging.
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