

MAR 13 2007

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO  
CHARGE RESIDENT TUITION TO PACIFIC ISLAND STUDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii  
2 last year eliminated the non-resident tuition waiver for Pacific  
3 Island students who are from Pacific island jurisdictions that  
4 have historical ties to the United States and have degree  
5 granting public higher educational institutions; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, students from these Pacific Islands must now pay  
8 non-resident tuition rates governed by the Western Undergraduate  
9 Exchange, which equates to one hundred fifty per cent of the  
10 resident tuition-rate; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, the Western Undergraduate Exchange tuition rate  
13 was apparently intended to apply to American students from  
14 states that lie to the west of the Mississippi River; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, in contrast, the Board of Regents continues to  
17 grant non-resident tuition waivers to Pacific Island students  
18 who are from island jurisdictions that have historical ties to  
19 the United States but lack degree granting public higher  
20 educational institutions; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, the Pacific Island students who are excluded from  
23 receiving the non-resident tuition waiver comprise a very minute  
24 portion of the total tuition revenues of the University of  
25 Hawaii; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, the tuition increase for this small group of  
28 students has a disproportionately larger financial impact on  
29 them as compared to students because the minimum wages of, and  
30 the median household income of families in, those islands fall  
31 far below the minimum wage and median household income of  
32 families of their American counterparts in states that are a



1 part of the Western Undergraduate Exchange as compared to  
2 students; and  
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4 WHEREAS, a scheduled system-wide increase in tuition  
5 coupled with the elimination of the tuition waivers have forced  
6 some Pacific Island students to apply for student loans; and  
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8 WHEREAS, hopes for financial assistance through a Pacific  
9 Island scholarship program have not materialized; now,  
10 therefore,  
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
14 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Regents  
15 of the University of Hawaii is respectfully requested to  
16 reinstitute non-resident tuition waivers for students from  
17 Pacific island jurisdictions that have historical ties to the  
18 United States and have degree granting public higher educational  
19 institutions; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents is  
22 requested to submit a report on this matter to the Legislature  
23 not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
24 Session of 2008; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board  
28 of Regents of the University of Hawaii and the President of the  
29 University of Hawaii.  
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31  
32

OFFERED BY:

*Hea Esh*

*Robert D. ...*  
*Thomas Chun Oakland*  
*David Y. ...*

*Mike Hubbard*

*James ...*

*and ...*

*Will ...*

*John ...*

