MAR 18 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE COMMUNITY

COLLEGES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO DETERMINE IF

IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE STATEWIDE

SYSTEM FOR THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii System consists of three baccalaureate universities and seven community colleges; and

WHEREAS, the Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii System have a unique social responsibility reflected in their mission, to put postsecondary education within the reach of every resident who wants and can benefit from it; and

WHEREAS, as open-door, low-tuition institutions, the Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii System offer state residents access through seven degree-granting campuses, affiliated outreach centers, and a flexible, short-term, workforce training center; and

WHEREAS, it is not uncommon for fifty to ninety per cent of incoming freshmen to place in remedial or developmental courses in reading, writing, mathematics, or any combination of these three subjects; and

WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii System baccalaureate campuses have fewer resident students and much higher competitive entry level requirements, yet continue to receive more funding per capita than the Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii System; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Higher Education
Management System reports that the Community Colleges of the
University of Hawaii System should be receiving higher levels of
state funding relative to the baccalaureate campuses; and

WHEREAS, the Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii System would benefit from a system with institutions of like mission and a commitment to affordability, and one that is not in competition with baccalaureate campuses for resources; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is requested to conduct a study of the Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii System to determine if it would be beneficial to establish a separate statewide system for the Community Colleges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to review other states, such as California and Oregon, which have separate systems for state community colleges and state baccalaureate and graduate program colleges and universities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include, but not be limited to:

(1) An overview of the Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii System and the current administrative, financial, and academic relationships between the Community Colleges and the University of Hawaii System;

(2) A comparison of the Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii System and selected states that have established separate systems; and

(3) The administrative, financial, and academic advantages and disadvantages of establishing a separate system for the seven Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii System; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor shall submit the study to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010, including any recommendations for legislation and funding; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, the President of the University of Hawaii System, and the Vice President for Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii System.