

MAR 18 2009

## SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING HAWAII'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE WESTERN  
INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (WICHE) AND THE  
EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER BENEFITS PROVIDED THROUGH FORTY YEARS  
OF HAWAII'S MEMBERSHIP IN WICHE.

1 WHEREAS, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher  
2 Education (WICHE) and its fifteen member states work  
3 collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for  
4 all citizens of the Western United States; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, by promoting innovation, cooperation, resource  
7 sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions,  
8 WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to the  
9 region's social, economic, and civic life; and

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11 WHEREAS, WICHE programs are working to find answers to some  
12 of the most critical questions facing higher education today;  
13 and

14  
15 WHEREAS, Hawaii receives a number of direct benefits from  
16 its membership, and in 2008-2009, Hawaii students and their  
17 families saved over \$11,100,000 in tuition by participating in  
18 the Western Undergraduate Exchange, just one of WICHE's three  
19 Student Exchange Programs; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, more than 1,440 Hawaii students participated in  
22 the Western Undergraduate Exchange, attending schools in  
23 fourteen other states, while nearly 2,000 students from other  
24 participating states enrolled in higher education institutions  
25 in Hawaii; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, through WICHE's Professional Student Exchange  
28 Program (PSEP), Hawaii sent seventy-five students to out-of-  
29 state programs in 2008-2009 in six different fields (dentistry,  
30 occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, and  
31 veterinary medicine), and historically, nearly seventy per cent  
32 of outbound PSEP students have returned to Hawaii to pursue  
33 their professional careers; and  
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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii joined WICHE on June 23, 1959, and this  
2 year marks Hawaii's fortieth anniversary as a member of WICHE;  
3 and  
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5 WHEREAS, in the four decades since Hawaii joined WICHE over  
6 6,200 students from Hawaii have attended undergraduate,  
7 graduate, and professional programs in other western states at  
8 reduced tuition rates; and  
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii has received funding to participate in  
11 numerous WICHE policy initiatives related to financing and  
12 financial aid, workforce development, and behavior health; now,  
13 therefore,  
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,  
17 that the Governor and the Legislature strongly support Hawaii's  
18 continued participation in the Western Interstate Commission for  
19 Higher Education (WICHE) and the educational and other benefits  
20 provided through forty years of Hawaii's membership in WICHE;  
21 and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii System  
24 is encouraged to find additional ways to participate in WICHE  
25 activities and collaborate with the other members of WICHE; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
28 Resolution be transmitted to the President of WICHE, WICHE  
29 Hawaii Commissioners, Governor of the State of Hawaii, President  
30 of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
31 President of the University of Hawaii System.  
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