
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SENIOR CITIZENS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The promotion of mental health for our kupuna,
2 or senior citizens, is an important part of overall public
3 health. The United States Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention and the Alzheimer's Association have stated that
5 Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, which
6 disproportionately affect senior citizens, have become a global
7 public health crisis. According to the Alzheimer's Association,
8 there were an estimated twenty-seven thousand individuals in the
9 State of Hawaii aged sixty-five years and older living with
10 Alzheimer's disease in 2017, and this figure is expected to
11 reach thirty-five thousand by 2025.

12 The size of the senior citizen population is experiencing
13 dramatic growth, which will exacerbate this public health
14 crisis. The number of Americans sixty-five years and older will
15 grow from 40.3 million in 2010 to a projected 74.1 million in
16 2030, according to the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-
17 related Statistics' report in 2016. Similarly, the number of



1 Hawaii residents sixty years and older will grow from 277,400 in
2 2010 to a projected 448,710 in 2030, according to the 2011-15
3 Hawaii state plan on aging.

4 Although there is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, several
5 studies and publications, including Jean Carper's book, "100
6 Simple Things You Can Do to Prevent Alzheimer's and Age-Related
7 Memory Loss," provide evidence that continuing education may
8 help to delay the onset of Alzheimer's symptoms. Several
9 programs aimed at promoting the mental health of Hawaii's senior
10 citizens through formal education exist. For instance, the
11 University of Hawaii at Manoa's Senior Citizen Visitor
12 Program/Na Kupuna Program allows approximately three hundred
13 Hawaii senior citizens to attend college courses free of charge
14 without receiving university credit. These programs promote
15 lifelong learning for senior citizens while adding the wisdom
16 and experience of senior citizens to the classroom setting.

17 In addition, according to The American Council on
18 Education, due to increased longevity and an unstable economic
19 future, greater numbers of older adults -- aged 55 to 79 -- are
20 looking to college as a viable option to launch a second career,
21 pursue a new career path, start a new business, find ways to



1 contribute to their community, or complete the educations that
2 they started. Degrees that are particularly useful for older
3 adults to begin new careers include teaching, including
4 Hawaiian-language immersion, and business. Programs in the
5 social sciences and humanities also open doors for older adults
6 to careers that can address a broad spectrum of community needs.

7 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish a five-
8 year senior citizen higher education access pilot program at the
9 University of Hawaii that allows senior citizens to attend
10 college classes:

- 11 (1) Free of charge for no academic credit; and
- 12 (2) At reduced tuition if they earn academic credit for
13 those classes.

14 SECTION 2. (a) The University of Hawaii shall establish a
15 five-year senior citizen higher education access pilot program.
16 The pilot program shall:

- 17 (1) Be established pursuant to rules and procedures
18 adopted by the board of regents;
- 19 (2) Allow individuals aged sixty years or older to attend
20 classes free of tuition for no academic credit; and



1 (3) Allow individuals aged sixty years or older to attend
2 classes at reduced tuition of up to fifty per cent if
3 they earn academic credit for those classes.

4 (b) The University of Hawaii shall determine which classes
5 will be offered as part of the pilot program.

6 (c) The pilot program may begin in the fall semester of
7 2019 and shall cease to exist on June 30, 2025.

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for
11 activities related to the establishment of the five-year senior
12 citizen higher education access pilot program.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
14 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act; provided that the funds
15 shall be appropriated to University of Hawaii systemwide (UOH
16 900) to be distributed to the various campuses for the five-year
17 senior citizen higher education access pilot program.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112, and
19 shall be repealed on June 30, 2025.



Report Title:

University of Hawaii; Senior Citizens; Pilot Program

Description:

Establishes a temporary, five-year Senior Citizen Higher Education Access Pilot Program at the University of Hawaii systemwide. (HB1886 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

