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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the cost of  
2 attending college continues to rise. According to the College  
3 Board, the cost of tuition and fees for attending an in-state  
4 public college for the 2017-2018 academic year averaged \$9,970,  
5 while the average cost for books and supplies for the same  
6 academic year at public colleges averaged \$1,250. Additionally,  
7 in the last twenty years, the cost of college textbooks has  
8 risen much more rapidly than the consumer price index.

9       In April 2016, the Institute for Research on Higher  
10 Education at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of  
11 Education issued a study that analyzed college costs in relation  
12 to family income level. The study revealed how higher education  
13 has gone from expensive to unaffordable for most low- and  
14 middle-income families. According to this same study, Hawaii  
15 ranked third in the nation for overall college affordability and  
16 noted that the University of Hawaii community colleges are the  
17 most affordable public two-year institutions in the nation.



1       The report further acknowledged that despite Hawaii's  
2 overall high affordability ranking, attending college was a big  
3 expense for families earning less than \$30,000 annually; that  
4 Hawaii's financial aid policies did little to alleviate costs  
5 for these families; and that the State provided minimal need-  
6 based aid to students attending public institutions. Therefore,  
7 new and innovative solutions need to be implemented to lower  
8 other costs associated with attending school within the  
9 University of Hawaii system.

10       The purpose of this Act is to:

- 11       (1) Establish a task force to conduct a comprehensive  
12 analysis and evaluation on all general education  
13 courses and high attendance courses taught at the  
14 University of Hawaii system to identify no- or low-  
15 cost options for those courses; and
- 16       (2) Require the task force to report its findings and  
17 recommendation initiatives for supporting and  
18 expanding the use of no- or low-cost options at the  
19 University of Hawaii to the legislature prior to the  
20 Regular Session of 2019.



1       SECTION 2. (a) There is established a task force, within  
2 the University of Hawaii for administrative purposes, to make  
3 college more affordable at the University of Hawaii by focusing  
4 on reducing or eliminating the costs of general education course  
5 textbooks.

6       (b) The task force shall include but not be limited to the  
7 following members:

8       (1) The University of Hawaii board of regents academic and  
9 student affairs committee chair, to serve as co-chair;

10       (2) The University of Hawaii vice president for academic  
11 planning and policy, to serve as co-chair;

12       (3) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for the  
13 University of Hawaii at Manoa;

14       (4) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for the  
15 University of Hawaii at Hilo;

16       (5) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for the  
17 University of Hawaii-West Oahu;

18       (6) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for the  
19 University of Hawaii Maui college;

20       (7) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for Kapiolani  
21 community college;



- 1 (8) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for Leeward  
2 community college;
- 3 (9) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for Windward  
4 community college;
- 5 (10) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for Honolulu  
6 community college;
- 7 (11) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for Kauai  
8 community college;
- 9 (12) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for Hawaii  
10 community college;
- 11 (13) The executive director of the University of Hawaii  
12 Professional Assembly, or the director's designee;
- 13 (14) A University of Hawaii open educational resources team  
14 representative;
- 15 (15) A representative from the University of Hawaii all  
16 campus council of faculty senate chairs;
- 17 (16) The University of Hawaii board of regents student  
18 member; and
- 19 (17) A representative of the publishing industry.
- 20 (c) The task force shall complete a comprehensive analysis  
21 and evaluation on all general education courses and high



1 attendance courses taught within the University of Hawaii system  
2 and identify no- or low-cost options that may be suitable for  
3 those courses, including the establishment of a grant program as  
4 a means of providing no- or low-cost options for educational  
5 materials. The task force shall work with faculty, librarians,  
6 instructional designers, information technology professionals,  
7 and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education to  
8 review national best practices.

9 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
10 and recommendation initiatives for supporting and expanding the  
11 use of no- or low-cost options at the University of Hawaii,  
12 including the costs for allowing faculty and students from all  
13 campuses to access the library reference resources at the  
14 University of Hawaii at Manoa, to the legislature no later than  
15 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
16 2019.

17 (e) The task force shall be dissolved on July 1, 2019.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Task Force; No- or Low-Cost Options

**Description:**

Establishes a task force to conduct a comprehensive analysis and evaluation on all general education courses and high attendance courses taught at the University of Hawaii system to use no- or low-cost options for those courses. (SB2328 HD1)

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