
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO EVALUATE THE 2017 UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
INTERNAL AUDIT OF TRAVEL POLICY COMPLIANCE FOR FISCAL YEARS
2015-2017 AND REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.

1 WHEREAS, the responsibility to authorize and approve travel
2 plans and expenses for University of Hawaii employees, students,
3 and others who travel on approved university business is
4 delegated to various executive authorities within the
5 University, including Vice Presidents, Chancellors, Vice
6 Chancellors, Deans, and Directors; and

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8 WHEREAS, the delegated authorities who approve travel are
9 responsible for exercising discretion in determining that travel
10 expenses are reasonable and appropriate; and

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12 WHEREAS, according to University of Hawaii Executive Policy
13 8.208, "[a]ll official travel should be prudently planned so
14 that the best interests of the University are served at the most
15 reasonable cost. Any individual traveling on University
16 business is expected to exercise the same economy that a
17 practical person would exercise when traveling on personal
18 business using personal funds. Individuals shall not incur
19 inappropriate or excessive expenses, or gain financially from
20 the University travel. Excessive costs or unjustified costs are
21 not acceptable and will not be reimbursed"; and

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23 WHEREAS, there are concerns that University of Hawaii
24 employees and other affiliated personnel are not following
25 travel policies and procedures; and

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27 WHEREAS, there are also concerns as to how delegated
28 authorities review and authorize the purpose of travel as
29 benefitting the University of Hawaii; and
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1 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii conducted an internal
 2 audit of travel policy compliance in fiscal year 2017,
 3 evaluating the frequency and severity of non-compliance in
 4 fiscal years 2015-2017, and the impact on University of Hawaii
 5 operations and financial results; and

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 7 WHEREAS, while the University of Hawaii maintains its
 8 autonomy to evaluate and monitor internal compliance, the
 9 Legislature notes the institution still relies on a substantial
 10 amount of state general funds, and therefore it is justified for
 11 the Legislature to determine if the University of Hawaii is
 12 following best practices in internal audits and oversight of
 13 policies; now, therefore,

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 15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 16 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
 17 Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is requested to
 18 evaluate the 2017 University of Hawaii internal audit of travel
 19 policy compliance for fiscal years 2015-2017 and report to the
 20 Legislature; and

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 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor's report to the
 23 Legislature is requested to include the following:

- 24
 25 (1) Whether the internal audit was conducted in accordance
 26 with best practices;
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 28 (2) Whether the approved travel met the University of
 29 Hawaii Systemwide Policies and Procedures relating to
 30 travel;
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 32 (3) Whether additional investigation was warranted to
 33 obtain a full and fair evaluation of the level of non-
 34 compliance and the impact on University of Hawaii
 35 operations and finances;
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 37 (4) Whether the corrective action suggested in the
 38 internal audit was sufficient to curb any current and
 39 future non-compliance;
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- 1 (5) The method used by the University of Hawaii
- 2 administration to disseminate this information within
- 3 the University;
- 4
- 5 (6) The status of the implementation of any corrective
- 6 action; and
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- 8 (7) Whether the sample size of the internal audit was
- 9 sufficient; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the

13 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, President of the

14 University of Hawaii System, and State Auditor.

