
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ALL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE
STATE TO CONDUCT OUTREACH AMONG THEIR INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS AND RECENT INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES.

1 WHEREAS, although some foreign students may attend Hawaii
2 post-secondary educational institutions remotely from their home
3 countries, many other foreign students relocate to Hawaii to
4 pursue their post-secondary studies, and contribute to the
5 academic rigor and diversity of their respective campuses; and
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7 WHEREAS, these students pay significantly higher tuition
8 fees than other students, and those fees contribute
9 significantly to the budgets of post-secondary educational
10 institutions in the State; and
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12 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic
13 has created a crisis for many international students studying in
14 the United States, including Hawaii; and
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16 WHEREAS, foreign students in Hawaii face many challenging
17 conditions, including:
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- 19 (1) Social isolation in a foreign land compounded by
20 social distancing mandates and a shift to virtual
21 learning;
22
- 23 (2) Unfamiliarity with the American healthcare system and
24 cultural taboos surrounding mental health treatment;
25
- 26 (3) A pandemic-induced global recession that resulted in a
27 loss of campus employment opportunities for
28 international students and a reduction in financial
29 support from overseas family members;
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- 1 (4) Ineligibility for federal aid granted to American
2 students, including congressionally authorized
3 coronavirus emergency relief funds;
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- 5 (5) Border closures initiated by the students' home
6 countries in response to surging coronavirus infection
7 rates across the United States, which left students
8 stranded in the United States where the cost of living
9 is often higher;
10
- 11 (6) Student visa issues created by the federal
12 administration's unpredictable policies that, at one
13 time, disqualified international students studying at
14 schools that had moved to one hundred percent online
15 learning from remaining in the country;
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- 17 (7) The growing risk of staying in the United States
18 beyond the expiration of their visas if certain
19 borders are not open for travel;
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- 21 (8) The high costs of return travel home, due to
22 circuitous routes as flights are limited or suspended;
23
- 24 (9) The limited availability of campus housing, which
25 leads to students seeking shelter with people in local
26 communities, some of whom, particularly Pacific
27 Islanders, have been disproportionately affected by
28 the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic;
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- 30 (10) Prohibitions on working anywhere outside of campus,
31 when available campus work is limited;
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- 33 (11) The ability to afford food; and
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- 35 (12) Anti-Asian sentiments, especially anti-Chinese
36 sentiments, since the first coronavirus outbreak in
37 Wuhan, China, which have coincided with a rise in hate
38 crimes; and
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40 WHEREAS, post-secondary educational institutions in the
41 State, having accepted enrollment commitments and tuition
42 payments from international students, should invest in these



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1 students and offer them an array of supportive services that
2 will help them weather the visa uncertainties, financial
3 hardships, and mental health toll caused by the coronavirus
4 disease 2019 pandemic; and

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6 WHEREAS, many international students who recently
7 graduated, specifically in Spring 2020 or later, are unable to
8 leave the State due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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10 WHEREAS, recent international graduates who are unable to
11 leave the State need support and guidance, but are normally not
12 eligible for assistance from their respective post-secondary
13 educational institutions; now, therefore,

14
15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
17 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that each post-secondary
18 educational institution in the State, whether public or private,
19 having a current enrollment of one or more international
20 students, or from which one or more international students
21 graduated in Spring 2020 or later, is requested to conduct
22 outreach among the institution's international students and
23 recent international graduates and maintain detailed records of
24 international student and recent international graduate status
25 and well-being in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, including
26 information on each international student's and recent
27 international graduate's:

28
29 (1) Housing status;

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31 (2) Need for financial assistance;

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33 (3) Physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

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35 (4) Immigration or student visa status; and

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37 any other information relevant to the impacts of coronavirus
38 disease 2019 on international students and recent international
39 graduates, to the extent that collection of the foregoing
40 information is not prohibited by federal, state, or county law;
41 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each post-secondary educational
2 institution described above is requested to consider the types
3 of supportive services that the institution is capable of
4 providing to its international students and recent international
5 graduates, whether independently or in partnership with
6 governmental or private entities, and to engage in active
7 efforts to provide these services to the fullest extent
8 feasible; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each post-secondary educational
11 institution described above is requested to include among its
12 supportive services:
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14 (1) Assistance with fulfilling student visa requirements,
15 including facilitating the provision of any necessary
16 institutional documentation to the United States
17 Department of Homeland Security, facilitating academic
18 training arrangements that permit extensions of J-1
19 visas, and resolving student visa issues caused by
20 administrative decisions made by the post-secondary
21 educational institution;
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23 (2) Housing assistance, including:
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25 (A) Assistance to international students and recent
26 international graduates with relocation to
27 off-campus or private housing;
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29 (B) Reimbursements to members of the community for
30 providing shelter to international students and
31 recent international graduates; and;
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33 (C) Transitional or temporary housing subsidized by
34 local community, civic, religious, and other
35 non-profit organizations acting in partnership
36 with the post-secondary educational institution;
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38 (3) Work opportunities, to the extent permitted by law;
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40 (4) Financial assistance, including the establishment of
41 charitable emergency funds and provision of donated



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- 1 goods, including food, clothing, household goods,
- 2 textbooks, and other educational supplies;
- 3
- 4 (5) Organized activities that comply with applicable state
- 5 or county coronavirus disease 2019 guidelines and
- 6 provide opportunities for physical exercise and social
- 7 and cultural engagement;
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- 9 (6) Activities designed to combat against anti-Asian
- 10 sentiments, especially anti-Chinese sentiments; and
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- 12 (7) Other actions designed to create a sense of safety and
- 13 belonging among international students and recent
- 14 international graduates; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 17 Concurrent Resolution be the transmitted to the President of the
 18 University of Hawaii System and Director of Commerce and
 19 Consumer Affairs, the latter of whom is requested to transmit
 20 copies of this measure to each private college, private
 21 university, out-of-state public institution, seminary, and
 22 religious training institution that is authorized to operate in
 23 this State pursuant to Chapter 305J, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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OFFERED BY:  _____
 MAR 12 2021

