
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO REPORT ON THE PAMANTASAN COUNCIL'S SYSTEMWIDE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF FILIPINOS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Filipinos represent one-quarter of Hawaii's
2 population, the second largest ethnic group in the State, the
3 largest ethnicity in public schools, the third largest in
4 community colleges, and the fourth largest at four-year
5 campuses; and
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7 WHEREAS, Filipino student representation and academic
8 performance has increased at all University of Hawaii campuses
9 and are adequately represented at the community colleges, but
10 Filipino student representation has seen a decline in transfer
11 rates to four-year campuses; and
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13 WHEREAS, while Filipino student representation at the
14 University of Hawaii at Manoa has increased, Filipino students
15 continue to be underrepresented at the undergraduate level and
16 are significantly underrepresented in graduate and professional
17 degree programs; and
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19 WHEREAS, Filipino faculty are underrepresented at all
20 University of Hawaii campuses as many faculty members are in
21 temporary positions while critical, permanent faculty positions
22 remain unfilled; and
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24 WHEREAS, some Filipino faculty at University of Hawaii
25 campuses provided leadership and service to the State and the
26 Filipino community, which experienced one of the highest
27 percentages of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and
28 deaths; and
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30 WHEREAS, there are few Filipino-related courses such as
31 Philippine languages, Philippine studies, and Filipinos in
32 Hawaii offered at University of Hawaii campuses; and
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34 WHEREAS, the state-funded University of Hawaii System is
35 responsible for teaching, research, and community service;



1 additional programming to increase curriculum content; and
2 improvements to representation and success of Filipino faculty
3 and staff, which may also lead to an increase in the number of
4 University of Hawaii graduates of Filipino descent who can join
5 Hawaii's educated workforce and become active citizens in the
6 State; and
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8 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council,
9 utilizing the Filipino word for "higher education", was formed
10 in 1987 to review the status of Filipinos at the University of
11 Hawaii; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Pamantasan Council has held the annual
14 Pamantasan Conferences, organized activities, and developed
15 recommendations to increase representation of students, faculty,
16 staff, and curriculum of the Filipino community; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Legislature adopted Act 266, Session Laws of
19 Hawaii 2019, to appropriate funds for two full-time equivalent
20 (2.0 FTE) positions for the University of Hawaii Pamantasan
21 Council to assist the State and the University of Hawaii in
22 meeting strategic goals for access, diversity, and workforce
23 development; and
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25 WHEREAS, despite the Governor's approval of the
26 appropriation, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting budget
27 restrictions prevented the hiring of two positions for the
28 Pamantasan Council; and
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30 WHEREAS, funds approved for the Pamantasan Council are now
31 utilized to temporarily support a University of Hawaii Maui
32 College lecturer to teach distance education Ilokano courses and
33 for curriculum development of a community college-level
34 certificate in Filipino Studies and coordination with the
35 University of Hawaii at Manoa's Ethnic Studies Department for
36 course development; now, therefore,
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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
40 of 2022, that the University of Hawaii is requested to report on
41 the Pamantasan Council's systemwide efforts to improve the
42 status of Filipinos at the University of Hawaii; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to include information regarding the 2019 appropriation; resource and budgetary needs; recommendations on curriculum development; and representation and success of students, faculty, and staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY: 
MAR 11 2022