



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/07/2023

**Time:** 03:00 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Higher Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 1413 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
RESIDENT TUITION FEE.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the tuition residency rules for the University of Hawaii to grant the resident tuition fee for enrollment at any University of Hawaii campus to individuals who have graduated from a Hawaii high school and are enrolling in an undergraduate degree program, under certain conditions.

**Department's Position:**

SB 1413 allows the University of Hawaii (University) to recognize Hawaii's high school graduates as residents for the purpose of University tuition. Determining residency based on high school graduation would streamline the processes for high school seniors and for graduates to continue their education and training beyond high school at the resident tuition rate for the University's baccalaureate campuses and community colleges. Simplifying the residency determination for Hawaii's high school students and graduates increases access to post-secondary education.

Many high school seniors have difficulty answering the University's residency questionnaire which is part of the admissions process. Some students are unaware of their parents' or caregivers' tax filings, and other students may have nontraditional family arrangements which make it difficult to respond to the questionnaire. Also, students who are in unstable housing situations—nearly, 3,300 students in Department schools last year—may have challenges in responding to the questionnaire.

The Department supports SB 1413 as it supports the newly approved Board of Education (Board) Strategic Plan. One of the Board's goals is that "All students graduate high school prepared for college and career success and community and civic engagement (Goal 1.3)." SB 1413 facilitates achievement of the goal by increasing access to post-secondary education at the University.

Increasing access to post-secondary education for all students is also part of a larger collaborative effort in workforce development since a significant number of jobs, particularly those affording a living wage, require post-secondary credentials.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1413.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert, Vice President for Academic Strategy  
University of Hawai'i System

#### SB 1413 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESIDENT TUITION FEE

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill (SB) 1413 relating to the University of Hawai'i resident tuition fee.

An educated citizenry is a foundation for a strong state, and as the sole provider of public education in the State of Hawai'i, the University of Hawai'i (UH) supports this bill which will assist with reducing barriers to enrollment at UH by streamlining the application process for residents, especially recent high school graduates.

SB 1413 would allow graduates of a Hawai'i high school to be classified as residents for the purpose of in-state tuition at UH. Using graduation from a high school in the State of Hawai'i as a determining factor simplifies the residency process and would reduce barriers to local students enrolling at UH to pursue additional education and training. In addition, the bill simplifies residency determination for high school students and recent graduates who are homeless and/or have complex family circumstances.

Hawai'i's "college going rate" of high school graduates declined during the pandemic, dropping from 55% enrolling immediately after high school graduation to 51%. The decline in college going rates to UH disproportionately affected low income, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander graduates. While some of this may be attributed to the uncertainties that the current health pandemic created in the lives of our students, as UH moves forward, we must do so in ways that streamline the transition from high school to college as much as possible. Recognizing recent Hawai'i high school graduates as residents for the purpose of in-state tuition assists with streamlining of the application process and overall transition of students from high school to college.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.  
By  
Stephen Schatz, Executive Director  
Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education

## SBI413 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I RESIDENT TUITION FEE

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SBI413 relating to expanding the criteria to qualify for resident tuition at the University of Hawai'i.

Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) supports SBI413.

This bill would allow recent graduates of Hawai'i's high schools to be classified as residents for the purpose of in-state tuition at the University and would help to simplify the application process, thereby reducing barriers for local students pursuing post-high school education and training, especially those graduates that are homeless and/or have complex family circumstances.

Hawai'i P-20 works with education partners across the State to create smoother transitions for students – particularly those that are low-income and under-represented in higher education – along the education pipeline. This bill would complement Hawai'i P-20's larger effort of collaboration across the State in developing seamless pathways between secondary and postsecondary. It will further reduce barriers students may face when applying to UH and will streamline the admissions process, thereby allowing students to make their college decisions sooner and start their college onboarding earlier.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

**SB-1413**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 2:02:36 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support