
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the university of
2 Hawaii operates a geographically dispersed system of campuses
3 that serve diverse student populations across the State,
4 including recent high school graduates, adult learners,
5 workforce trainees, graduate and professional students, and
6 students from neighbor islands and rural communities.

7 The legislature further finds that Hawaii is experiencing
8 significant demographic change, including declining numbers of
9 traditional college-age students, increasing numbers of adult
10 and returning learners, and evolving workforce demands in
11 critical fields such as health care, education, energy, and
12 technology. These trends are reshaping enrollment patterns
13 across the university of Hawaii system and placing new and
14 uneven demands on instructional space, laboratories, clinical
15 training facilities, research infrastructure, and student
16 housing.



1 The legislature additionally finds that the cost,
2 availability, and configuration of student housing directly
3 affect access to higher education, student retention and
4 completion, and the university's ability to train a workforce
5 that meets the State's needs. At the same time, long-term
6 facilities and housing planning must account for fiscal
7 constraints, land use considerations, capital improvement
8 timelines, and opportunities for innovative financing and
9 partnerships.

10 The legislature recognizes that while the university of
11 Hawaii has engaged in campus-level planning efforts, there is
12 value in a coordinated, systemwide approach that aligns
13 facilities and student housing planning with enrollment
14 projections, workforce priorities, and capital planning
15 processes, particularly during a period of demographic and
16 economic transition. As such, this is a matter of statewide
17 concern.

18 The purpose of this Act is to require the university of
19 Hawaii to develop and maintain a comprehensive, systemwide
20 facilities and student housing master plan to support the
21 university's academic, research, and workforce development



missions while also being responsive to changes to demographic, enrollment, and labor market trends.

SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§304A- Facilities and student housing master plan.

(a) Beginning _____, the university shall develop and maintain a statewide facilities and student housing master plan that supports the academic, research, and workforce development missions of the university and reflects changing demographic, enrollment, and labor market trends.

(b) The master plan shall, at a minimum, include:

(1) Enrollment and demographic analysis, including:

(A) Systemwide and campus-level enrollment trends and projections;

(B) Shifts in student composition, including increases or decreases in adult learners, part-time students, graduate and professional students, and workforce-focused learners; and

(C) Implications of these trends for instructional space, training facilities, and housing demand;



1 (2) Facilities assessment, including:

2 (A) An inventory of existing instructional,
3 laboratory, clinical, research, and support
4 facilities across the university system;

5 (B) Identification of facilities constraints or gaps
6 that may affect academic programs, workforce
7 training, or research activities; and

8 (C) Consideration of the condition, utilization, and
9 adaptability of existing facilities;

10 (3) Student housing needs analysis, including:

11 (A) Current and projected housing demand by campus
12 and student population, including first-year
13 students, neighbor island students, graduate and
14 professional students, and short-term or
15 workforce program participants;

16 (B) Evaluation of different housing typologies,
17 including traditional residence halls, graduate
18 or family housing, short-term or modular housing,
19 and other flexible housing models; and



1 (C) Assessment of how housing availability and
2 affordability affect student access, retention,
3 and completion;

4 (4) Alignment with workforce and academic priorities,
5 including:

6 (A) Identification of facilities and housing
7 considerations related to high-priority workforce
8 areas, including health care, education, and
9 other in-demand fields;

10 (B) Consideration of how facilities and housing
11 planning supports partnerships with hospitals,
12 clinics, employers, and community organizations;
13 and

14 (C) Integration with short-term workforce education
15 and training programs offered by the university;

16 (5) Capital planning and financing considerations,
17 including:

18 (A) Identification of potential capital improvement
19 priorities related to facilities and student
20 housing;



1 (B) Discussion of phasing, sequencing, and timing
2 considerations;

3 (C) Overview of potential financing approaches,
4 including public-private partnerships, lease
5 arrangements, or other innovative models, as
6 appropriate; and

7 (D) Alignment with the university's existing capital
8 improvement planning processes.

9 (c) The university shall update the master plan no less
10 frequently than once every five years to reflect updated data,
11 projections, and institutional priorities. The university may
12 update the master plan on a more frequent basis if the
13 university deems an update is appropriate.

14 (d) The university shall submit the master plan, and any
15 updates thereto, to the legislature no later than twenty days
16 prior to the convening of the regular session following
17 completion of the master plan or any update to the master plan.

18 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

19 (1) Require the construction of any specific facility or
20 housing project;



- 1 (2) Mandate the expansion or reduction of student housing
2 at any university campus;
3 (3) Limit the authority of the university to manage its
4 facilities, housing, or capital planning decisions; or
5 (4) Create any entitlement to funding or capital
6 appropriations."

7 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

9

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. J.', written over a horizontal line.

JAN 28 2026



H.B. NO. 2518

Report Title:

University of Hawaii System; Facilities and Student Housing;
Master Plan

Description:

Requires the University of Hawaii to develop a facilities and student housing master plan. Requires reports to the Legislature.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

