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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA KOKUA PROGRAM AND  
DISABILITY SERVICES ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND  
IDENTIFY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION.

1 WHEREAS, creating an accessible, inclusive, and supportive  
2 learning environment where people may thrive, regardless of  
3 ability, is a guiding principle for higher education in the  
4 State; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, colleges and universities, other post-secondary  
7 institutions, and a public system of higher education have an  
8 obligation to provide access to students with disabilities in  
9 all institutional programs and activities in compliance with the  
10 Americans with Disabilities Act; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau's American  
13 Community Survey found that the percentage of college students  
14 with disabilities has nearly doubled during the last two  
15 decades, with as many as twenty-one percent of students  
16 reporting a disability in 2020; further, the National Center for  
17 Education Statistics found that during the 2019-2020 academic  
18 year, twenty-three percent of Pacific Islander undergraduate  
19 students reported having a disability; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, there is a discrepancy between the rate of  
22 students reporting having a disability, and the rate of the  
23 students registering with their campus disability center, with  
24 only seven percent of students registered at public  
25 institutions; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, students with disabilities face increased rates of  
28 basic needs insecurity such as food, housing, health care, and  
29 transport access, yet have not been identified as a vulnerable



1 social category by the *Landscape Assessment of Student Basic*  
2 *Needs Insecurity in the University of Hawai'i's System* report;  
3 and

4  
5 WHEREAS, the Office of Student Equity, Excellence, &  
6 Diversity (SEED) works to ensure access and opportunity through  
7 research focused on impact that fosters academic excellence and  
8 success, and student affair programs that are shaped by  
9 connections to place, community, and society; now, therefore,

10  
11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
13 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii is  
14 urged to evaluate the effectiveness of the University of Hawaii  
15 Kokua Program and disability service programs across the  
16 University of Hawaii System and identify areas for improvement  
17 and expansion; and

18  
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii Manoa  
20 SEED program is requested to conduct a study or survey to assess  
21 how to better improve student outreach and knowledge of  
22 disability support and provide recommendations for improving  
23 access, including but not limited to:

- 24
- 25 (1) Optimizing the disability services registration
- 26 process;
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- 28 (2) Improving the speed of faculty letter transmittal and
- 29 classroom relocation so as to not impact registration
- 30 and attendance;
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- 32 (3) Assessing solutions for long-term building
- 33 inaccessibility due to broken elevators;
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- 35 (4) Accommodating a broader range of disabilities that may
- 36 need innovative accessibility solutions; and
- 37
- 38 (5) Implementing a framework for accommodations regarding
- 39 barriers with transport, attendance, and basic needs
- 40 access; and
- 41



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii Manoa  
2 SEED program is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
4 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
5 the Regular Session of 2027; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
9 University of Hawaii and Assistant Vice Provost for Student  
10 Success.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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

MAR 16 2026

