

---

---

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS TO CONDUCT  
A SYSTEMWIDE ASSOCIATE DEGREE COMPLETION AUDIT.

1 WHEREAS, increasing postsecondary degree attainment  
2 strengthens Hawaii's workforce, supports economic mobility, and  
3 improves long-term economic resilience; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, many students accumulate substantial college  
6 credits but leave the University of Hawaii system without  
7 receiving a credential; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, students who have earned sufficient credits to  
10 meet associate degree requirements may not receive a degree due  
11 to transfer patterns, financial hardship, life circumstances, or  
12 administrative barriers; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, awarding earned credentials recognizes student  
15 achievement, improves workforce readiness, and enhances  
16 statewide degree attainment metrics; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, reverse transfer and degree audit initiatives have  
19 been implemented in other states to identify students eligible  
20 for associate degree awards after transferring or stopping out;  
21 and  
22

23 WHEREAS, section 304A-105, Hawaii Revised Statutes, grants  
24 the University of Hawaii Board of Regents exclusive jurisdiction  
25 over the internal structure, management, and operation of the  
26 University; now, therefore,  
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
30 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii  
31 Board of Regents is requested to conduct a systemwide audit to



# H.C.R. NO. 53

1 identify current and former students who have accumulated  
 2 sufficient academic credits to qualify for an associate degree  
 3 but have not been awarded the credential; and  
 4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of the audit, the  
 6 University of Hawaii is requested to examine students who:  
 7

8 (1) Transferred from a University of Hawaii community  
 9 college to a four-year campus before completing an  
 10 associate degree; and  
 11

12 (2) Began at a four-year campus within the University of  
 13 Hawaii system and accumulated sufficient credits to  
 14 meet associate degree requirements prior to stopping  
 15 or withdrawing; and  
 16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents is  
 18 requested to develop recommendations, if feasible, to establish  
 19 or expand pathways for awarding earned associate degrees to  
 20 eligible students, including consideration of reverse transfer  
 21 mechanisms, degree audit processes, residency requirements,  
 22 accreditation considerations, and fiscal impact; and  
 23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is  
 25 requested to submit the audit, including any findings,  
 26 recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the Legislature no  
 27 later than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2027; and  
 28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
 31 University of Hawaii Board of Regents and President of the  
 32 University of Hawaii.  
 33  
 34  
 35

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



MAR 12 2026

