
HOUSE 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
30 social category by the *Landscape Assessment of Student Basic*



1 Needs Insecurity in the University of Hawai'i's System report;
2 and

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

9
10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
12 of 2026, that the University of Hawaii is urged to evaluate the
13 effectiveness of the University of Hawaii Kokua Program and
14 disability service programs across the University of Hawaii
15 System and identify areas for improvement and expansion; and

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

- 22
- 23 (1) Optimizing the disability services registration
24 process;
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 - 26 (2) Improving the speed of faculty letter transmittal and
27 classroom relocation so as to not impact registration
28 and attendance;
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 - 30 (3) Assessing solutions for long-term building
31 inaccessibility due to broken elevators;
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 - 33 (4) Accommodating a broader range of disabilities that may
34 need innovative accessibility solutions; and
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 - 36 (5) Implementing a framework for accommodations regarding
37 barriers with transport, attendance, and basic needs
38 access; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii Manoa
41 SEED program is requested to submit a report of its findings and
42 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



H.R. NO. 101

1 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the Regular Session of 2027; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of
6 Hawaii and Assistant Vice Provost for Student Success.

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OFFERED BY:

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

MAR 16 2026

