
HOUSE 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
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5 WHEREAS, many students accumulate substantial college
6 credits but leave the University of Hawaii system without
7 receiving a credential; and
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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
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14 WHEREAS, awarding earned credentials recognizes student
15 achievement, improves workforce readiness, and enhances
16 statewide degree attainment metrics; and
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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
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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,
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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, that the University of Hawaii Board of Regents is
31 requested to conduct a systemwide audit to identify current and
32 former students who have accumulated sufficient academic credits



1 to qualify for an associate degree but have not been awarded the
2 credential; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 12 2026

