
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 pursuant to article X, section 6, of the Hawaii State
18 Constitution.

19 The purpose of this Act is to require the university of
20 Hawaii to develop and maintain a comprehensive, systemwide
21 facilities and student housing master plan to support the



1 university's academic, research, and workforce development
2 missions while also being responsive to changes to demographic,
3 enrollment, and labor market trends.

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

7 "§304A- Facilities and student housing master plan. (a)

8 Beginning , the university shall develop and maintain
9 a statewide facilities and student housing master plan that
10 supports the academic, research, and workforce development
11 missions of the university and reflects changing demographic,
12 enrollment, and labor market trends.

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

14 (1) Enrollment and demographic analysis, including:

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

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



- 1 (C) Implications of these trends for instructional
- 2 space, training facilities, and housing demand;
- 3 (2) Facilities assessment, including:
- 4 (A) An inventory of existing instructional,
- 5 laboratory, clinical, research, and support
- 6 facilities across the university system;
- 7 (B) Identification of facilities constraints or gaps
- 8 that may affect academic programs, workforce
- 9 training, or research activities; and
- 10 (C) Consideration of the condition, utilization, and
- 11 adaptability of existing facilities;
- 12 (3) Student housing needs analysis, including:
- 13 (A) Current and projected housing demand by campus
- 14 and student population, including first-year
- 15 students, neighbor island students, graduate and
- 16 professional students, and short-term or
- 17 workforce program participants;
- 18 (B) Evaluation of different housing typologies,
- 19 including traditional residence halls, graduate
- 20 or family housing, short-term or modular housing,
- 21 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 and

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

- 19 (A) Identification of potential capital improvement
- 20 priorities related to facilities and student
- 21 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 six 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 an initial report of its
15 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
16 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
17 to the convening of the regular session of 2028 and submit the
18 master plan, and any updates thereto, to the legislature no
19 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
20 session following completion of the master plan or any update to
21 the master plan.



- 1 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to:
- 2 (1) Require the construction of any specific facility or
- 3 housing project;
- 4 (2) Mandate the expansion or reduction of student housing
- 5 at any university campus;
- 6 (3) Limit the authority of the university to manage its
- 7 facilities, housing, or capital planning decisions; or
- 8 (4) Create any entitlement to funding or capital
- 9 appropriations."

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
 13 the hiring of consultants and information systems improvements.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of
 15 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 31, 2050.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires the University of Hawaii to develop a facilities and student housing master plan. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/31/2050. (HD1)

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