

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1579-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 31, 2026

RE: H.R. No. 49

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred  
H.R. No. 49 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD  
OF REGENTS TO CONDUCT A SYSTEMWIDE ASSOCIATE DEGREE  
COMPLETION AUDIT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Board of  
Regents of the University of Hawaii to conduct a systematic  
associate degree completion audit.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the  
Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

Your Committee finds that due to several factors including  
transfer patterns, financial hardship, life circumstances, and  
administrative barriers, many students at the University of Hawaii  
earn sufficient credits to meet associate degree requirements but  
leave the University of Hawaii System without receiving a  
credential. Your Committee further finds that awarding earned  
credentials helps increase post-secondary degree attainment,  
ultimately strengthening Hawaii's workforce and improving long-  
term economic resilience. This measure will help identify current  
and former students who have accumulated sufficient credits to  
qualify for an associate degree while exploring pathways for  
awarding earned associate degrees to eligible students.

2026-2801 HR49 HSCR HMSO



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 49 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Higher Education,



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ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



