

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett, Chair
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Rep. Jeanne Kapela	Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Rep. Darius K. Kila	Rep. Christopher L. Muraoka
Rep. Trish La Chica	Rep. Kanani Souza

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2026
TIME: 2:00p.m.
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Click [here](#) to submit testimony and to testify remotely or in person.

A live stream link of all House Standing Committee meetings will be available online shortly before the scheduled start time.

Click [here](#) for the live stream of this meeting via YouTube.

A G E N D A

[HB 1596](#)
[Status](#)

RELATING TO STUDENT BASIC NEEDS SUPPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.
Establishes a Basic Needs Pilot Program at a single campus of the University of Hawaii system. Authorizes the establishment of a Housing Stability Pilot Project at that campus. Appropriates funds.

HED, HSH, FIN

[HB 1597](#)
[Status](#)

RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS RESEARCH.
Establishes and appropriates funds for an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Center at the University of Hawaii, including the establishment of two full-time positions.

HED, HLT, FIN

[HB 1970](#)
[Status](#)

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CANCER CENTER.
Appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii Cancer Center Hawaii Tumor Registry.

HED, FIN



HB 1598 Status	RELATING TO THE HAWAII CLIMATE INSTITUTE. Establishes the Hawaii Climate Institute at the University of Hawaii to support climate resilience and adaptation initiatives of the University and the State. Requires six per cent of the revenue generated by any increase to the Transient Accommodations Tax rates beginning on January 1, 2026, and by assessment of the Transient Accommodations Tax on gross rental proceeds derived from cruise fares to be allocated to the University of Hawaii annually to support the programs and operations of the Hawaii Climate Institute. Transfers the International Pacific Research Center of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's School of Ocean and Earth Sciences and Technology to the Hawaii Climate Institute. Appropriates funds.	HED, EEP, FIN
HB 1989 Status	RELATING TO WATER RETENTION. Directs the University of Hawai'i School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology to conduct a study that identifies, analyzes, and evaluates possible methods to capture, retain, and store rainwater and storm water runoff for counties with a population of more than five hundred thousand. Requires an annual report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.	HED, FIN
HB 1951 Status	RELATING TO BIOSECURITY. Requires the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience to establish a Center for Biosecurity Research, Education, and Extension to develop and implement innovative solutions for detecting, monitoring, eradicating, and managing invasive species. Appropriates funds.	HED, AGR, FIN
HB 1952 Status	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. Authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates funds for capital improvements for the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience's Agricultural Research and Extension Station on Kauai.	HED, AGR, FIN
HB 2005 Status	RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS. Establishes a statewide language access education and workforce development program at the University of Hawaii. Appropriates funds.	HED, LAB, FIN
HB 1790 Status	RELATING TO POLICING. Requires law enforcement agencies and police oversight agencies to collect and report certain data regarding law enforcement stops, uses of force, and complaints to the Hawaii Crime Lab affiliated with the University of Hawaii. Requires the Hawaii Crime Lab to collect and publish incident-level information and an annual report on the data collected. Requires the Department of the Attorney General to adopt rules, in coordination with the Hawaii Crime Lab.	HED, JHA, FIN



Requires members of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii to attend a governance training within twelve months of appointment and every two years thereafter. Exempts strategic planning retreats of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii from open meeting requirements if certain conditions are met. Requires the Candidate Advisory Council to ensure that all candidates presented to the Governor for nomination have certain subject matter experience and are not registered lobbyists who have lobbied on matters pertaining to the University of Hawaii. Requires the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, in collaboration with the Candidate Advisory Council, to submit annual reports to the Legislature.

DECISION MAKING TO FOLLOW

Persons wishing to offer comments should submit testimony at least **24 hours** prior to the hearing. Testimony received after this time will be stamped late and left to the discretion of the chair to consider. While every effort will be made to incorporate all testimony received, materials received on the day of the hearing or improperly identified or directed, may not be processed.

Testimony submitted will be placed on the legislative website. This public posting of testimony on the website should be considered when including personal information in your testimony.

The chair may institute a per-testifier time limit.

Committees meeting in the morning must adjourn prior to the day's Floor Session. Therefore, due to time constraints, not all testifiers may be provided an opportunity to offer verbal comments. However, written submissions will be considered by the committee.

Please refrain from profanity or uncivil behavior. Violations may result in ejection from the hearing without the ability to rejoin.

For remote testifiers, the House will not be responsible for bad connections on the testifier's end.

For general help navigating the committee hearing process, please contact the Public Access Room at (808) 587-0478 or par@capitol.hawaii.gov.

The livestream and/or cable TV broadcast of this meeting will include closed captioning. If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation (including oral, written, or ASL interpretive services) or are unable to submit testimony via the website due to a disability, please contact the committee clerk at (808) 586-8476. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of House Guidelines for remote testimony.

FOR AMENDED NOTICES: Measures that have been deleted are stricken through and measures that have been added are bolded.

For more information, please contact the Committee Clerk at (808) 586-8476.



Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett
Chair

