

ACT 135

H.B. NO. 1588

A Bill for an Act Relating to Degree Granting Institutions.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Chapter 446D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is repealed.

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes are amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**“CHAPTER
UNACCREDITED DEGREE GRANTING
INSTITUTIONS**

Sec. -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

- (1) “Degree granting institution” means a school, academy, institute, junior college, college, university, or person or entity of whatever kind which furnishes or offers to furnish instruction leading toward or prerequisite to an academic or professional degree beyond the secondary school level.
- (2) “Degree” means any designation, mark, appellation, series of letters or words, or other symbol which signifies, purports, or is generally taken to signify satisfactory completion of the requirements of an academic or professional program of study beyond the secondary school level.
- (3) “Unaccredited institution” means a degree granting institution which has not been accredited or provisionally accredited by at least one nationally recognized accrediting agency or association which is listed by the United States Commissioner of Education.

Sec. -2 Disclosure. Any degree granting institution which is not a fully accredited institution shall disclose in all communications addressed to the general public or to potential students, and in contracts to furnish instruction, the fact that the institution is not fully accredited by any nationally recognized accrediting agency or association listed by the United States Commissioner of Education. The institution shall disclose whether it is provisionally accredited, or is a candidate for accreditation. The accrediting agency or association shall be identified. In all written communications, and contracts for instruction, the disclosure shall be made in boldface print and in a manner reasonably calculated to draw the attention of the reader and shall read substantially as follows:

(Name of Degree Granting Institution) IS NOT ACCREDITED BY A RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING AGENCY OR ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.

Sec. -3 Sanction. Failure by any unaccredited institution to make the disclosure required by this section shall constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice under section 480-2.”

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 26, 1979.)