

MAR 13 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO REPORT ON HIGHER
EDUCATION STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSIONS.

1 WHEREAS, as Hawaii's technology sector grows, and as
2 technology becomes embedded in many of our more traditional
3 industries, there is a growing need for a workforce that has
4 basic science, technology, engineering, and mathematical skills,
5 as well as graduates with specialized science and engineering
6 degrees; and
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8 WHEREAS, some states are addressing their science,
9 technology, engineering, and mathematics education needs, as
10 well as other strategic postsecondary education needs, through a
11 strong commission on higher education; and
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13 WHEREAS, both public and private higher education
14 institutions make a contribution to the goal of improving access
15 to education and training and increasing the rate of students
16 pursuing postsecondary education; and
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18 WHEREAS, Hawaii's business community is affected by the
19 educational and workforce training outcomes of both public and
20 private higher education institutions; and
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22 WHEREAS, Hawaii has traditionally funded public higher
23 education through appropriations to institutions, and there is
24 no state aid program directed to individual students, with the
25 exception of the State of Hawaii B Plus Scholarship program;
26 and
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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii's post-secondary education commission
29 established in chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, has a
30 limited scope of serving as a vehicle for receiving federal
31 funds, and representation that is mostly assigned to the
32 University of Hawaii Board of Regents; and
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1 WHEREAS, a study of higher education financial assistance
2 commissions in other states, their mandates, and their role in
3 providing incentives or aid to state residents wishing to pursue
4 higher education in their respective states, improving student
5 access, and increasing the educational capital of the State,
6 would be helpful in establishing a commission in this State;
7 now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2008, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
12 Hawai'i System, with input from the Department of Business,
13 Economic Development, and Tourism, the Department of Labor and
14 Industrial Relations, a representative from a private
15 institution of higher education, the Hawai'i P-20 Initiative, and
16 the Hawai'i Business Roundtable, is requested to study higher
17 education student financial assistance commissions in other
18 states; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting this study, the
21 University of Hawai'i System is requested to:

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- 23 (1) Focus on statewide higher education student financial
24 assistance commissions and programs, including
25 scholarships, grants, loan forgiveness, and related
26 student aid and incentive programs for state
27 residents; and
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29 (2) Describe procedures used by other states to receive,
30 disseminate, and administer aid to resident students
31 through the vehicle of their financial assistance
32 commissions; and
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34 (3) Describe how higher education student financial
35 assistance commissions in various states use
36 legislatively funded student aid programs to
37 accomplish state public policy goals, including in the
38 areas of science, technology, engineering and
39 mathematics; and
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41 (4) Recommend a course of action for the State of Hawai'i
42 in regards to the governance and possible creation of



1 a Hawai'i higher education student financial assistance
2 commission; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawai'i System
5 is requested to submit a report of its findings to the
6 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
7 the Regular Session of 2009; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
11 University of Hawai'i System, the Chairperson of the Board of
12 Regents of the University of Hawai'i, the Director of Business,
13 Economic Development, and Tourism, the Director of Labor and
14 Industrial Relations, the Superintendent of Education, the
15 Executive Director of the Hawai'i Business Roundtable, and the
16 Executive Director of Good Beginnings Alliance.
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OFFERED BY:

Numan Sabam

