

MAR 18 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING HAWAII'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE WESTERN
INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (WICHE) AND THE
EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER BENEFITS PROVIDED THROUGH FORTY YEARS
OF HAWAII'S MEMBERSHIP IN WICHE.

1 WHEREAS, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher
2 Education (WICHE) and its fifteen member states work
3 collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for
4 all citizens of the Western United States; and

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6 WHEREAS, by promoting innovation, cooperation, resource
7 sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions,
8 WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to the
9 region's social, economic, and civic life; and

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11 WHEREAS, WICHE programs are working to find answers to some
12 of the most critical questions facing higher education today;
13 and

14
15 WHEREAS, Hawaii receives a number of direct benefits from
16 its membership, and in 2008-2009, Hawaii students and their
17 families saved over \$11,100,000 in tuition by participating in
18 the Western Undergraduate Exchange, just one of WICHE's three
19 Student Exchange Programs; and

20
21 WHEREAS, more than 1,440 Hawaii students participated in
22 the Western Undergraduate Exchange, attending schools in
23 fourteen other states, while nearly 2,000 students from other
24 participating states enrolled in higher education institutions
25 in Hawaii; and

26
27 WHEREAS, through WICHE's Professional Student Exchange
28 Program (PSEP), Hawaii sent seventy-five students to out-of-
29 state programs in 2008-2009 in six different fields (dentistry,
30 occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, and
31 veterinary medicine), and historically, nearly seventy per cent



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1 of outbound PSEP students have returned to Hawaii to pursue
2 their professional careers; and

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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii joined WICHE on June 23, 1959, and this
5 year marks Hawaii's fortieth anniversary as a member of WICHE;
6 and

7
8 WHEREAS, in the four decades since Hawaii joined WICHE over
9 6,200 students from Hawaii have attended undergraduate,
10 graduate, and professional programs in other western states at
11 reduced tuition rates; and


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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii has received funding to participate in
14 numerous WICHE policy initiatives related to financing and
15 financial aid, workforce development, and behavior health; now,
16 therefore,

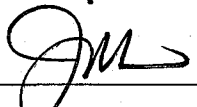
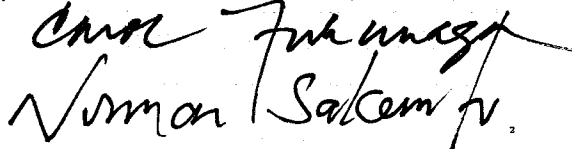
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
20 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor and the
21 Legislature strongly support Hawaii's continued participation in
22 the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
23 and the educational and other benefits provided through forty
24 years of Hawaii's membership in WICHE; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii System
27 is encouraged to find additional ways to participate in WICHE
28 activities and collaborate with the other members of WICHE; and

29
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of WICHE,
32 WICHE Hawaii Commissioners, Governor of the State of Hawaii,
33 President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of
34 Representatives, and President of the University of Hawaii
35 System.

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38 OFFERED BY:


Thanne Chun Lealand


James Kohler

Norman Sakem

