
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

CONVENING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING
A PAY FORWARD, PAY BACK PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that two-thirds of students
2 graduating from American colleges and universities are
3 graduating with some level of debt; and
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5 WHEREAS, according to the Consumer Financial Protection
6 Bureau, federal student loan debt topped \$1 trillion in 2013,
7 with an additional \$200 billion in private student loans; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Federal Reserve reports that aside from
10 mortgages, student loans are now the most widely held debt in
11 the United States; and
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13 WHEREAS, as increases in college tuition continue to
14 outpace gains in family income, more students will find post-
15 secondary education unaffordable; and
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17 WHEREAS, the skyrocketing costs of college tuition drive
18 income inequality by depriving those of less means of the
19 schooling necessary to bridge the income gap; and
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21 WHEREAS, a number of states are working to cut costs for
22 higher education, such as Oregon, which has developed a pay
23 forward, pay back program funding model; and
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25 WHEREAS, Oregon's "Pay It Forward" funding model is a pilot
26 program that replaces tuition with contributions from graduates
27 that are deposited into a state trust fund to be expended for
28 future post-secondary students; and
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30 WHEREAS, innovative methods of ensuring that residents and
31 students in Hawaii have access to affordable education to



1 further their post-secondary opportunities are worthy of
2 consideration and examination to support financing postsecondary
3 education and address the ever-increasing amount of college
4 tuition debt faced by students and their families; now,
5 therefore,

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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
9 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that a task force be
10 convened to study the feasibility of establishing a pay forward,
11 pay back program at the University of Hawaii to replace or
12 augment the current system of charging students tuition and fees
13 for enrollment; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Interim President of the
16 University of Hawaii convene and serve as the chair of the task
17 force; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force comprise the
20 following or their designated representatives:

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22 (1) Interim President of the University of Hawaii;
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24 (2) President of the Associated Students at the University
25 of Hawaii;
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27 (3) Project Director of The Economic Research Organization
28 at the University of Hawaii;
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30 (4) Superintendent of Education;
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32 (5) Director of Finance;
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34 (6) Director of Taxation;
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36 (7) Chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education;
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38 (8) Chair of the House Committee on Higher Education; and
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40 (9) Any other person deemed advisable for inclusion on the
41 task force by the Interim President of the University
42 of Hawaii; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
2 submit a written report of its findings and recommendations,
3 including any proposed pilot program details and any proposed
4 legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
5 the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Interim President of
9 the University of Hawaii, President of the Associated Students
10 at the University of Hawaii, Project Director of The Economic
11 Research Organization at the University of Hawaii,
12 Superintendent of Education, Director of Finance, and Director
13 of Taxation.

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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 07 2014