
HOUSE 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
32 further their post-secondary opportunities are worthy of
33 consideration and examination to support financing postsecondary
34 education and address the ever-increasing amount of college



1 tuition debt faced by students and their families; now,
2 therefore,

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

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Interim President of the
12 University of Hawaii convene and serve as the chair of the task
13 force; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force comprise the
16 following or their designated representatives:

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- 18 (1) Interim President of the University of Hawaii;
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- 20 (2) President of the Associated Students at the University
21 of Hawaii;
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- 23 (3) Project Director of The Economic Research Organization
24 at the University of Hawaii;
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- 26 (4) Superintendent of Education;
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- 28 (5) Director of Finance;
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- 30 (6) Director of Taxation;
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- 32 (7) Chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education;
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- 34 (8) Chair of the House Committee on Higher Education; and
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- 36 (9) Any other person deemed advisable for inclusion on the
37 task force by the Interim President of the University
38 of Hawaii; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
41 submit a written report of its findings and recommendations,



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1 including any proposed pilot program details and any proposed
2 legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
3 the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Interim President of the
7 University of Hawaii, President of the Associated Students at
8 the University of Hawaii, Project Director of The Economic
9 Research Organization at the University of Hawaii,
10 Superintendent of Education, Director of Finance, and Director
11 of Taxation.
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OFFERED BY: _____



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