

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TUITION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that overall enrollment  
2 in the University of Hawaii system has dropped by 3.3 per cent  
3 from fall 2016 to fall 2017. Correspondingly, tuition has  
4 increased steadily since academic year 2011-2012, increasing by  
5 3.1 per cent in 2012-2013, 5.5 per cent in 2013-2014, 7.6 per  
6 cent in 2014-2015, 5.1 per cent in 2015-2016, and 5.1 per cent  
7 in 2016-2017, with further increases scheduled in the 2018-2019  
8 and 2019-2020 academic years. However, despite the decline in  
9 enrollment, faculty salaries are scheduled to increase at a rate  
10 faster than the growth in tuition. This will decrease the  
11 budget amount available for other priorities, such as  
12 modernizing buildings, offering scholarships, and student  
13 programs and services.

14           Further, the legislature finds that declining enrollment  
15 necessarily leads to a decrease in revenue from per-student  
16 fees, which are often used to fund student programs and  
17 services. This harms the student experience, further depressing



1 enrollment. This is contrary to state policy, which favors an  
2 informed and educated populace.

3 The legislature finds that increased enrollment, affordable  
4 tuition, and a more educated populace are issues of statewide  
5 concern. As such, the purpose of this Act is to promote  
6 increased enrollment at the University of Hawaii by capping  
7 tuition increases based on the change in the State's median  
8 household income, and thereby improve the student experience,  
9 keep budgetary pace with increased salaries and other costs, and  
10 promote a more educated populace.

11 SECTION 2. Section 92-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 **"§92-28 State service fees; increase or decrease of.** Any  
14 law to the contrary notwithstanding, the fees or other nontax  
15 revenues assessed or charged by any board, commission, or other  
16 governmental agency may be increased or decreased by the body in  
17 an amount not to exceed fifty per cent of the statutorily  
18 assessed fee or nontax revenue, to maintain a reasonable  
19 relation between the revenues derived from such fee or nontax  
20 revenue and the cost or value of services rendered,  
21 comparability among fees imposed by the State, or any other



1 purpose which it may deem necessary and reasonable; provided  
2 that:

3 (1) The authority to increase or decrease fees or nontax  
4 revenues shall be subject to the approval of the  
5 governor and extend only to the following: chapters  
6 36, 92, 94, 142, 144, 145, 147, 150, 171, 188, 189,  
7 231, 269, 271, 321, 338, 373, 412, 414, 414D, 415A,  
8 417E, 419, 421, 421C, 421H, 421I, 425, 425E, 428, 431,  
9 436E, 436H, 437, 437B, 438, 439, 440, 440E, 441, 442,  
10 443B, 444, 447, 448, 448E, 448F, 448H, 451A, 451J,  
11 452, 453, 453D, 455, 456, 457, 457A, 457B, 457G, 458,  
12 459, 460J, 461, 461J, 462A, 463, 463E, 464, 465, 465D,  
13 466, 466D, 466K, 467, 467E, 468E, 468L, 468M, 469,  
14 471, 472, 481E, 482, 482E, 484, 485A, 501, 502, 505,  
15 514A, 514B, 514E, 572, 574, and 846 (part II) and any  
16 board, commission, program, or entity created pursuant  
17 to title 25 and assigned to the department of commerce  
18 and consumer affairs or placed within the department  
19 for administrative purposes;

20 (2) The authority to increase or decrease fees or nontax  
21 revenues under the chapters listed in paragraph (1)



1 that are established by the department of commerce and  
2 consumer affairs shall apply to fees or nontax  
3 revenues established by statute or rule;

4 (3) The authority to increase or decrease fees or nontax  
5 revenues established by the University of Hawaii under  
6 chapter 304A shall be subject to the approval of the  
7 board of regents; provided that the board's approval  
8 of any increase or decrease in tuition for regular  
9 credit courses shall be preceded by an open public  
10 meeting held during or prior to the semester preceding  
11 the semester to which the tuition applies; provided  
12 further that no increase in tuition shall exceed the  
13 mean change in the State's median household income, as  
14 determined by the United States Census Bureau, for the  
15 past ten years;

16 (4) This section shall not apply to judicial fees as may  
17 be set by any chapter cited in this section;

18 (5) The authority to increase or decrease fees or nontax  
19 revenues pursuant to this section shall be exempt from  
20 the public notice and public hearing requirements of  
21 chapter 91; and



1 (6) Fees for copies of proposed and final rules and public  
2 notices of proposed rulemaking actions under chapter  
3 91 shall not exceed 10 cents a page, as required by  
4 section 91-2.5."

5 SECTION 3. Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year,  
6 tuition at the following University of Hawaii campuses shall be  
7 reduced as follows:

8 (1) University of Hawaii at Manoa - per cent of the  
9 tuition as approved by the board of regents of the  
10 University of Hawaii on July 21, 2016, and amended on  
11 June 1, 2017;

12 (2) University of Hawaii at Hilo and University of Hawaii  
13 West Oahu - per cent of the tuition as approved  
14 by the board of regents of the University of Hawaii on  
15 July 21, 2016, and amended on June 1, 2017; and

16 (3) Each community college campus - per cent of the  
17 tuition as approved by the board of regents of the  
18 University of Hawaii on July 21, 2016, and amended on  
19 June 1, 2017.

20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



1           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018;  
2 provided that the amendments made to section 92-28, Hawaii  
3 Revised Statutes, by section 2 of this Act shall not be repealed  
4 when that section is amended by Act 181, Session Laws of Hawaii  
5 2017.  
6



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; Tuition; Reduction; Cap; Median Household Income

**Description:**

Caps increases in tuition for the University of Hawaii based on the change in the State's median household income. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

