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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the cost of  
2 attending college continues to rise. According to the College  
3 Board, the cost of tuition and fees for attending an in-state  
4 public college for the 2017-2018 academic year averaged \$9,970,  
5 while the average cost for books and supplies for the same  
6 academic year at public colleges averaged \$1,250. Additionally,  
7 in the last twenty years, the cost of college textbooks has  
8 risen much more rapidly than the consumer price index.

9           In April 2016, the Institute for Research on Higher  
10 Education at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of  
11 Education issued a study that analyzed college costs in relation  
12 to family income level. The study revealed how higher education  
13 has gone from expensive to unaffordable for most low- and  
14 middle-income families. According to this same study, Hawai'i  
15 ranked third in the nation for overall college affordability and  
16 noted that the University of Hawai'i community colleges are the  
17 most affordable public two-year institutions in the nation.



1       The report further acknowledged that despite Hawaii's  
2 overall high affordability ranking, attending college was a big  
3 expense for families earning less than \$30,000 annually; that  
4 Hawaii's financial aid policies did little to alleviate costs  
5 for these families; and that the State provided minimal need-  
6 based aid to students attending public institutions. Therefore,  
7 new and innovative solutions need to be implemented to lower  
8 other costs associated with attending school within the  
9 University of Hawai'i system.

10       The legislature further finds that since 2015, open  
11 educational resources at the University of Hawai'i has offered  
12 free instructional materials to potentially lower the cost of  
13 higher education, provide faculty more control over their  
14 instructional materials, and enable new ways of learning for  
15 students. Specifically, open educational resources offers  
16 learning, teaching, and research resources that are either in  
17 the public domain or have been released with an intellectual  
18 property license that permits free reuse and repurposing.  
19 Through faculty use of open educational resources since its  
20 adoption, this technology-driven instructional content has saved  
21 students hundreds of thousands of dollars in textbook costs.



1 The purpose of this Act is to:

2 (1) Establish the University of Hawai'i open educational  
3 resources task force to conduct a comprehensive  
4 analysis and evaluation on all general education  
5 courses and high attendance courses taught at the  
6 University of Hawai'i system to identify open  
7 educational resources for those courses;

8 (2) Establish and appropriate funds for an open  
9 educational resources pilot project grant program to  
10 incentivize faculty that adopt, develop, and implement  
11 open educational resources; and

12 (3) Require the University of Hawai'i open educational  
13 resources task force to report its findings and  
14 recommendation initiatives for supporting and  
15 expanding the use of open educational resources at the  
16 University of Hawai'i to the Legislature prior to the  
17 Regular Session of 2019.

18 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a University of  
19 Hawai'i open educational resources task force, within the  
20 University of Hawai'i for administrative purposes, to make  
21 college more affordable at the University of Hawai'i by focusing



1 on reducing or eliminating the costs of general education course  
2 textbooks.

3 (b) The University of Hawai'i open educational resources  
4 task force shall include but not be limited to the following  
5 members:

6 (1) The University of Hawai'i board of regent academic and  
7 student affairs committee chair, to serve as co-chair;

8 (2) The University of Hawai'i vice president for academic  
9 planning and policy, to serve as co-chair;

10 (3) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for the  
11 University of Hawai'i at Manoa;

12 (4) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for the  
13 University of Hawai'i at Hilo;

14 (5) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for the  
15 University of Hawai'i West Oahu;

16 (6) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for the  
17 University of Hawai'i Maui college;

18 (7) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for Kapiolani  
19 community college;

20 (8) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for Leeward  
21 community college;



- 1           (9) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for Windward  
2           community college;
- 3           (10) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for Honolulu  
4           community college;
- 5           (11) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for Kauai  
6           community college;
- 7           (12) The vice chancellor for academic affairs for Hawai'i  
8           community college;
- 9           (13) The executive director of the University of Hawai'i  
10          Professional Assembly, or the director's designee;
- 11          (14) A University of Hawai'i open educational resources team  
12          representative;
- 13          (15) A representative from the University of Hawai'i all  
14          campus council of faculty senate chairs; and
- 15          (16) The University of Hawai'i board of regents student  
16          member.
- 17          (c) The University of Hawai'i open educational resources  
18 task force shall complete a comprehensive analysis and  
19 evaluation on all general education courses and high attendance  
20 courses taught within the University of Hawai'i system and  
21 identify open educational resources that may be suitable for



1 those courses. The task force shall work with faculty,  
2 librarians, instructional designers, information technology  
3 professionals, and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher  
4 Education to review national best practices.

5 (d) The University of Hawai'i open educational resources  
6 task force shall submit a report of its findings and  
7 recommendation initiatives for supporting and expanding the use  
8 of open educational resources at the University of Hawai'i,  
9 including the costs for allowing faculty and students from all  
10 campuses to access the library reference resources at the  
11 University of Hawai'i at Manoa, to the legislature no later than  
12 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
13 2019.

14 (e) The University of Hawai'i open educational resources  
15 task force shall be dissolved on July 1, 2019.

16 SECTION 3. (a) There is established a one-year open  
17 educational resources pilot project grant program to incentivize  
18 faculty at the University of Hawai'i to adopt, develop, and  
19 implement open educational resources for their courses.

20 (b) The open educational resources pilot project grant  
21 program shall award grants of up to \$5,000, but no less than



1 \$500, to faculty who want to begin to use open educational  
2 resources or who are currently using open educational resources.

3 (c) Grants shall be awarded by the University of Hawai'i,  
4 in conjunction with the University of Hawaii open educational  
5 resources task force.

6 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
9 open educational resources pilot project grant program.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
11 Hawai'i for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

13



**Report Title:**

University of Hawai'i Open Educational Resources Task Force; Open Educational Resources Pilot Project Grant Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the University of Hawai'i open educational resources task force to conduct a comprehensive analysis and evaluation on all general education courses and high attendance courses taught at the University of Hawai'i system to identify open educational resources for those courses. Establishes and appropriates funds for an open educational resources pilot project grant program to incentivize faculty that adopt, develop, and implement open educational resources. (SD1)

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