



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert
Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1413 SD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESIDENT TUITION FEE

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill (SB) 1413 SD2 relating to the University of Hawai'i (UH) resident tuition fee.

SB 1413 SD2 would allow graduates of a Hawai'i high school to be classified as residents for the purpose of in-state tuition at the University. As the sole provider of public education in the State of Hawai'i, UH supports this bill which will assist with reducing barriers to enrollment at UH by streamlining the application process for residents, especially recent high school graduates. However, we respectfully request the following revisions.

In August 2022, UH updated Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR), Chapter 4, Determination of Residency as applied to Tuition Payments and Admission. To align with the revised HAR and to support streamlining of the admissions application process, UH recommends removing lines 10-18 on page 4 starting from "provided further that the adult."

For the first item in this section (adult or minor student shall not have claimed resident status of another state), UH would like to note that keeping this in the bill will require steps in the application process that may create additional barriers for students to provide evidence of their resident status in another state, especially since not all 50 states use the same criteria for determining state residency, which is different than residency for the purpose of tuition and admission at a state higher education institution.

As it relates to the second item in this section (submitted an application to another state's institution of higher learning as a resident of that state), the act of applying to another state's institution of higher education as a resident of that state does not mean the individual is automatically granted resident status, and UH would need to rely on self-disclosure of this information since there isn't a standardized way for one institution to access data about individuals who apply to another institution.

Thank you for your consideration with these amendments and the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
SYSTEM

**House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 2:00 p.m.**

Testimony by:

Jamie Go, Interim Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents

**S.B. No. 1413, S.D. 2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESIDENT
TUITION FEE.**

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Committee:

The Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i (Board) supports the intent of S.B. No. 1413 S.D. 2, which would afford resident tuition eligibility status to graduates of a Hawai'i high school enrolling at any campus of the University of Hawai'i if certain conditions are met.

Providing Hawai'i residents with increased opportunities to pursue post-high school education and training is in the best interest of the State. Simplifying the process for determining resident tuition eligibility at the University of Hawai'i by using graduation from a high school within the State as a defining factor assists in reducing barriers local students may face when enrolling at the State's sole provider of post-secondary public education. It also streamlines the University of Hawaii's application process thereby allowing a more seamless transition between secondary and post-secondary education. As such, the Board supports the intent of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of S.B. No. 1413, S.D. 2.



Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

By
Stephen Schatz, Executive Director
Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education

SBI413 SD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I RESIDENT TUITION FEE

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela and Members of the Committee:

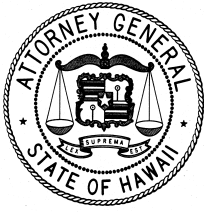
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SBI413 SD2 relating to expanding the criteria to qualify for resident tuition at the University of Hawai'i.

Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) supports SBI413 SD2.

This bill would allow recent graduates of Hawai'i's high schools to be classified as residents for the purpose of in-state tuition at the University and would help to simplify the application process, thereby reducing barriers for local students pursuing post-high school education and training, especially those graduates that are homeless and/or have complex family circumstances.

Hawai'i P-20 works with education partners across the State to create smoother transitions for students – particularly those that are low-income and under-represented in higher education – along the education pipeline. This bill would complement Hawai'i P-20's larger effort of collaboration across the State in developing seamless pathways between secondary and postsecondary. It will further reduce barriers students may face when applying to UH and will streamline the admissions process, thereby allowing students to make their college decisions sooner and start their college onboarding earlier.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1413, S.D. 2, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESIDENT TUITION FEE.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

DATE: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to simplify the residency determination for the State's high school graduates to enroll in postsecondary education and training at the University of Hawai'i by considering graduates of the State's high schools to be residents for tuition purposes.

Section 6 of article X of the Hawai'i State Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "[t]his section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Written Comments

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/22/2023

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Higher Education &
Technology

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1413, SD2 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
RESIDENT TUITION FEE.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the University of Hawaii to grant resident tuition fees for enrollment at any University of Hawaii campus to individuals who have graduated from a Hawaii high school and are enrolling in an undergraduate degree program, under certain conditions. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 1413, SD 2. However, the Department requests amendments to the SD 2.

SB 1413, SD 2, allows the University of Hawaii (University) to recognize Hawaii's high school graduates as residents for the purpose of University tuition. Determining residency based on high school graduation would streamline the processes for high school seniors and graduates to continue their education and training beyond high school at the resident tuition rate for the University's baccalaureate campuses and community colleges. Simplifying the residency determination for Hawaii's high school students and graduates increases students' access to post-secondary education.

The Department supports SB 1413, SD 2, as it supports the newly approved Board of Education (Board) Strategic Plan.

The Department is partnering with the University to encourage more high school graduates to

pursue post-secondary education and training. The Department defers to the University on the specifics of residency determination.

However, the Department recommends the adoption of the language in SB 1413, which recognizes Hawaii high school graduation as the criterion for residency since it is more streamlined. SB 1413 reduces the "friction" of applying to college by recognizing students' graduation from a Hawaii high school as the basis for residency because some students are unaware of their parents' or caregivers' tax filings, and other students may have nontraditional family arrangements which make it difficult to respond to the questionnaire. Also, students who are in unstable housing situations—nearly, 3,300 students in Department schools last year—may have challenges in responding to the questionnaire.

Increasing students' access to post-secondary education is part of a larger collaborative workforce development effort since a significant number of jobs, particularly those affording a living wage, require post-secondary credentials.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1413, SD 2.

SB-1413-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 9:15:05 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayle K. Turner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure is an akamai step towards making higher education more accessible for all students, especially those who are challenged to prove their eligibility for resident tuition fees. I appreciate the language that recognizes the plight of students from nontraditional family situations or those who are not aware of their parents' or caregivers' tax filings who should not be penalized for circumstances beyond their control. By allowing high school graduates from Hawaii to qualify for lower tuition fees for any semester within two years of their graduation, the proposed measure would make college education more affordable and attainable for everyone. The amendments made, such as clarifying that previously qualified students can still benefit from this law, demonstrate that the Committee is listening to the concerns of all parties involved. Therefore, I believe the proposed law should be passed to help Hawaii high school graduates qualify for lower tuition fees at the University of Hawaii. Mahalo for affording me the opportunity to testify.