University of Hawaii Student Caucus Resolution 08-002

UH Student Caucus Meeting: 08-006
Date of Meeting: Saturday, February 14, 2009
Meeting Location: University of Hawai`i at Hilo

Supporting the implementation of a two-year UPASS trial program at the
University of Hawai`i at Mānoa

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII STUDENT CAUCUS:

WHEREAS, the University of Hawai`i Student Caucus is the representative organization of the students of the University of Hawai`i system including the six campuses on the island of O`ahu as chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai`i; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the University of Hawai`i Student Caucus is to serve as a collective voice for all University of Hawai`i students, we are established to advocate for the interests and needs of students throughout the system; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Hawai`i system has made the promotion of sustainability one of its priorities, and this proposal promotes a decreased use of fossil fuels and a reduction in carbon emissions; and,

WHEREAS, the increase in traffic congestion is highly publicized on the island of O`ahu at the beginning of each semester; and,

WHEREAS, there are 3,300 stalls available on lower campus at University of Hawai`i at Mānoa for student parking serving over 17,000 commuting student per day; and,

WHEREAS, the construction of new parking facilities or additions to existing structures would cost the state and the university millions of dollars during the current financial crises; and,

WHEREAS, the implementation of such a program at University of Hawai`i at Mānoa would foster the development of similar programs at other UH campuses on the island of O`ahu, giving each student unrestricted access to the bus across the island as well as ease traffic congestion on the island, promote sustainability, and provide transportation to and among all O`ahu campuses; and,

WHEREAS, similar programs at other universities across the country, such as the University of Washington, the University of Wisconsin at Madison, the University of Massachusetts, and the University of Colorado at Boulder, have shown significantly decreased demand for parking, and an increase in mass transit use; and,

WHEREAS, such a program would facilitate student access to off-campus activities, including work and recreation, providing some stimulus to Hawai`i’s economy; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Caucus firmly supports ASUH’s efforts toward the implementation of a two year pilot program consisting of a $20 per semester student fee giving students unlimited bus access; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the current proposal include provisions for service to the John A. Burns School of Medicine; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Hawai`i Student Caucus would entertain the idea of the program’s implementation at other O`ahu campuses following a thorough review at the end of the two-year trial, making it a system wide effort towards more convenient mass transit and more sustainable practices; and,
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to: the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents, UH President David McClain, UH Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs Karen Lee, the Director of the Honolulu Department of Transportation, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Francisco Hernandez, The Honolulu Advertiser, the Honolulu Star Bulletin, Ka Leo O Hawai‘i, Ka Lamakua, and KTUH-FM.

Introduced By:
Jaime Sohn
O‘ahu-at-Large
ASUH Mānoa 1st Delegate