



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology  
Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

By  
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University of Hawai'i System

### HB 1488 – RELATING TO RESIDENCE FOR TUITION PURPOSES

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill (HB) 1488 relating to residence for tuition purposes. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the bill.

HB 1488 would allow graduates of Hawai'i high schools or high school equivalency programs to be recognized as residents for the purpose of in-state undergraduate tuition at the UH. HB 1488 would require that graduates demonstrate their intent to reside in Hawai'i by registering to vote. HB 1488 would not provide for in-state resident status based on Hawai'i high school graduation for those who have lived away from the state (not a "bona fide resident") for more than twelve (12) years.

UH supports recognizing Hawai'i high school graduates as residents for the purpose of in-state tuition. UH is especially supportive of recognizing the current high school graduating class or recent graduates as residents. UH believes simplifying the residency determination would reduce barriers to local students enrolling at UH to pursue additional education and training.

As written, HB 1488 would provide for resident status to Hawai'i high school graduates who have not resided in Hawai'i and/or may have paid taxes in other states for up to twelve (12) years. If the Legislature intends to provide taxpayer-supported higher education to those who have resided out of state and/or paid taxes in other states, then UH recommends a duration of less than twelve (12) years.

Respectfully, UH requests that the limitation on Hawai'i high school graduation as the basis of residency determination--proposed Section 402(2)(C), Chapter 304A--represent the *number of years since high school graduation* rather than the number of years that an individual may have lived out of state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.