



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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

By
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HB 1770 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESIDENT TUITION FEE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill (HB) 1770 relating to residence for tuition purposes. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the bill.

HB 1770 would allow graduates of Hawai'i high schools or high school equivalency programs to be recognized as residents for the purpose of in-state tuition at the UH, streamlining the process of determining whether a prospective student is eligible for in-state tuition by recognizing recent high school graduates as residents for the purpose of tuition. Focusing on being physically present in the State for the previous twelve (12) consecutive months prior to the start of the semester or term, and not being claimed as a dependent by the student's parents or guardians who are nonresidents of the State, simplifies the application process for students seeking admission to the UH. The requirement that the student enroll in a Hawai'i high school for at least twelve (12) consecutive months and have received a Hawai'i high school diploma helps streamline the process for young people experiencing homelessness and/or those with complex family circumstances. UH believes simplifying the residency determination would reduce barriers to local students enrolling at UH to pursue additional education and training.

UH requests a technical change to Section 402(4), Chapter 304A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to allow recent Hawai'i graduates from high schools or equivalency programs to be recognized as residents if enrolling for up to one year after graduating:

The adult or minor student received a high school diploma or equivalent in the State ~~for at least~~ within twelve consecutive months preceding the student's first day of officially scheduled instruction at the particular college or campus."

As graduating seniors will have received their diploma upon completion of their degree requirements in the summer preceding their fall enrollment, this would be consistent with the intent of this bill,

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