



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.