

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT HILO STUDENT ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, by the authority of our Chancellor and the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents, in order to:

1. Provide a smooth, accountable, representative and stable voice for all students,
2. Improve educational quality,
3. Provide a vehicle for student involvement in their institution and to meet the obligation to ascertain students' needs or wants,
4. Enrich student life (including health, welfare and morale) through the development and implementation of co-curricular programs and activities,

do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association Senate has a responsibility and obligation to provide open government. All meetings shall be open and publicized. Communication shall be accomplished by the publication of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association Constitution and By-Laws, budget, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, and schedule of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association and committee meetings in a timely manner for the purpose of informing and encouraging student participation in student government.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association Senate shall strive to create a campus environment, which understands, fosters and embraces the expression of diversity among students, faculty, administration and staff. Diversity encompasses differences in age, color, ethnicity, gender, national origin, political interests, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic background or veteran status. This policy against discrimination shall include, but is not limited to, student representation, recruitment, membership, activities or opportunities with respect to policy making. A violation of this clause by any UHHSA Officer or Senator shall constitute grounds for removal from office.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association has the duty to guide the University of Hawai'i at Hilo student body towards a more environmentally responsible consciousness by supporting sustainable actions. As members of an island community, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association will lead students towards an awareness of our ecological footprint and the need for individual and social changes required in order to secure a sustainable future. The tenants of sustainability include protecting natural resources, reducing waste, supporting local businesses, consuming less energy, and networking with other groups who share these goals.

ARTICLE ONE
NAME & MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Name:

1. The name of this association shall be the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association. The official abbreviation of the name shall be UHHS.A.

Section B. Regular Membership:

1. All University of Hawai'i at Hilo students who have been assessed their mandatory student government fees shall be members of UHHS.A.
2. All members are entitled to participate in UHHS.A sponsored student activities and are eligible for nomination for UHHS.A offices as specified in Article Two Section B & Article Three Section B in this Constitution.
3. Membership in UHHS.A shall automatically cease once a student is no longer enrolled and/or has not been assessed a student government fee at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

ARTICLE TWO
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section A. Executive Officers:

1. The Executive Officers of the UHHS.A Senate shall be the President, Vice President, Data Director, Treasurer and Executive Senator.

Section B. Qualifications of Officers:

1. Nominees must be University of Hawai'i at Hilo students registered for a minimum of six (6) credits, at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, at the time of their nomination. If elected, they must maintain a minimum of six (6) credits registration throughout their terms of office. Failure to maintain six (6) credits will be grounds for removal.
2. Nominees must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 at the time of their nomination. If elected, they must maintain that cumulative GPA throughout their terms of office. Failure to maintain GPA will be grounds for removal.
3. Nominees must be in good academic and disciplinary standing (free of any academic or disciplinary probation) at the time of their nomination. If elected, they must remain in good standing throughout their terms in office. Failure to maintain good academic and disciplinary standing will be grounds for removal.
4. Nominees must have at least one (1) year experience as an officer for a University of Hawai'i system chartered student organization.
 - a. The Executive Senator is exempt from this clause.
 - b. If applicants do not meet the requirements for an open UHSS.A executive position, the Executive Board may request a suspension of Article Two, Section B, number 4 of the constitution by the Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs.

Section C. Duties of Executive Officers

1. The President Shall:
 - a. Be the Chief Executive Officer of UHHSА.
 - b. Preside over UHHSА Senate meetings.
 - c. Vote only in case of a tie.
 - d. Appoint, subject to approval by the Senate, UHHSА members to Senate vacancies, Committee Chairs, and Student Representatives for positions as requested by the University and its officers.
 - e. Have the power to veto legislative actions of the UHHSА Senate.
 - i. The President must exercise the veto option within seven (7) school days of the UHHSА Senate action.
 - ii. Such a veto may be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the UHHSА Senate within forty (40) school days of the veto.
 - f. Represent, or appoint a designee who shall represent, UHHSА in all official dealings with the University Administration and other necessary persons.
 - g. Approve the excused absence of Senate Members.
 - h. Appoint, subject to approval by the Senate, the Faculty/Professional Staff Advisor of the Senate.
2. The Vice-President shall:
 - a. In the absence of the President, perform the duties of the President.
 - b. In Presidential vacancy, assume the Presidency and serve out the remaining term of office.
 - c. Oversee all Senate committees.
 - d. Serve as the Sergeant-at Arms during Senate meetings.
 - e. Perform other related duties as may be assigned by the President.
3. The Data Director shall:
 - a. Take minutes during Senate meetings.
 - b. Maintain accurate and complete records and documents of the Senate.
 - c. Make all Senate records and documents available to all UHHSА members.
 - d. Post for public review, all Senate meeting agendas and minutes.
 - e. Perform other related duties as may be assigned by the President.
4. The Treasurer shall:
 - a. Be responsible for processing the Senate's fiscal documents and maintaining all UHHSА fiscal records.
 - b. Perform other related duties as may be assigned by the President.
5. The Executive Senator shall:
 - a. Serve as the Executive Committee representative for the UHHSА Senators.
 - b. Perform other related duties as may be assigned by the President.

ARTICLE THREE
THE SENATE

Section A. Membership

1. The UHHSA Senate shall consist of the Executive Officers, four (4) Senators-at-large, one (1) College of Arts & Sciences (CoAS) Senator, one (1) College of Natural & Health Sciences (CoNHS), one (1) College of Agriculture, Forestry & Natural Resource Management (CoAFNRM) Senator, one (1) Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani (KH'UOK) College of Hawaiian Language Senator, one (1) College of Business & Economics (CoBE) Senator, one (1) Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICoP) Senator, one (1) Graduate Senator, and one (1) non-voting Faculty/Professional Staff Advisor.

Section B. Qualifications of Senators

1. Nominees must be students registered for a minimum of six (6) credits, at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, at the time of their nomination. If elected, they must maintain a minimum of six (6) credits throughout their term in office. Failure to maintain six (6) credits will be grounds for removal.
2. Nominees must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 at the time of their nomination. If elected, they must maintain that cumulative GPA throughout their term of office. Failure to maintain GPA will be grounds for removal.
3. Nominees must be in good academic and disciplinary standing (free of any academic or disciplinary probation) at the time of their nomination. If elected they must remain in good standing throughout their terms in office. Failure to maintain good academic and disciplinary standing will be grounds for removal.
4. Additional qualifications include:
 - a. Nominees for the College of Arts & Sciences (CoAS) Senator must be registered for a minimum of six (6) credits at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, have declared a major or minor from that college at the time of their nomination and maintain that minimum throughout his/her term. The CoAS Senator shall be elected by CoAS students only.
 - b. Nominees for the College of Natural & Health Sciences (CoNHS) Senator must be registered for a minimum of six (6) credits at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, have declared a major or minor from that college at the time of their nomination and maintain that minimum throughout his/her term. The CoNHS Senator shall be elected by CoNHS students only.
 - c. Nominees for the College of Agriculture, Forestry, & Natural Resource Management (CoAFNRM) Senator must be registered for a minimum of six (6) credits at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, have declared a major or minor from that college at the time of their nomination and maintain that minimum throughout his/her term. The CoAFNRM Senator shall be elected by CoAFNRM students only.
 - d. Nominees for the College of Business & Economic (CoBE) Senator must be registered for a minimum of six (6) credits at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, have declared a major or minor from that college at the time of their nomination and maintain that minimum throughout his/her term. The CoBE Senator shall be elected by CoBE students only.

- e. Nominees for the Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani (KH'UOK) College of Hawaiian Language Senator must be registered for a minimum of six (6) credits at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, have declared a major or minor from that college at the time of their nomination and maintain that minimum throughout his/her term. The KH'UOK College of Hawaiian Language Senator shall be elected by KH'UOK College of Hawaiian Language students only.
- f. Nominees for the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICoP) Senator must be registered for a minimum of six (6) credits at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, have declared a major or minor from that college at the time of their nomination and maintain that minimum throughout his/her term. The DKICoP Senator shall be elected by DKICoP students only.
- g. Nominees for the Graduate Senator must be registered for a minimum of six (6) credits at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, is registered in a University of Hawai'i at Hilo graduate program at the time of their nomination, and maintain that minimum throughout his/her term. The Graduate Senator shall be elected by graduate students only.
- h. Nominees for Senators-at-Large may be registered in any University of Hawai'i at Hilo college, or graduate program, for a minimum of six (6) credits and maintain that minimum throughout his/her term. Senators-at-Large are elected by all UHHSAs members.

Section C. Duties of Senators

- 1. UHHSAs shall:
 - a. Serve in at least two of the following capacities:
 - i. Be the designated UHHSAs representative on a University policy making body.
 - ii. Chair a UHHSAs Senate committee.
 - b. Perform the duties of the Senate as defined in Section D of this Article and in the By-Laws.
- 2. All Senators shall be eligible to be selected as the Executive Senator. Selection shall be determined by a simple majority of those Senators voting. Selection shall be made at the first business meeting of the Senate.

Section D. Powers & Duties of the Senate

- 1. Represent all University of Hawai'i at Hilo students.
- 2. Properly manage UHHSAs funds, property and other assets subject to University of Hawai'i policies and procedures. UHHSAs funds shall be spent only by direct authorization of the Senate.
- 3. Establish Senate Rules, at the beginning of each administration's term, which set policies and procedures necessary and proper for the conduct of student government business. Such rules shall be consistent with this Constitution and By-Laws.
- 4. Enforce this Constitution and By-Laws, promote University affairs, and be responsible for the general welfare of UHHSAs.
- 5. Adopt an annual budget, no later than thirty (30) days after the start of the fall semester, subject to review by the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, with final approval by the Chancellor.
- 6. Conduct all UHHSAs elections, including plebiscites.
- 7. Establish and maintain relations with students and organizations of other colleges and universities.

8. Establish standing committees, consistent with this Constitution and By-Laws, which are necessary and proper for the conduct of student government.
9. Establish ad hoc committees, consistent with this Constitution and By-Laws, which are necessary and proper for the conduct of student government.
10. Recommend the appropriate student government fees for approval by the Board of Regents.
11. Confirm UHHSAs presidential appointments by a simple majority vote.
12. Perform other related duties as may be assigned by the President.
13. Any matter not covered in this Constitution may be resolved by a two thirds (2/3) super majority vote of the Senate.

Section E. Terms of Office

1. The regular term of the UHHSAs Senate shall be for one (1) year, beginning on May 1st.
2. Officers or Senators appointed to fill vacancies shall complete their term at the same time as their peers in the Senate.

Section F. Quorum

1. Quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the seated Senate members who are not on leave, as approved by the President.

ARTICLE FOUR

PLEBISCITE, REFERENDUM, RECALL, REMOVAL, DUE PROCESS

Section A. Plebiscite

1. Any UHHSAs member may present a petition to the UHHSAs Senate requesting legislation on any matter within the Senate's authority. The petition must be signed by at least five percent (5%) of the UHHSAs members. The Campus Center staff will validate signatures. The Senate shall submit the petition to vote by secret ballot of the UHHSAs Senate within fifteen (15) school days from the date of petition once verified by the UHHSAs Senate.
2. A simple majority of all votes cast, provided the total number voting is at least ten percent (10%) of all UHHSAs members, shall suffice to pass such legislation.

Section B. Referendum

1. The Senate may submit to UHHSAs members any issues(s) it deems best decided by the membership to a vote by secret ballot of its members at an election.
2. A majority of all votes cast, provided to total number voting is at least ten percent (10%) of all UHHSAs members, shall suffice to pass such legislation.

Section C. Recall

1. The removal, by recall, of any UHHSAs Senate member shall be made upon presentation to the UHHSAs Senate of a petition bearing the signatures of five percent (5%) of the student body and containing a specific statement of the grounds for removal. The signatures shall be verified by Campus Center staff. Senate shall call for a special election within fifteen (15) school days of receiving verification of the recall petition signatures.

2. Recall of a college specific Senator must be done by members of that College.
3. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of all votes cast in favor of recall shall constitute a legal recall, provided that ten percent (10%) of the relevant UHHSAs membership votes.

Section D. Removal

1. A Senate Member shall be removed if he/she misses two (2) regularly scheduled meetings or functions without an accepted excuse.
 - a. The President shall determine if an absence is excused or unexcused. In the event of a disputed decision, the Senate shall make the final decision.
 - b. The Senate shall determine if any absence of the President is excused or unexcused.
2. A Senator or Executive Officer shall be removed if he/she knowingly violates the provisions of the UHHSAs Constitution or By-Laws, as determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

Section E. Due Process

1. No student or student organization shall be denied equal protection and due process by UHHSAs or any UHHSAs Senate Member on any organizational matter. Due Process is guaranteed for any Senate Member subjected to recall or removal.

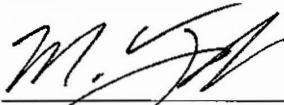
ARTICLE FIVE AMENDMENTS

Section A. Methods

This Constitution may be amended by:

1. A proposal submitted to the Senate by a petition signed by at least five percent (5%) of student body. The signatures shall be verified by the Campus Center Staff. The Senate shall vote on the proposed amendment within fifteen (15) school days of verification of the signatures. An amendment must be ratified by two-thirds (2/3) super majority vote of the Senate, subject to final approval by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs or the Chancellor.
2. A Constitutional Convention may be called when deemed necessary by the Senate, for the purpose of reviewing and updating the UHHSAs Constitution. The Constitutional Convention shall convene at least three months before a regularly scheduled or special election. Any proposed amendments shall be placed on a ballot to be voted on during that regular election or special election. A simple majority shall pass any proposed Constitutional amendments provided that at least ten percent (10%) of UHHSAs members have voted in the election. Amendments are subject to final approval by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs & the Chancellor.
3. In an emergency, as determined by the UHHSAs Senate, with concurrence of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Chancellor, this Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) super majority vote of the Senate.


The University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association (UHHSA) Constitutional amendments were accepted by the UHHSA Senate on January 24, 2019 at meeting 18-19:019; and ratified by the UHHSA Senate on April 4th, 2019 at meeting 19-19:027.



UHHSA President

06/25/19


Date



UH Hilo Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

6/25/19

Date



UH Hilo Chancellor

6/25/19

Date