Hanakahi Native Hawaiian Council

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Hanakahi Council’s Position Statement Regarding the University of Hawai’i’s Proposed Tuition Schedule (2012-13 to 2016-17)

Whereas the University of Hawai’i’s Board of Regents’ policy pertaining to tuition (BOR, Chapter 6, Section 6-2) states:

“(Tuition and fees) shall not be so uniformly high that they prevent qualified citizens from attending a campus of the University,”

Whereas, the Board of Regents “subscribes to a tuition policy that seeks to keep costs to resident students at the lowest practical level while maintaining a financial aid program that responds to the needs of students who cannot meet the costs of attendance”, and

Whereas, the University of Hawai’i Strategic Outcomes commit to Native Hawaiian educational attainment, increasing Hawai’i’s educational capital, contributing to the state’s economy, and addressing critical workforce shortages, and

Whereas the University of Hawai’i is committed to improving the social, economic, and environmental well-being of current and future Hawai’i generations, and

Whereas, the higher education needs of the state add a valued dimension and reaffirm our university’s commitment to serving the state, and

Whereas, the University of Hawai’i at Hilo has exceeded its goal to increase the degree attainment of Native Hawaiians 6-9%, per the proposed UH system performance measures, by graduating 154 Native Hawaiians, 59 more students than the University of Hawai’i at Hilo goal of 95, in 2010-2011,

Therefore, the Hanakahi Native Hawaiian Council of the University of Hawai’i at Hilo opposes the proposed tuition schedule, and

Therefore, we recommend a revision of the University of Hawai’i at Hilo’s proposed undergraduate tuition and fees for non-residents (currently 79% of cost to the university, the lowest among all the campuses in the system) to match the estimated percentage of 131% at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, and

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Therefore, we recommend a comprehensive plan to minimize the reduction of non-resident tuition revenue which results from programs like Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), National Student Exchange (NSE), and all other exchange agreements on individual campuses, and

Therefore, we recommend a recruitment and enrollment strategy and an accompanying comprehensive retention and graduation plan in order to maintain the steady rate of increase for Native Hawaiian enrollment in the University of Hawai‘i system campuses, as seen over the past 10 years, using the Fall 2010 number of Native Hawaiians in the system (13,463; 22.4%) as the baseline, and

Therefore, we recommend an increase of 15% in institutional aid at the 4-year institutions (from 15% to 30% of tuition revenues) that will increase need-based aid and increase opportunities for on-campus work for students.

Presented September 2011 to
- Chancellor Donald Straney, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo
- Dr. Linda K. Johnsrud, University of Hawai‘i Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs/Provost
- University of Hawai‘i System Board of Regents