



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
HILO

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY & INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE
Division of Student Affairs | Student Co-Curricular Fees

The excellence and quality of an institution of higher education rests equally on the curricular (academic) and co-curricular (non-academic) programs that the institution has to offer. Tuition and student activity fees are invested by a campus to enhance the educational experience for all its students, whether it be through its library, research labs, technology resources, classroom facilities, health-related services, theater events, athletic programs, student media, student government, registered independent student organizations, etc. These activities, programs and services assist with students' academic and social integration with the campus community. As such, while not every student will take advantage of them before earning a degree, it is to each student's educational advantage that these opportunities and choices be available should they wish to avail themselves of these options.

Students who enroll at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo therefore contribute to enhancing the quality of this campus, as it is their student activity fees which help enhance the quality of student life on campus as well as subsidize educationally relevant and culturally enriching activities, programs and services for all students. Research has shown that these student engagement initiatives may have a measurable impact in fostering student success, developing students holistically, and preparing them to live and lead in an increasingly diverse and complex world.

Further, UH Hilo is able to maintain its accreditation as a result of both its curricular and co-curricular offerings. Because of the economy of scale it engenders, when students universally contribute to the maintenance and improvement of these offerings, it keeps the cost of such programs and services for any one student to an affordable rate. As such, UH Hilo requires tuition and student activity fee payments from all students enrolled except in those instances indicated by campus policy.

Student fees are considered part of the cost of attendance at UH Hilo; they are not user fees per se, and their assessment is not dependent on any one student's use of fee-subsidized services and programs. In accordance with *Chapter 6, Section 4* of the *University of Hawai'i System Board of Regents Policies*, student fees are mandatory and are assessed starting the semester following review and approval by the Board of Regents. However, "Distance education students who cannot take advantage of services offered by the student organizations, such as those requiring on-campus attendance, may be exempt from the assessment of these fees." As such, UH Hilo has established since February 1998 as its institutional practice that students enrolled in an academic program or major designated as "distance

learning” (DL) will be exempt from student fees; the Statewide Bachelor of Science in Computer Science was the first to be designated a DL program at UH Hilo. However, should students exempted from student fees wish to use services that are covered by a student fee, payment of fees must be submitted to the Business Office before fee-subsidized activities/services may be accessed. A current list of academic programs/majors designated as DL, as well as the criteria for being designated a DL academic program/major, is maintained by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

The current fees assessed in any given academic year can be found by visiting the following URL:
http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/uhh/bo/fees_schedule.php.

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