

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF Hawai'i AT MĀNOA**  
**2465 Campus Road, Campus Center 211A**  
**Honolulu HI 96822**

**In the Senate**  
**March 25, 2020**

**Senate Resolution 12-20**  
**For First Reading**

**A RESOLUTION**

**In Demand of Ad-Hoc Changes to UHM's Grading System During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

- WHEREAS*, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (ASUH) Senate is the elected body representing approximately 11,000 full-time classified undergraduate students; and,
- WHEREAS*, The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified the Corona Virus 2019 Disease (COVID-19) outbreak as a Pandemic<sup>1</sup>; and,
- WHEREAS*, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell has signed an emergency order which mandates O'ahu residents to stay at home and work from home from Monday, March 23, 2020, to at least April 30, 2020<sup>2</sup>; and,
- WHEREAS*, Non-essential businesses have closed to curb the spread of COVID-19; and,
- WHEREAS*, Business closures have led to changes in employment and financial standings for many individuals leading to present and potential future issues including but not limited to lack of financial stability, food insecurities, and difficulties surrounding housing; and,
- WHEREAS*, The UH President Lassner announced on March 18, 2020, that UH instruction will be conducted online for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester<sup>3</sup>; and,

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<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>

<sup>2</sup>

[https://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/may/may\\_docs/Emergency%20Order%20No.%202020-02ProdLinks.pdf](https://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/may/may_docs/Emergency%20Order%20No.%202020-02ProdLinks.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2020/03/18/presidents-message-march-18-updates/>

**THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE SENATE ON APRIL 8, 2020**

*WHEREAS,* All of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s (UHM) Peer and Benchmark Institutions have transitioned to an online format for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester in response to COVID-19; and,

*WHEREAS,* Accredited institutions such as the University of Virginia<sup>4</sup> and University of California–Berkeley<sup>5</sup> have implemented an ad-hoc universal credit/no credit grading system for the Spring 2020 semester in response to COVID-19; and,

*WHEREAS,* Student workers at UH Mānoa have also experienced changes to work hours and employment, leading to present and potential future issues including, but not limited to, lack of financial stability, food insecurities, and difficulties surrounding housing; and,

*WHEREAS,* An average of 3,853 undergraduate students per academic year have been enrolled at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa with a Pell Grant, representing 28% of the undergraduate student body from Fall 2010 to Fall 2019 Semesters<sup>6</sup>; and,

*WHEREAS,* This statistic demonstrates that a significant portion of at least 28% of our undergraduate student body attends the university on financial assistance; and,

*WHEREAS,* Many of UHM's students will be studying while attending family obligations among other distractions which generally do not occur in academic environments; and,

*WHEREAS,* Many UHM students will confront anxieties about the wellbeing and potentially the survival of their friends and family; and,

*WHEREAS,* Many UHM students will contemplate their prospects in a job market during and after this COVID-19 pandemic; and,

*WHEREAS,* All students will face pressure during these trying times. However, students from disadvantaged backgrounds will be at an outstanding obstacles during the rest of this academic period; and,

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<sup>4</sup><https://news.virginia.edu/content/covid-19-causes-sweeping-changes-university-operations#march-18-grading>

<sup>5</sup>

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/UC-Berkeley-moves-to-pass-fail-grading-for-spring-15152028.php>

<sup>6</sup> <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/miro/enrollment/>

*WHEREAS,* Letter grades may reflect the advantages and disadvantages faced by individual students rather than academic merit; and,

*WHEREAS,* The combination of increased pressure to perform under unfavorable conditions such as this pandemic, and unproctored online examinations via Lulima may significantly increase cheating among the student body; and,

*BE IT RESOLVED,* The ASUH implores the UHM to allow all students the option to continue any of their classes in a credit/no credit (pass/fail) system, to account for these aforementioned concerns; and,

*BE IT RESOLVED,* The ASUH urges UH Manoa to cancel the final examination requirement to account for these aforementioned concerns .

*BE IT RESOLVED,* The ASUH urges the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa to count courses graded as receiving credits in the Spring 2020 semester as satisfactory prerequisites for future courses; and,

*BE IT RESOLVED,* The ASUH urges UHM faculty and staff to demonstrate compassion and to strive for equity during these exceptionally trying times; and,

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,* The ASUH commends the UH Online Innovation Center (UHOIC) for devoting their time and energy towards helping faculty transition their courses to an online format<sup>7</sup>; and,

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,* The ASUH commends faculty and staff for devoting their time and energy towards transitioning their courses and student services to accessible formats.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,* that copies of this resolution shall be sent to:  
the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents Chair Benjamin Kudo and Members,  
President David Lassner, Provost Michael Bruno, Interim Vice Chancellor for Students Lori Ideta, Interim Vice Chancellor for Diversity & Director of SEED Christine Quemuel, the Graduate Student Organization, Academic Labor United, Ka Leo O Hawai‘i.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2020/03/20/faculty-prepare-online-instruction/>

INTRODUCED BY



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Joshua Jungha Kim  
Introducing Member  
Senator-at-Large  
Student Affairs Chairperson



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Sheena Carmela Juliano  
Introducing Member  
Senator for the College of Education  
Undergraduate Academic Affairs Chairperson



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Dresden Vogt  
Introducing Member  
Senator for the Colleges of Arts and Sciences  
Student Affairs Vice Chairperson



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Donovan Albano  
Introducing Member  
Senator for the Colleges of Arts and Sciences  
Student Affairs member



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Anna Chua  
Introducing Member  
Senator for the Colleges of Arts and Sciences  
Student Affairs Member

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE Senate Bill 12-20 in Demand of Ad-Hoc Changes to UHM's  
Grading System During the COVID-19 Pandemic:

Aye(s): Vice President Rafid, Treasurer Pacanuayan, Secretary Ocampo, SAL Kim, Manabe, Oshiro,  
Leval, Senators Albano, Anuszezwska, Baguio, Balico, Chua, Garrett, Juliano, Ka'apuni,  
Lee, Luitel, Raza, Reneteria, Ruan, Salameh, Shimizu, Tong, Yoshida Ka, Yoshida Ke  
[25]

Naye(s): [0]

Abstention(s): [0]