

**THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT MĀNOA  
2465 Campus Road, Campus Center 211A  
Honolulu, HI 96822**

**Senate Resolution 14-16**

**IN SUPPORT OF INCORPORATING OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INTO  
GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULA**

**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 14,000 full-time, classified undergraduate students; and,

WHEREAS, high textbook costs contribute to the decreasing affordability of college and may serve as a barrier to students striving for higher education; and,

WHEREAS, average textbook costs to university students increased by 82% between 2002 and 2012; and,<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, data collected during the Spring 2014 semester found that the average cost of materials for the 50 highest enrollment courses at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) was approximately \$150 per course; and,

WHEREAS, the Student Engagement, Retention, and Graduation Committee at UHM wrote in their report that Mānoa students would cumulatively spend over \$20 million per semester if every student purchased all of their required textbooks; and,<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research materials, including textbooks and other digital items, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license; and,

WHEREAS, OER are available through nonprofit organizations such as OpenStax College, Open Textbook Library, Khan Academy, and TedEd

WHEREAS, OER are available as zero-cost textbooks from OpenStax College and Open Textbook Library and zero-cost videos from Khan Academy and TedEd; and,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/655066.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://manoa.hawaii.edu/strategicplan/pdf/serg\\_committee\\_action\\_plan\\_v7.pdf](http://manoa.hawaii.edu/strategicplan/pdf/serg_committee_action_plan_v7.pdf)

WHEREAS, over 160 open textbooks are available on the Open Textbook Library that faculty could adopt in their classrooms immediately; and,

WHEREAS, according to a Student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) 2015 report which analyzed data gathered from five pilot programs around the country that encouraged faculty to replace traditional textbooks with open textbooks, a student would be able to save an average of \$128 per course if their introductory level textbook were replaced with an open textbook; and,

WHEREAS, the PIRGs report concluded that “If every full-time undergraduate had just one of their traditional textbooks replaced with an open textbook each year, it could save students nationally almost \$1.5 billion in textbook costs”; and,<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, a survey conducted by Leeward Community College (LCC) in May 2015 found that 58% of the 987 student participants said that textbook costs influence their decision to enroll in a course, and 55% stated that they decided to not buy a required textbook for a course; and,<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS, in Fall 2015, LCC offered 53 classes with a “Textbook Cost: \$0” designation; and,

WHEREAS, according to a Fall 2015 survey consisting of five LCC classes which utilized OER, 87% felt the quality of the no-cost resources were just as good as a traditional textbook, and 78% felt they did better in the course because they had access to the resources from the first day of class; and,

WHEREAS, in light of the successful implementation of OER into course curricula, LCC almost tripled the number of course offerings with “Textbook Cost: \$0” designation from 53 courses in Fall 2015 to 148 courses in Spring 2016; and,

WHEREAS, the UHM Physics Department began utilizing OER materials from OpenStax College last year, saving a total of \$20,000 for the 120 students enrolled in the twelve sections of Physics 151 and Physics 152; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASUH recognizes the rising cost of educational resources as a barrier to college affordability and student success; and,

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.studentpirgs.org/news/sp/report-open-textbooks-billion-dollar-solution>

<sup>4</sup> <http://oer.hawaii.edu>

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASUH recommends that the UHM further utilizes open educational resources and other zero-cost materials for general education courses; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the ASUH understands that the extensive implementation of OER will help reduce the cost of education, expand the use of internet and digital technologies in education, and transform teaching and learning by fostering academic innovation through increased curriculum options; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to: The Board of Regents of the University of Hawai‘i, University of Hawai‘i President David Lassner, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Interim Chancellor Robert Bley-Vroman, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Reed Dasenbrock, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Interim Vice-Chancellor for Students Lori Ideta, OER Librarian Sara Rutter, Director of Academic Technology Services Hae Okimoto, Graduate Student Organization President Jonathan Dial, Mānoa Faculty Senate Chair Bob Cooney, The Honolulu Star-Advertiser, and Ka Leo O Hawai‘i.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE SENATE REOLUTION 14-16**

**Aye(s):** Vice President Kamoshida, Treasurer Takara, Secretary Tagaban, Senators-at-Large Callihan, Dela Cruz, Mitsui, Nishihara, Senators Barrow, Baxa, Enriquez, Garma, Hinshaw, Ikeda, Kim, Lao, Lawi-an, Lopez, McLaury, Omokawa, Rafael, Ryan, Sevilla, Simeroth, Tacey  
[24]

**Naye(s):** [0]

**Abstentions:** [0]

Introducers: Eugene Lao, Senator of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences; Maggie Hinshaw, Senator of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences