

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

SENATE RESOLUTION 04-16

IN SUPPORT OF A GREEN REVOLVING FUND AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT MĀNOA

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, as a land, sea, and space grant university, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) is dedicated not only to academic and research excellence but also to serving with aloha the local, national, and international communities that surround us; and,¹

WHEREAS, with its unique geographic location bridging East and West, the UHM serves as a portal to an exceptional educational experience while striving to improve quality of life in the region through collaborative partnerships that support innovations in education, health care, social development, culture and arts, earth, space, and ocean sciences, sustainable agriculture and land management, and technological advancement; and,¹

WHEREAS, the success of the students’ educational experience is linked to the condition of the learning environment, as well as the basic infrastructure in which the university is built upon; and,

WHEREAS, many universities are currently facing the unfortunate reality of budget cuts and increasing energy costs in conjunction with planning how to improve their campus while improving operational efficiency; and,"

WHEREAS, in 2014, the UHM campus allocated \$54.6 million to spend on basic repair and maintenance work alone to address the of the university’s backlog problem; and,²

WHEREAS, the UHM believes that effective use of technology is inherently linked to the value of sustainability and the growth of community and that smart technologies will allow us to emerge as a stronger and more organizationally sustainable campus and will expand our connections locally and globally; and,¹

¹ <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/vision/pdf/achieving-our-destiny.pdf>

² <http://www.civilbeat.com/2014/07/uh-still-hard-pressed-to-address-growing-repair-and-maintenance-backlog/>

WHEREAS, a revolving loan fund known as a Green Revolving Fund (GRF) would equally support the university’s commitment to sustainability and address the fiscal aspect of its infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, pioneered in 1980 at the University of Western Michigan, GRFs essentially act as reservoirs of funds for “green activities” most commonly in the form of building retrofits and renovations that reduce energy use; and,³

WHEREAS, the energy savings from the project are then recaptured by the GRF to fund additional projects on campus; and,³

WHEREAS, according to Harvard University’s Office for Sustainability, typically funded GRF projects include lighting, heat, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), insulation, renewable energy, cogeneration, and many more; and,⁴

WHEREAS, GRFs have proven their ability to reduce operating costs and environmental impact while promoting education and engaging stakeholders through its implementation in various other college campuses nationwide; and,⁵

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASUH acknowledges the growing concern our university’s infrastructure faces and believes that sustainability projects that reduce operational costs is integral in improving both the fiscal nature of this university along with its environment; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASUH supports a GRF project here on this campus that dedicates a one-time investment to start up energy efficient projects that reduce energy consumption and reinvests the money saved in future projects; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASUH hopes the GRF would serve as an example for organizations and departments on this campus to lead best business practices to not only save money, but to also further promote sustainability in a fiscally responsible manner; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the University of Hawai‘i President David Lassner, the UH Board of Regents Chair Randy Moore and members, UH System Sustainability Coordinator Matthew Lynch, UH Mānoa Interim Chancellor Bley-Vroman, UH Mānoa Sustainability Council, UH Mānoa Interim Vice Chancellor for Students Lori Ideta, UH Mānoa Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance & Operations Kathy Cutshaw, the Honolulu Star Advertiser, and the Ka Leo o Hawai‘i.

³ <http://www.risehi.org/whats-a-green-revolving-fund/>

⁴ <http://green.harvard.edu/programs/green-revolving-fund>

⁵ http://greenbillion.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/GRF_Implementation_Guide.pdf

ROLL CALL TO APPROVE SENATE RESOLUTION 04-16

Aye(s): Vice President Kamoshida, Treasurer Takara, Secretary Tagaban, Senators-at-Large Callihan, Dela Cruz, Mitsui, Barrow, Senators Barrow, Baxa, Cheung, Hinshaw, Kim, Lawi-an, Lao, Sevilla, Shon
[16]

Naye(s): [0]

Abstention(s): [0]

Introducing Member: Sean Mitsui, Senator-at-Large, Chairperson, Investments and Long Range Planning Committee