

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

SENATE RESOLUTION 10-19

IN SUPPORT OF A LIVING WAGE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Senate is the elected body representing approximately 11,000 full-time classified undergraduate students; and,

WHEREAS, a living wage is defined as the minimum income required for full-time workers to meet their basic needs including shelter, clothing, and food; and,

WHEREAS, Hawai'i is among the least affordable places to live as it has the highest cost of living¹, the lowest real wage when adjusted for living costs², and the most families living paycheck to paycheck in the country³; and,

WHEREAS, the high costs coupled with increasing tuition has forced many college students into a position of food insecurity⁴ and housing insecurity⁵; and,

WHEREAS, the state's own Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DEBT) has found that an individual in 2019 would have to make \$33,000 a year, or \$17 per hour to afford their most basic needs⁶; and,

WHEREAS, numerous studies show that an increase in the minimum wage corresponds with an increase in jobs and has little to no negative effect on the employment of minimum wage workers, and that an increase in the minimum wage would generate large amounts of consumer spending^{7 8 9 10 11}; and,

¹ <https://www.cNBC.com/2018/06/28/these-are-americas-most-expensive-states-to-live-in-for-2018.html>

² <https://smartasset.com/mortgage/the-cities-with-the-highest-and-lowest-real-minimum-wage-2017-edition>

³ <http://www.qmarkresearch.com/EITC-APPLESEED-CUSTOM-MAR16%5b1%5d.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27118138>

⁵ <https://talkpoverty.org/2017/11/07/poverty-largely-invisible-among-college-students/>

⁶ http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/self-sufficiency/self-sufficiency_2016.pdf

⁷ <https://www.sole-jole.org/17722.pdf>

⁸ <https://voxeu.org/article/minimum-wage-increases-and-earnings-low-wage-jobs>

WHEREAS, as costs rise, the purchasing power of the nominal wage has decreased and the minimum wage has lost ground to inflation¹²; and,

WHEREAS, several other states and cities with lower costs of living have already passed legislation moving the minimum wage to \$15 per hour and then adjusting for inflation, like California, New York, Seattle, and Minneapolis¹³; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa supports and urges the Hawai‘i State Legislature to pass legislation that raises the state minimum wage to at least a level of self-sufficiency, where full-time employment generate a living wage, and supporting annual increases to the state minimum wage equal to the percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa supports and urges the University Hawai‘i Administration to pay all employees of the University at least a self-sufficiency pay, where full-time employment generate a living wage, and supporting pay increases that mitigate the effects of inflation on wages.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to: the Hawai‘i State Legislature, Hawai‘i State Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts, Hawai‘i State Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Hawai‘i State House Committee on Labor and Public Employment, Hawai‘i State House Committee on Finance, Governor David Ige, the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents Chair Lee Putnam and Members, President and UHM Interim Chancellor David Lassner, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Chancellor for Research Michael Bruno, Interim Vice Chancellor for Students Lori Ideta, Interim Dean of Students and Student Housing Services Director, the Graduate Student Organization, and Ka Leo O Hawai‘i.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO DISCHARGE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Aye(s): Vice President Simeona, Treasurer Honda, Secretary Sakamoto, Senators-at-Large Chun, Kim, Li, Negrillo, Senators Abara, Balico, Dahmen, Gapet, Juliano, Rafid, Su, Transfiguracion, Urasaki, Vargas, Yoshida **[18]**

Naye(s): [0]

Abstention(s): [0]

ROLL CALL VOTE TO ACCEPT

Aye(s): Treasurer Honda, Secretary Sakamoto, Senators-at-Large Chun, Kim, Li, Negrillo, Senators Abara, Balico, Dahmen, Gapet, Juliano, Rafid, Transfiguracion, Urasaki, Vargas, Yoshida **[16]**

Naye(s): [0]

Abstention(s): [0]

⁹ https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2705499

¹⁰ <http://cepr.net/press-center/press-releases/new-paper-finds-modest-minimum-wage-increases-have-little-impact-on-employment>

¹¹ <http://irle.berkeley.edu/files/2017/Seattles-Minimum-Wage-Experiences-2015-16.pdf>

¹² <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/09/opinion/sunday/the-case-for-a-higher-minimum-wage.html>

¹³ <https://www.nelp.org/news-releases/14-cities-states-approved-15-minimum-wage-in-2015/>

Abstention(s): Vice President Simeona [1]

Introducers: Landon Li, Senator-at-Large, Starshine Chun, Senator-at-Large, Joshua Jungha Kim, Senator-at-Large