

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

Senate Resolution 10-17

**IN SUPPORT OF DISBANDING THE STUDENT ATHLETIC FEE COMMITTEE AND
DISCOURAGE AN INCREASE IN THE ATHLETIC FEE**

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 ASUH advocates on behalf of the undergraduate student body by bringing issues to the university administration, faculty, staff, community groups and government officials in the hopes of implementing change and improvements; and,

WHEREAS, as the flagship campus of the University of Hawai'i system UH Mānoa believes that having a student engagement at athletic events will benefit their experience as a student¹; and,

WHEREAS, as of June 15, 2010 in order to encourage greater student participation at athletic events the board of regents approved a mandatory Student Athletic fee of \$50 per semester per full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa²; and,

WHEREAS, the ASUH has opposed the imposition and implementation of the mandatory Student Athletic fee in past Senate Resolutions 03-09, 10-09, and 02-13; and,

WHEREAS, according to the University of the Hawai'i at Mānoa Athletics Department the Student Athletic fees collected in the year 2014 totaled approximately \$1,563,721³; and,

WHEREAS, the Student Athletic Fee Committee (SAFC) receives 8% of the revenues collected by the Student Athletic fee and are set aside for student activities, as determined by the SAFC to disburse as they see fit; the committee has two arms of funding: direct programming and indirect programming⁴; and,

¹ <http://www.hawaii.edu/news/article.php?aId=3726>

² <http://uhmsafc.weebly.com/documents.html>

³ https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/regular/materials/201511190915/Item_VIII.B.1._Deep_Dive_on_UH_Athletics_Program_UHM.pdf

⁴ <http://uhmsafc.weebly.com/what-is-safc.html>

WHEREAS, in an effort to represent the expressed interests of every fee-paying student the SAFC is composed of nine representatives from each CSO on campus; the Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i (ASUH), Campus Center Board, Broadcast Communication Authority, Board of Publications, Graduate student Organization (GSO), Student Activity and Program Fee Board (SAPFB), and Student Athlete Advisory Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the organizational structure seeks to take advantage of the already active and engaged student members of these organizations, while also drawing from their various areas of expertise; and,

WHEREAS, instead of promoting student experience and athletic events, as outlined in its mission, and with no indication or record that student attendance has increased at athletic events, the SAFC continue to not only lag behind in providing these services, but also in its basic operations as an organization; and,

WHEREAS, the SAFC website lacks much information that is generally requested from an organizational body whose source of funding comes from a collection of fees from the student body; and,

WHEREAS, such concerning areas include, the lack of a budget, unclear funding cycles, and an inconsistent meeting schedule that seem to indicate that the SAFC members convene whenever they see fit; and,

WHEREAS, in an effort to reform the SAFC, representatives from each CSOs have discussed several suggestions to reform the organization, including, but not limited to: reorganizing the membership structure; disbanding the SAFC and equally distributing the funds among the five CSOs; disbanding the SAFC and give back the funds to the UH Athletics Department in exchange for a moratorium on the athletic fee etc.; and,

WHEREAS, the difficulty of agreement among the leadership that represents several distinct CSOs often came into conflict with the general direction of organization and plan of reform; and,

WHEREAS, in order to contribute to an improved game experience, campus life, school pride, and more, the UH Athletics Department has proposed to increase the Student Athletic fee from \$50 to \$100 per semester over a four year period⁵; and,

WHEREAS, in November of 2015 the ASUH conducted a campus-wide survey and out of the 905 responses 704 had expressed opposition to an athletics fee increase from \$50 to \$100 by the year 2020⁶; and,

⁵https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/regular/materials/201511190915/Item_VIII.B.1._Deep_Dive_on_UH_Athletics_Program_UHM.pdf

⁶ http://www.manoanow.org/kaleo/news/uh-athletics-proposed-athletic-fee-increase-won-t-come-with/article_59529574-2371-11e6-9c5e-53514bf94ad3.html

WHEREAS, the mechanisms on consultation on any fee increase should be reviewed by the elected student government organizations before going to the Campus Fee Committee; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASUH shares the same sentiment and has expressed this by introducing and passing SR 11-16 IN OPPOSITION TO THE ATHLETIC FEE INCREASE last year as there were concerns related to the significant increase of the fee and the proper utilization of additional funds to further promote athletics; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASUH does not see the significance of the SAFC as a campus organization as evidently observed from the overlap of services already provided by other existing CSOs; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASUH feels that dissolving the AFC and returning its funds to the UH Athletics Department to prevent an increase on the athletic fee would be the most efficient and effective alternative in utilizing the Student Athletic fee; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASUH feels that enhancing the student experience at UH Mānoa through athletics is the responsibility of the Athletics Department and should not be a part of any CSO's responsibility; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the ASUH requests to have an annual report and presentation on how the Student Athletic Fee is being used to enhance the student experience and increase student engagement at UH Mānoa through athletics at the end of each Fiscal Year; 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 Jan Naoe Sullivan and Members; UH Athletic Director David Matlin; UHM Interim Vice Chancellor for Students Lori I detta; UHM Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance & Operations Kathy Cutshaw; UHM Graduate Student Organization President Amy McKee; Mānoa Faculty Senate Chair Marguerite Butler; The University of Hawai‘i Student Caucus; the Honolulu Star Advertiser; Honolulu Civil Beat; Student Regent Brandon Higa, The Associated Students of Kapi‘olani Community College, The Associated Students of Windward Community College, The Associated Students of University of Hawai‘i - Leeward Community College, The Associated Students of Honolulu Community College, The Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i – West Oahu and the Ka Leo o Hawai‘i.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Aye(s): Vice President Dela Cruz, Treasurer Hinshaw, Secretary Nishihara, Senators-at-Large Chen, Enriquez, Urasaki, Willis, Senators Arenivas, Barrow, Chen, Chun, Crollard, Delos Reyes, Finau, Ho, Ikeda, Ishii, Klinestiver, Lao, Lee, Leval, Lo, Negrillo, Tran, Utashiro, Wang, Zabanal [27]

Naye(s): Senator Honda [1]

Introducer: Maggie Hinshaw, Treasurer