

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

SENATE RESOLUTION 07-26

**IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MANDATORY ANNUAL TITLE IX TRAINING FOR ALL
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I STUDENTS AND SUPPORT FOR SB3024**

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 14,000 full-time classified undergraduate students; and
- WHEREAS,* Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance; and
- WHEREAS,* Title IX protections include sex-based harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual violence, relationship violence, stalking, and discrimination based on gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, and pregnancy-related conditions; and
- WHEREAS,* the University of Hawai'i has a responsibility to ensure students are aware of their rights and responsibilities under Title IX policies, as well as reporting options and available supportive resources; and
- WHEREAS,* Senate Bill 3024 (SB3024), introduced in the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026, recognizes that the goals of Title IX have not been fully realized and that the efficacy of Title IX protections has been diminished and eroded over time; and
- WHEREAS,* SB3024 specifically notes that the University of Hawai'i system remains out of compliance with Title IX standards and obligations, alongside the State Department of Education; and
- WHEREAS,* SB3024 highlights that annual reports and complaint data indicate that incidents of sex-based discrimination and sex-based harassment are significantly underreported when compared to student survey data; and
- WHEREAS,* underreporting contributes to hostile educational environments and can negatively impact a student's learning, mental health, physical wellbeing, and ability to continue their education; and
- WHEREAS,* SB3024 strengthens mandatory reporting requirements, which is critical to improving institutional accountability and ensuring that reports of sex-based harassment and discrimination are addressed appropriately; and
- WHEREAS,* many students remain silent or do not report sex-based harassment or discrimination because they fear retaliation, believe nothing will happen, or do not trust the system to protect them; and
- WHEREAS,* a system that discourages reporting or allows silence to persist enables harm to continue and undermines the University's duty to provide a safe learning environment; and
- WHEREAS,* an absence of personal experience with sex-based discrimination or harassment does not negate its existence, or impacting the broader student community, and can affect the entire student community

- WHEREAS*, UH’s Title IX offices have been underfunded and understaffed¹, limiting the ability for stronger resources, clearer procedures, and meaningful prevention efforts for years, with limited visible institution change
- WHEREAS*, 2 in 3 (67%) did not recall ever attending training or information sessions on sexual harassment or gender-violence²
- WHEREAS*, annual, mandatory Title IX training for students is a practical and proactive prevention measure that would increase awareness of prohibited conduct, reporting options, and available campus resources; and
- WHEREAS*, University of Hawai‘i system has invested in optional training for students that’s focused on gender-based violence awareness, and the OmniTrak group, who conducts the comparison study at UH campuses based on campus climate surveys, found that said training has contributed to attitudinal changes about the usefulness of such training on campus, rising from 51 percent of respondents considering it useful in 2017 to 58 percent in 2023, and awareness about campus resources, increasing from 78 percent in 2017 to 83 percent in 2023³
- WHEREAS*, annual Title IX training ensures compliance with the law, and when done with a culture of respect, rather than a compliance check, can create a safe and inclusive environment
- WHEREAS*, providing training once per academic year would ensure that all students receive updated and consistent information on University policies and procedures, including changes to federal or state Title IX guidance; and
- WHEREAS*, annual training can be implemented through online modules, in-person programming, or hybrid options that ensure accessibility for commuter students, distance learners, and nontraditional students; now, therefore,
- BE IT RESOLVED*, that the University of Hawai‘i Student Government urges the University of Hawai‘i administration to implement mandatory Title IX training for all enrolled students once per academic year; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the annual training should include, at minimum, education on Title IX protections, sex-based discrimination, sex-based harassment, sexual violence, consent, retaliation, reporting procedures, confidential and non-confidential resources, and supportive measures; and

¹ Cozloff, T.N. (2026) Gender discrimination complaints: These 2 UH campuses stand out, Honolulu Civil Beat. Available at: <https://www.civilbeat.org/2026/01/gender-discrimination-complaints-these-2-uh-campuses-stand-out/>.

² Loui, P.M., Martin, S.L. and Fisher, B. (Dec. 2021). *Report on University of Hawai‘i Student Campus Climate Survey*. Available at: <https://www.hscadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Upload-UH-Campus-Climate-Survey-2021-040802022-Final.pdf>.

³ Steinsrud, S. (2024) *UH improving in some categories related to violence against women on Campuses, The Mānoa Mirror*. Available at: <https://manoamirror.org/2461/news/uh-improving-in-some-categories-related-to-violence-against-women-on-campuses/>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Hawai‘i should ensure that the training is culturally appropriate, trauma-informed, and accessible to all students, including students with disabilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Hawai‘i should implement completion tracking measures to ensure broad participation, including consideration of requiring completion prior to course registration or as part of an annual student compliance module; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Hawai‘i should provide clear public information regarding the training’s availability, deadlines, and content, and should ensure that students can easily access the training each academic year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ASUH requests that the University publish an implementation timeline and provide periodic updates regarding compliance and student completion rates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ASUH urges the training to be implemented thoughtfully and just a part of the broader, sustained effort to build a culture of respect, rather than a compliance check; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ASUH affirms that māhū, transgender, QTPI+, and gender non-conforming belong at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, pregnant and parenting students deserve the same access to education, and that women deserve to feel protected when pursuing an education; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution will be sent to all state senators in the Hawai‘i State Senate, UH President Wendy Hensel, the UH Board of Regents, Hawai‘i State Governor Josh Green, Hawai‘i State Senate President Kouchi, Hawai‘i State Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi, Chair Kim of the Senate Education Committee, Vice Chair Kidani of the Senate Education Committee, Chair Rhoads of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Vice Chair Gabbard of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chair Dela Cruz of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Vice Chair Moriwaki of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Congresswoman Jill Tokuda, Congressman Ed Case, Senator Brian Schatz, and Senator Mazie Hirono, UHM Graduate Student Organization, and Ka Leo O Hawai‘i.

Introduced by: Samantha Avila Gomez

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE SENATE RESOLUTION 07-26

Aye(s):

Naye(s): [0]

Abstention(s): [0]