

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

In the Senate
Feb 19, 2026

Senate Resolution 08-26
For First Reading

**IN SUPPORT OF A LEGISLATIVE FELLOW FOR ASUH FUNDED BY THE VICE-PROVOST FOR
STUDENT SUCCESS OFFICE**

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,* the Hawai'i State Legislature annually considers legislation that directly impacts the University of Hawai'i system and its campuses; and
- WHEREAS,* undergraduate student voices are not consistently present in the state legislature decision making process that affects the University; and
- WHEREAS,* ASUH has a responsibility to represent the interests of undergraduate students and to ensure their voices are heard in the development, consideration, and implementation of legislation through, but not limited to, passing resolutions in support of bills and submitting public testimony; and
- WHEREAS,* ASUH passes resolutions, takes formal positions on legislation, and advocates for bills that are in the best interest of the students it serves, with such advocacy primarily coordinated through the External Affairs Committee; and
- WHEREAS,* the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa previously funded a Legislative Fellow position for ASUH, including during the 2022–2023 academic year when two fellows were hired for the Spring semester, though the role is traditionally structured as a full academic-year appointment; and
- WHEREAS,* representatives like Stephanie Kim from the Government Relations Office of the UH system have presented to the 112th ASUH Senate regarding the legislative process and indicated the potential for ASUH to draft and advance its own legislation in future sessions; and
- WHEREAS,* a Legislative Fellow would provide research support, assist in drafting bills and testimony, and strengthen communication between ASUH and the Hawai'i State Legislature; and
- WHEREAS,* the legislative fellow would work with the ASUH senate, but specifically with the External Affairs Committee, who is the primary bridge between ASUH and the broader campus, community, and government landscape, and Student Affairs Committee, whose purpose is to address non-academic student affairs issues on campus through resolutions; and
- WHEREAS,* establishing a permanent role of a Legislative fellow, would improve the quality and effectiveness of ASUH's legislative advocacy while also providing meaningful professional development opportunities for students interested in public policy and governance; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that ASUH formally recognizes the need to establish a role of Legislative Fellow to support student interests; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that ASUH will work towards completing the hiring process to place a Legislative Fellow by May 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Fellow shall be responsible for: Monitoring and tracking legislation relevant to undergraduate students and the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, remaining informed on campus and UH System legislative priorities, assisting UHM legislative coordinators and student leaders in drafting legislation and testimony, serving as a liaison, as assigned by ASUH, to system administration and state legislators; coordinating and presenting testimony on behalf of ASUH, supporting the alignment of ASUH’s legislative priorities with relevant state legislation, and assisting in the coordination of student visits to the Hawai‘i State Legislature to advance formally adopted ASUH positions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the ASUH shall work collaboratively with the Vice Provost for Student Success Office to secure funding for this stipend supported position; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution will be sent to all state senators in the UH President Wendy Hensel, the UH Board of Regents, Interim Vice Provost for Student Success Dr. Kapā Oliveira, Interim Associate Vice Provost for Student Success and Dean of Students Dr. Erin Kahunawaika‘ala Wright, Assistant Vice Provost for SEED Dr. Christine Quemuel, Interim Assistant Vice Provost for Student Academic Success Dr. Amy Hubbard, the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success and Ka Leo O Hawai‘i.

Introduced by: Senator Samantha Avila Gomez

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE SENATE RESOLUTION 08-26

Aye(s):

Naye(s): [0]

Abstention(s): [0]