

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is a system of ten campuses spread across the major islands of Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i. These ten campuses are:

- The University of Hawai'i at Hilo  
(808) 974-7414
- The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
(808) 956-8975
- The University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu  
(808) 454-4700
- Hawai'i Community College  
(808) 974-7661
- Honolulu Community College  
(808) 845-9190
- Kapi'olani Community College  
(808) 734-9555
- Kaua'i Community College  
(808) 245-8225
- Leeward Community College  
(808) 455-0642
- Maui Community College  
(808) 984-3514
- Windward Community College  
(808) 235-7432

The information provided in this brochure applies to all ten campuses of the UH system.

This is a very brief overview of residency for tuition purposes. For further detailed information, contact the residency officer at the Admissions Office of any campus of the University of Hawai'i. Phone numbers are provided above.

Frequently  
Asked  
Questions  
About

Residency  
for  
Tuition Purposes  
at  
**The University of Hawai'i**

## **Why do the campuses of the University of Hawai‘i charge both resident and nonresident tuition?**

The University of Hawai‘i (UH) is the state’s public institution of higher learning. Public institutions are partially supported by state taxes. Therefore, UH, like all other public universities in the nation, may charge nonresidents a higher tuition, since nonresidents do not contribute to the state’s tax base.

## **What is residency for tuition purposes?**

Residency for tuition purposes is not the same as residency for other purposes, such as obtaining a Hawai‘i driver’s license. Residency for tuition purposes is synonymous with the legal concept of domicile. A person’s domicile is the place where that person lives permanently and returns to after any absence. You can have only one domicile at any given time.

**Hereafter, residency always refers to residency for tuition purposes.**

## **How can I pay resident tuition?**

To be considered a resident for tuition purposes, you must:

- a) have been physically present in Hawai‘i for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the first day of instruction; and
- b) not have been claimed as a dependent for tax purposes by a nonresident parent or guardian, unless, in the case of divorced or legally separated parents, the parent legally claims the dependent and the other parent and student meet the Hawai‘i residency requirements.

## **I am a minor. Must I still meet the residency requirements?**

If you are under the age of 18, your residency status will be based on your parents or legal guardian.

## **How do I prove that I am a resident?**

The determination of residence requires a finding of objective fact, or physical presence, as well as subjective fact, which is the intent to establish domicile in Hawai‘i while giving up any prior domicile.

The following actions are the most important. No single action is conclusive. The University will consider all actions to determine your residency status.

- 1) Filing a Hawai‘i resident personal income tax form
- 2) Voting/Registering to vote in Hawai‘i
- 3) Proof of employment in Hawai‘i
- 4) Ownership or continuous lease of a residence in Hawai‘i

Any other actions that could prove domicile in Hawai‘i are also considered.

## **If I am a nonresident, can I attend school and establish residency at the same time?**

Presence in Hawai‘i primarily to attend an institution of higher learning shall not create resident status. A nonresident student enrolled for six credits or more per term shall be presumed to be in Hawai‘i primarily for educational purposes. Such period of enrollment shall not be counted toward the establishment of a bona fide domicile of one year in Hawai‘i.

## **Can non-U.S. citizens be residents?**

Only aliens legally in the U.S. by consent of the U.S. government may be allowed to establish domicile in Hawai‘i. This includes permanent residents (green cards).

Those persons in the U.S. on temporary visas, such as student, tourist, or visitor visas cannot be residents, since their stay in the U.S. is temporary, and their legal domicile is their home country.

## **I am an exchange student. Can I become a resident?**

No. As an exchange student, you are a resident of somewhere other than Hawai‘i. You can begin to establish Hawai‘i residency only after you have terminated your exchange program.

## **Are there any exceptions to the residency requirements?**

Yes. The UH Board of Regents has established exemptions which allow certain nonresidents to pay the resident tuition. Only the following apply:

- 1) Members of the U.S. armed forces and their authorized dependents stationed in Hawai‘i on active duty.
- 2) Members of the Hawai‘i National Guard and Hawai‘i-based reservists.
- 3) Full-time employees of the UH and their dependents.
- 4) East-West Center student grantees pursuing baccalaureate or advanced degrees at the UH.
- 5) Native Hawaiians, descendants of the aboriginal peoples that inhabited the Hawaiian Islands in 1778.

In addition, the UH Board of Regents also allows citizens of certain Pacific islands which do not have public institutions that grant baccalaureate degrees to pay 150% of the resident tuition.

## **If I am classified as a nonresident but believe that I am indeed a resident, can I contest my nonresident classification?**

Yes, there is an appeal process available. You would first have to pay the nonresident tuition to register, then file an appeal, which will be heard by the UH Residency Appeals Board. If the Board finds that you are indeed a resident, the nonresident tuition differential will be refunded to you.

If the Board finds that you are a nonresident, and you decide to withdraw from classes, your tuition will not be refunded to you.