

# Hawai'i | Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1959

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University of Hawai'i



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Hawai'i State  
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Legislature

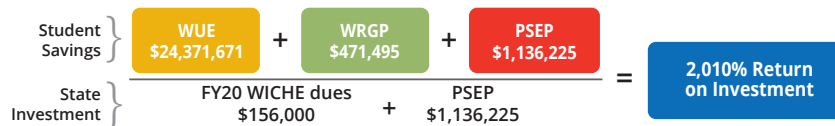


**Justin Woodson**  
Representative,  
Hawai'i State  
Legislature

## WICHE ...

### Provides strong return on investment

- 2,486 Hawai'i residents saved \$24.8 million in 2019-20 through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) and the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP). These WICHE programs provide significant student savings on nonresident tuition at 170+ Western U.S. public colleges and universities.
- WICHE's Student Access Programs collectively provide Hawai'i:



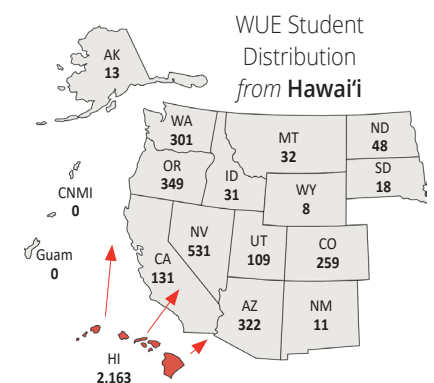
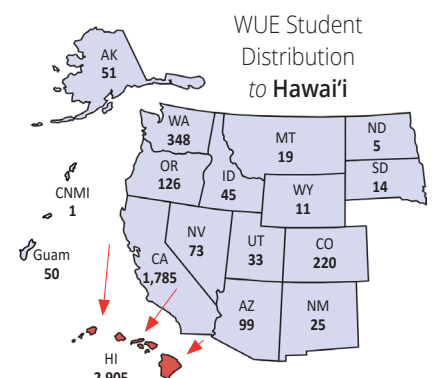
- In 2019-20 WICHE Student Access Programs provided Hawai'i a 2,010 percent return on investment, relative to the state's annual WICHE dues.
- Hawai'i students and their families have saved over \$296 million since the state began participating in WUE.
- The Master Property Program (MPP) helps institutions reduce their insurance premiums and improve their coverage. The MPP includes more than 170 campuses with total insured values of over \$100 billion.

### Helps Hawai'i attract students from other states

- WUE and WRGP incentivized 2,555 students this year to invest their tuition dollars in Hawai'i.

### Bolsters Hawai'i's health workforce

- Through the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), students from Hawai'i can enroll in participating programs in another state while receiving substantial tuition support. Currently, Hawai'i supports students in dentistry, occupational therapy, optometry, physical therapy, and veterinary medicine.
- WICHE's Behavioral Health Program (BHP) has a number of projects in Hawai'i that extend the state's ability to serve residents. These projects include a review of the Hawai'i State Hospital, a study of the Hawai'i Adult Mental Health Services Division Medicaid



### About WICHE

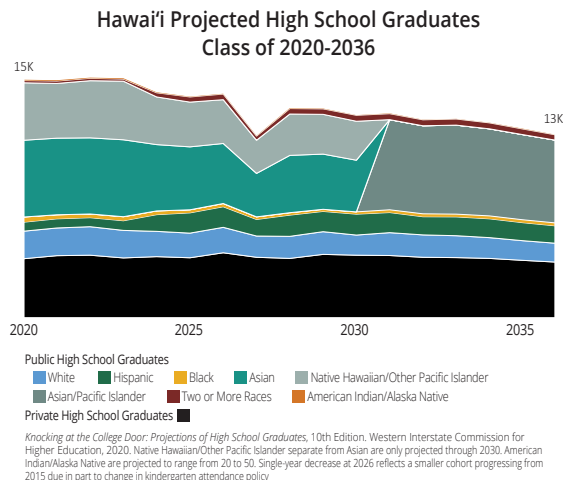
Since 1953, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) has been strengthening higher education, workforce development, and behavioral health throughout the region. As an interstate compact, WICHE partners with states, territories, and postsecondary institutions to share knowledge, create resources, and develop innovative solutions that address some of our society's most pressing needs. From promoting high-quality, affordable postsecondary education to helping states get the most from their technology investments and addressing behavioral health challenges, WICHE improves lives across the West through innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy.

reimbursement rates, and marketing, recruitment, screening, and referral services for behavioral health professionals to fill public school vacancies across the Hawai'iian islands.

- The BHP initiated and administers the **Hawai'i Psychology Internship Consortium**, which prepares and retains high quality and culturally competent psychologists to provide collaborative public mental health care for the diverse children, adolescents, and adults of Hawai'i.

### Helps Hawai'i allocate resources efficiently with data and policy analysis

- WICHE offers various data and policy resources to support better-informed decision-making. WICHE's research projects and collaborations cover postsecondary completion, closing attainment gaps, adult learners, and multistate data-sharing to support educational planning and workforce development. WICHE staff serve as expert resources and provide technical assistance on finance, financial aid, articulation and transfer, strategic planning, student demographics, and more. WICHE's website features [Benchmarks](#), an interactive dashboard featuring the most recent data available on the West's progress in improving access to, success in, and the financing of higher education, as well as other useful resources.
- WICHE's quadrennial *Knocking at the College Door* report is the foremost US resource for projections of college-ready students. There is an abundance of information on [knocking.wiche.edu](http://knocking.wiche.edu), including the publication and other reports, projections data, interactive data dashboards, recorded webinars and presentations, and Hawai'i's state profile.



### Fosters idea sharing

- WICHE's **Legislative Advisory Committee** provides valuable insights on trends and promising practices to Hawai'i's legislative leaders as they build partnerships with leaders in other Western states.
- Three Hawai'i institutions are members of the **Western Academic Leadership Forum (the Forum)**, a consortium of academic officers at bachelor's, master's, and doctoral institutions and chief executives and chief academic officers for systems and state governing boards. Hawai'i members include [University of Hawai'i System](#), [University of Hawai'i - Mānoa](#), and [University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu](#). Don Straney, University of Hawai'i System, serves on the Forum executive committee. Academic leaders at community colleges (cc) and technical schools and at systems and state governing and coordinating boards associated with two-year institutions are members of the **Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (the Alliance)**. The Hawai'i members of the Alliance are [Hawai'i Community College \(CC\)](#), [Honolulu CC](#), [Kapi'olani CC](#), [Kaua'i CC](#), [Leeward CC](#), [University of Hawai'i Maui College](#), [University of Hawai'i System](#), and [Windward CC](#). Debora Halbert, University of Hawai'i System, serves on the executive committee of the Alliance. Both the Forum and the Alliance exchange ideas and information, share resources and expertise, and collaborate on regional initiatives.
- [Kapi'olani Community College](#), and [University of Hawai'i System](#) are all members of **WCET - the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies**, the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education. WCET's growing membership includes almost 400 institutions, higher education agencies and systems, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in all U.S. states and several Canadian provinces. Through its *Frontiers* blog, convenings, and active online discussions, WCET keeps members informed of the latest in policy change, regulations, and trends in educational technology. And WCET offers a host of resources related to educational technology and faculty support, including advice and guidance for institutions on how to transition their face-to-face offerings to emergency online alternatives and how to increase quality in these courses over time.
- The **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)** is a voluntary, state-led initiative designed to establish comparable standards for US states and territories regulating postsecondary distance education. SARA expands access to postsecondary educational opportunities, while ensuring meaningful consumer protections for students and reducing regulatory red-tape for institutions. WICHE is responsible for coordinating the membership of SARA states in the West through the **WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (W-SARA)**.

### Responds to urgent priorities

- WICHE is partnering with our states, institutions, and partners to respond and be proactive during the COVID-19 pandemic. WICHE is facilitating peer-to-peer videoconferences for higher education leaders to connect and identify solutions to common challenges; following legislation passed in response to the crisis; and identifying how emergency funding for students and higher education institutions, as well as block grants to states, can be best used to support education in the West. The Behavioral Health Program is hosting webinars that offer guidance to support the mental wellbeing of their students, and WCET is providing updates and resources to help institutions address issues that arise due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

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### About the WICHE Commission

The WICHE Commission oversees the development of WICHE programs and assures that the Western Regional Compact is carried out for the benefit of the citizens of the West. WICHE's 48 commissioners, who are appointed by the governors of the 15 Western states and the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States, are leaders in higher education; they include state higher education executive officers, college and university presidents, legislators, business and community leaders, and other key partners. Susan Anderson from Alaska is the 2021 Chair of the Commission.