
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Research predicts that the some of the greatest
2 future employment growth in Hawaii lies in the fields of
3 registered nursing, elementary and secondary education, and
4 civil engineering. At the same time, Hawaii is currently facing
5 some of its most severe shortages of trained professionals in
6 these fields.

7 Although the State does not budget for scholarships,
8 University of Hawaii policy requires that a minimum percentage
9 of tuition revenue be set aside for need-based scholarships,
10 including 8.8 per cent at the community colleges. The
11 University of Hawaii provided \$46,700,000 in tuition-funded
12 financial aid during 2014-2015, including \$6,300,000 at the
13 community colleges. Even though financial aid through Pell
14 grants, University of Hawaii and private scholarships, the GI
15 Bill for service members and veterans, and employers cover much
16 of the cost for need-based students, cost is still a barrier for
17 certain students with financial need.



1 The legislature finds that this issue is a matter of
2 statewide concern that falls under its purview pursuant to
3 article X, section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution. The
4 purpose of this Act is to:

5 (1) Establish the Hawaii promise program to provide
6 scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of
7 qualified students who are pursuing undergraduate
8 degrees in registered nursing, elementary or secondary
9 education, and civil engineering and who are enrolled
10 at any University of Hawaii campus; and

11 (2) Appropriate funds to establish and implement the
12 program.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by adding a new section to part IV, subpart A,
15 subdivision 1 to be appropriately designated and to read as
16 follows:

17 "§304A- Hawaii promise program; established. (a)
18 Notwithstanding section 304A-502, there is established the
19 Hawaii promise program to be administered by the board of
20 regents. The program shall provide scholarships for the unmet
21 direct cost needs of qualified students who are:



(1) Pursuing undergraduate degrees in registered nursing, elementary or secondary education, and civil engineering; and

(2) Enrolled at any University of Hawaii campus.

(b) A student enrolled in an undergraduate degree in registered nursing, elementary or secondary education, or civil engineering at a University of Hawaii campus is eligible for scholarship consideration for a maximum of eight semesters if the student:

(1) Qualifies for Hawaii resident tuition;

(2) Completes and submits the FAFSA for each academic year, and accepts all federal and state aid, grants, scholarships, and other funding sources that do not require repayment;

(3) Is enrolled in the degree program with twelve or more credits per semester;

(4) Maintains satisfactory academic progress, as defined by federal requirements established pursuant to Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and determined by the campus at which the student is enrolled; and



(5) Has been determined by the campus to have unmet direct cost needs.

(c) Scholarships shall be awarded:

(1) On a first-come, first-served basis;

(2) In an amount equal to the student's unmet direct cost need based on the FAFSA calculation of need minus what is available from Pell grants and other funding sources specified in subsection (b) (2); and

(3) To the extent funds are available to support the scholarship award.

(d) To continue to qualify for a scholarship under this section, a student shall:

(1) Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent;

(2) Earn a minimum of twenty-four credits in each academic year; and

(3) Comply with any other conditions placed on the scholarship by the University of Hawaii.

(e) A student who fails to comply with the requirements of this section shall be placed on scholarship probation. Social, economic, and other factors, or other extenuating circumstances



1 as determined by the University of Hawaii, shall be considered
2 in determining probationary status.

3 During the probationary period, the student shall
4 demonstrate satisfactory progress toward meeting completion of
5 the degree and satisfying the requirements of the scholarship.
6 Failure to meet the probationary period requirements in this
7 section shall result in revocation of the student's scholarship,
8 with the student responsible for reimbursing the University of
9 Hawaii for up to two semesters of scholarship amounts received
10 under the program. A student may be placed on scholarship
11 probation for no more than one semester during an eight-semester
12 period at a University of Hawaii campus.

13 (f) As used in this section:

14 "Direct cost" includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, and
15 transportation.

16 "FAFSA" means the Free Application for Federal Student
17 Aid."

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to



1 establish and implement the Hawaii promise program, including
2 the provision of the program's scholarships.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
4 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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INTRODUCED BY: Mildred K. Nakamura

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H.B. NO. 2082

Report Title:

University of Hawaii; Promise Program; Scholarships in Registered Nursing, Elementary or Secondary Education, and Civil Engineering; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students pursuing an undergraduate degree in registered nursing, elementary or secondary education, and civil engineering and enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

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