
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that an educated state
2 workforce will help to increase government efficiency, provide
3 quality services to the public, reduce waste, and promote
4 innovative ideas statewide. The legislature also finds that
5 providing incentives for individuals to further their education
6 as state employees will enhance the State's ability to improve
7 government services.

8 The legislature declares that providing tuition grants for
9 certain individuals to attend post-secondary or professional
10 degree programs at the University of Hawaii system in exchange
11 for commitment to public service is a matter of statewide
12 concern.

13 The purpose of this Act is to provide tuition grants for
14 state employees who commit to employment with the State.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 78, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
16 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
17 read as follows:



1 "§78- University of Hawaii tuition grants for state
2 employees. (a) The department of human resources development
3 shall provide grants to fund the tuition of any person who
4 applies for a grant under this section; provided that the
5 following conditions are met:

6 (1) The person is a United States citizen or an eligible
7 noncitizen;

8 (2) The person is a current employee of the State;

9 (3) The person is admitted to and enrolled in an
10 undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree
11 program, or community college program, of the
12 University of Hawaii;

13 (4) The person maintains satisfactory academic progress,
14 as determined by the educational program that the
15 person attends;

16 (5) The person is physically present in the State; and

17 (6) The person commits to employment with the State in the
18 amount of five years for an associate's degree or ten
19 years for a bachelor's, graduate, or professional
20 degree; provided that if the person does not obtain
21 the applicable degree, the person shall be obligated



1 to refund the State for the pro-rata portion of the
2 grant for the number of credits remaining to obtain
3 the associate's, bachelor's, graduate, or professional
4 degree, as applicable; and provided further that if
5 the person does not fulfill the entire employment
6 commitment required by this paragraph in a state
7 position approved by the department of human resources
8 development, the person shall be obligated to refund
9 the State for the pro-rata portion of the grant for
10 the amount of employment commitment remaining.

11 (b) The department of human resources development shall
12 develop a list of approved state positions that fulfill the
13 employment requirements established by this section.

14 (c) As used in this section, an "eligible noncitizen"
15 means a person who is:

- 16 (1) A United States permanent resident who holds a
17 permanent resident card;
- 18 (2) A conditional permanent resident of the United States;
19 or



1 (3) The holder of an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from
2 the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of
3 the following designations:

- 4 (A) Refugee;
- 5 (B) Asylum granted;
- 6 (C) Parolee; or
- 7 (D) Cuban-Haitian entrant.

8 (d) The department of human resources development shall
9 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 that establish eligibility
10 for a tuition grant pursuant to this section."

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to pay for
14 tuition grants for qualifying students; provided that any
15 portion of the sum appropriated that has not been expended by
16 June 30, 2019, shall not lapse; provided further that any
17 remaining unencumbered balance on June 30, 2020, shall lapse to
18 the credit of the general fund.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 human resources development for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



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



Report Title:

State Employment; DHRD; Tuition Grants; Appropriation

Description:

Directs the Department of Human Resources Development to provide University of Hawaii tuition grants to state employees who commit to continued employment with the State after graduation. Appropriates moneys. (HB2113 HD1)

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