
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. The legislature finds that the University of
2 Hawaii's Hawaii graduation initiative is a system-wide strategic
3 initiative endorsed by the board of regents to increase the
4 educational capital of the State. The Hawaii graduation
5 initiative focuses on increasing the number of students who
6 enroll and earn degrees, particularly Native Hawaiians, low-
7 income students, and those from underserved regions and
8 populations, to prepare them for success in the workforce and
9 their communities.

10 The legislature further finds that an educated labor force
11 and engaged citizenry are essential in today's global,
12 knowledge-based economy. Across the nation, states have set
13 ambitious goals to boost college completion rates. Hawaii's own
14 55 by '25 campaign goal focuses on increasing the percentage of
15 working age adults with two- or four-year degrees to fifty-five
16 per cent by 2025. According to the most recent data available,
17 forty-six per cent of Hawaii's working age adults have a



1 postsecondary degree. As the State's sole public higher
2 education system, the University of Hawaii is committed to doing
3 its part to close the State's projected educational attainment
4 gap.

5 In April 2016, the Institute for Research on Higher
6 Education at the University of Pennsylvania graduate school of
7 education issued a study that analyzed college costs in relation
8 to family income level. The study revealed how higher education
9 has gone from expensive to unaffordable for most low- and
10 middle-income families. According to the United States
11 Department of Education, Hawaii is ninth lowest in the nation
12 for tuition and fees for two-year public institutions in 2020-
13 2021, and eighteenth lowest overall for public institutions.
14 Yet, as one additional measure of affordability demonstrates, in
15 2020, when the University of Hawaii administered a survey to
16 better understand college student basic needs, including food
17 security, thirty-nine per cent of respondents reported
18 experiencing food insecurity within the last thirty days.

19 In 2017, the University of Hawaii implemented the Hawaii
20 promise program, which provides need-based awards intended to be
21 applied toward the unmet need of qualified students enrolled at



1 any community college campus of the University of Hawaii.
 2 Awards are contingent upon funding and amounts are determined by
 3 the individual students' Free Application for Federal Student
 4 Aid information.

5 Even though financial aid through federal Pell Grants,
 6 University of Hawaii and private scholarships, the GI Bill for
 7 service members and veterans, and employers covers much of the
 8 cost for need-based students, cost is still a barrier for
 9 certain need-based students, especially for those who do not
 10 qualify for the Hawaii promise program because they are enrolled
 11 at one of the University of Hawaii's four-year campuses.

12 The purpose of this Act is to expand the Hawaii promise
 13 program to provide scholarships for the unmet needs of qualified
 14 undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Hawaii at
 15 Manoa, University of Hawaii at Hilo, and University of Hawaii-
 16 West Oahu, and to provide an appropriation to establish and
 17 implement the program.

18 SECTION 2. Section 304A-506, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 19 amended to read as follows:

20 "[~~§~~304A-506] Hawaii [~~community college~~] promise
 21 program; established. (a) Notwithstanding section 304A-501,



1 there is established the Hawaii [~~community college~~] promise
2 program to be administered by the board of regents. The program
3 shall provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of
4 qualified students enrolled at any [~~community college~~] campus of
5 the University of Hawaii.

6 (b) A student enrolled at a community college campus shall
7 be eligible for scholarship consideration for a maximum of eight
8 semesters if the student:

- 9 (1) Qualifies for Hawaii resident tuition;
- 10 (2) Completes and submits the Free Application for Federal
11 Student Aid for each academic year and accepts all
12 federal and state aid, grants, scholarships, and other
13 funding sources that do not require repayment;
- 14 (3) Is enrolled in a classified degree or certificate
15 program with six or more credits per semester;
- 16 (4) Maintains satisfactory academic progress, as defined
17 by federal requirements established pursuant to Title
18 IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended,
19 and determined by the campus at which the student is
20 enrolled; and



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

3 (c) A student enrolled in an undergraduate program at a
4 University of Hawaii campus, other than a community college
5 campus, shall be eligible for scholarship consideration for a
6 maximum of eight semesters if the student:

7 (1) Qualifies for Hawaii resident tuition;

8 (2) Completes and submits the Free Application for Federal
9 Student Aid for each academic year and accepts all
10 federal and state aid, grants, scholarships, and other
11 funding sources that do not require repayment;

12 (3) Is enrolled in a classified degree or certificate
13 program with twelve or more credits per semester;

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

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



1 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) Scholarships shall be awarded to the extent
2 possible based on available funds and on a greatest need basis.
3 An award granted to a student shall be equal to the student's
4 unmet direct cost need, based on the Free Application for
5 Federal Student Aid calculation of need, less the amounts
6 available to the student from Pell grants ~~[and other~~
7 ~~scholarships]~~.

8 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) To maintain a scholarship under this section, a
9 student enrolled at a community college shall meet the
10 requirements of subsection (b) (4) ~~[-]~~ and a student enrolled in
11 an undergraduate program at a University of Hawaii campus, other
12 than a community college campus, shall meet the requirements of
13 subsection (c) (4).

14 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) As used in this section, "direct cost" means any
15 cost directly related to a student's education, including
16 tuition; educational fees; and the costs of books, supplies, and
17 transportation between the student's dwelling and the student's
18 campus."

19 SECTION 3. Section 304A-2102, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by amending its title and subsections (a) and (b) to
21 read as follows:



1 "~~§304A-2102~~ Hawaii ~~community college~~ promise
2 program subaccount. (a) There is established the Hawaii
3 ~~community college~~ promise program subaccount within the
4 University of Hawaii general fund. Moneys in the subaccount
5 shall be used to provide financial assistance to qualified
6 students through Hawaii ~~community college~~ promise program
7 scholarships under section 304A-506.

8 (b) The University of Hawaii shall submit a report to the
9 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
10 each regular session regarding the subaccount. The report shall
11 include but not be limited to the number of scholarships
12 provided under the Hawaii ~~community college~~ promise program
13 during the preceding year."

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
17 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
18 year 2024-2025 for to carry out the purposes of this Act,
19 including the provision of scholarships.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
21 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

Amy Kuroki

JAN 23 2023



H.B. NO. 873

Report Title:

University of Hawaii Promise Program; Scholarships;
Appropriation

Description:

Provides scholarships for the unmet needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawaii campus who meet certain eligibility criteria. Appropriates funds for the Hawaii promise program.

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