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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TUITION ASSISTANCE.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The purpose of this part is to provide tuition  
3 refunds:

4 (1) For qualifying children of certain law enforcement,  
5 firefighting, emergency medical services, water  
6 safety, and air ambulance services personnel; Hawaii  
7 veterans; and other first responders who are killed in  
8 the line of duty; and

9 (2) To the following persons who are unable to attend  
10 college for more than thirty days in a semester as a  
11 result of their military duties:

12 (A) Members of the Hawaii national guard or military  
13 reserves who are called into active duty; and

14 (B) Active-duty military personnel.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 304, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately  
17 designated and to read as follows:



1           "§304- Tuition refund for children of law enforcement  
2 officers, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel,  
3 water safety officers, air ambulance pilots or medical  
4 personnel, and other first responders killed in the line of  
5 duty. (a) Any natural or legally adopted child of a:  
6           (1) Regular, paid law enforcement officer;  
7           (2) Volunteer law enforcement officer;  
8           (3) Regular, paid firefighter;  
9           (4) Volunteer firefighter;  
10           (5) Reserve police officer;  
11           (6) Emergency medical technician;  
12           (7) Mobile intensive care technician;  
13           (8) Water safety officer;  
14           (9) Air ambulance pilot;  
15           (10) Air ambulance medical technician; or  
16           (11) Other first responder,  
17 who has been killed in the line of duty, shall be entitled to  
18 receive a tuition refund upon the successful completion of each  
19 of a maximum of eight semesters at the University of Hawaii;  
20 provided that the child is under the age of twenty-two at the  
21 time of application for a refund, is a full-time or part-time  
22 undergraduate student pursuing a prescribed course of study, and



1 maintains satisfactory academic progress as determined by the  
2 college, university, or school; provided further that no refund  
3 shall be awarded under this section for tuition paid for summer  
4 session, outreach, or extension courses.

5       (b) The amount of tuition refund under this section shall  
6 be one hundred per cent of the tuition paid for a semester for a  
7 student enrolled at a community college and fifty per cent of  
8 the tuition paid for a semester for a student enrolled at a  
9 university campus. If the child receives any other benefits  
10 from any source specifically designated for tuition, the amount  
11 of tuition refunded under this section shall be reduced by the  
12 amount of those benefits. Nothing in this section shall be  
13 construed to require the State to remit any tuition for terms  
14 completed by a child who would have been eligible to receive a  
15 refund under subsection (a) prior to the child's application for  
16 the benefits provided under this section.

17       (c) The president of the University of Hawaii shall  
18 consult with the director of labor and industrial relations to  
19 carry out the purposes of this section.

20       §304- Tuition refund for children of Hawaii veterans  
21 and military first responders killed in action. (a) Any



1 natural or legally adopted child of a deceased veteran or  
2 military first responder who:

3 (1) Filed Hawaii state income taxes for thirty-six  
4 consecutive months or more;

5 (2) Served in the armed forces of the United States from:

6 (A) April 6, 1917, to July 2, 1921;

7 (B) September 16, 1940, to December 31, 1946;

8 (C) June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955;

9 (D) August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975; or

10 (E) After August 2, 1990;

11 and

12 (3) Was killed in service as evidenced by records of the  
13 United States Department of Veterans Affairs,

14 shall be entitled to receive a tuition refund upon the

15 successful completion of each of a maximum of eight semesters at

16 the University of Hawaii; provided that the child is under the

17 age of twenty-two at the time of application for a refund, is a

18 full-time or part-time undergraduate student pursuing a

19 prescribed course of study, and maintains satisfactory academic

20 progress as determined by the college, university, or school;

21 provided further that no refund shall be awarded under this



1 section for tuition paid for summer session, outreach, or  
2 extension courses.

3 (b) The amount of tuition refund under this section shall  
4 be one hundred per cent of the tuition paid for a semester for a  
5 student enrolled at a community college and fifty per cent of  
6 the tuition paid for a semester for a student enrolled at a  
7 university campus. If the child receives any other benefits  
8 from any source specifically designated for tuition, the amount  
9 of tuition refunded under this section shall be reduced by the  
10 amount of those benefits. Nothing in this section shall be  
11 construed to require the State to remit any tuition for terms  
12 completed by a child who would have been eligible to receive a  
13 refund under subsection (a) prior to the child's application for  
14 the benefits provided under this section.

15 (c) The president of the University of Hawaii shall  
16 consult with the director of the office of veterans services to  
17 carry out the purposes of this section."

18 SECTION 3. Section 304-16.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended as follows:

20 1. By amending its title to read:

21 "**§304-16.5 University of Hawaii tuition and fees special**  
22 **fund; tuition schedule [and], waivers[-], and refunds."**



1           2. By amending subsection (b) to read:

2           "(b) The board of regents, or its designated  
3 representatives, [~~is authorized to~~] may grant, modify, or  
4 suspend tuition waivers. The board shall refund in full any  
5 tuition paid for a semester upon the request of any student who  
6 is:

- 7           (1) A member of the Hawaii national guard or United States  
8           military reserves who is ordered to active duty and is  
9           unable to attend school for more than thirty days  
10           during the semester due to requirements of the  
11           member's military or national guard service; or  
12           (2) A full-time member of the United States military on  
13           active duty who is unable to attend school for more  
14           than thirty days during the semester due to  
15           requirements of the member's military service.

16           The board of regents shall provide a report and make  
17 recommendations as appropriate to the legislature on all tuition  
18 waivers and refunds no later than twenty days prior to the  
19 convening of each regular session. This report shall include  
20 but not be limited to [~~the~~]:

- 21           (1) The number of tuition waivers[~~, scholarships,~~  
22           ~~stipends, and mandatory fees~~] granted to financially



1           needy students [~~from ethnic groups that are under-~~  
2           ~~represented in the student population of the~~  
3           ~~University of Hawaii through the Hawaii opportunity~~  
4           ~~program in education.]~~;

5           (2) The number of tuition refunds granted to students who  
6           are members of the Hawaii national guard or United  
7           States military reserves ordered to active duty or who  
8           are full-time members of the United States military on  
9           active duty, pursuant to this section; and

10          (3) The number of tuition refunds granted to children of  
11          law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency  
12          medical services personnel, water safety officers, air  
13          ambulance pilots or medical personnel, Hawaii  
14          veterans, or other first responders killed in the line  
15          of duty, pursuant to sections 304-           and 304-           ."

16           SECTION 4. In accordance with article X, section 6, of the  
17   State Constitution, the legislature finds and declares this part  
18   to be of statewide concern.

19   PART II

20           SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
21   revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                                 or so  
22   much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2005-2006 and

1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2 year 2006-2007 to provide tuition assistance to members of the  
3 Hawaii national guard who are undergraduate students working  
4 toward a degree on any campus of the University of Hawaii  
5 system.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
7 of defense for the purposes of this part.

8 PART III

9 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020;  
12 provided that section 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2020.





**Report Title:**

Post-secondary Education; Tuition Assistance; Military

**Description:**

Provides tuition refunds for qualifying children of certain law enforcement and military personnel and other first responders killed in the line of duty. Provides tuition refunds to certain members of the military who are unable to attend college for more than thirty days in a semester as a result of their military duties, including members of the Hawaii national guard or military reserves who are called into active duty and active duty military personnel. Appropriates funds for tuition assistance for members of the Hawaii national guard who are undergraduate students enrolled in degree programs at the University of Hawaii. Effective date July 1, 2020. (SB1648 HD2)

