
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD ALLOWANCE FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 346-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending the definition of "former foster youth" to
3 read as follows:

4 ""Former foster youth" means a person formerly placed under
5 the jurisdiction of the department as a foster child by the
6 family court pursuant to chapter 587 who has attained the age of
7 eighteen[~~-~~] while under the placement responsibility of the
8 department or who was under the placement responsibility of the
9 department when a legally responsible caregiver was granted
10 custody."

11 SECTION 2. Section 346-17.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 "**§346-17.4 Higher education board allowances for students.**

14 (a) [~~Eligible~~] An eligible former foster [~~youths~~] youth shall
15 be eligible for higher education board allowances after reaching
16 the age of majority and the higher education board [~~payments~~]
17 allowance for that former foster youth shall be paid to an



1 accredited institution of higher [~~learning,~~] education, another
2 intermediary contracted by the department, the former foster
3 youth, or to the former foster youth's former foster parents[~~r~~]
4 or legal custodians, as appropriate; provided that:

5 (1) The former foster youth is [~~twenty-one~~] twenty-six
6 years old or younger; [~~and~~]

7 (2) [~~Within one school year after high school completion,~~
8 ~~the former foster youth is attending or has been~~
9 ~~accepted to attend an accredited institution of higher~~
10 ~~learning on a full-time basis, or on a part-time basis~~
11 ~~for the first academic year, if approved by the~~
12 ~~director upon such terms and conditions as the~~
13 ~~director deems appropriate.] The former foster youth
14 has submitted an application for the higher education
15 board allowance through the age of twenty-one years
16 old, except that a former foster youth, who is between
17 the ages of twenty-two and twenty-six years on July 1,
18 2008, and attending an institution of higher
19 education, may apply for a higher education board
20 allowance after July 1, 2008, but no later than
21 June 30, 2009; and~~



1 (3) The former foster youth is attending or has been
2 accepted to attend an accredited institution of higher
3 education.

4 (b) The higher education board allowance may be issued
5 while the former foster youth is attending an accredited
6 institution of higher education on a full-time basis or on a
7 part-time basis, in accordance with rules adopted by the
8 department.

9 [~~(b)~~] (c) Reimbursement to foster parents for the former
10 foster youth's higher education board cost up to the maximum
11 allowable board amount shall be made retroactive to the former
12 foster youth's entry into an accredited institution of higher
13 [~~learning~~] education on a full-time basis, but no earlier than
14 July 1, 1987, or on a part-time basis for the first academic
15 year, but no earlier than July 1, 1999.

16 [~~(c)~~] (d) Higher education board allowances may be applied
17 by the former foster youth to costs incurred in undertaking
18 full-time studies or part-time studies [~~for the first academic~~
19 ~~year, if approved by the director upon such terms and conditions~~
20 ~~as the director deems appropriate,~~] at an institution of higher
21 [~~learning.~~] education in accordance with rules adopted by the
22 department.



1 (e) The duration of the total higher education board
2 allowance shall not exceed sixty months.

3 [~~(d)~~] (f) The department's standards relating to income
4 resources of foster children shall be applicable to this
5 section."

6 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Former Foster Youth; Higher Education Board Allowance

Description:

Extends the timeframe in which a former foster youth may apply for a higher education board allowance. Provides former foster youth who are between 22 and 26 years of age as of July 1, 2008, and who are already attending a higher education institution, the opportunity to apply for a higher education board allowance within a year. Increases the maximum age for the benefit. Sets a maximum benefit length of 60 months. (SB2246 SD2)

