
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TUITION INCENTIVES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that college and career
2 readiness continues to be the ongoing focus for state elementary
3 and secondary educational systems. In 2013, the Hawaii
4 department of education adopted the "strive HI performance
5 system" which focuses on college and career readiness and takes
6 into account high school graduation and college enrollment.
7 Additionally, dual-enrollment programs, such as Hawaii's
8 "running start" program for high school juniors and seniors, are
9 a common strategy nationwide for preparing and exposing students
10 to college level expectations.

11 The legislature further finds that with the rising cost of
12 college tuition, financial incentives for postsecondary
13 education continue to be successful in encouraging students to
14 pursue postsecondary education. Some mainland states such as
15 Utah, Arizona, and Indiana have established early graduation
16 scholarship programs intended to incentivize and reward students
17 who graduate a year early, demonstrate academic excellence, and



1 enroll in a postsecondary institution in their state. Such
2 scholarships range from \$250 to \$4,000 and can help cover the
3 cost of tuition, fees, and books. By shortening the student's
4 time in high school, states benefit by saving on costs per
5 pupil. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's annual report on
6 public education finances released in May 2014, Hawaii spends
7 \$13,875 per student.

8 The purpose of this Act is to provide a tuition incentive
9 for public school students who complete their high school
10 graduation requirements before grade twelve and attend a college
11 within the University of Hawaii system.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
14 and to read as follows:

15 "§302A- Early College Admission tuition program. (a)
16 Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary,
17 if a student completes all of their high school's graduation
18 requirements before proceeding to grade twelve, including
19 completion of the Standardized Achievement Test, the money that
20 would otherwise be allocated to a public school for the student



1 through the weighted student formula shall instead be allocated
2 as follows:

- 3 (1) Fifty per cent to the general fund; and
- 4 (2) Fifty per cent to the student in the form of a tuition
- 5 subsidy to any college within the University of Hawaii
- 6 system."

7 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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H.B. NO. 1121

Report Title:

Education; Tuition Incentives; Early High School Graduation

Description:

Provides tuition incentives for public school students who complete their high school's graduation requirements before grade 12 and attend a college within the University of Hawaii system.

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