

JAN 20 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TUITION WAIVERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§304A- Hawaii promise program; community colleges. (a)
5 Notwithstanding section 304A-502, there is established the
6 Hawaii promise program to be administered by the board of
7 regents. The purpose of the program shall be to provide a
8 waiver of tuition to a qualified student enrolled at a community
9 college campus of the University of Hawaii system.

10 (b) For purposes of this section, "eligible courses" means
11 courses that are offered at a community college campus of the
12 University of Hawaii system and are determined by the board of
13 regents to be required for the completion of:

14 (1) A one-year or two-year curriculum for transfer to
15 another post-secondary institution of education;

16 (2) An associate degree; or

17 (3) A program in career and technical education.



- 1 (c) A waiver under the program shall be awarded to a
2 student who meets the following requirements:
- 3 (1) Qualifies for Hawaii resident tuition;
4 (2) Earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or
5 better in high school or otherwise demonstrated an
6 equivalent academic ability, as determined by the
7 board of regents;
- 8 (3) Enrolled in eligible courses within six months of
9 earning a high school diploma or passing the general
10 educational development test;
- 11 (4) Completed and submitted the Free Application for
12 Federal Student Aid for each academic year and
13 accepted all state and federal aid grants available to
14 the student; provided that the student is eligible to
15 file for the application; and
- 16 (5) Has not completed either of the following:
- 17 (A) More than ninety credit hours, or the equivalent,
18 at a post-secondary institution of education; or
- 19 (B) A one-year or two-year curriculum for transfer to
20 another post-secondary institution of education,



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1 an associate degree; or a program in career and
2 technical education.

3 (d) A student shall remain eligible to receive a waiver
4 under the program if, in addition to meeting the requirements of
5 subsection (c), the student:

6 (1) Maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or
7 above during each term for which the student receives
8 a waiver under the program;

9 (2) Makes satisfactory progress, as determined by the
10 board of regents, toward a one-year or two-year
11 curriculum for transfer to another post-secondary
12 institution of education, an associate degree; or a
13 program in career and technical education; and

14 (3) Enrolls in eligible courses for a sufficient number of
15 credit hours to be considered at least a half-time
16 student for each term for which the student receives a
17 waiver under the program.

18 (e) The total amount of a waiver awarded under this
19 section shall be based on each term that the student is enrolled
20 in eligible courses. The student's actual cost of tuition shall
21 be determined by reducing the amount of tuition by any and all



1 amounts received by the student in state and federal aid grants.
2 The board of regents may prescribe by rule whether to include
3 fees, and any limitations related to the inclusion of fees, when
4 determining the actual cost of tuition or the average cost of
5 tuition under this section.

6 (f) A qualifying student shall be eligible for a waiver
7 under this section in an amount equal to \$1,000 or the student's
8 actual cost of tuition, whichever is greater; provided that the
9 waiver shall not exceed the average cost of tuition at a
10 community college campus of the University of Hawaii system, as
11 determined by the board of regents. A waiver may be prorated
12 for a student who is enrolled in eligible courses for a
13 sufficient number of credit hours to be considered a half-time
14 student but not a full-time student.

15 (g) The total amount of waivers awarded under this section
16 by the board of regents shall not exceed \$ _____ per fiscal
17 year. The board of regents may adopt rules to prioritize which
18 waivers are awarded and may give preference to students enrolled
19 in high schools that meet specified criteria.



1 (h) The board of regents shall adopt any rules necessary
2 for the administration of the program, including any
3 requirements related to:

4 (1) Specifying the form and timelines for submitting an
5 application for a waiver under the program;

6 (2) Determining whether a student is eligible for a waiver
7 under the program, including whether the student shall
8 be given priority;

9 (3) Implementing programs or policies that improve
10 academic success or completion rates for students who
11 receive a waiver under the program;

12 (4) Prescribing eligibility requirements and waiver
13 calculations for a student dually enrolled on a
14 community college campus and university campus within
15 the University of Hawaii system; and

16 (5) Evaluating the impact of the program, including any
17 requirements for reporting data needed for
18 evaluations.

19 (i) The board of regents shall report its findings and
20 recommendations on the impact of the program, including any
21 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty



1 days prior to the convening of each regular session. The report
2 shall include:

- 3 (1) Student completion rates of one-year and two-year
4 curriculums for transfer to another post-secondary
5 institution of education, associate degrees, and
6 programs in career and technical education;
- 7 (2) The amount of federal and state aid grants received by
8 students who participated in the program;
- 9 (3) The financial impact of the program on the high
10 schools that had students receive a waiver under the
11 program;
- 12 (4) The financial impact and the enrollment impact of the
13 program on the community college campuses within the
14 University of Hawaii system; and
- 15 (5) The overall success rate and financial impact of the
16 program."

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to
20 the board of regents of the University of Hawaii for the

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1 establishment and implementation of the Hawaii promise program,
2 including the provision of tuition waivers.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
4 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
7 provided that section 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

8

INTRODUCED BY:

Sharon Chun Oakland
Member of the House
Will Evers
Clarence K. Kishihara



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Report Title:

Hawaii Promise Program; University of Hawaii; Community Colleges; Tuition Waiver; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii promise program to be administered by the board of regents to provide tuition waivers for community college courses to eligible students.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

