
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that an educated labor
2 force and engaged citizenry are essential in today's global,
3 knowledge-based economy. Across the nation, states have set
4 ambitious goals to boost college completion rates. The
5 University of Hawaii's graduation initiative is a systemwide
6 strategic initiative endorsed by the University of Hawaii board
7 of regents with a goal to increase the educational capital of
8 the State by increasing participation in, and completion of,
9 college by students, particularly native Hawaiians, low-income
10 students, and those from underserved regions and populations,
11 and preparing them for success in the workforce and their
12 communities.

13 The legislature also finds that moneys allocated for the
14 University of Hawaii's community college promise program in the
15 2017 state budget helped provide scholarship opportunities to
16 one thousand community college students. This success



1 demonstrates that the permanent establishment of the program is
2 warranted at the community college level.

3 The State's 55 by '25 campaign goal focuses on increasing
4 the percentage of working-age adults with two- or four-year
5 degrees to fifty-five per cent by 2025. According to the most
6 recent data available, forty-four per cent of Hawaii's working
7 age adults have a postsecondary degree. As the State's sole
8 public higher education system, the University of Hawaii is
9 committed to doing its part to close the State's projected
10 educational attainment gap.

11 In April 2016, the Institute for Research on Higher
12 Education at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of
13 Education issued a study that analyzed college costs in relation
14 to family income level. The study revealed how higher education
15 has gone from expensive to unaffordable for most low- and
16 middle-income families. According to the study, Hawaii ranked
17 third in the nation for overall college affordability. The
18 study also noted that the University of Hawaii community
19 colleges are the most affordable public two-year institutions in
20 the nation.



1 However, the study acknowledged that despite Hawaii's
2 overall high affordability ranking, attending college was a big
3 expense for families earning less than \$30,000 annually; that
4 Hawaii's financial aid policies did little to alleviate costs
5 for these families; and that the State provided minimal
6 need-based aid to students attending public institutions.

7 The legislature finds that University of Hawaii policy
8 requires that a minimum percentage of tuition revenue be set
9 aside for need-based scholarships, including 8.8 per cent at the
10 community colleges. The University of Hawaii provided
11 \$6,300,000 in tuition-funded financial aid at the community
12 colleges during the 2014-2015 school year. Despite financial
13 aid from sources such as Pell grants, University of Hawaii and
14 private scholarships, the GI Bill for service members and
15 veterans, and employers, cost is still a barrier for certain
16 need-based students.

17 The purpose of this Act is to address a statewide concern
18 by codifying the Hawaii community college promise program to
19 provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of
20 qualified students enrolled at any University of Hawaii



1 community college campus, and to appropriate funds to establish
2 and implement the program.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart B, to be
5 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

6 "§304A-A Hawaii community college promise program;
7 established. (a) Notwithstanding section 304A-502, there is
8 established the Hawaii community college promise program to be
9 administered by the board of regents. The program shall provide
10 scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified
11 students enrolled at any community college campus of the
12 University of Hawaii.

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

16 (1) Qualifies for Hawaii resident tuition;

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



1 (3) Is enrolled in a classified degree or certificate
2 program with six or more credits per semester;

3 (4) Maintains satisfactory academic progress, as defined
4 by federal requirements established pursuant to Title
5 IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended,
6 and determined by the campus where the student is
7 enrolled; and

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

10 (c) Scholarships shall be awarded to the extent possible
11 based on available funds and on a greatest need basis. An award
12 granted to a student shall be equal to the student's unmet
13 direct cost need, based on the Free Application for Federal
14 Student Aid calculation of need, less the amounts available to
15 the student from Pell grants and other scholarships.

16 (d) To maintain a scholarship under this section, a
17 student shall:

18 (1) Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, on a
19 scale of 4.0 or its equivalent;

20 (2) Earn a minimum of twelve credits in one academic year
21 at a community college campus; and



1 (3) Comply with any other conditions placed on the
2 scholarship by the University of Hawaii.

3 (e) A student who fails to comply with the requirements of
4 subsection (d) shall be placed on scholarship probation.

5 Social, economic, and other factors, or other extenuating
6 circumstances as determined by the University of Hawaii shall be
7 considered in determining probation. If the student

8 demonstrates during the probation period satisfactory progress
9 toward meeting degree completion and satisfying the requirements
10 of the scholarship, the student shall be returned to good

11 standing. Failure to meet the probationary period requirements
12 of this subsection shall result in revocation of the student's
13 scholarship, and the student shall be responsible for

14 reimbursing the University of Hawaii for up to two semesters of
15 scholarship amounts received under the program. A student may
16 be placed on scholarship probation only once during any

17 eight-semester period at a University of Hawaii campus. If a
18 student is returned to good standing after a period of
19 probation, but subsequently fails to comply with the

20 requirements of subsection (d) at any time within an eight-



1 semester period after the return to good standing, the student's
2 scholarship shall be revoked.

3 (f) As used in this section, "direct cost" means any cost
4 directly related to a student's education, including tuition,
5 educational fees, and the costs of books, supplies, and
6 transportation between the student's dwelling and the student's
7 campus."

8 SECTION 3. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new section to part V, subpart C, to be
10 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

11 "§304A-B Hawaii community college promise program special
12 fund. (a) There is established the Hawaii community college
13 promise program special fund to be administered by the
14 University of Hawaii. The special fund shall be administered
15 pursuant to the authority of the board of regents to grant,
16 modify, or suspend the scholarship and assistance under section
17 304A-501. This fund shall be used to provide financial
18 assistance to qualified students through Hawaii community
19 college promise program scholarships under section 304A-A.

20 (b) The University of Hawaii shall submit a report to the
21 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of



1 each regular session with information regarding the special
2 fund. The report shall include but not be limited to:

3 (1) The number of scholarships provided under the Hawaii
4 community college promise program in the preceding
5 year; and

6 (2) Recommendations as appropriate to the legislature
7 regarding all tuition waivers.

8 (c) This fund is not intended to provide loans or keep
9 track of payback provisions."

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to be
13 deposited into the Hawaii community college promise program
14 special fund.

15 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii
16 community college promise program special fund the sum of
17 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
18 2018-2019 to establish and implement the Hawaii community
19 college promise program, including the provision of the
20 program's scholarships, at the community college campuses of the
21 University of Hawaii.



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

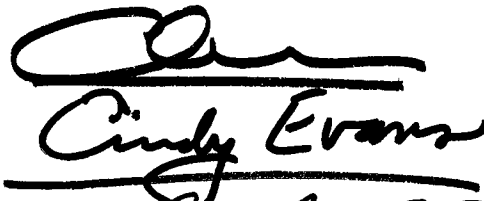
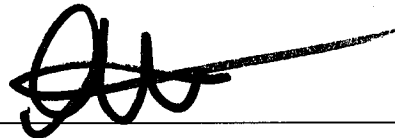
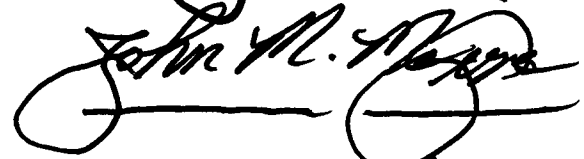

3 SECTION 6. In codifying the new sections added by sections
4 2 and 3 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
5 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
6 the new sections in this Act.

7 SECTION 7. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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INTRODUCED BY:


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JAN 23 2018



H.B. NO. 2501

Report Title:

University of Hawaii; Community College Promise Program;
Scholarships; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes the University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus of the University of Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

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

