

---

---

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the University of  
2 Hawaii's Hawaii graduation initiative is a systemwide strategic  
3 initiative endorsed by the board of regents with a goal to  
4 increase the educational capital of the State by increasing  
5 students' educational participation and completion, particularly  
6 that of native Hawaiians, low-income students, and those from  
7 underserved regions and populations, and preparing them for  
8 success in the workforce and their communities.

9           The legislature further finds that an educated labor force  
10 and engaged citizenry are essential in today's global,  
11 knowledge-based economy. Across the nation, states have set  
12 ambitious goals to boost college completion rates. Hawaii's own  
13 55 by '25 campaign goal focuses on increasing the percentage of  
14 working age adults with two- or four-year degrees to 55 per cent  
15 by 2025. According to the most recent data available, 44 per  
16 cent of Hawaii's working age adults currently have a  
17 postsecondary degree. As the State's sole public higher



1 education system, the University of Hawaii is committed to doing  
2 its part to close the State's projected educational attainment  
3 gap.

4 In April 2016, the Institute for Research on Higher  
5 Education at the University of Pennsylvania graduate school of  
6 education issued a study that analyzed college costs in relation  
7 to family income level. The study revealed that higher  
8 education has gone from expensive to unaffordable for most low-  
9 and middle-income families. According to this same study,  
10 Hawaii ranked third in the nation for overall college  
11 affordability and the University of Hawaii community colleges  
12 are the most affordable public two-year institutions in the  
13 nation.

14 The report further acknowledged that, despite Hawaii's  
15 commendable overall college affordability ranking, attending  
16 college is a big expense for families earning less than \$30,000  
17 annually; Hawaii's financial aid policies are not fully able to  
18 alleviate costs for these families; and the State provides  
19 minimal need-based aid to students attending public  
20 institutions. Since this report, the University of Hawaii has  
21 implemented the Hawaii promise program, which is a need-based



1 award intended to be applied toward the unmet direct cost needs  
2 of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus  
3 of the University of Hawaii. Awards are contingent upon funding  
4 and amounts are determined by the individual students' Free  
5 Application for Federal Student Aid information.

6 Financial aid through federal Pell Grants, University of  
7 Hawaii and private scholarships, the GI Bill for service members  
8 and veterans, and employers covers much of the cost for need-  
9 based students. However, cost is still a barrier for certain  
10 need-based students, especially for those who do not qualify for  
11 the Hawaii promise program because they are enrolled at one of  
12 the University of Hawaii's four-year campuses.

13 The purpose of this Act is to expand the Hawaii promise  
14 program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs  
15 of qualified undergraduate students enrolled at the University  
16 of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Hawaii at Hilo, and University  
17 of Hawaii-West Oahu, and to provide an appropriation to  
18 establish and implement the expanded program.

19 SECTION 2. Section 304A-506, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended to read as follows:



1           " [†] §304A-506 [†] **Hawaii [~~community college~~] promise**  
2 **program; established.** (a) Notwithstanding section 304A-501,  
3 there is established the Hawaii [~~community college~~] promise  
4 program to be administered by the board of regents. The program  
5 shall provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of  
6 qualified students enrolled at any [~~community college~~] campus of  
7 the University of Hawaii.

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

- 11           (1) Qualifies for Hawaii resident tuition;
- 12           (2) Completes and submits the Free Application for Federal  
13 Student Aid for each academic year and accepts all  
14 federal and state aid, grants, scholarships, and other  
15 funding sources that do not require repayment;
- 16           (3) Is enrolled in a classified degree or certificate  
17 program with six or more credits per semester;
- 18           (4) Maintains satisfactory academic progress, as defined  
19 by federal requirements established pursuant to Title  
20 IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended,



1 and determined by the campus at which the student is  
2 enrolled; and

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

5 (c) A student enrolled in an undergraduate program at a  
6 University of Hawaii campus, other than a community college  
7 campus, shall be eligible for scholarship consideration for a  
8 maximum of eight semesters if the student:

9 (1) Qualifies for Hawaii resident tuition;

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

14 (3) Is enrolled in a classified degree or certificate  
15 program with twelve or more credits per semester;

16 (4) Maintains satisfactory academic progress, as defined  
17 by federal requirements established pursuant to Title  
18 IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended,  
19 and determined by the campus where the student is  
20 enrolled; and



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

3        [~~(e)~~] (d) Scholarships shall be awarded to the extent  
4 possible based on available funds and on a greatest need basis.  
5 An award granted to a student shall be equal to the student's  
6 unmet direct cost need, based on the Free Application for  
7 Federal Student Aid calculation of need, less the amounts  
8 available to the student from Pell grants and other  
9 scholarships.

10       [~~(d)~~] (e) To maintain a scholarship under this section, a  
11 student enrolled at a community college shall meet the  
12 requirements of subsection (b)(4) [~~-~~] and a student enrolled in  
13 an undergraduate program at a University of Hawaii campus, other  
14 than a community college campus, shall meet the requirements of  
15 subsection (c)(4).

16       [~~(e)~~] (f) As used in this section, "direct cost" means  
17 any cost directly related to a student's education, including  
18 tuition; educational fees; and the costs of books, supplies, and  
19 transportation between the student's dwelling and the student's  
20 campus."



# H.B. NO. 1277

1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
 4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 5 2020-2021 for the establishment and implementation of the Hawaii  
 6 promise program pursuant to this Act, including the provision of  
 7 scholarships.

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

10 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
 11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

13

Tim Wilday INTRODUCED BY: [Signature]  
Mark Hittah [Signature]  
[Signature] [Signature] Nicole E. Laven  
[Signature] [Signature] Amy Permas  
[Signature] [Signature] [Signature]  
[Signature] [Signature] [Signature]  
[Signature] [Signature] [Signature]

Calvin K. Ay

Frank Stagnaro

Frank

James C. ...

John M. ...

John C. ...

Brian K. ...

John ...

Richard ...

Carl ...

...

Del Holt

...  
Kathleen  
Arakawa

Christine ...

...

...

Del Holt

...

...

...

...

...

...

...





# H.B. NO. 1277

**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii Promise Program; Scholarships;  
Appropriation; Four-Year University of Hawaii Campus

**Description:**

Provides scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawaii campus who meet certain eligibility criteria.

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

