

JAN 18 2019

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The first cohort of students from community  
2 colleges who received scholarships from the Hawaii community  
3 college promise program are scheduled to graduate in 2019 with  
4 associate's degrees. Some students will be poised to enter the  
5 University of Hawaii system to obtain a bachelor's degree yet  
6 lack the financial resources to do so. The legislature finds  
7 that extending the promise program for this cohort of students  
8 will lead to stronger educational outcomes, an improved quality  
9 of life for participating students, and a stronger economy for  
10 Hawaii in general.

11           The legislature further finds that the research and  
12 statistics office of the department of labor and industrial  
13 relations publishes "Hawaii's best job opportunities", an annual  
14 report outlining occupations that are in high demand and that  
15 require a bachelor's degree or higher. This report also shows  
16 the number of annual openings, growth rate, skills required, and  
17 median annual salary for these jobs. The legislature further



1 finds that students and graduates of the Hawaii community  
2 college promise program who do not yet have a definite career  
3 goal but are pursuing further education should be strongly  
4 encouraged to pursue careers listed in the "Hawaii's best job  
5 opportunities" report, especially where personnel shortages  
6 currently exist or are projected to exist in the near future.

7 The legislature finds that this issue is a matter of  
8 statewide concern that falls under its purview pursuant to  
9 article X, section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution. The  
10 purpose of this Act is to:

11 (1) Establish the University of Hawaii promise program  
12 plus to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost  
13 needs of qualified students who are graduates of a  
14 University of Hawaii community college who received a  
15 Hawaii community college promise program scholarship  
16 and are currently enrolled at any University of Hawaii  
17 campus; and

18 (2) Appropriate funds to establish and implement the  
19 program.

20 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended by adding a new section to part IV, subpart A,



1 subdivision 1 to be appropriately designated and to read as  
2 follows:

3 "§304A- University of Hawaii promise program plus;  
4 established. (a) Notwithstanding section 304A-502, there is  
5 established the University of Hawaii promise program plus to be  
6 administered by the board of regents. The program shall provide  
7 scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified  
8 students who are:

9 (1) Graduates of a University of Hawaii community college  
10 who received a Hawaii community college promise  
11 program scholarship; and

12 (2) Enrolled at any University of Hawaii campus.

13 (b) A qualified student enrolled in a bachelor's degree at  
14 a University of Hawaii campus is eligible for scholarship  
15 consideration for a maximum of eight semesters if the student:

16 (1) Qualifies for Hawaii resident tuition;

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



- 1        (3) Is enrolled in the degree program with twelve or more  
2            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 at which 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:
- 11       (1) On a first-come, first-served basis;
- 12       (2) In an amount equal to the student's unmet direct cost  
13            need based on the FAFSA calculation of need minus what  
14            is available from Pell grants and other funding  
15            sources specified in subsection (b) (2); and
- 16       (3) To the extent funds are available to support the  
17            scholarship award;
- 18       provided that students who pursue bachelor's degrees  
19            consistent with the "Hawaii's best job opportunities"  
20            report published by the department of labor and industrial



1 relations shall receive an increased scholarship amount, to  
2 be determined by the board of regents.

3 (d) To continue to qualify for a scholarship under this  
4 section, a student shall:

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

7 (2) Earn a minimum of twenty-four credits in each academic  
8 year; and

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

11 (e) A student who fails to comply with the requirements of  
12 this section shall be placed on scholarship probation. Social,  
13 economic, and other factors, or other extenuating circumstances  
14 as determined by the University of Hawaii, shall be considered  
15 in determining probationary status.

16 During the probationary period, the student shall  
17 demonstrate satisfactory progress toward meeting completion of  
18 the degree and satisfying the requirements of the scholarship.  
19 Failure to meet the probationary period requirements in this  
20 section shall result in revocation of the student's scholarship,  
21 with the student responsible for reimbursing the University of



1 Hawaii for up to two semesters of scholarship amounts received  
 2 under the program. A student may be placed on scholarship  
 3 probation for no more than one semester during an eight-semester  
 4 period at a University of Hawaii campus.

5 (f) As used in this section:

6 "Direct cost" includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, and  
 7 transportation.

8 "FAFSA" means the Free Application for Federal Student  
 9 Aid."

10 SECTION 3. 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 2019-2020 and the  
 13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 14 2020-2021 to establish and implement the University of Hawaii  
 15 promise program plus, including the provision of the program's  
 16 scholarships.

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

19 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



# S.B. NO. 612

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

2

INTRODUCED BY: *Mrs. M.*

By Request



# S.B. NO. 612

**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii Promise Program Plus; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program Plus to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled in a bachelor's degree at the University of Hawaii who are (1) graduates of a University of Hawaii community college who received a Hawaii community college promise program scholarship; and (2) enrolled at any University of Hawaii campus. 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.*

