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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ACCESS TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that every year, there  
2 are a number of students who attend the Leeward community  
3 college Waianae Moku education center who are ineligible for  
4 federal financial aid because they are unable to access their  
5 parents' tax information, which is necessary to file a Free  
6 Application for Federal Student Aid. Under the requirements of  
7 the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, students up to the  
8 age of twenty-four need to report the information in their  
9 parents' tax records in order to apply for federal financial  
10 assistance.

11           The legislature further finds that many of these students  
12 who are twenty-four years old or younger report that their  
13 parents are incarcerated or homeless or that they have no  
14 communication with their parents for various other reasons. As  
15 a result, a significant number of these students are ineligible  
16 for federal financial aid and are often forced to drop out of  
17 college. These students can end up with an outstanding balance



1 on their student accounts, which prevents them from continuing  
2 their education or causes them to take out loans, which often  
3 wind up in the collections process. Furthermore, being in  
4 arrears regarding tuition poses a barrier to these students'  
5 eligibility for financial aid in the future. Increasing the  
6 accessibility to education for students is a matter of statewide  
7 concern.

8       Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds  
9 to Leeward community college Waianae Moku to support and assist  
10 students who are twenty-four years old or younger and ineligible  
11 to apply for federal financial assistance through the Free  
12 Application for Federal Student Aid application because they are  
13 unable to access their parents' tax information.

14       SECTION 2. (a) Leeward community college Waianae Moku  
15 shall establish a program to support and assist students who are  
16 twenty-four years old or younger and ineligible to apply for  
17 federal financial assistance through the Free Application for  
18 Federal Student Aid application because they are unable to  
19 access their parents' tax information..

20       (b) To the extent practicable, Leeward community college  
21 Waianae Moku shall model the program established in subsection



1 (a) after the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 United  
2 States Code sections 11431, et seq.

3 (c) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
4 the regular session of 2025, Leeward community college Waianae  
5 Moku shall submit a report to the legislature concerning the  
6 program established in subsection (a), including:

- 7 (1) The number of students supported and assisted; and
- 8 (2) The amount of financial aid received by each student;
- 9 provided that no personally identifiable information  
10 shall be included.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
14 Leeward community college Waianae Moku to support and assist  
15 students who are ineligible to apply for federal financial  
16 assistance through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
17 application because they are unable to access their parents' tax  
18 information.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of  
20 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
4 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state  
5 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
6 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the  
7 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund  
8 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
9 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total  
10 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
11 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
12 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
13 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
14 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 15 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
16 serve the public interest; and
- 17 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
18 addressed by this Act.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000;  
2 provided that section 3 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,  
3 2024.



**Report Title:**

Leeward Community College Waianae Moku; Students Ineligible for Federal Financial Aid; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to Leeward community college Waianae Moku to support and assist students who are twenty-four years old or younger and ineligible to apply for federal financial assistance through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid application because they are unable to access their parents' tax information. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

