
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PU'UHONUA PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Windward community
2 college offers college courses for credit to incarcerated
3 individuals through the pu'uhonua "places of sanctuary" program.
4 The legislature also finds that Windward community college is
5 the only University of Hawaii institution that currently serves
6 incarcerated populations with educational opportunities and
7 education credits leading to degrees and certificates. Windward
8 community college has been working with the women's community
9 correctional center and Hawai'i youth correctional facility since
10 2017 and started offering courses at Hālawā correctional
11 facility in fall 2022.

12 According to Windward community college, the average grade
13 point average of students in the pu'uhonua program is 3.6 on a
14 4.0 grade point average scale. Eighty-five per cent of the
15 students receive an A, B, or C in their classes. To date, all
16 students in the pu'uhonua program have been the first in their
17 families to attend college, forty-three per cent are Native



1 Hawaiian, and nine per cent are Pacific Islander. Windward
2 community college indicates that students in the pu'uhonua
3 program are much less likely to be reincarcerated after release.

4 Additionally, Windward community college is the only
5 University of Hawaii institution that has implemented the Second
6 Chance Pell. Through the Second Chance Pell, pu'uhonua program
7 students receive financial aid, thereby making it possible for
8 Windward community college to provide coursework and for
9 students to become familiar with applying for financial aid,
10 which is critical for college opportunities.

11 The legislature also finds that Windward community college
12 has provided education in the pu'uhonua program through grant
13 funds; however, the grant funds will expire in June 2023 and
14 September 2023, at which time Windward community college will
15 have no one to coordinate the coursework that leads to associate
16 degrees in liberal arts and Hawaiian studies, as well as
17 certificates in business and psychosocial development. Windward
18 community college currently has only one coordinator and three
19 staff, one at each facility, for the pu'uhonua program. The
20 legislature finds that funding is necessary to provide
21 incarcerated community members and at-promise youth the



1 opportunity to grow through higher education opportunities and
2 lower the recidivism rate in the State.

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for three
4 full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) positions for Windward community
5 college's pu'uhonua program.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
9 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
10 year 2024-2025 for the Windward community college pu'uhonua
11 program, as follows:

12 (1) \$ for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
13 women's community correctional center counselor
14 position;

15 (2) \$ for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
16 Hālawā correctional facility counselor position; and

17 (3) \$ for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
18 incarcerated education coordinator position to be
19 responsible for the day-to-day support of the Hawaii
20 youth correctional facility, including student
21 counseling and instructional support.



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

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

4



H.B. NO. ⁶⁷ H.D. 1

Report Title:

UH; Windward Community College; Pu'uhonua Program; Women's
Community Correctional Center; Halawa Correctional Facility;
Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds for three full-time equivalent positions for
Windward community college's pu'uhonua program. Effective
6/30/3000. (HD1)

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