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# 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 the university of  
2 Hawaii Windward community college offers college courses for  
3 credit to incarcerated individuals through the pu`uhonua "places  
4 of sanctuary" program. The legislature also finds that Windward  
5 community college is the only university of Hawaii institution  
6 that currently serves incarcerated populations with educational  
7 opportunities and education credits leading to degrees and  
8 certificates. Windward community college has been working with  
9 the women's community correctional center and Hawaii youth  
10 correctional facility since 2017 and started offering courses at  
11 Hālawā correctional facility in the fall of 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 Experiment. Through the Second Chance Pell  
7 Experiment, pu`uhonua program students receive financial aid,  
8 thereby making it possible for Windward community college to  
9 provide coursework and for students to become familiar with  
10 applying for financial aid, which is critical for college  
11 opportunities.

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



1 is necessary to provide incarcerated community members and  
2 at-promise youth the opportunity to grow through higher  
3 education opportunities and lower the recidivism rate in the  
4 State.

5 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to  
6 establish full-time equivalent ( FTE) positions for  
7 Windward community college's pu`uhonua program.

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

14 (1) \$ for the establishment of full-time  
15 equivalent ( FTE) women's community correctional  
16 center counselor position;

17 (2) \$ for the establishment of full-time  
18 equivalent ( FTE) Hālawā correctional facility  
19 counselor position; and

20 (3) \$ for the establishment of full-time  
21 equivalent ( FTE) incarcerated education



1            coordinator position, to be responsible for the  
2            day-to-day support of the Hawaii youth correctional  
3            facility, including student counseling and  
4            instructional support.

5            The sums appropriated shall be expended by the university  
6 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

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



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to establish an unspecified number of  
full-time equivalent positions for the University of Hawaii  
Windward Community College's Pu`uhonua Program. Effective  
6/30/3000. (SD2)

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