ACT 124 S.B. NO. 1049

A Bill for an Act Relating to Foster Board Allowances for Students.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 346-17.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"**§346-17.4 Foster board allowances for students.** (a) Any eligible foster child shall be eligible for foster board allowances after reaching the age of majority and the foster board payments for that person shall be paid to the person's foster parents, provided that:

(1)   The person is twenty-one years old or younger; [and]

(2)   The person is attending or has been accepted to attend an accredited institution of higher learning on a full-time basis[; and], or on a part-time basis for the first academic year, if approved by the director upon such terms and conditions as the director deems appropriate; and

(3)   The person has continued to reside in the foster home wherein the person reached the age of majority, or has continued to be accepted as a member of the foster family and be under the guidance and support of the foster family.

(b) Reimbursement to foster parents for the former foster child's maintenance cost up to the maximum allowable board amount shall be made retroactive to the person's entry into an accredited institution of higher learning on a full-time basis, but no earlier than July 1, 1987[.], or on a part-time basis for the first academic year, but no earlier than July 1, 1999.

(c) Foster board allowances may be applied to costs incurred in undertaking full-time studies <u>or part-time studies for the first academic year, if approved by the director upon such terms and conditions as the director deems appropriate,</u> at an institution of higher learning.

(d) The department's standards relating to income resources of the foster child shall be applicable to this section.''

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1999.

(Approved June 25, 1999.)