

ACT 57

S.B. NO. 1151

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Hawaii Community College Promise Program.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the students of university of Hawaii community colleges have benefited greatly from the Hawaii community college promise program. The legislature further finds that certificate programs at university of Hawaii community colleges bring great value to the State. Additionally, the legislature also finds that students with developmental disabilities seeking post-graduate certificates have had difficulty in accessing promise scholarships in the past. Ensuring wider access to the Hawaii community college promise program to students in certificate programs allows more university of Hawaii community college students to pursue their educational goals and is a matter of statewide concern.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to ensure access to Hawaii community college promise program funding by exempting certificate program students from the requirement to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid each academic year to be considered eligible for the Hawaii community college promise program.

SECTION 2. Section 304A-506, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

“(b) A student enrolled at a community college campus shall be eligible for scholarship consideration for a maximum of eight semesters if the student:

- (1) Qualifies for Hawaii resident tuition;
- (2) Completes and submits the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for each academic year and accepts all federal and state aid, grants, scholarships, and other funding sources that do not require repayment; provided that this paragraph shall not apply to a student who enrolls in a certificate program;
- (3) Is enrolled in a classified degree or certificate program with six or more credits per semester;
- (4) Maintains satisfactory academic progress, as defined by federal requirements established pursuant to ~~[Title]~~ title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and determined by the campus at which the student is enrolled; and
- (5) Has been determined by the campus to have unmet direct cost needs.

(c) Scholarships shall be awarded to the extent possible based on available funds and on a greatest need basis. An award granted to a student shall be equal to the student’s unmet direct cost need, based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid calculation of need, less the amounts available to the student from Pell grants and other scholarships~~[-]~~; provided that the unmet direct cost need for a student who enrolls in a certificate program shall be based on a suitable instrument, as determined by the university of Hawaii, less the amounts available to the student from grants and other scholarships.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

(Approved June 5, 2023.)