



What is Hawai'i's Promise?

Removing "Cost" as a Barrier to Higher Education

PURPOSE

Establish a new scholarship program, "Hawai'i's Promise," that provides support for all students with financial need, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, to attend community colleges at no cost for tuition, fees, books, supplies and transportation.

"Hawai'i's Promise" would be a "last dollar" scholarship. Other financial aid such as the Federal Pell grant program, UH opportunity scholarships, Kamehameha Schools scholarships, UH Foundation scholarships, other private scholarships, GI Bill, Veterans Benefits, and employer sponsored scholarships would be applied first to any unmet need for these direct costs. The Hawai'i Promise scholarship would then provide the last dollar, if the grant aid from the above sources does not cover 100% of the direct cost¹ need.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible students would have to qualify for resident tuition and be enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a community college for at least six credits per semester. Students would also be required to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine their unmet need and must maintain standards of academic progress as defined by the Federal Title IV programs.

COST

The scholarship would be established with a \$2.5 million appropriation. Approximately \$1.7 million is needed to fully implement the program for the current student population. The balance would be available to provide support for new students who would be attracted by the guarantee of "no direct costs."

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The program would be managed by the University of Hawai'i and administered through the financial aid offices.

LONG-TERM FUTURE

The initial program focuses on student access through the community colleges. If successful and funds were available, the program could be extended to all undergraduates.

¹Direct Cost for full-time student includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, and transportation costs.

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UNIVERSITY of HAWAII
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Because...

A CLEAR PATHWAY TO HIGHER EDUCATION IS A PATHWAY TO A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL.

Studies have indicated that higher levels of education corresponds to lower levels of unemployment and poverty, in addition to contributing more to the tax revenues and less likely to depend on social safety-net programs. College graduates have lower smoking rates, more positive perspective of health and lower incarceration rates than individuals who have not graduated from college. Higher education also correlated with higher levels of civic participation that benefits society as a whole.¹

Consider this!

1. **Lifting incomes** for everyday citizens help support our economy and social health of our communities.
2. The typical bachelor’s degree recipient can expect to earn about **73 percent** more over a 40-year working life than the typical high school graduate earns over the same time period. A typical associate’s degree recipient can expect to earn 23 percent more than a high school graduate.²
3. But, the barriers to obtaining a degree are becoming increasingly steep. In the U.S., college tuition has risen by 42 percent on average from 2004 to 2014.

Removing “cost” as a barrier to higher education will help community college students complete their education without the burden of taking student loans to pay for tuition.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Vice President for Community Colleges at (808) 956-6023.

Students with Need (Direct Cost³)

	Students w/Need Headcount	Unmet Need Headcount	UnMet Need (\$)⁴	Avg UnMet Need per Student (\$)⁵
Hawai‘i	904	116	\$332,875	\$368
Honolulu	693	47	\$82,500	\$119
Kapi‘olani	1,217	156	\$352,773	\$290
Kaua‘i	406	130	\$168,494	\$415
Leeward	1,327	171	\$225,958	\$170
Maui	1,097	379	\$438,198	\$399
Windward	560	92	\$228,121	\$407
UHCC Total	6196	1090	\$1,828,919	

AY-2015-2016
ESTIMATED AVG
UNMET NEED

\$295

Data Source: UH Institution Research and Analysis Office, AY2015-2016 Data.

^{1,2}Source: http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/press/cost04/EducationPays2004.pdf

³Direct Cost includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, and transportation costs.

⁴The Direct Cost of Education amount that is not covered by Scholarships or Grants.

⁵The Direct Cost of Education amount that is not covered by Scholarships or Grants. Direct Cost Ave Unmet Need (\$) = Direct Cost Unmet Need (\$) / Direct Cost Headcount.