
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to subpart B of part II to be
3 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

4 "§304A- First-generation matching grant program. (a)

5 There is established the first-generation matching grant program
6 to be administered by the University of Hawaii. The purpose of
7 the program shall be to provide private donors with a matching
8 grant incentive to make financial contributions towards grant-
9 based student financial aid for undergraduate students who
10 demonstrate financial need and whose parents have not earned a
11 baccalaureate or higher degree.

12 For the purposes of this subsection, "parent" means any
13 parent or legal guardian of a student of the university or any
14 person in a parental relationship to the student, as determined
15 by the university.

16 (b) All appropriations and private contributions for the
17 program shall be deposited into the University of Hawaii



1 scholarship and assistance special fund established pursuant to
2 section 304A-2159. Program appropriations shall be allocated by
3 the university to match private contributions on a dollar-for-
4 dollar basis. Private contributions pledged for the purposes of
5 the program:

6 (1) Shall be eligible for state matching funds
7 appropriated for the program and shall not be eligible
8 for any other state matching grant program; and

9 (2) Shall not be eligible for matching prior to the actual
10 collection of the total amount of the contribution.

11 The university may reserve an amount in the University of Hawaii
12 scholarship and assistance special fund in anticipation of
13 private gifts donated toward the program. Any amount reserved
14 by the university for the program shall not negatively impact
15 the availability of funds for other scholarships, grants, or
16 financial aid provided from the special fund.

17 (c) The university shall establish an application process
18 for the program, determine student eligibility for initial and
19 renewal awards in conformance with subsection (d), determine the
20 amount to be awarded to each recipient, and notify recipients of



1 the amount of their awards, in accordance with established
2 policies of the university.

3 (d) To be eligible for a grant pursuant to this section,
4 an applicant shall:

5 (1) Be a resident for tuition purposes as determined
6 pursuant to section 304A-402;

7 (2) Qualify as a first-generation college student under
8 the criteria set forth in subsection (a);

9 (3) Be enrolled at the university for a minimum of six
10 credit hours per term as a degree-seeking
11 undergraduate student;

12 (4) Have properly submitted a Free Application for Federal
13 Student Aid; and

14 (5) Meet additional eligibility requirements as
15 established by the university.

16 (e) The award amount shall be based on the student's
17 remaining need assessment after consideration of all other
18 grants, scholarships, or financial aid whether from federal,
19 state, or private sources; provided that:

20 (1) The first priority of funding shall be given to
21 students who demonstrate need by qualifying and



1 receiving federal Pell Grant funds towards tuition and
2 fees per term; and

3 (2) An award may not exceed the university's estimated
4 annual cost of attendance for the student to attend
5 the university.

6 (f) Grant awards made under this section shall be
7 determined by the university subject to the availability of
8 funds and shall be disbursed no earlier than the start of a term
9 or as determined by the university.

10 (g) The university shall report all awards granted under
11 this section in its annual report for the University of Hawaii
12 scholarship and assistance special fund as required by section
13 304A-2159."

14 SECTION 2. Section 304A-2159, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

16 "(b) Revenues deposited into this fund shall include but
17 not be limited to state, federal, and private funds, funds
18 transferred by the university from the tuition and fees special
19 fund pursuant to section [†]304A-2153[†], [~~and~~] appropriations
20 for the state scholars program[†], and state appropriations and
21 private contributions for the first-generation matching grant



H.B. NO. 2213

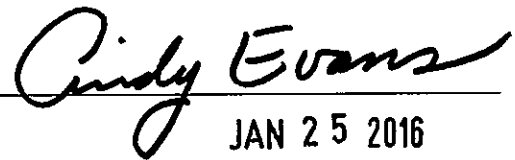
1 program; provided that state funds appropriated for any
2 scholarship program, including but not limited to the B Plus
3 scholarship program, the Hawaii state scholars program, and the
4 workforce development scholarship program, and all funds
5 deposited into the fund for the first-generation matching grant
6 program, shall be kept in a separate and distinct account."

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

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

10

INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 25 2016



H.B. NO. 2213

Report Title:

Higher Education; University of Hawaii; First-Generation
Matching Grant Program for Resident Undergraduate Students

Description:

Establishes a state funds matching grant program for resident
undergraduate UH students with financial need and whose parents
have not earned a baccalaureate or higher degree.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 4, 2016 at 2:00 p.m., Room 309

by
Risa E. Dickson, Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2213 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

House Bill 2213 proposes an amendment to Chapter 304A, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to establish a "First-generation matching grant program" administered by the University of Hawai'i to provide private donors with a matching grant incentive to make financial contributions towards grant-based student financial aid for undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need and whose parents have not earned a baccalaureate or higher degree.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is supportive of the aspirational intent of this bill to increase college attendance by students identified as first generation. However, the Legislature should be aware that there remain several aspects that need to be addressed. HB 2213 aligns with the State of Hawai'i P-20 goal to have 55% of working age adults hold a 2- or 4-year college degree by 2025, and with the University's strategic priority to increase the educational capital of the state by increasing the participation and completion of students, particularly Native Hawaiians, low-income students, and those from underserved regions and populations. Furthermore, this measure is intended to encourage first-generation college goers while also enhancing and leveraging the contributions of private donors.

The University notes that HB 2213 directs the university to allocate program appropriations on a dollar-for-dollar basis, including reserving funds from the UH scholarship and assistance special fund. This is a concern. Other issues to address are the verification requirement for the criteria of a first generation student. And, to understand that financial aid is based on financial need and being a first generational college student does not, in and of itself, guarantee that financial need exists.

UH has limited resources for student financial assistance, and the University has a concern with the budgetary and fiscal implications of implementing a program aimed to allocate University funds to augment financial aid for a specified student group. Guided by Board of Regents Policy and Executive Policy (RP 6.204 and EP 6.204), tuition revenue scholarships are provided by a designated percent set aside by campus of tuition revenues for students who meet prescribed criteria for financial need or merit. Without new appropriations, designating additional allocations of set aside funds for a specific student group divests the University of the flexibility to administer its program in the strategic best interests of UH and the State of Hawai'i. The Legislature needs to support this measure with funding so as to not diminish the level of aid already provided by the University itself.

Nevertheless, the proposals in HB 2213, intended to support private donors and first generation students, bear careful consideration and warrant further discussion within the University and with our stakeholders and community. We welcome and appreciate the legislature's interest in exploring means to help first generation students gain access to college education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

ichiyama2-Brandon

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 9:32 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2213 on Feb 4, 2016 14:00PM

HB2213

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Anything that helps our future children achieve higher education.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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