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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD ALLOWANCE FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 346-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending the definition of "former foster youth" in  
3 subsection (a) to read as follows:

4 ""Former foster youth" means a person formerly placed under  
5 the jurisdiction of the department as a foster child by the  
6 family court pursuant to chapter 587 who has attained the age of  
7 eighteen~~[=]~~ while under the placement responsibility of the  
8 department or who was under the placement responsibility of the  
9 department when a legally responsible caregiver was granted  
10 custody."

11 SECTION 2. Section 346-17.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 **"§346-17.4 Higher education board allowances for students.**

14 (a) Eligible former foster [~~youths~~] youth shall be eligible for  
15 higher education board allowances after reaching the age of  
16 majority and the higher education board [~~payments~~] allowance for  
17 that former foster youth shall be paid to an accredited



1 institution of higher learning, another intermediary contracted  
2 by the department, the former foster youth, or to the former  
3 foster youth's former foster parents~~[7]~~ or legal custodians, as  
4 appropriate; provided that:

5 (1) The former foster youth is [~~twenty-one~~] twenty-six  
6 years old or younger; [~~and~~]

7 (2) [~~Within one school year after high school completion,~~  
8 ~~the former foster youth is attending or has been~~  
9 ~~accepted to attend an accredited institution of higher~~  
10 ~~learning on a full-time basis, or on a part-time basis~~  
11 ~~for the first academic year, if approved by the~~  
12 ~~director upon such terms and conditions as the~~  
13 ~~director deems appropriate.] The former foster youth  
14 has applied for the higher education board allowance  
15 through the age of twenty-one years old, except that a  
16 former foster youth who is between the ages of twenty-  
17 two years and twenty-six years on July 1, 2007, and  
18 attending an institution of higher education, may  
19 apply for a higher education board allowance after  
20 July 1, 2007, and no later than June 30, 2008; and~~



1        (3) The former foster youth is attending or has been  
2                    accepted to attend an accredited institution of higher  
3                    learning.

4        (b) The higher education board allowance may be issued  
5 while the former foster youth is attending an accredited  
6 institution of higher learning on a full-time basis or on a  
7 part-time basis, in accordance with rules adopted by the  
8 department.

9        [~~(b)~~] (c) Reimbursement to foster parents for the former  
10 foster youth's higher education board cost up to the maximum  
11 allowable board amount shall be made retroactive to the former  
12 foster youth's entry into an accredited institution of higher  
13 learning on a full-time basis [~~, but no earlier than July 1,~~  
14 ~~1987,~~] or on a part-time basis for the first academic year [~~, but~~  
15 ~~no earlier than July 1, 1999]~~.

16        [~~(e)~~] (d) Higher education board allowances may be applied  
17 by the former foster youth to costs incurred in undertaking  
18 full-time studies or part-time studies [~~for the first academic~~  
19 ~~year, if approved by the director upon such terms and conditions~~  
20 ~~as the director deems appropriate,~~] at an institution of higher  
21 learning [~~,~~] in accordance with rules adopted by the department.



1        (e) The duration of the total higher education board  
2 allowance shall not exceed sixty months.

3        [~~(d)~~] (f) The department's standards relating to income  
4 resources of foster children shall be applicable to this  
5 section."

6        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            , or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2007-2008, and  
9 the sum of \$            , or so much thereof as may be necessary for  
10 the fiscal year 2008-2009, to provide a higher education board  
11 allowance for eligible former foster youth as defined in this  
12 Act.

13        The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
14 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

15        SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17        SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Higher Education Board Allowance

**Description:**

Increases the time limit for application for a higher education board allowance from 1 year following high school graduation through the age of 21 years old, to provide former foster youth who are between the ages of 22 and 26 years on July 1, 2007, and already attending an institution of higher education the opportunity to apply for a higher education board allowance within a year. Increases the maximum age for the benefit from 21 years to 26 years with a maximum benefit length of 60 months. (SD2)

