



## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 11, 2020

Mr. David Lassner, President  
University of Hawaii  
Bachman Hall 202  
2444 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear President Lassner:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Support (CARES) Act established the “Education Stabilization Fund” (Sec. 18001). According to the article, Massive Federal Stimulus Bill Approved — Contains Funding and Waiver Authority for Educational Entities, published on March 27, 2020, the Education Stabilization Fund consists of the following:

**Governors Emergency Relief Fund (Sec. 18002)**

Governors may apply for and will receive 9.8% of the money – to be allocated to local educational agencies and institutions of higher education “most significantly impacted by coronavirus.”

**Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (Sec. 18004)**

Institutions of higher education will receive 46.3% of the money. Of those funds:

- 90% will be used to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus,” with 75% of that amount allocated based on full-time equivalent enrollment of Pell Grant recipients, and 25% of that amount allocated based on full-time equivalent enrollment of students not receiving Pell Grants. These amounts will be calculated based on students not enrolled exclusively in distance education.
- 7.5% will be allocated for grants, including grants under the Strengthening Institutions Program and to Hispanic-serving institutions, to be used “to address needs directly related to coronavirus.”
- 2.5% will be allocated to institutions of higher education determined by the Secretary of Education to have the “greatest unmet needs related to coronavirus” to defray expenses and provide grants to students.

Per the article, and it is noted that it is not entirely clear, “reading of the Act is that 50% of the overall funds to institutions of higher education must be used to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, including food,

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housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. Remaining funds can be used for “any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus,” subject to certain exclusions.”

Understanding that the University of Hawaii is eligible for these funds, please provide the Committee an update on the following:

- Status of applying for Education Stabilization Funds;
- Total calculation of funds to be provided to the University of Hawaii System for all campuses;
- Breakdown of funds per campus;
- The plan to award student grants across the University of Hawaii System; and
- The University’s strategy to cover budget shortfalls due to Coronavirus.

The Committee appreciates your attention to this matter, and respectfully requests a response by **4:00 p.m., Monday, April 13, 2020**. Please email your response to all Senate Special Committee COVID-19 members. Should you have any questions, please contact Dane Wicker at 586-6639 or via email at [d.wicker@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:d.wicker@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Sincerely,

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim  
Senator Sharon Moriwaki  
Senator Kurt Fevella

Cc. Senate President  
All Senators