CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)
45-Day Fund Report – August 2020

The University of Hawai‘i (UH), including Maui College, provided emergency financial grants to students in Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 to address unexpected financial hardships caused by the coronavirus and disruptions to their education and lives. The federal CARES Act supported emergency assistance directly to students who meet federal eligibility requirements (described below). The UH Urgent Student Relief Fund provided financial assistance for unplanned emergency expenses. The Urgent Student Relief Fund is supported by generosity of UH and UH Foundation donors.

Below is Maui College’s report on administration of the federal CARES Act, Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students.

An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

- The CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) provides funding for colleges to give Emergency Financial Aid Grants to currently enrolled students who had “expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.”

- On 4/23/2020, Maui College signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the U.S. Department of Education, acknowledging its intent to use no less than 50% of funds received under Section18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution’s Certification of Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

- Maui College received $593,954 under Section18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
Based on guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education, “only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants.” Also, U.S. Department of Education excluded students who were enrolled exclusively in online programs.

Fall 2020 CARES COVID Stipend Program: As of August 18, 2020, 620 students at Maui College were identified as eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act Section 18004(a)(1), based on their Title IV eligibility, being enrolled in programs that are not exclusively online, and meeting the Fall 2020 CARES COVID Stipend criteria. The method by which Fall 2020 Stipend Program was determined is outlined below.

The total amount of emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission

As of August 18, a total of $447,200 was distributed to students at Maui College. This figure includes awards made for Spring 2020 and Fall 2020.

The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act

As of August 18, 2020, 1306 students at Maui College received emergency financial aid grants. This figure includes awards made for Spring 2020 and Fall 2020.

The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act

Method by which Title IV Eligibility was Determined:

For Fall 2020, UHCCs provided a CARES COVID Support Stipend of $500 for students continuing from Spring 2020 to Fall 2020. No application was required. The stipend provides financial support to cover expenses associated with the shift to remote learning.

The UH System Financial Aid Office identified the criteria, and the System Institutional Research, Analysis and Planning Office and UHCC Academic Affairs Office prepared the list of eligible students.

Criteria:

- Enrolled at one or more of the UH Community Colleges in Spring 2020 at census date
- Classified student enrolled in at least 6 credits at one of more of the UH Community Colleges in Fall 2021 by July 31, 2020
- Submitted a 2020-21 FAFSA by July 31, 2021
- Not enrolled in a fully online degree program
- Title IV eligible*
- Meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress

*Title IV eligibility criteria include, but are not limited to the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen, a valid Social Security Number, registration with Selective Service (if student is male), and a high school diploma, GED or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting

Method by which Emergency Financial Aid Grants implementation was Determined:

Maui College offered $500 grants to all students who met eligibility criteria as of August 18, 2020.
Factors considered in determination of grant recipients and amounts for Fall 2020:

- Effort to help students enrolled during the pandemic to continue into Fall 2020
- $500 stipend was intended to help cover costs related to shift to online learning. The amount was based on estimate of high speed internet for five months
- Addresses one of greatest challenges identified by Spring students (internet connection)

Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

- Information about the Emergency Financial Aid grants was available online at the UH Community Colleges’ website: www.uhcc.hawaii.edu/cares. Students also had access to an email account for questions related to the stipend: ccaid@hawaii.edu

- Eligible students were sent a personal email notification in mid-July. Awards were made in August 2020 and email notifications with payment details were sent to students’ UH email address. Payments were made directly to students regardless of outstanding balances or financial obligations.