## Windward CC freshman enrollment jumps by 20%

UH News » Academic News » Windward CC freshman enrollment...

November 14, 2022 & UH News

This fall, Windward
Community College
increased freshman
enrollment by 20%
over 2021, welcoming
398 freshmen to the
Kāne'ohe campus.
Moreover, there was
a 71% spike in male
freshmen and 40%
jump in Native
Hawaiian freshmen
students. There was
also a 63% rise in
students coming



directly from Hawai'i public high schools.

Some of these impressive gains can be attributed to the Ho'olei Tuition Award program, which provides full tuition at the college for the first year—fall and spring semesters—for 2022 graduates of public and charter schools in Windward O'ahu. The award offers tuition savings of up to \$3,144, and, for many, a chance to attend college. More than 270 freshmen received a Ho'olei award.

"The money I received from scholarships gave me more freedom in how I spend my time concentrating on my studies, taking advantage of student life, and forging bonds with friends and coworkers," said Paipai o Koʻolau scholarship recipient **Duane "Nalu" Diaz**, who is on his way from Windward CC to UH Mānoa for a degree in social work. "Like many students, without financial aid from a third party I would struggle to pay for the degree I need to enter the workforce and contribute to society."

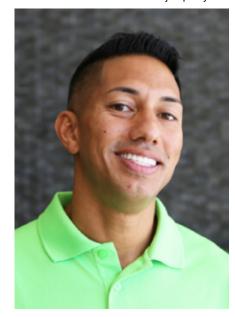
The Ho'olei Tuition Award program and the Paipai o Ko'olau program were created with grants from the <u>Harold K.L. Castle Foundation</u>. They allow students to prioritize college despite a difficult economy and

11/17/22, 8:59 AM

financial pressures.

"The Harold K.L. Castle
Foundation's generosity allowed
students to choose college when
otherwise the cost and the need to
work would have made it
impossible," said Windward CC
Chancellor Ardis Eschenberg.
"Scholarships change lives for our
students and trajectories for their
families."

During the last academic year, Windward CC Early College counselors made personal visits to



Duane "Nalu" Diaz

high schools to deliver information to high school seniors about scholarships, financial aid and on- and off-campus jobs. Windward public and public charter high schools helped get information to students and encouraged them to apply.

Eschenberg said, "The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation is helping Windward CC grow a healthier student population, even more, they are helping our community to grow in economic and social mobility, and giving opportunities where there were none."

Windward CC announced a \$1-million fundraising drive to support student scholarships at a 50th anniversary kickoff event in September. The endowed fund will generate investment income that will enable 13 students to attend Windward CC tuition-free every year in perpetuity.

## **Related Posts:**

- > Enrollment at UH Mānoa up 6%, record freshman numbers
- > Free tuition, jobs for Windward HS graduates at Windward CC
- > Windward CC launches \$1M scholarship drive for 50th...

scholarship UH Community Colleges UH System
Windward Community College