COLLEGE: High school kids get motivated in visit to UH

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Leeward Coast kids explore academia in UH visit

By Mary Tovani

More than 300 Leeward Coast students are coming to the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus this week to get a taste of college life—and imagine themselves being there.

The first-time initiative, funded by the Department of Education, offers a first-hand look at the academic and extracurricular experiences of students in HPU. The event aims to encourage the students to think about their post-secondary options.

More than 300 students from six schools in the Leeward Coast participated in the visit, which included tours of the campus, classes, and opportunities to interact with current students and faculty.

"The goal is to expose young people to the realities of college life and help them develop a deeper understanding of their future options," said Dr. Lawrence Fong, dean of the College of Education.

The event also included workshops on college preparation, financial aid, and career exploration.

"We want to provide our students with the tools they need to make informed decisions about their future," said Dr. Fong.

The Leeward Coast kids are part of a larger effort to increase college participation among students from underserved communities.

"We believe that higher education is a right for all students, regardless of their background," said Dr. Fong.

The visit comes as the University of Hawaii faces budget cuts and reduced enrollment. Despite these challenges, the institution continues to prioritize access and equity for all students.

"We are committed to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to achieve their dreams," said Dr. Fong.

The Leeward Coast kids are just one example of the University of Hawaii's commitment to making higher education accessible to all. "We are proud to partner with the Department of Education to provide our students with this valuable experience," said Dr. Fong.

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