SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT
2024-2025 Award year

Session presented by:

Jadine Ehia: Hawaii Comm Foundation
Amy Akana: UH System
Elise Sanders: Sallie Mae

Your cameras, microphones and the chat have been turned off. Please post your questions in the Q&A during the session.

Questions with Personal/Sensitive Student information may be sent to FAFSA@hawaii.edu
Amy Akana

University of Hawaii
Common Scholarship
Application

UH System Common Scholarship
Application
Bookmark me!
https://www.hawaii.edu/tuition/scholarships/

- Open annually October 1-March 1
- One application for approximately 800 scholarship funds
  - For 23-24, awarded nearly 3 million dollars systemwide
- Open to students attending ANY campus within the University of Hawaii System

“How to Apply” page and link to application >>>>>>>>

✔ Application checklist

- Be a University of Hawaii system student
- Complete the FAFSA (optional, but recommended)
- Transcripts (unofficial are OK)
- Contact info for recommendations (1-3 people)
- Personal Statement (900-word maximum)
- Optional essays for certain scholarships
- Review and submit
Personal Statement

- Helpful to think about:
  - Educational & career goals
  - Employment and/or service experience
  - Any accomplishments, including any honors or awards
  - Personal background
  - Any barriers to obtaining education goals & how the student plans to overcome them

Community Service

- Optional, but highly recommended
- There are many ways to be of service to others:
  - Formal or informal service projects or volunteer hours
  - Significant home or family responsibilities (ex. financially supporting parents, providing child or elder care, working unpaid at a family business)
  - Activities that give back to or contribute to the community
- Please indicate whether service was paid or unpaid, and whether it was part of coursework
Letters of Recommendation

- Need the name(s) and email address(es) of 1-3 references
- All recommendations are submitted via an online form by the recommender - nothing accepted via email and/or from the student
- Students can track letters of recommendations even after submitting the application
- Deadline for students to list name/email of recommenders: March 1
- Deadline for recommenders to submit: March 8

Transcripts

- Required for:
  - New first-time students (HS transcript)
  - Transfers from non-UH schools (college transcripts)
- Continuing UH students do not need to submit transcripts
- Transcripts can be unofficial, but must show student name, school name, grades, GPA, and the date printed
Tips and Recommendations for students

- Take your time - no advantage to submitting early…
- …but also don’t wait to the last moment to submit!
- Answer questions completely and accurately - don’t expect selection committees to fill in the blanks for you
- Your progress will auto-save, no need to do the application all in one sitting
- Ask people to read over your essays for proofreading and content suggestions
- It’s OK to recycle essays and statements from other applications, but they should still be tailored to the specific application prompt
- Currently the site is not enabled for Hawaiian diacritical markings, so they will not display properly in submitted applications - better to omit them for now

Any Questions?

UH System Common Scholarship Program
scholars@hawaii.edu
808-956-6203
Jaedine Ehia
Hawaii Community Foundation

2024-2025
HCF Common Scholarship Application

www.HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org
**Why Apply for HCF’s Scholarships?**

- One online application may qualify you for...
- Over 300 Scholarship Funds
- Over $7 million in scholarship awards

Average scholarship = $6,000
32% of awardees received multiple HCF scholarships

*We do the work for you!*

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**Application Updates for 2024-2025**

- Opens – **December 12, 2023**
- Closes – **February 29, 2024**
- Letters of Recommendation Due – **March 14, 2024**
- **2024-2025 FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)** form
  FAFSA not required, but HIGHLY recommended
How to Apply

Go to: www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org

How to Apply

Login To The Scholarship Manager
How to Apply

Create an Account

Required Documents

Transcripts – Must Contain:

- Name of student
- Name of school
- Course history and grades, including fall semester grades if available
- Cumulative GPA
Required Essays

• What inspired you to choose (your) field of study and academic plan?
• How will your academic plans help you to give back to the community?

Optional Documents & Questions

Optional Documents
- FAFSA Submission Summary
- Letters of Recommendation (students can request up to 3)
- Kamehameha Schools Ho’oulu Verification Services Letter
- SAT/ACT Scores (high school seniors only)

Optional Questions
- Yes/No
- Short Answers
- Essays
Affiliation Questions

From the drop down menu, select the company/organization you or your relative are affiliated with.

Helpful Resources

HCF COMMON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

HCF distributes over $1.7 million annually to deserving students, making it the third largest private provider of post-secondary scholarships in the state. Our scholarship support students who are pursuing degrees from colleges and universities, as well as those obtaining career and technical education at a community college. In 2021, the average scholarship award was $8,300 per student.

The 2023-2024 HCF Common Scholarship Application will open on November 15, 2022 and close on February 25, 2023 at 4:00 pm Hawaii Standard Time. Applicants can check the status of their application by logging into their student account.
Important Dates

Application Opens: December 12, 2023
Application Deadline: February 29, 2024 @ 4:00 PM
LOR Deadline: March 14, 2024 @ 4:00 PM

Helpful Tips

• Start Early
  ▪ Submit your FAFSA ASAP
  ▪ Obtain your transcript ASAP
  ▪ Save any attachment(s) as a .pdf for easy upload
• Answer all questions accurately - Every question is tied to a scholarship opportunity
• Prepare essays ahead of time and save as a Word document for easy cutting and pasting
• Notify recommenders BEFORE asking for a Letter of Recommendation
• Submit your application before deadline day!
Contact Us!

Email: scholars@hawaiicommunityfoundation.org
Phone: (808)566-5570 or 1-888-731-3863 (toll free)
Website: www.HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org

Elise Sanders
Sallie Mae
How to find free money for college with scholarships

What you will learn today

• How scholarships can help you pay for school
• Variety of scholarship resources
• Importance and ease of scholarship search engines
• How to create a winning scholarship essay
• Tips on applying for scholarships
How scholarships can help you pay for school

Making a plan to pay for school

1. Start with money you don’t have to pay back.
2. Apply for federal financial aid.
3. Consider a responsible private student loan to cover the rest.
### What’s the average cost of college?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2-year public college</th>
<th>4-year public college/university (in-state)</th>
<th>4-year private college/university</th>
<th>4-year public college/university (Out-of-state)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Cost</td>
<td>$19,860</td>
<td>$28,840</td>
<td>$60,420</td>
<td>$46,730</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: College Board’s Trends in College Pricing 2023. Includes tuition, fees, and room and board, transportation, books, supplies, and other expenses.

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### The FAFSA® is the key to financial aid

- Used to determine eligibility for all federal student financial aid programs and most state and college aid.
- The FAFSA application is available in the fall each year.
  - You’ll need your family’s 2022 tax return for the AY 24-25 FAFSA
- Some financial aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis—so apply as soon as you can.
  - Deadlines vary by state
76% of families relied on scholarships and grants to cover school costs

- On average, families that used scholarships received $7,922 and families who used grants received $5,934
- Among scholarship users
  - 65% received them from the school ($8,005 on average)
  - 37% from the state ($3,311 on average)
  - 35% from nonprofits or companies ($1,968 on average)

Scholarships help make college happen

- However, significant misconceptions still exist about the availability of scholarships and who may be eligible to apply
- 39% of families did not use scholarships to help pay for AY2022-23

86% of families say earning a scholarship is something to be proud of

79% of recipients agree scholarships made college possible

45% say scholarships are just for students with exceptional skills or abilities

31% believe it’s not worth applying for scholarships if the parents make ‘too much’ money
Lack of awareness is top reason for not applying

- 74% of families who did not use scholarships last year did not even apply
- Many families lack awareness of scholarships that are available for their student and where to find them
- For other families, the perceived chances of winning don’t always outweigh the effort required to apply

Variety of scholarship resources
Scholarships – the what, when, and how

What are scholarships?
- Free money that does not have to be paid back

When to apply for scholarships?
- Based on deadline dates
- Typically, in your junior or senior year
- Every year in your program

How to apply for scholarships?
- Requirements and deadline dates vary
- May require essays, creative entry, online application, etc.

Scholarships

Scholarships are typically merit-based and awarded for a variety of reasons including:
- Academic achievement
- Financial need
- Community involvement
- Organizational membership
- Sports
- Talent or skill
- Leadership/school activities
- Ethnicity
- Religious affiliation
- Parent affiliation with work, club, or activity

Scholarships do not require repayment and are typically awarded on an annual basis.
Scholarship resources

There are many resources for scholarships:
• Local or community-based scholarships
• Federal and state agencies
• College-specific scholarships offered by the colleges your students are interested in attending
• Religious organizations
• Employers
• Libraries
• Private organizations or major companies
• Online search engines that aggregate scholarship offerings and allow users to be matched to scholarships based on a personal profile

Importance and ease of scholarship search engines
Get matched with scholarships in minutes based on your accomplishments, interests, and background!

https://myscholly.com

What to look for in a scholarship search engine

- FREE searches
- Continually validate scholarships
- Calendar listing scholarships by deadline
- Filtering capabilities
- Adjustable settings
- The ability to save profile information
Creating a winning scholarship essay
Tips for a winning essay

✓ Understand the provider’s overall mission and purpose
✓ Write about something that’s important to you
✓ Answer the question being asked
✓ Don’t just recount–reflect!
✓ No repeats
✓ Being funny is tough
✓ Start early and write drafts
✓ Have at least one other person edit your essay


A good scholarship essay...

• Is original and honest
• States clearly why you deserve to win the scholarship
• Avoids unnecessary information
• Is inspirational and positive in tone

Source: https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/college-scholarships/scholarship-essays/
Some scholarships are a little different...

Pet Lovers scholarship
Art by: Jack Chadwick, @chadwick_illustration

Duck calling scholarship
Art by: Johan Papiñ, @johanpapiñ

SciFi Writing scholarship
Art by: Olivia Wailer, @owailer

Summary of tips to apply for scholarships
**Scholarship application success**

- Get organized
- Be Authentic
- Include strong recommendation
- Know the requirements
- Create a lasting impression

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**Remember to**

- Meet deadlines
- List important accomplishments first
- Showcase your honors and awards
- Don’t rule out smaller scholarships
- Start applying early
You've won a scholarship – now what?

- How will you get the scholarship money?
- How will the scholarship affect your other financial aid?
- What are the renewal requirements?

Don't forget to write a thank you note

Source: https://studentaid.gov/understand/types/scholarships

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Mahalo to our Presenters

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Financial Aid Nights

- Wednesday nights, through December 13, 2023
- 6:00pm - 7:30pm
- Registration at:
  - Collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com

Presentation Slides

- A copy of this presentation is posted to the following website:
  - www.collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com
  - www.pacfaa.org
MAHALO!

Questions???

FAFSA@hawaii.edu

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Pacific Financial Aid Association
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