HAWAIʻI P-20
Partnerships for Education

Virtual Scholarship Workshop

November 5, 2026

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Housekeeping:

- Utilize the Q & A to ask your questions
- Recording will be posted on the *CollegeIsWithinReachHawaii.com* website

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Presenters:

- **Sallie Mae** - Jeff Lackey
  Director, Relationship Management

- **UH System Scholarships & Hawai'i Promise** - Kaprice Viveiros
  Scholarship Manager, UH System

- **Hawai'i Community Foundation** - Kelly Dahilig
  Scholarship Outreach

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Sallie Mae

Jeff Lackey
Director, Relationship Management

UH System Common Scholarship Application

...

Bookmark me!
https://hawaii.edu/costs/financial-aid

- Open October 1, 2026 - March 1, 2027
- One application for approximately 800 scholarship funds
  - For 26-27, awarded over 4 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)
- General essays (300-word maximums)
- Additional optional essays for specific scholarships
- Review and submit

General Essays (max 300 words each)

- How are you currently planning to pay for college? Do you anticipate financial challenges during the upcoming year? If so, how do you plan to manage them? If applicable, please share any financial challenges you have encountered and how you managed/resolved them. (REQUIRED for all applicants)

- Why did you choose the major you intend to pursue in college? How does it align with your specific academic interests, strengths, and career goals? (REQUIRED for all applicants)

- Describe an experience that helped you grow as a person. How did it help you grow, how did you demonstrate initiative in achieving/addressing it, and what did you learn that you can apply in future situations?

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, 2027, 4pm HST**
- **Deadline for recommenders to submit: March 8, 2027, 4pm HST**

Transcripts

- Required for:
  - New first-time students (HS transcript)
  - Transfers from non-UH schools (college transcripts)
- No need to submit UH transcripts/STAR reports - we can access that information internally
- 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.
- We're asking for your lived experiences, plans, and hopes - AI is not going to give as good of an answer as you will.

Any Questions?

UH System Common Scholarship Program
scholars@hawaii.edu
808-956-6203

Hawai’i Promise

https://uhcc.hawaii.edu/admissions/hawaii-promise.php

College can be free with the Hawai‘i Promise Program.

“The Hawai‘i Promise Program has provided me with financial aid that saved me so much money. Being a full-time student with two part-time jobs, I didn’t have to worry about my tuition and I was still able to study what I wanted to do. It has helped me pay for my books, supplies [and] classes.”

—Kevin-Clark Labador, Leeward Community College



Imagine going to college without the burden of student debt. The Hawai‘i Promise Program makes higher education accessible for Hawai‘i residents by covering direct educational costs at any University of Hawai‘i Community College. Funded by the state, this program ensures financial need is never a barrier to earning a quality college education.

This is money you never have to pay back—it's not a loan.

What Does it Cover?

If you qualify, the program bridges the financial gap to cover your direct educational costs, including:

- Tuition and fees
- Books

By the Numbers

Since launching in 2017, Hawai‘i Promise has helped more than 11,900 UHCC students.

In the 2024–25 academic year alone, $5.5 million was awarded to 1,941 students—with an average award of $2,933 per student!

Who is Eligible?

1. You are a Hawai‘i state resident who qualifies for in-state tuition.
2. You are enrolled in a UH Community College degree-seeking college program that accepts financial aid (which includes almost all programs).
3. You take at least six (6) credits per semester—usually just one or two classes.
4. You maintain at least a 2.0 GPA.

Note: Hawai‘i Promise amounts are contingent upon funding and amounts are based upon enrollment level, financial need, and other financial resources.

How to See if You Qualify

Step 1: Complete the FAFSA. Submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** by the financial aid priority deadline of **March 1 for first consideration**. Even if you aren't sure you qualify, you should still apply to find out!

Step 2: **Enroll at a UH Community College** and register for classes at any of the seven campuses.

FREE Community College?

Yes, really!

FLIP!

Your Path to a Debt-Free Education Starts Here.

The Hawai'i Promise Program covers your direct costs including in-state tuition, fees and books to attend a UH Community College. This is money you never have to pay back— **it's NOT a loan**!

How to qualify:

- ☑ Must be a Hawai'i resident and have demonstrated financial need.
- ☑ Complete the FAFSA at *fafsa.gov* by **March 1, 2027** for first consideration.
- ☑ Enroll at *apply.hawaii.edu* by **August 1, 2027.**
- ☑ Be enrolled in 6+ credits each semester.



Scan to see if you're eligible and start your next steps! *www.hawaii.edu/promise*

UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I® COMMUNITY COLLEGES

*The Hawai'i Promise Program is funded by the State of Hawai'i and the University of Hawai'i. Awards are contingent upon funding and amounts are based upon enrollment level and financial need.

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Hawai'i Community Foundation

Kelly Dahilig, Scholarship Outreach

2027-2028 HCF Scholarship Slides

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Other resources are available at:

- **Website:** CollegeIsWithinReachHawaii.com
- **Instagram:** @CollegeIsWithinReachHawaii

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Questions?

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Mahalo for attending!