



'O Ka'ū Kākou (*We are Ka'ū*)

A volunteer-based 501(c)(3) non-profit community service organization

Serving our Ka'ū communities for a better tomorrow

P.O. Box 365 Pahala, Hawaii 96777

www.okaukakou.org



2024

'O Ka'ū Kākou

Scholarship

Application



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The objective of the 'O Ka'ū Kākou organization is to take an active interest in the civic, economic, social health and moral welfare of our community and its people and to support cultural programs of benefit to them and the community.

Aloha Scholarship Applicant,

'O Ka'ū Kākou (OKK) is proud to sponsor scholarships for the 2025-2026 school year. Scholarships will be offered to high school or home-schooled graduating seniors and to undergraduate college students. Individual scholarship awards are \$2,000 (\$1,000.00 per semester) for students enrolled full-time at any accredited trade school, 2-year or 4-year college to assist with tuition costs.

Applicants must be residents of Ka'ū district, or if attending an out-of-state college, applicant must be claimed as a dependent whose parent or legal guardian's principal residence remains in the district of Ka'ū.

Instructions, guidelines, and information regarding eligibility, selection criteria, and the application process are detailed in the *Application for Scholarship instructions and guidelines* and *Exhibit A*. Please thoroughly complete the application as requested and carefully follow all instructions. *Incomplete applications will not be considered.*

Only hard copies of your application and supporting documents will be accepted (no electronic submissions). Applications **must** be postmarked on or before the **DEADLINE of MARCH 31, 2025.** *Late submissions will not be considered.*

Recipients of previous scholarships who have not submitted their mahalo letter to OKK will not be considered for further scholarship funding.

Any questions regarding this application can be directed to the OKK Scholarship Committee via email: okaukakou.org.scholarship@gmail.com. Please be aware that it may take up to 36 hours for the Committee to respond to your email.

Pomaika'i nō,

OKK Scholarship Committee



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APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP **INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDELINES**

- You must use the official 2025-26 'O Ka'ū Kākou scholarship application.
- Application must be dated and have original signatures by you and your parent(s) or legal guardian.
- Typed applications are preferred; however, neatly printed and legible applications are acceptable.
- Applications and all supporting documents must be in English.
- All applications will remain confidential and become the property of 'O Ka'ū Kākou and will not be returned to you.
- Applications & all supporting documents must be hard copy & postmarked on or before **MARCH 31, 2025.**
- Applications and all supporting documents must be hard copy mailed to:
OKK Scholarship Committee, Attn: Chairperson Tim, c/o P.O. Box 819, Pahala, HI 96777.
- Late submissions will not be considered.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant must be a current high school or home school senior or full-time college student in good standing.
- Applicant must be residing in the district of Ka'ū, or out-of-state college student whose principal residence is in Ka'ū.
- Applicant must attend an accredited trade school or a two or four year accredited college as a full-time student in the 2025-2026 school year.

COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGE

- The completed application package must include the application, essays, transcript, test scores and exhibits, Counselor's Report and Parent/Guardian Consent; all pages should be firmly attached together in a binder or via large binder clip, brad or multi-prong metal clasp (no staples).

EMPLOYMENT

- List all employment held from January 1, 2024, until date of application.
- List approximate total hours worked, not average hours per week.
- Include letter of recommendation from most recent employer signed by direct supervisor.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- List community service performed January 1, 2024, until date of application.
- List approximate total hours served, not average hours per week.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- List any and all awards received during grades 9 through 12. Complete segment as instructed in Honors and Awards section.

LEADERSHIP AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Complete this section as instructed.

ESSAYS

- Write essays of no more than 1,000 words (12pt. font, 2 pages maximum).
- The essays must be typed, dated and signed; and include total word count.



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INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDELINES (CONT.)

COUNSELOR REPORT

- This report must be completed by your high school guidance counselor or appropriate school official.

TRANSCRIPT & SAT/ACT SCORES

- Include an official, current high school/college transcript of student grades.
- Transcript may be a photocopy of an original that bears the signature of the proper school authority.
- The transcript must include seventh semester classes but not grades.
- Test scores must be included in the application, but may be photocopies or printed from SAT and/or ACT websites.
- The SAT essay score will not be taken into consideration.
- It is not necessary to send a separate sheet of test scores if they are included on your transcript.

HOME SCHOOLING

- Home-schooled students are eligible to apply for the scholarship. However, all aspects of the application must be filled out completely.
- When possible, a third party should complete the Counselor's Report for the applicant.

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

- Undergraduate students are eligible to apply for the scholarship. However, all aspects of the application must be filled out completely.

ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS (OPTIONAL)

- Exhibits are optional supplemental material.
- Attach exhibits of achievement in scholarship, leadership, athletics, community services or other activities.
- Emphasis is given to quality of activities over quantity.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Incomplete applications or late submittals will not be considered for funding.
- Academic achievement-grade point average, college prep courses.
- Community service and volunteer work.
- References.
- Letters of recommendation.
- See Exhibit A for scoring system.

SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS

- All scholarships will be paid by the semester.
- Scholarships will be paid to college financial office after proof of registration.
- Scholarships apply only to full-time students.



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APPLICATION FORM **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name _____

Last

First

Middle initial

Mailing Address _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address (optional) _____

Phone (____) _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Month

Day

Year

City & State or Country

Name and Location of High School _____

Name of college or university planning to attend _____

Address of college or university _____

List all scholarships you have applied for or already been awarded for the 2025-26 school year

Are you a member or related to a member of 'O Ka'ū Kākou? Yes / No

Where will you be living while attending secondary education? _____

Do you plan to be employed during the school year? _____

Please read this carefully before signing below

I have answered all the questions on this application to the best of my ability. I understand that in order to receive my scholarship funds I must provide the 'O Ka'ū Kākou treasurer with a formal "verification of enrollment" form before any funds will be released. I understand that the financial aid office will not receive any funds until I am officially enrolled and attending classes at my school.

SIGNATURES

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Legal Guardians signature _____ Date _____



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GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS

Essay #1: Attach a typed short essay (single spaced, 12pt font, 2-page maximum, 1,000 words or less) explaining in detail what your future goals and aspirations are. Be as specific as possible and include your academic or higher education goals, post-academic employment/career plans and goals, what you're passionate about and why. **What are your future plans to use your degree to improve life in Ka'ū?** Include your name and the total word count in the bottom corner.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Essay #2: Attach a typed short essay (single spaced, 12pt font, 2-page maximum, 1,000 words or less) explaining in detail how you feel about volunteering and giving back to the community. Describe what impact your volunteer experience(s) had on you, what you contributed, what you learned about yourself, and how it influenced your plans for the future. **Be as specific as possible about what your intentions and goals are to give back to the community in the decade following your graduation from college or trade school.** Include your name and the total word count in the bottom corner.

List all community service or volunteer work you performed from **January 1, 2024, until date of application**, starting with the most recent. If necessary, attach a separate sheet to this section. List approximate total hours worked, not average hours per week.

Name of Organization	Activities/Positions	Dates of Involment
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

GRAND TOTAL HOURS VOLUNTEERED= _____

WORK EXPERIENCE

List jobs you have held from **January 1, 2024, until date of application**. Start with the most recent and include work on a family farm or family business, even if you are not paid. If necessary, attach a separate sheet to this section. List approximate total hours worked, not average hours per week.

Type of Work / Total Hours	Employer	Approximate Dates of Employment
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

GRAND TOTAL HOURS WORKED= _____



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HONORS AND AWARDS

List scholastic, extracurricular, and civic honors and awards received during grades 9 through 12. Include the year of the award and select your grade level at time of recognition. Photocopies of Certificates, Awards, etc. may be included as Additional Exhibits, but are not required. On a separate sheet of paper briefly describe in 25 words or less the purpose of each award and why you received it. **Please do not abbreviate names of awards**, as we may not understand their meanings. **Complete this section even if you plan to attach an activity sheet or resume.**

Honors and Awards	Grade level at Time of Recognition			
	9	10	11	12
	1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

LEADERSHIP AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List your **principal** leadership roles and extracurricular activities **in the order of importance to you**. State the activity or organization name, grade level(s) you were involved, hours-per-week commitment, position held and your responsibilities. **Complete this section even if you plan to attach an activity sheet or resume.**

Activity / Organization	Grade Level				Hours/week	Position Held / Responsibilities
	9	10	11	12		
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
5. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____



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REFERENCES AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

List four (4) persons other than a relative (i.e.: counselor, teacher, clergy, mentor, etc.) who have known you long enough to confirm your personal qualities and academic abilities. Two (2) letters of recommendation must be attached to your application or mailed separately to 'O Ka'ū Kākou.

Name _____	Name _____
Email Address _____	Email Address _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
Relationship _____	Relationship _____
 Name _____	 Name _____
 Email Address _____	 Email Address _____
 Phone _____	 Phone _____
 Relationship _____	 Relationship _____

STUDENT & PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT

Permission to Use Name and Photograph

() I agree that OKK may use photographs of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and web content.

I have read and understand the above:

Applicant (Student) signature:

_____ Date: _____

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) signature(s), if under age 18:

_____ Date: _____ Date: _____



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COUNSELOR REPORT

Applicant: Fill out your name and give this page to your counselor or appropriate school official. This section can be completed by your counselor before you are finished with the application, but must be in a sealed envelope and signed across the seal.

Student Name _____

Last

First

Middle Initial

Counselor: This form will be used to verify the student's academic status, so be sure to provide accurate information. Please include a copy of your school profile if available, and answer all of the following questions, even if the information is included in the profile. A school profile is a document describing your school's demographics and course offerings. If your school has policy of not ranking students, provide information to help us identify promising applicants. **Please secure these items in a sealed envelope, signed across the seal, and give to the student to include in the application package.**

Applicant's grade point average (A=4.0) _____ (required) The highest GPA in the graduating class? _____ (required)

Is the GPA based on weighted grades? Yes No

Class rank: The applicant ranks _____ in a class of _____. How many have this rank? _____

How many rank above? _____ is the rank based on weighted grades? Yes No

If exact rank is not available, indicate rank to the nearest 10th from the top _____

Applicant's **highest** test scores (required): ACT _____ /Date taken _____

SAT Critical Reading __ Math _____ /Date(s) taken _____

Are honors courses available? Yes No Has the applicant taken honors courses? Yes No

If yes, in which subjects has the applicant taken honors courses? _____

Are Advanced Placement courses available? Yes No

Has the applicant taken Advanced Placement courses? Yes No

If yes, in which subjects has the applicant taken Advanced Placement courses? _____

How would you describe this applicant's academic program compared with that of the other students applying for scholarships?

Below Average Average Above Average Rigorous Most Rigorous

Is there a community service requirement to graduate? Yes No If yes, how many hours? _____

Has the applicant ever been suspended or dismissed from school? Yes No

If yes, please explain the circumstances. _____

Name (please print): _____ Position _____ School Phone _____

School Email _____ Length of time acquainted with applicant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Attach completed Counselors Report to completed application.



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EXHIBIT A

(For applicant's information – do not include with application)

0-5 points will be given for each of these categories:

1. Application Completeness
2. Letters of Recommendation
3. Leadership and Extra-curricular Activities
4. Community Service and Volunteerism
5. Work/employment experience
6. Academic Strength (GPA/SAT score)
7. Honors and Awards
8. Essay #1 Career Goals and Aspirations
9. Essay #1 Future plans to improve life in Ka'ū
10. Essay #2 Volunteer/Civic Experience
11. Essay #2 Give back plans and goals for the decade after completing higher education
12. Essays: General grammar, spelling, punctuation, complete sentences, etc.

The Scholarship Committee will conduct and complete review of all applications by mid-May. Scholarship recipients will be notified by mail no later than April 30, 2025.

CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANT:

- Completed and Signed Application Form
- Goals and Aspirations Essay
- Community Service Essay
- Employer letter of recommendation, if applicable
- Honors and Awards Description/Explanation
- Additional Exhibits, if applicable
- Photocopies of any Awards or Honors (Optional)
- Letters of Recommendation (if not mailed separately)
- Completed and Signed Name and Photo Authorization
- Completed and Signed Counselor Report
- Mailed with postmark on or before **MARCH 31, 2025**