



**2025 – 2026 Scholarship Program  
Informational Guide**

*It is written in the prophets, and they shall be all taught of God. Every man  
therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.  
John 6:45*

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# KAWAIAHA‘O SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATIONAL GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION

In 1820, when the first company of missionaries arrived in Hawai‘i, their primary mission was to teach the Hawaiians how to read, write and record their language. Their commission was:

“... You are to aim at nothing short of covering those islands with fruitful fields and pleasant dwellings and schools and churches; of raising up the whole people to an elevated state of Christian civilization...”

Such were the instructions to the missionaries when they set sail for Hawaii in 1820. Education was therefore of utmost importance to the ministry and life of Kawaiaha‘o Church.

Today, 200 years later, Kawaiaha‘o is blessed to be able to offer educational scholarships to post high school students. Through the generosity of friends and members, Kawaiaha‘o Church established a Scholarship Fund comprised of eleven individual funds for the express purpose of providing scholarships for needy and deserving students in their quest for higher education. Students apply to the program, and if eligible, can be awarded funds from one or more of the different scholarship funds. In 2004, the scholarship program was expanded to cover studies in Lay Ministry including the program of the Henry ‘Opukaha‘ia Center as administered for Pacific Theological Studies.

It is the hope of Kawaiaha‘o Church that scholarships be made available and awarded to those who love the Lord Jesus Christ and are committed to serving Him throughout their lives and careers, and that they will return upon completion of their studies to serve as leaders of Kawaiaha‘o Church. Our Lord has said,

*“If you obey my teaching, you are truly my disciples;  
You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32*

## PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance at a 4-year college or university, preferably to Kawaiaha‘o Church members and their ‘ohana and to Hawaiian students pursuing an academic study in Theology according to principles of the United Church of Christ. Preference will be given to members of Kawaiaha‘o and their family who are active in the church. A secondary purpose is to financially supplement costs for eligible students registered in vocational training, lay studies, or in graduate programs.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To establish a general scholarship fund into which friends, family and members of Kawaiaha‘o may contribute donations;
2. To provide financial assistance based on merit or need to members and family of Kawaiaha‘o Church and their descendants in the pursuit of higher education at an accredited institution of higher learning, or in a lay studies program approved by the scholarship committee;
3. To enrich the life at Kawaiaha‘o Church through the recipients’ active participation in programs and ministries of the church during and after completion of their study program;
4. To anticipate strong leadership and commitment from recipients to serve the Lord preferably through programs at Kawaiaha‘o Church;
5. To administer the Kawaiaha‘o Church Scholarship Program according to the wishes of the donors of the respective funds.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR APPLICANTS

### ***Am I eligible to apply?***

Each of the respective scholarship funds has specific eligibility requirements that were stipulated by the donor. In addition to those restrictions, applicants must also meet the following requirements:

- Be a Hawai‘i resident
- Demonstrate financial need or meritorious ability
- Full-time enrollment in an accredited two-or four-year college or university, with minimum 12 credits for undergraduates or 6-9 credits in a master’s or doctorate program qualifying as full time, per semester. Comparable credits at a vocational or other type of accredited school or approved lay studies program are subject to review by the scholarship committee for acceptance.
- Maintain an academic GPA of 2.5 for undergraduates or 3.3 GPA for graduates for each grading period
- Demonstrate satisfactory academic promise and ability to maintain the required GPA
- Be an active member or the child/relative of an active member of Kawaiaha‘o Church
- Be of good moral character
- Demonstrate a strong promise to support Kawaiaha‘o Church’s programs during and after periods of study

### ***What if I don’t meet all of the eligibility requirements?***

Any exceptions to the policies set forth in this document require the unanimous approval of the Scholarship Committee. Without this approval, your scholarship award could be denied.

### ***How much does it cost to apply for a scholarship?***

There is no charge.

### ***How do I apply?***

Call or visit the church office at 808-469-3000 between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday to request an application. Applications will be available by **February 1<sup>st</sup>** of every year.

### ***When is the deadline to apply?***

Completed applications with all requested attachments must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee or postmarked **no later than May 31<sup>st</sup>** of each year to be eligible for fall, spring and summer considerations. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Late submittals could be denied. No new applications will be accepted for Spring or Summer sessions.

### ***Are there separate deadlines for fall, spring and summer sessions?***

Scholarship requests will be accepted for all three sessions on one application, fall, spring and summer. Simply pick up an application and complete it. If your request is approved, your eligibility will be confirmed at the beginning of each semester upon receipt of your transcript verifying your qualifying GPA. Funds will be distributed before each semester; provided you meet the eligibility requirements.

### ***What if I request funds for summer and don’t attend summer session?***

Always contact the scholarship committee to inform them of any changes in your plans. Awards are made just prior to each school session upon receipt of your transcript. Any unused funds must be returned to the church.

### ***When will I be notified whether or not my request was approved or denied?***

You will be notified by mail or phone of your request during the month of July for the fall semester.

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### ***What do I need to submit?***

- Completed application (Required every fall) \*#
- Official school transcripts (Required every fall) \*#
- Faith Essay: An essay of your reflections of your faith journey (Minimum one typewritten page, double spaced - Required every fall) \*#
- Your Personal Statement (Two typewritten pages, double spaced – NEW applicants) \* *Optional for returning students (see description below)*
- Three current letters of recommendation (NEW applicants only)
- Your birth certificate (copy - NEW applicants only)
- A recent photo (will not be returned - NEW applicants only)

**\*# Required of all recipients every semester while in the program**

### ***When I re-apply, do I need to re-submit all the documents?***

1) A new application must be completed for each school year, along with 2) an essay of your faith journey and 3) a copy of your latest transcript. The remaining items should be made current every 4 years upon re-applying. If you **change schools**, you must submit a new application before the semester begins. If your new application is not received in a timely period, your scholarship may be suspended or denied.

### ***What should be included in my Personal Statement?***

Your personal statement should be typewritten on no more than two pages, double-spaced. It should be current. Some suggested topics are listed below:

- For new applicants, please list all honors received, involvement in student government, volunteering in community programs, honors courses or advance placement classes, extracurricular activities.
- Your reasons for pursuing higher education
- Your objectives and career goals
- Your reasons for choosing your specific major or area of study.
- Any pertinent information, including personal information that will assist the committee in knowing you better.
- *Optional for returning students:* list your special awards, things you've accomplished in your year(s) at college, special courses you're enrolled in, whether you're on track toward your declared degree, etc.

### ***What is involved in the Faith Essay that is the reflection of my faith journey***

- Feel free to reflect on how Ke Akua has been in your life during this new chapter of your life.

### ***Who should I ask to write letters of recommendation?***

One letter could be from a former teacher and the other two could be from friends or business associates who have known you for a long time. Letters should be current (less than a year old) and should include comments on your abilities to succeed, including leadership abilities and achievements. Do not ask relatives to write letters of recommendation.

### ***Will the scholarship award pay for the entire cost of my education?***

No. The available funds are only intended to provide partial financial assistance. If you need additional funds, investigate other financial aid sources such as federal grants, OHA scholarships, etc. Consult your school counselor for more information.

### ***If I am selected to receive a scholarship award, how much will I get?***

Scholarship awards vary depending upon the available funds and the number of qualified applicants. A rating matrix was designed to award a greater amount of funds to students who are involved in the work of Kawaiaha‘o church.

***Are the scholarship funds I receive taxable?***

Generally, if you are a full-time student working towards a degree, your costs for tuition, fees, books, school supplies, etc. are non-taxable. However, it is recommended that you consult a tax expert for advice if you have any questions.

***Are there specific categories of study for which funds are available?***

Yes. The following are specific categories of study:

- Theology (Pastorate, Christian Education, Chaplaincy, Lay Studies, etc.)
- Music and the Arts (Sacred Music, Organ/Piano, Voice, Dance, Religious Drama, Art Subjects)
- Education (Medicine, Social Work, Law, Business, Teaching, Engineering, Science, etc.)

***What if my study program is not specifically addressed in this document? Will the scholarship committee still consider my application?***

Please note that the information offered here are guidelines. The scholarship committee will make the final determination as to which funds will be available for your particular area of study. The committee will also review out-of-policy requests and will approve/deny requests for programs not specified in this document.

***Do I need to repay the scholarship money that is awarded to me?***

No. The awards given are grants. However, Kawaiiaha‘o Church asks each recipient to “give back” to the church by volunteering at least ten (10) hours per award session. You may help with fund raisers, youth programs, church programs, special services, etc. at Kawaiiaha‘o Church. If you are unable to work at Kawaiiaha‘o Church due to attending college out of state, you may volunteer at an out-of-state church or charitable institution. This arrangement should be verified by your school counselor or your pastor in a letter which should be sent to the Scholarship Committee. The scholarship committee will monitor your hours and will suggest areas in which you may volunteer your help.

***What if I don’t work off the hours?***

If you fail to work off the hours each semester, your future scholarship awards may be jeopardized including suspension of future scholarships.

***If I attend school out of the state of Hawaii, may I do charitable work and submit verification?***

Yes. Have your supervisor write a letter verifying the hours that you spent doing volunteer work. We would also like you to make some time available to help out at Kawaiiaha‘o while you are at home.

***If I am selected to receive funds, will the check be sent to me?***

Yes, the check will be mailed to you. When you are informed of your scholarship status, a form will be provided to you that should be filled out with your current mailing address.

***When will checks be mailed?***

Checks will be mailed, in August or earlier for the fall semester. There will be one check mailed for the entire school year. *Recipients must submit a transcript after each semester so that eligibility can be assessed for future awards. Failure to submit a current transcript could result in awards being cancelled.*

***What can scholarship money be used for?***

Scholarship funds are for educational and living expenses which include tuition, fees, books, supplies, room board and other miscellaneous expenses related to obtaining your degree or certificate.

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### ***What happens after my application and other documents are received?***

The scholarship committee will meet, review the applications and other documents submitted, and determine which applicants are eligible to receive scholarship funds. If you are eligible, you will be invited to a personal interview with some of the committee members. This interview is very important, and you are strongly urged to attend. After the interview, final selection of eligible applicants will be made by the committee, and all applicants will be informed of the outcome.

### ***When will the award be made?***

An awards ceremony will be held at a worship service in July at which time the award will be made. You are encouraged to invite your family to attend the presentation.

### ***If I receive a scholarship for one year, will I automatically receive an award for the following year?***

No. Applications must be submitted each year and not guaranteed. If your progress is satisfactory and your grades are at the required levels, you will most likely receive preference over new applicants. Your Faith Essay (and/or optional Personal Statement) should accompany your next application and should reflect your progress toward meeting your objectives and reason for continued need for financial assistance is based on each applicant.

### ***Should I send a thank you note to the donor of my scholarship award?***

Yes. The scholarship committee will provide the name and address of the donor. Please send a copy of the letter to the Scholarship Committee, c/o Kawaiaha‘o Church at 957 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, HI. 96813. This is very important as donors are interested to see that their donations are helping worthy students.

### ***What should I do if I decide to change schools between semesters or at year’s end?***

Notify the scholarship committee of all changes in your plans. If you change schools, a new application must be completed and submitted to the scholarship committee.

### ***May I Audit courses?***

Yes, as long as you are graded on the minimum credits, and you maintain the required GPA.

### ***What if I have an incomplete grade?***

Again, as long as you are graded on the minimum credits and you maintain the required GPA, you may continue in the program.

### ***What happens if I fail to meet the minimum GPA?***

Your ensuing awards may be jeopardized, and you will have a one year waiting period before you may re-apply.

### ***What happens if I drop out?***

Notify the scholarship committee so any refunds due may be returned to Kawaiaha‘o Church. You will have a one-year waiting period before you may re-apply for another scholarship.

***What if I don’t meet the required GPA due to poor performance in a couple of subjects? May I “retake” courses to improve my GPA and will the Scholarship Committee reconsider my eligibility?*** Each situation is different and will be reviewed by the committee. You should notify the committee at your earliest opportunity.

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### OUR DONORS

The Kawaiaha‘o Church Scholarship Program is funded through the generous donations from members and friends of Kawaiaha‘o Church. Scholarship monies are available from eleven different funds which comprise the general Kawaiaha‘o Church Scholarship Fund.

*Please note that scholarships for Kawaiaha‘o Montessori School are administered by the School effective 2004.*

#### **RUBY ETHEL(HOSOI) KONO MEMORIAL FUND**

This fund was originally established in 1958 at the University of Hawai‘i. In 1971, Dr. Kiyoshi Kono assisted in transferring the interest income from the fund to Kawaiaha‘o Church for its use. The University of Hawai‘i eventually transferred the entire principal of \$30,000 to Kawaiaha‘o in 1976.

#### **DONOR RESTRICTIONS**

1. The principal is to remain intact. Trustees will invest the principal, and any annual interest or dividend income derived there from shall be available for distribution to eligible recipients. The amount available varies. If funds are not awarded for scholarships, the unused interest may be added back to the original fund to increase funds for future scholarship awards.
2. Eligibility: Funds will be awarded first to needy persons of Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian descent, preferable women over men. If no qualified Hawaiian or not enough of them apply, serious consideration should be given to Japanese women over men, subject to the same stipulation mentioned here.
3. Field of Study: Preferably religious studies over any other subject.
4. Place of Study: Unrestricted
5. Level of Study: University or post-graduate levels
6. Duration of Award: Awards are granted for one school year, which would cover fall, spring and summer sessions. Re-application for succeeding years will be accepted as long as funds are available.
7. Other: If funds are available from interest and dividend income after awards are made, needy Hawaiian or Japanese should be helped to study the pipe organ or piano music under the church organist, Charles Brennan, even if he is not connected with Kawaiaha‘o Church in the future.

#### **THE OWEN AND MARY K. BURMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Burmans of Corona, California generously donated \$14,400 for scholarships in August 1977.

#### **DONOR RESTRICTIONS**

1. The principal is to remain intact. Trustees will invest the principal and any annual interest or dividend income there from shall be made available for scholarships to eligible recipients. The amount available varies.
2. Eligibility: Funds are to be distributed to students who are active in the life and work of Kawaiaha‘o Church.
3. Field of Study: Preference will be given to students in the Christian Ministry or to students in other professional areas who can serve the Lord Jesus Christ through their profession in serving the needs of humanity.
4. Place of Study: Unrestricted
5. Level of Study: University and post-graduate levels.
6. Duration of Award: Awards are granted for one school year, which would cover fall, spring and summer sessions. Re-application for succeeding years will be accepted as long as funds are available.
7. Other: None

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### **KAWAIAHA‘O CHURCH TRUST – FRANK & ADELE SOMERFELD**

This account was a bequest from Frank and Adele Somerfeld, former members of Kawaiaha‘o Church. It is stipulated that this account be used for art and music at Kawaiaha‘o Church. A portion of the funds may also be used for scholarship, preferably for study in the areas of art, performing arts and music.

### **RALPH AND EDITH DEMARS SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

On August 28, 2000, a donation of \$14,000 was received from Mr. and Mrs. Ralph DeMars which was designated for scholarships. It was a gift of aloha and love to their beloved Kawaiaha‘o Church.

#### **DONOR RESTRICTIONS**

1. This fund was donated to Kawaiaha‘o Church to be invested as an Endowment. In other words, only the annual interest and/or dividends may be used to provide scholarships. Future donations may be added from time to time by the donors
2. Eligibility: Scholarship should be awarded to Kawaiaha‘o Church members’ children and grandchildren to further their education at schools of higher learning. Preference will be given to students who are active in the life and work of Kawaiaha‘o Church.
3. Field of Study: Unrestricted
4. Place of Study: Unrestricted
5. Level of Study: College, Community College, Postgraduate
6. Duration of Award: Awards are granted for one school year, which would cover fall, spring and summer sessions. Re-application for succeeding years will be accepted as long as funds are available.
7. Other: This fund shall be administered in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Scholarship Committee.

### **JOHN KAWAIANIANI McCANDLESS, SR. SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

This fund was established by Mrs. Paula Elderts McCandless in loving memory of her beloved late husband, John Kawaiianiani McCandless, Sr. on December 8, 1992.

#### **DONOR RESTRICTIONS**

1. This fund was originally established in the amount of \$50,000 which was donated to Kawaiaha‘o Church to be invested as an Endowment for scholarships. The church may only use the annual interest and /or dividends to provide scholarships. In 2004, the McCandless ‘ohana made an additional contribution of about \$64,000 to be distributed to the Scholarship fund over a three-year period.
2. Eligibility: Scholarships will be available to aid young people who are active in the life and work of Kawaiaha‘o Church.
3. Field of Study: Preference will be given to students pursuing degrees in the field of engineering or the sciences. If there are no students applying for engineering or the sciences, students in other professional areas may be considered who can serve our Lord Jesus Christ through their professions in serving the needs of humanity.
4. Place of Study: Unrestricted
5. Level of Study: College, community college, postgraduate
6. Duration of Award: Awards are granted for one school year, which would cover fall, spring and summer sessions. Re-application for succeeding years will be accepted as long as funds are available.
7. Other: This fund shall be administered in accordance with the guidelines established by the Kawaiaha‘o Church Scholarship Committee.



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### **‘OHANA ‘O KAWAIAHA‘O (Primarily comprised of Redress Funds)**

This fund was established by motion of the Board of Trustees in the year 2000 with an initial sum of \$28,000 in redress funds. Other donations designated for scholarships have been added to this fund including amounts from members and friends of Kawaiaha‘o Church who simply designate the “Scholarship Fund” as the fund of their choice. In 2002, the Board of Trustees voted to close custodial accounts and move those residual funds into this account for scholarships.

#### **DONOR RESTRICTIONS**

1. The principal may or may not be used at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. All interests and/or dividends should be used first. If additional funds are needed, the Scholarship Committee may consider using any of the principal.
2. Eligibility: Members, their children, grandchildren or direct descendants of members of Kawaiaha‘o Church will be given preference based on merit or need in the pursuit of college education, lay ministerial studies, vocational training or any other educational program approved by the scholarship committee
3. Field of Study: Preference will be given to applicants pursuing degrees in the ministry (post high school). Lay ministerial studies in any program approved by the Scholarship Committee will also be considered.
4. Place of Study: College applicants may attend schools in Hawai‘i or in other states in the USA Lay study programs are restricted to those offered in the State of Hawai‘i. Exceptions will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.
5. Level of Study: College, university, community college, post graduate, vocational, or lay studies.
6. Duration of Award: Awards are granted for one school year, which would cover fall, spring and summer sessions. Re-application for succeeding years will be accepted as long as funds are available.
7. Other: This fund shall be administered in accordance with the guidelines established by the Kawaiaha‘o Church Scholarship Committee.

### **KAWAIAHA‘O CHURCH TRUST – CHARLES CHU-HING SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of former Trustee, Clarence Chu Hing, the Kawaiaha‘o Church Trust was established. An excerpt from the trust is listed below:

#### **7.02 DISTRIBUTION of the CHURCH TRUST:**

“The trustees may, from time to time, distribute 90% of the income to the Board of Trustees and the Minister of Kawaiaha‘o Church who shall jointly decide on the use of such income for the support of full-time students of the ministry and for students who are in the ministry but are pursuing other professions but in keeping with the Christian perspective...”

### **DR. BENJAMIN YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

On December 20, 2021, a donation of \$93,000 was donated to Kawaiaha‘o Church from Dr. Benjamin Young for the establishment of a scholarship for financially needy medical students enrolled in the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

#### **DONOR RESTRICTIONS**

1. Eligibility: Priority will be given to those of Hawaiian ancestry.
2. Place of Study: Applicants should be enrolled in the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

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### ***FROM THE CHAIR...***

#### **Mahalo for your interest in a financial scholarship from Kawaiaha‘o Church.**

It is hoped that the information contained herein has been helpful to you in answering some of your questions. If you have additional questions, please be prepared to present them during your personal interview with the Scholarship Committee or call the business office at 808-469-3000 and a committee member will return your call.

We thank Ke Akua for all His blessings in providing these funds for scholarships and the generous and loving hearts of His servants who so willingly gave of their personal resources to help our children in their endeavors to serve Him through their commitment to education and to Kawaiaha‘o Church.

Ma ka inoa o Ke Akua ‘o Ko Kakou Makua

Kawaiaha`o Church Scholarship Committee  
Board of Trustees