



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over \$50,000 in Scholarships Now Available for Big Island Students

Hawai'i Rise Foundation Invites Students to Apply for 2026 Awards

HILO, HI — The Hawai'i Rise Foundation, together with community partners across Hawai'i Island, is proud to open its 2026 Scholarship Program — offering **more than \$50,000 in financial support** for Big Island students pursuing their dreams.

What began in 2017 as a single \$1,000 scholarship donated by Keaukaha General Store has now grown into one of the island's largest community-driven scholarship programs. Each year, local sponsors step forward to create scholarships that reflect their own values, journeys, and hopes for the next generation — and 2026 marks the program's most generous year yet.

Scholarships for Every Path

Individual awards vary in amount and focus, with opportunities for:

- Students entering college, trades, or certificate programs
- Students overcoming adversity or serving their community
- Those pursuing fields such as Nursing, Hawaiian Studies, Political Science, Education, Business & more
- Students with financial hardships, medical challenges, or special needs
- Young entrepreneurs seeking startup support

Each scholarship is uniquely designed by the sponsor to lift up students whose stories, goals, and passions align with their mission.

Applications Open: NOW

Deadline: April 30, 2026

Award Notifications: Late May

Scholarship Ceremony: Hosted by Hawai'i Rise Foundation (Date TBA)

All Big Island high school seniors, current college students, and nontraditional students are encouraged to apply.

Hawaii Rise Foundation would like to thank its partner sponsors for providing this opportunity to our Big Island Youth:

- Aloha Will Save the World Scholarship, sponsored by Bronson Kobayashi
- Connect Point Church Heritage Scholarship, sponsored by the Heritage Outreach Ministry of Connect Point Church
- Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow Scholarship, sponsored by Jarneski Rentals
- Hana Hou Hilo Scholarship/Business Development Grant, sponsored by Shadi & Hana Hou Hilo
- Hawai'i Ocean Impact Scholarship, sponsored by Fabienne Dumlao
- Hawai'i Development Group Scholarship, sponsored by Lailan Bento/Hawaii Development Group
- He Manu I Ka Lewa Lani Scholarship, sponsored by Manuheali'i
- Hill-Estabilio Scholarship, sponsored by Rinna & Michael Hill
- Hilo Yacht Club, sponsored by the Hilo Yacht Club
- Holomua Scholarship, sponsored by Keaukaha General Store (Kim Kimi)
- Ho'opuakea Scholarship, sponsored by Napua & Kealani Canda
- Ho'okani Scholarship, sponsored by Seven Suns
- Ho'ala Scholarship, sponsored by Seven Suns
- Hulali Scholarship, sponsored by Seven Suns
- Hulu Scholarship, sponsored by Seven Suns
- In Honor of Leslie Keahiloa West Scholarship, sponsored by Cathy West Dale
- Kāko'o Kaiāulu Scholarship, sponsored by Kiana Vallente & Cody Banks
- Kawika's Scholarship, sponsored by Kawika's children Kainalu & Kaimana.
- Kim & Kids Scholarship, sponsored by Breeani, Bronson & Brock Kobayashi
- Mālamalama Scholarship, sponsored by Chelsea Ruseler
- MPI Ke Ala Kukui Scholarship, sponsored by MPI Security
- Pumehana Scholarship, sponsored by Brock & Shoshanna Kobayashi
- Rachel's Gift, sponsored by the ohana of Rachel Leilani Gangwes
- Robert Makuakāne Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Jennifer Makuakane
- Spark the Classroom Grant, sponsored by Jolene Hughes
- The Marilyn Knutson Scholarship by Knutson & Associates, sponsored by Blake Kessner & Kyle Nishiyama.
- Uhiuhi Future Leaders Scholarship, sponsored by Kiley Kelson

Please visit <https://linktr.ee/hawaiiirisefoundation> or hawaiiirisefoundation.org
@hawaiiirisefoundation on Instagram to apply.

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About Hawai'i Rise

The Hawai'i Rise Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded by local business and community leaders seeking to leverage our expertise, resources, and experiences to support our community. Their mission is to create opportunities for vulnerable or moderate and low-income families, children, and the elderly by providing educational services, programs, and support.