

### About the Award

This award was established to provide incentive and recognize students who are achieving in the top tier of academic performance. To reward the hard work and dedication shown in their studies, this award is **not** based on need or tuition cost. This award is granted based solely on cumulative GPA and paid directly to the student.

### Eligibility Guidelines

1. Must be a Hualālai Community Employee\*, the spouse or child(ren) of the employee. Children over the age of 18, must be a dependent of the employee, a full-time student, and eligible up to the age of 24 years. Employees who are legal guardians of children they are applying for must provide documentation of legal guardianship.
  - Hualālai Community Employee\* includes Hualālai Investors LLC, Four Seasons Hualālai, and Hualālai Resort contractor employees.
  - Hualālai Resort contractor employees must provide (2) two employment references with their application.
2. The Hualālai Community employee must be employed with the resort for at least (6) months as of the application deadline.
3. The Hualālai Community employee must work a minimum average of 20 hours a week or more.
4. Families earning a combined annual gross income\*\* of \$230,000 or more are not eligible.
  - Annual gross income is defined as the total of all forms of gross income, prior to any deductions, including pre-tax adjustments, contributions to retirement accounts or cafeteria plans, and includes any self-employment, unemployment or rental property income. Withdrawals from retirement accounts are not included.
  - *All employees who earn under the \$230,000 threshold are eligible to apply.*

### Eligible Recipients

1. Student be a Higher Education student, incoming Freshmen through college graduation.
2. Student must be enrolled full-time in an accredited educational institution for the previous and academic school year (a minimum of 24 credit hours; a minimum 12 credit hours for graduate school students).
3. Student must meet a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher for the previous academic school year.

### Application Requirements

1. Submit an online application on 'Ohana Online.
2. Upload a personal statement outlining educational goals and accomplishments.
3. Upload official transcripts with the publish date printed within the application period.
  - a. *\*Official transcripts from previous Foundation applications cannot be used.*

### Award Levels

- High School Graduate in May/June 2025- starting college in the Fall of 2025:
  - Must submit High School transcripts with a cumulative GPA of 3.5
  - Must submit proof of college enrollment (as of August 2025) for an award of \$500.00
- Student completed 1st year of college in May/June 2025:

## 'AINA - Academic Merit Award

- Must submit official college transcripts with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher (as of June 2024) for an award of \$2,500.00
- Student completed 2nd year of college in May/June 2025:
  - Must submit official college transcripts with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher (as of June 2024) for an award of \$2,500.00
- Student completed 3rd year of college in May/June of 2025:
  - Must submit official college transcript with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher (as of June 2024) for an award of \$2,500.00
- Student graduated in May/June of 2025:
  - Must submit official college transcript with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher (as of June 2024) for an award of \$2,500.00

### **Award Procedure**

After application approval, the student will receive an award notification letter and an award agreement contract form that must be returned to the Foundation. Once returned, the payments are made directly to the recipient within 45 days.

### **Application Deadline**

Application Deadline: Tuesday, July 1 2025, at 5:00 p.m. HST

Even if your 'ohana has received educational awards in the past, please apply again as this program is independent of the other Foundation educational opportunities and programs.

### **Frequently Asked Questions about the Academic Merit Award Program:**

1. I just graduated high school; do I qualify?
  - a. Yes. High school graduates are awarded \$500 under the high school graduate category.
2. Can I qualify as an incoming freshman?
  - a. Yes. Incoming freshmen are awarded \$500 under the high school graduate category.
3. Can I qualify as a graduate student?
  - a. Yes, so long as you still meet the age eligibility cap of 24.
4. Can I upload the same transcripts from my other education award applications?
  - a. Yes, so long as the copy of official transcripts indicate the requested information for the award eligibility and the publish date is within the application period.