hmsa KAIMANA SCHOLARSHIP program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the HMSA Kaimana Scholarship Program?

The program recognizes and awards high school students for all-around excellence and their commitment to well-being through achievements in academics, school activities, and community service. This is the 22nd year of the program, which HMSA launched during the 2005-06 school year.

2. What can I use an HMSA Kaimana Scholarship for?

This is a general education scholarship that can be used for tuition, school fees, books, on-campus room and board, laptop or desktop computers, and other education-related expenses.

3. How many scholarships are awarded?

Fifteen scholarships will be awarded to seniors in each of the four counties. Scholarships will be awarded as follows: Honolulu County (9), Maui County (2), Kauai County (2), and Hawaii County (2).

4. How much is each scholarship worth?

Each scholarship is worth $5,000.

5. What is the criteria for applying for an HMSA Kaimana Scholarship?

You must:

- Graduate from a Hawaii high school in 2027 with a GPA of 3.0 or higher (verified by a transcript submitted by a school faculty member).
- Be involved in community service and school activities.
- Provide two letters of recommendation from school faculty, mentors, or coaches from your school that detail your dedication and determination, academic performance, and personal character.
- Write a personal statement and essay.

Students pursuing a career in health care and committed to serving our community are strongly encouraged to apply.

6. How are scholarship recipients selected?

Scholarship candidate selections are based on academic achievements and community involvement. Applications are screened and a committee of business and community leaders select the recipients.

7. When do I find out if I've been awarded the Kaimana Scholarship or not?

Everyone who applies will be notified by email in April 2027.

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8. When is the deadline to apply?

Completed applications, essays, and letters of recommendation must be submitted online at hmsa.com/kaimana by 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26, 2027. We cannot make exceptions to this deadline. Please reach out to your school counselors and those you're asking to write a letter of recommendation as early as possible to give them enough time to submit their portion of the application on time.

9. How do I submit my Kaimana Scholarship Application?

Visit hmsa.com/kaimana and click APPLY. You'll need to:

a) Create an account.

b) Complete the application.

c) Upload any supporting documents.

d) Request letters of recommendation and school transcripts (official or unofficial) through the online application service. **Please allow ample time for processing to meet the application deadline.**

When submitting your documents, keep the following in mind:

- Be sure that the documents and emails you submit are less than 10MB each. Our software will reject anything larger.
- Don't include sensitive information like your Social Security number. If this kind of information appears on any documents, please black it out.
- If you have questions, email kaimana@hmsa.com or contact Tai Matsuoka at (808) 952-7989.

10. Where can I get an application?

You can find it on HMSA's website (hmsa.com/kaimana).

11. Will I receive a check if I win?

Yes. Scholarship funds must be used by June 30, 2028.

12. Are there any other conditions regarding the scholarship?

Yes. If you plan to continue your athletic career in college, the scholarship may be subject to National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules and regulations. Check with your college athletic department's compliance office to verify your eligibility to use the Kaimana Scholarship.

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