



Ke'ehi Memorial Organization Scholarship Program 2025 - 2026 School Year

Application Deadline is May 7, 2025 – Email by Deadline, No Exception

Honoring the Sacrifices of Veterans

GENERAL INFORMATION AND PURPOSE

Thank you for your interest in the Ke'ehi Memorial Organization (KMO) Scholarship Program. KMO is pleased to continue this annual Program established by the founders of KMO who were also founding members of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in Hawai'i. The Program supports the founders' vision for the youth of Hawai'i to aspire to and reach their educational goals and become contributing members of our community, and we believe it is important to keep the vision alive.

Each year, the KMO Board of Directors approves the funding level to financially assist selected eligible applicants pursue educational opportunities that lead to a college degree; professional license or certificate; or skills designation or certification from any accredited college/university, vocational trade school, or other post-high school skills training educational institution or program. The awards have a dollar value, and selected recipients will have the opportunity to access the award funds through their school of enrollment as the funds will be credited to the recipient's school account for payment of educational expenses payable to the school.

In honoring our founders' vision, preference will be given to applicants who are current DAV members or DAV family members of living or deceased DAV members of a Hawai'i Chapter. First-time applicants will be given first consideration for the KMO 2025-2026 Scholarship awards. Past award recipients may apply, but those who have had 4 or more KMO Scholarship awards will not be eligible for consideration.

The number and amount of each award are determined based on a budget approved by the KMO Board of Directors and considers KMO's financial ability to fund this annual program. It may not be possible for every applicant to be selected, so we highly recommend that applicants distinguish themselves in the application process by ensuring that:

- all application requirements are met, and a complete Application Packet is submitted by the deadline.
- the Application Packet contents are properly edited and organized in the Application Content order.
- responses to the essay questions are thoughtful, organized, and clearly expressed.
- the Application Packet submission favorably reflects an applicant's attention to detail and a personal pride in the level of effort and quality of his/her work.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they meet the eligibility requirements, and that the submission provided is their own work.

BUDGET AND NUMBER OF AWARDS FOR 2025-2026

The KMO Board of Directors has approved the following three named awards as indicated below. In addition to the named awards, multiple KMO Scholar Awards of varying amounts will be awarded based on the number and quality of Application Packets submitted.

1	Tommy Kakesako Scholar Award	\$5,000
1	Senator Daniel K. Inouye Scholar Award	\$2,500
1	Senator Daniel K. Akaka Scholar Award	\$2,500
TBA	KMO Scholar Awards	TBA

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS HONOR THE SACRIFICES OF VETERANS

Our veterans, along with their families, have made many sacrifices in service to our Nation. Many of our veterans have paid the ultimate sacrifice, and it is only fitting that the KMO Scholarship Program awards honor the sacrifices of all veterans, past and present. A complete and thoughtful application that leads to an applicant's selection for an award will honor the sacrifices of veterans.

TOMMY KAKESAKO SCHOLAR - \$5,000 Scholarship Award

This award honors the memory and legacy of Tommy Kakesako who was a member of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Company L. He provided the leadership and drive to establish the DAV in Hawai'i, KMO and the Ke'ehi Lagoon Memorial as a living memorial to honor all veterans, especially the fallen. It is through his tireless and selfless efforts that the KMO Scholarship Program was created and continues today for the benefit of future generations.

SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE SCHOLAR- \$2,500 Scholarship Award

This award honors the memory and legacy of Senator Daniel K. Inouye, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient as a member of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He distinguished himself in combat and served Hawai'i and our nation with distinction in Congress as Hawai'i's Senior Senator and statesman. He was a relentless advocate and champion for honoring the sacrifices of all veterans and ensuring that our veterans received their rightful benefits for service to their Country.

SENATOR DANIEL K. AKAKA SCHOLAR - \$2,500 Scholarship Award

This award honors the memory and legacy of Senator Daniel K. Akaka, a World War II veteran, a distinguished educator, and member of Congress. He was a tireless advocate for education and for veterans, and as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Senator Akaka was a champion for the expansion of VA services to include the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill that improved education benefits for the new generation of service members and veterans.

KE'EHl MEMORIAL ORGANIZATION SCHOLARS – Multiple Awards

This award recognizes the efforts of all veterans, past and present, and pays tribute to their selfless service to safeguard our democratic principles and ensure our individual and collective freedoms.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, an applicant must have completed and received a high school diploma or GED equivalent by the end of the 2024 -2025 school year. In addition, an applicant:

- Must be a resident of the State of Hawai'i. Proof of residency is required (i.e., a copy of a valid State of Hawai'i issued ID or driver's license). Children, grandchildren or other direct descendent of a current member or Life Member (living or deceased) of any Hawai'i Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) are exempt from the residency eligibility requirement. Proof of relationship to a DAV Hawai'i Chapter member, however, must be verifiable.
- Must be enrolled or accepted as a full-time student to a post-high school continuing education program for the 2025-2026 SY (August 1, 2025–July 31, 2026) that leads to a college/university degree, professional certificate, or license from an accredited institution of higher learning.
- Must fully complete the KMO 2025–2026 School Year scholarship application form and submit all application requirements on or before April 30, 2025.

APPLICATION COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for one of the KMO scholarship awards, applicants must submit a complete APPLICATION PACKET for the 2025-2026 School Year that consists of the items listed below. Failure to submit a complete APPLICATION PACKET will disqualify the applicant from consideration.

Below are the APPLICATION PACKET contents required to be submitted.

- 1. COMPLETED AND SIGNED APPLICATION FORM** - Fillable form must be used and computer printed, and applicant should print, sign, and scan the form in pdf for submission with Packet.
- 2. PROOF OF RESIDENCY** - If applicable, and care should be taken to redact DOB and SSN
- 3. RESUME** – MS Word, Times New Roman font size 12, and provide as a minimum:
 - a. Contact Information** (applicant's legal name, address, phone number and e-mail address)
 - b. Educational/Career Goals or Objectives** (summarize)
 - c. Educational Experiences** – include listing of schools/programs and dates attended, and honors received.
 - d. Work, Volunteer and/or Extra-curricular Experiences**
 - e. List Two (2) Personal References** – include name, address, phone number and email address of individuals who have known you for at least 4 years. References may not be other family members.
- 4. PROOF OF ENROLLMENT** – University/College applicants are required to submit current or prospective enrollment documentation issued by the institution they will be attending for the 2025-2026 SY. Documentation may include letter of acceptance/enrollment or copy of applicant's current and valid student ID. All other applicants (i.e., certificate/technical schools) must submit proof as soon as they are accepted for the 2025-2026 SY.
- 5. MOST CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT**
- 6. LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION** – Letter of Recommendation to be provided by the applicant's current or former school counselor or teacher.
- 7. ESSAY** – Applicant is required to provide essays on Topics A and B below, and they are to be computer printed, 1.5 spacing and use of Times New Roman font size 12 is preferred. The essay topics are:
 - A. "What is your generation's greatest challenge and how will you and your chosen career contribute to making things better?"** --- Write an essay that addresses this topic. (500 to 1,000 words)

B. “How do you think veterans, as a group, have contributed to this nation and how can we best support them in the future?” --- Write an essay that addresses this topic. (250 to 500 words)

8. **BIOGRAPHY** – Applicant is required to provide a biography (100-150 words) that at a minimum includes applicant’s name, hometown, school attending, certificate/degree/major pursuing, and career goal; embed a color headshot photo that is computer printed to the biography; use 1.5 spacing and use of Times New Roman font size 12 is preferred. Note: If an applicant is selected and accepts an award from KMO, applicant acknowledges, understands, and gives his/her permission for KMO to post biography and headshot photo, in part or whole, to the KMO website.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION – ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION ONLY

The APPLICATION PACKET is due **NO LATER THAN May 7, 2025**, and it will only be accepted electronically by email. Applications emailed after the due date will not be accepted for consideration.

NOTE: All contents of the APPLICATION PACKET are to be scanned as a pdf file and emailed as an attachment to the KMO Scholarship Committee at the email address below. The APPLICATION PACKET is to be transmitted as one file. The required above documents are to be organized so that they appear in numerical order, 1-8, when the file is opened by the Committee. Every effort must be made to reduce the file size of the attachment for transmission. If necessary, applicants may send one or more emails to ensure that all required contents of the APPLICATION PACKET are delivered.

Email Application Packet To: scholarships@klmemorial.org

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

KMO Award recipients will be notified by email in early May 2025 as indicated below.

- KMO will send the scholarship award letter and check to the award recipient’s school for deposit into the recipient’s account. **(NOTE: Applicant must provide accurate school address, student ID number and his/her email address.)**
- Scholarship Award recipients will receive an Award Selection letter and an Award Certificate in the mail. A copy of the award letter to the recipient’s school will also be included. **It is the award recipient’s responsibility to follow-up with the school for the availability of funds in his/her school account for his/her educational related expenses payable to the school.**

Thank you for your interest in the KMO Scholarship Program, and we look forward to receiving your APPLICATION PACKET by email on or before **May 7, 2025**.

Mahalo and Best Wishes,

Board of Directors, KE’EHI MEMORIAL ORGANIZATION