



MAMORU AND AIKO TAKITANI FOUNDATION, INC.

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FAQs

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ABOUT THE TAKITANI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

What is the scholarship called? When and how did it start?

The Takitani Foundation Legacy Scholarship Program was started in 1993 by Mamoru and Aiko Takitani, founders of Hawaiian Host chocolates as a way to give back to the people of Hawai'i. Since that time, the Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Foundation (Takitani Foundation) has awarded scholarships each year to an outstanding student at every qualifying high school in the state.

What is the purpose of the Legacy Scholarship Program?

The Takitani Foundation Legacy Scholarship Program recognizes outstanding students who exemplify the qualities of hard work, high academic achievement, commitment to excellence, and dedication to our community. Students that demonstrate financial need are a priority for the Takitani Foundation.

PARTICIPATING HIGH SCHOOLS

What high schools are qualified to participate?

All high schools accredited by both WASC and HAIS are invited to nominate one high school senior for a Takitani Scholarship award in 2021.

Schools with a census of 100 or less are grouped together, and one scholar is selected from this group for a Takitani scholarship award. There are typically 2-3 schools in this group each year.

At this time, only high schools with a physical campus qualify to participate in the program.

Who do I talk to if my school is not participating in the Takitani Scholarship program?

Ask your school counselor to download the Information for Counselors document from the Takitani Foundation website (www.takitanifoundation.org), and email the Takitani Scholarship committee at info@takitanifoundation.org for information about how your school may participate in the program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

How do students apply?

Students must register online at www.takitanifoundation.org to create an online account to submit an application. Please register early to avoid delays in meeting the deadline.

Once students complete the online application process, they must print and submit their application to their high school counselor.

When is the deadline to apply?

The deadlines for the scholarship program are posted late November for the upcoming year on the Takitani website, www.takitanifoundation.org. The deadline for students to apply to their high school is in the beginning of February.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible for a Takitani Scholarship:

1. Be a high school senior at an accredited public, private, or parochial high school in Hawaii.
2. Possess a strong record of scholastic achievement and potential.
3. Be an active participant in co-curricular, extra-curricular activities.
4. Actively participate in community service activities over an extended period of time.

5. Endeavor to be a candidate for undergraduate acceptance into an accredited or licensed business school, technical school, community college, or four-year college (there are no restrictions on the location of the school or field of study).
6. Applications may not be a relative of a Board Director of the Takitani Foundation.
7. Demonstrate the need for financial assistance.

If I am selected by my school, do I automatically receive a scholarship?

If you are from a school with a census of over 100, you will automatically get a scholarship of \$3,000 if you are selected by your school. If you are from a school with a census of less than 100, you will be reviewed by the Takitani Scholarship Committee in a pool of other students from schools with a census of less than 100 students. They will select one student to receive a \$3,000 scholarship. Typically 2-3 schools are in this category.

In order to receive your scholarship award, you must prove:

1. Evidence of satisfactory graduation from high school.
2. Acceptance at an accredited college, university, or vocational school.

Are recommendation letters required? How are they submitted?

You will be required to secure and submit two recommendations directly to your counselors in a sealed envelope.

- One letter must come from a **teacher or counselor** at your school.
- One letter must come from a **member of the community** not associated with your school. Each recommender must complete a form

Please do this as soon as possible so that your recommendations are completed before the deadline in February.

SELECTION AND AWARDS

How are students selected for a Takitani Scholarship?

A school committee reviews the applications, and nominates an outstanding graduating senior from their pool of applicants.

How much is awarded?

All seniors nominated by their school receive a \$3,000 scholarship.

From the group of nominees, the Takitani Scholarship Committee selects finalists from each school district, the Hawaii Catholic Schools, and the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools. These finalists receive additional scholarship awards of between \$2,000 and \$3,000

(Total \$5,000-\$6,000). Three outstanding scholars are selected from among the finalists for the following top scholarship awards:

\$10,000 (Total award)	The Mamoru Takitani Outstanding Student Award
\$10,000 (Total award)	The Aiko Takitani Outstanding Student Award
\$8,000 (Total award)	The Karen Uno Distinguished Student Award

How are the special top awards determined?

Takitani Scholarship Committee selects the finalists and top awards based on 1) academic excellence, 2) dedicated community service and 3) demonstrated financial need.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

What can the scholarship be used for?

This scholarship is paid directly to your college/university, and they may use the funds to cover educational expenses, including the following:

- Tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, additional meal plans beyond the minimum requirement, program or service fees, orientation fees, equipment or lab fees, and any health service fees or medical insurance coverage required by the student's college/university.
- Enrichment, summer school or study abroad program affiliated and approved by the student's college/university.
- Reimbursement for travel expenses incurred while traveling to attend school as permitted by the student's financial aid office upon submission of acceptable receipts.

Can I receive the scholarship funds directly to pay for a computer, travel, and other educational expenses?

No. All funds must be paid directly to your college/university. However, some financial aid offices are willing to use scholarship funds for travel to and from school, and have a process for reimbursement after submission of receipts. Please check with your financial aid office to determine what expenses qualify for reimbursement.

What happens if I do not have a student ID number at the time I must submit my school designation form to the Takitani Foundation?

We intentionally set the deadline to submit your school designation form to a date when all students have been assigned an ID number. We sometimes have students that claim they have not been assigned a number yet, when other students at the same school provide us their ID number on a timely basis. Failure to provide a student ID number may delay the processing of your scholarship.

When are scholarship checks mailed to colleges/universities?

Scholarship checks are processed at the end of June – beginning of July. Timing depends on the accuracy and completeness of the information submitted by students. The primary reason for delays in processing the scholarship checks is that many students enter the wrong address of their college/university. In addition, each year several students claim they do not have a student ID number when other students from the same college/university provide this number. A single failure to provide accurate and complete information may delay processing scholarship checks for the entire group of Takitani Scholars.

RENEWAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Is my scholarship automatically renewed each year?

No, you must apply to receive a renewal scholarship.

Are renewal scholarships competitive?

Yes, the Takitani Scholarship Committee reviews each application, and makes awards on a competitive basis. They carefully review academic achievement, community services, recommendations, and essays.

How much are renewal scholarships?

Renewal scholarships are from \$500 to \$2,000 a year.

How many years may I apply to renew my scholarship?

Students are eligible to apply for a renewal scholarship for up to three years of undergraduate education.

DEFERRED SCHOLARSHIPS

What if I do not need my scholarship in my freshman year?

You may defer the use of your scholarship award for one year, up to and including the summer after your sophomore year.

If I defer my scholarship in my freshman year, what is the process for requesting to use the funds in my sophomore year?

Students that wish to use their Takitani Scholarship for their sophomore year must email a request to use their deferred scholarship, along with the following information to info@takitanifoundation.org.

Name
First year of Takitani Scholarship Award
High School
Student ID
Name of College/University
Financial Aid Office mailing address
Amount to release

How long does it take to process a request to use my deferred scholarship funds?

Scholarship checks may take up to two weeks to process before they are mailed to colleges/universities.

What if I do not use all of my scholarship award in by the end of my sophomore year?

Students that do not use the entire amount their initial Takitani Scholarship by the end of their sophomore year will forfeit the balance. However, they are still eligible to apply for a Takitani Renewal Scholarship for their junior and senior years.