

Scholarship Program Purpose

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To recognize students who have demonstrated a well-rounded excellence in academics, leadership, and community service.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be a resident of the island of Maui.
- Applicants must be scheduled to graduate in 2026 from a high school on Maui with a cumulative high school GPA (through the 1st semester of 2025) of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale.
- Applicants must complete the application as instructed and submit all required documents by the stated deadline. Failure to follow instructions will result in the application not being forwarded to the Scholarship Judges.

Selection Criteria

The decision of the Independent Scholarship Judges will be based on the following:

- Grade Point Average (30%)
- Activities, Awards, Honors, and Employment (30%)
- Short Essay (30%)
- Minimum of Two Letters of Recommendation (10%)

The Scholarship Judges are respected members of the local community who are committed to supporting the educational goals of Maui's youth. They serve impartially and have no personal or familial connections to any of the applicants. Their role is to ensure a fair and transparent selection process, focused solely on the merit and potential of each candidate.

All decisions made by the Scholarship Judges are final.



Navigating the Application

This application will require several documents, an essay response, background information, and letters of recommendation. Please plan accordingly to prepare your information and submit your application early. No exceptions will be made for incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline. After submission, you may contact binhiatanischolarship@gmail.com to confirm both receipt and that your application is complete.

See below for the list of required documents.

Application Deadline: Stamped by or on Friday, March 13, 2026

Applications are stamped upon submission via the USPS mail. Applications received after the deadline will be automatically disqualified.

ABSOLUTELY NO EXTENSIONS OR EXCEPTIONS WILL BE GRANTED.

The March 13, 2026, deadline is firm. Applications received after the stated date stamp will be automatically disqualified.

Selection Timeline:

- Deadline: Friday, March 13, 2026
- Selection Committee Convenes: March - April 2026
- Award Announcement: May 2026
- Seed & Harvest Dinner: July 9, 2026 @ the Binhi At Ani Community Center 780 Onehee Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732

Digital Application Portal: bit.ly/baa2026application



Application Checklist

The following items are required as part of the application. Unless otherwise noted, all files should be uploaded as PDFs. A copy of the applicant instruction sheet is available for download at bit.ly/baa2026scholarship.

- Background Information
- A Recent Headshot, JPEG (preferably your Senior Portrait Photo)
- Cover Letter addressed to the Scholarship Committee
- Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- Letters of Recommendation
 - A Minimum of (2) Two and No More Than (3) Three.
 - Please combine all letters of recommendation into a single PDF file to be uploaded to the application portal.
 - See “Instructions for Letters of Recommendation” at bit.ly/baa2026scholarshipLOR
- Essay Response
 - See “Instructions for Essay Response”
- Official Academic Transcripts
 - See “Instructions for Official Academic Transcripts”
 - Submitted directly from your school’s registrar’s office
- College Plans
 - University/College Acceptance Letter or Proof of Enrollment
- Signature of both (1) Applicant and (2) Parent/Guardian on the Certification Page of the digital application



Instructions for Official Academic Transcripts

As part of the scholarship application process, **official transcripts** must be sent directly from your school's registrar's office to the scholarship committee: 780 Onehee Avenue, Kahului, HI. 96732. Transcripts received by postal mail must be post-dated by March 13, 2026. Transcripts received by postal mail will not be considered. Transcripts submitted by the applicant or any third party will not be considered.

To ensure proper submission, please follow these instructions:

1. **Request an official transcript** from your school's registrar's office.
2. Instruct the registrar to send the transcript to: 780 Onehee Avenue, Kahului, HI. 96732. Transcripts received by postal mail must be post dated by March 13, 2026. Transcripts submitted by the applicant or any third party will not be considered.
3. Ensure that the transcript includes your full name, academic institution, and any other identifying information to facilitate processing.

All official transcripts must be received by the scholarship committee prior to the application deadline. Not after the deadline of March 13, 2026.



Instructions for Letters of Recommendation

As part of your scholarship application, you are required to submit two to three letters of support. These letters should be from individuals who are not related to you but can speak to your character, work ethic, accomplishments, and potential. The letters will provide the scholarship committee with a better and more comprehensive understanding of your qualifications and personal qualities.

Please download the LOR Instruction Sheet at bit.ly/baa2026scholarshipLOR and provide it to your recommenders.

Examples of Who to Ask:

- *Teachers:* A teacher who can speak to your academic performance, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to learning.
- *Employers or Supervisors:* A current or former employer who can attest to your work ethic, leadership skills, and contributions in a professional environment.
- *Community Leaders or Mentors:* A coach, volunteer coordinator, or mentor who can provide insight into your character, community involvement, and personal growth.
- *Other Professionals:* Any other individuals who can speak to your skills, abilities, and achievements in a non-family capacity.

Submission Instructions:

All letters of support must be combined into a single PDF document. This document should be uploaded into the application portal by the submission deadline. Please ensure that each letter is signed, dated, and in the correct order within the file.

We recommend giving your recommenders ample time to prepare thoughtful, detailed letters.



Instructions for Essay Response

Essay response must be in PDF Format and uploaded into the application portal as a single document. Write your name in the upper right hand corner of the header; single-spaced, left-aligned, in 12 point Bookman Old Style Font and respond to the prompt below. Your essay *must* be between 1,000-1,500 words. Please indicate the word count at the end of your essay.

Applications that do not fully adhere to the stated instructions for the essay response will be automatically disqualified from scholarship consideration and removal of your application from the review process.

Prompt: *What does promoting the Bayanihan Spirit Means to Me?"*

Please save your essay document as:

First Name, Last Name; BAA2026 Essay Response

Important Notice Regarding The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

All essays submitted as part of this scholarship application must be the original work of the applicant. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools—including but not limited to essay generators or language models—to assist in writing or generating content for your essay is strictly prohibited.

To maintain the integrity of the application process, the scholarship committee may utilize plagiarism detection software to identify AI-generated content. **If the scholarship committee determines that an essay has been generated or significantly assisted by AI, the application will be automatically disqualified.**



About Binhi at Ani

Binhi at Ani started in 2005 and serves the recreational needs of Maui residents. It also provides a place where Maui's youth and senior citizens can come together for enrichment through BAA's well-being and learning program opportunities.

Our Mission: To organize and participate in programs or activities promoting mutual respect and understanding among people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds; to undertake or participate in programs or activities for promoting good citizenship and cultural awareness, and otherwise to engage in activities to promote the general welfare.

Our Vision: To organize exclusively for charitable and educational purpose, within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law), and in this connection to give scholarship awards to deserving students who need financial assistance to further their education.

Our Values: Binhi At Ani Filipino Community Center is committed to creating and maintaining a community that respects and values diverse life experiences.

Contact Information

Email: binhiatanischolarship@gmail.com

Edward B. Garcia, Scholarship Committee Chair
Breeane Zamora, Scholarship Committee Member
Nora Cabanilla-Takushi, Scholarship Committee Member



Binhi At Ani

FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER