



2024 Hawai'i Island Student Scuba Scholarship Program

Ocean Defenders Alliance (ODA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to a clean and debris-free ocean, announces the **2024 Hawai'i Island Scuba Scholarship Program**.

Over a dozen scholarships for Open Water and Dive Against Debris certifications are being awarded to students between the ages of 15 and 18 years, currently attending high school, and permanently residing on the Island of Hawai'i.

The applications will be reviewed, and scholarship recipients selected, by a committee consisting of staff from ODA.

- Each scholarship recipient will receive an **Open Water Certification** course provided through Kohala Divers LTD using their facilities and dive boat.
- Each student will earn a **Dive Against Debris Certification** during a scheduled ODA cleanup following the completion of the student's Open Water Certification.
- **Four students will be chosen** from all scholarship recipients to receive a 2-tank dive day (2 sites) and use of an ODA GoPro to document and film their dives. They will be selected based on demonstrated commitment to the program, enthusiasm, and willingness to follow all instruction during the Open Water Certification process.
- **The four selected students will submit an edited video and a 5-paragraph essay** describing why they filmed what they did and why it is important to them. As an alternative to the essay, the applicant may choose to be interviewed, either in-person or by Zoom.
- **A \$200 gift card for Kohala Divers LTD will be awarded** to one the four selected students based on their essay and video.

Guidelines & Priorities

- Applicants must be **currently enrolled high school students between 15 and 18 years old**. They should have a passion for conservation, a desire for continuing education in a related field, and eagerness to educate others.
- Applicants must have a **total family annual income under \$90,000**.
- Scholarship funds will be paid **upon completion of the course with all requirements met**. This includes earning both Open Water Certification and Dive Against Debris Certification.
- **The scholarship award will be paid directly to Kohala Divers LTD** who will be providing the certification.

Please submit as soon as possible so that we can arrange the interviews and look into scheduling a class.

Mail the completed typed application package to:

Include application, sign off by parent, essay, W2s

**Ocean Defenders Alliance
c/ o Kay Cooper
61-3665 Akoni Pule Hwy
Kamuela, HI 96743**

Alternatively, you can email your signed application documents to: kay@oceandefenders.org

Questions can be directed to: kay@oceandefenders.org
Additional copies of this form can be found on the ODA website.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2024

Please **type** your answers.

1	First Name	Last Name
2	Mailing Address: Street City State Zip	
3	Daytime Telephone Number Email Address	
4	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) / / Gender	
5	Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) (On a 4.0 scale)	
6	Has anyone in your family gone to college? YES NO Do you plan on attending college? YES NO	
7	Name and location of High School attending.	
8	A. List any academic honors, awards and membership activities while in high school. B. List your hobbies, outside interests, extracurricular activities and school related volunteer activities.	

STATEMENT OF ACCURACY FOR STUDENTS

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also consent that if chosen as a scholarship winner my picture may be taken and used to promote the Ocean Defenders Alliance Scuba Diving Scholarship program. I understand that my photo is needed to be taken and sent to PADI in order for me to receive my certifications. All photographic images taken on ODA-sponsored dives, vessels, and/or onshore activities, whether still or video, are the property of ODA. Images are to be taken at the highest quality that the camera/equipment can provide. Still images should be in the RAW format (untouched and unedited). You are free to use images taken by you for your own personal use. If they are used in any publications, photo credit should clearly list "OceanDefenders.org" somewhere in the image.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, according to Ocean Defenders Alliance Scuba Diving Scholarship policy, I must be present for all scheduled courses and components of the course at the selected date of my choice, and all additional certifications that follow the Open Water certification.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, according to Ocean Defenders Alliance Scuba Diving Scholarship policy, it is my responsibility to remit to Ocean Defenders Alliance the appropriate information for my scholarship to be paid directly to the scuba diving shop that instructed me, Kohala Divers LTD., and to ensure all personal information provided is accurate in order to correctly process my certification.

I hereby understand I will not submit this application without all required attachments and supporting information. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet eligibility criteria will not be considered for this scholarship.

Signature of applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT BY PARENT/GUARDIAN

I hereby affirm that this application meets the criteria set forth by this scholarship program and that I support this application to Ocean Defenders Alliance.

Name of parent

High School

Contact information (email and phone)

Email

Phone

Signature of Parent: _____ **Date:** _____

ADDENDUM

***If the student is unable to attend their selected course date for unforeseen reasons, the student can choose one of the other course schedules.*

***If the student gets sick, cannot clear their ears, a family emergency occurs, etc. the student has 1 (one) year from selection notice to complete their scuba diving certifications of Open Water and Dive Against Debris (space available on standby basis, in already occurring course); however, they will not be able to be chosen as the recipient of the gift certificate after certification is complete.*

***If the student attempts the pool but decides they do not want to get certified after all, (course of action to be discussed by ODA committee).*

Mail one copy of a completed typed and signed application package to:

Include application with sign off by parent, essay, W2s

**Ocean Defenders Alliance
c/ o Kay Cooper
61-3665 Akoni Pule Hwy
Kamuela, HI 96743**

YOU MAY ALSO DROP OFF COMPLETED PACKET TO KOHALA DIVERS

Or, you may Email your completed packet to: kay@oceandefenders.org

CHECKLIST

Application

Essay

Copies of W2s from both parents if joint

MAIL, DROP-OFF, or EMAIL COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKAGE TO ODA AT:

Ocean Defenders Alliance
61-3665 Akoni Pule Hwy
Kamuela, HI 96743
kay@oceandefenders.org