



# Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program

## School Year 2017-2018

### Application & Program Guidance

December 2016

Application Submission Deadline: March 1, 2017, 12:00am HST

Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program  
Administered by Papa Ola Lokahi  
894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Web: [www.nhhsp.org](http://www.nhhsp.org)

**For Questions**, please telephone 1-808- 597-6550, or email [adminassist@nhhsp.org](mailto:adminassist@nhhsp.org), Monday through Friday (except federal and Hawai'i State holidays) 8:00am to 4:00pm HST.

Authority: The Application and Program Guidance describes the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program (Scholarship Program) authorized by the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act of 1992, as amended (42 U.S.C. 11709). The regulations applicable to the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program (42 CFR Part 62, Subpart A) are also applicable to this Scholarship Program, except to the extent those regulations are inconsistent with 42 U.S.C. 11709. Future changes in the governing statute, regulations and program guidelines may also be applicable to an applicant's participation in the Scholarship Program.

## Table of Contents

DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED.....	6
PRIVACY ACT NOTIFICATION STATEMENT .....	7
PROGRAM OVERVIEW.....	8
INTRODUCTION.....	8
What is the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program (NHHSP)? .....	8
What are the benefits of NHHSP?.....	8
How is the Scholarship Program administered? .....	8
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, SELECTION CRITERIA AND FUNDING PRIORITIES .....	9
Am I eligible?.....	9
What are the selection criteria? .....	12
What are the Funding Priorities?.....	12
How many awards does the NHHSP expect to give? .....	13
When will I be notified of the disposition of my application? .....	13
What is the process once my application is approved?.....	14
Can I decline an award? .....	14
UNDERSTANDING THE CONTRACT AND LENGTH OF THE SERVICE COMMITMENT .....	14
How many years of school does the contract cover? .....	14
Can I request additional scholarship support after I receive my award? .....	14
Can I terminate my NHHSP contract? .....	15
How long is my service commitment? .....	15
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS .....	15
What are the requirements while I am in school?.....	15
What happens if I have a change in enrollment status?.....	16
TUITION, REQUIRED FEES, OTHER REASONABLE COSTS, AND STIPEND.....	16
What costs does the NHHSP cover? .....	17
What if I have additional funding provided by an alternative source? .....	18
CHANGES IN SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENTS.....	19
What situations impact the NHHSP’s payment of tuition and/or stipend?.....	19
POSTGRADUATE TRAINING/ RESIDENCY PROGRAM .....	21
Will I be allowed to participate in a residency program? .....	21
What are the postgraduate training programs that are currently approved by the NHHSP?.....	21
Postgraduate Training/Residency Programs for Other NHHSP Eligible Health Professions.....	23
Failure to Complete Required Training.....	23
Can I receive financial support from the NHHSP or service credit during my postgraduate training? .....	23

What postgraduate training programs are not eligible? .....	23
LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS .....	23
What are the licensure/certification requirements? .....	23
SERVICE REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBLE SITES UNDER NHHSP.....	24
What are the service requirements after graduation?.....	24
What sites are eligible?.....	25
Where do I find a job that qualifies for the NHHSP? .....	26
What are the requirements for full-time practice? .....	26
When does my service obligation end? .....	26
What happens if I fail to complete my service obligation? .....	27
BREACHING THE CONTRACT .....	26
What is a breach of the NHHSP contract? .....	26
What happens if I breach the NHHSP contract? .....	27
What happens if a debt incurred by a breach of contract is not paid? .....	28
SUSPENSION & WAIVER.....	28
How do I inform the NHHSP about my upcoming maternity/paternity/adoption leave? .....	28
What should I do if I cannot continue my service or payment obligation? .....	28
When would my service obligation be cancelled? .....	29
ADDITIONAL MATERIALS.....	30
DEFINITIONS.....	30
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....	35

## **DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED**

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and its Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regulations, 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 80, provide that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination, under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. An individual is not subject to discrimination where benefits are limited by Federal law to individuals of a particular race, color or national origin (45 CFR 80.3(d)).

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, and its HHS implementing regulations, 45 CFR Part 86, provide that no person in the United States shall, based on his/her sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and its HHS implementing regulations, 45 CFR Parts 84 and 85, provide that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance or any program or activity conducted by HHS.

Title III of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 45 CFR Parts 90 and 91, provide the general rule that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under, any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

### **PLEASE KEEP THIS NOTICE**

Applicants selected to participate in the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program should retain a copy of the Application and Program Guidance as a reference guide to the Scholarship Program award.

## **PRIVACY ACT NOTIFICATION STATEMENT**

### **General**

This information is provided pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579), as amended, for individuals supplying information for inclusion in a system of records.

### **Authority**

42 U.S.C. 11709, as amended.

### **Purposes and Uses**

The purpose of the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program is to provide Federal financial support for Native Hawaiians who are students of health professions schools, in return for a commitment to provide primary health services to the Native Hawaiian population in the State of Hawai'i. The information applicants provide will be used to evaluate their eligibility, qualifications, and suitability for participating in the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program.

Applicant and participant documentation (e.g., the student's application, contract, and related data, documentation and correspondence) are maintained in a system of records used by HHS to monitor activities related to the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program. The information may also be disclosed outside HHS, as permitted by the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, to the Congress, the National Archives, the General Accounting Office, and pursuant to court order and various routine uses (see <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/privacyact/09150037.html>).

The name of a scholar, the professional school s/he is attending, and the date of graduation may be made available to health professions associations and other groups, which have responsibility for coordinating funds paid to students from Federal and other sources. In addition, name, specialty, business address, telephone number, and completion date of obligation may be provided to professional placement firms in response to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act.

### **Effects of Non-disclosure**

Disclosure of the information sought in this application is voluntary; however, if not submitted (including the Social Security Number), the application will be considered incomplete and chances for selection diminished. A participant's Social Security Number is required in order to process scholarship benefit payments.

### **Paperwork Reduction Act Public Burden Statement**

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a current Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The current OMB control number for information collected through this application process is 0915-0146. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 4.5 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Health Resources and Service Administration's Reports Clearance Office, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### INTRODUCTION

#### **What is the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program (NHHSP)?**

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW), through Papa Ola Lokahi (POL) Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program (NHHSP or Scholarship Program), is charged with increasing the supply of Native Hawaiian health care professionals trained in those disciplines and specialties most needed to deliver quality, culturally competent, primary care health services to Native Hawaiians and others in the State of Hawai'i.

The purpose of NHHSP is to provide scholarships for those Native Hawaiian students in exchange for a minimum 2-year full-time service commitment in eligible service obligation settings: i) first, in one of the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, ii) then, I) in a health professional shortage area (HPSA) in Hawai'i,<sup>1</sup> or medically underserved area (MUA) in Hawai'i,<sup>2</sup> or II) a geographic area or facility that is: (aa) located in the State of Hawai'i; and (bb) has a designation that is similar to the designation that is described in sub-clause (I) made by the Secretary, acting through the Public Health Service.

#### **What are the benefits of NHHSP?**

Scholarship: The Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program provides the following:

- a. Funds to support school tuition and fees;
- b. An annual payment for Other Reasonable Costs (ORC) to cover expenses for books, clinical supplies, and instruments; and
- c. Monthly stipends to cover living expenses.

**Note: All of these benefits are subject to Federal taxes.**

Service in Hawai'i: The service component of the Scholarship Program is an opportunity for the recipient to contribute to the health needs of Hawai'i's people in the most disadvantaged communities. In return for the above financial assistance, the scholarship recipient must agree to provide a minimum of two years of service -- one year of service for each full or partial school year of scholarship support received (minimum two-year, maximum four-year service obligation), as assigned by the Secretary<sup>3</sup> and in accordance with the eligible settings as referenced above.

#### **How is the Scholarship Program administered?**

The Scholarship Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Workforce, Division of Health Careers and Financial Support (DHCFS), through a cooperative agreement with Papa Ola Lokahi, Inc. The POL will recruit eligible applicants to the Scholarship Program based on the results of its needs assessment, and will be responsible for reviewing the applications, interviewing eligible applicants, and providing HRSA/BHW/DHCFS with a list of recommended applicants.

The NHHSP will provide awardees with an orientation to the Scholarship Program requirements, monitor and ensure that all scholars remain both in compliance with Scholarship Program obligations and in good academic standing as determined by the school in which the participant is enrolled, and provide supportive

---

<sup>1</sup> A HPSA is a geographic area, a facility, or a population group, which has been determined by the Secretary to have a shortage of health professionals. As set forth in 42 C.F.R. Part 5, HPSAs are identified on the basis of agency or individual requests for designation.

<sup>2</sup> An MUA is an urban or rural area that the Secretary has determined to have a shortage of personal health services pursuant to criteria published in the Federal Register on October 15, 1976.

<sup>3</sup> "Secretary" means the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or his/her designee.

counseling as needed throughout their education and service obligations. HRSA/BHW/DHCFS will collaborate with POL to select the final applicants to participate in the Scholarship Program; grant deferments of service to pursue postgraduate training; assign scholars to placement sites; grant waivers and suspensions of the service obligation where warranted; and determine when a scholar has breached the scholarship obligation.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, SELECTION CRITERIA AND FUNDING PRIORITIES**

### **Am I eligible?**

To be eligible for a scholarship, an NHHSP applicant must:

1. **Be of Native Hawaiian Ancestry.** According to 42 U.S.C. 11711(3), “the term ‘Native Hawaiian’ means any individual who is (A) a citizen of the United States, and (B) a descendant of the aboriginal people, who prior to 1778, occupied and exercised sovereignty in the area that now constitutes the State of Hawai`i, as evidenced by—(i) Genealogical records, (ii) Kūpuna (elders) or Kama`aina (long-term community residents) verification, or (iii) Birth records of the State of Hawai`i.”
  
2. **Be enrolled as a full-time student in a fully accredited health professions program located in a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Territory of Guam, the Territory of American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Federated States of Micronesia.** Applicants attending schools outside of these geographic areas are not eligible for the Scholarship Program, although they may be citizens of the United States and of Native Hawaiian ancestry. To be considered for a scholarship award for the 2017-2018 school year, classes must begin no later than September 30, 2017. Applicants planning to be on a leave of absence from school that will preclude full-time class attendance on or before September 30, 2017 should not submit an application this year but may apply later for the 2017-2018 academic year.

**\*Full-time.** A full-time student is defined as a student enrolled in a school for the number of credit hours or courses in any academic term that is considered by the school to be full-time. Please be advised that any courses that are not required or are unrelated to the qualifying degree program, as well as repeat courses the Scholarship Program has already paid for, will not count toward the hours required for full-time status.

**\*Fully Accredited School or Degree Program.** A department, division, or the administrative unit in a college or university which provides primarily or exclusively a program of education leading to a health related degree and is accredited by a national accrediting agency and/or state approval agency recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

3. **Be enrolled in one of the following NHHSP Eligible Health Professions** as identified in the annual needs assessment conducted by POL:
  - a. Clinical Psychology (Ph.D or PsyD):  
Doctoral degree in a program accredited by the American Psychological Association.
  
  - b. Dentistry (D.D.S or D.M.D.):  
Doctoral degree in a program accredited by the Commission of Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.
  
  - c. Dental Hygiene (B.S.D.H. or A.S.D.H.):  
Bachelor’s or associate’s degree in a program accredited by the Commission of Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

- d. Dietetics/Nutrition (M.S.D.D.):  
Master's degree in a program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. (Licensure is now available in Hawai'i).
- e. Marriage Family Therapy (M.F.T.):  
Master's degree in a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.
- f. Nursing, Nurse-Midwifery\* and Nurse Practitioners\*\* (DNP, A.D.N., B.S.N., M.S.N., N.M. or N.P.) Doctoral, Master's, Bachelor's or Associate's degree in a program accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and/or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.
- \*Nurse-Midwifery (N.M.): Master's degree, or a post baccalaureate or post master's certificate in a program fully accredited by the American College of Nurse Midwives Division of Accreditation, and/or the American Midwifery Certification Board.
- \*\*Primary Care Nurse Practitioners (N.P.)  
Master's degree or a post baccalaureate certificate in a program accredited by the Council on Accreditation for the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, and/ or the certifying body recognized by the Hawai'i Board of Nursing, in the nurse practitioners primary care specialties of adult, geriatrics, family, pediatrics, community public health or women's health (OB/GYN).
- g. Optometry (O.D.):  
Doctoral degree in a program accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education.
- h. Pharmacy (PharmD.):  
Doctoral degree in a program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.
- i. Physician (M.D. or O.D.):  
Doctoral degree in an allopathic or osteopathic program accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (sponsored by the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges) and/or the American Osteopathic Association/Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation. Medical students must have a future specialty interest in one of the following: Family Practice, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Psychiatry, or Ophthalmology.
- j. Physician Assistant (M.S.P.A.):  
Doctoral, Master's degree in a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). Such ARC-PA programs must also lead to national certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Note that only those who have already completed at least two-years of undergraduate work or a bachelor's degree can apply to these programs.
- k. Public Health (M.P.H.):



Master's degree in a program accredited by the Council of Education for Public Health. Specific specialty for this degree includes Health Education, Nutrition, or Maternal and Child Health.

I. Social Work (M.S.W.):

Master's degree in a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Specific specialty for this degree includes Health, Mental Health, Child and Family and Aging.

4. **Complete the NHHSP online application and submit all required documents and forms no later than March 1, 2017 by 12:00am HST** or as otherwise indicated in the application instructions. If you are selected to receive an award, you will be required to sign a contract with NHHSP and HRSA.

**An applicant will be deemed ineligible if the applicant:**

- (a) Has a breach of a prior service obligation to the Federal government, a State or local government, or other entity even if the applicant subsequently satisfied that obligation through service, monetary payment or other means;
- (b) Has a judgment lien against his or her property arising from a debt owed to the United States;
- (c) Is excluded, debarred, suspended, or disqualified by a Federal Agency;  
Note: As a condition of participating in the Scholarship Program, a participant must agree to comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. Part 180, Subpart C which includes providing immediate written notice to NHHSP and BHW if the applicant learns that he/she failed to make a required disclosure or that a disclosure is required due to changed circumstances;
- (d) Enrolled in an eligible field of study but desires to specialize in areas other than primary health care. For example, Physician Assistant programs with an emphasis in surgical or emergency room focus is disallowed;
- (e) In the pre-professional phase of their health professions education. For example, taking undergraduate prerequisites for admission to medical school;
- (f) Enrolled or pursuing a degree not previously indicated on pages 9-11
- (g) Enrolled or pursuing a degree not recognized or licensed by the State of Hawai'i, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Division of Professional and Vocational Licensing;
- (h) Has an existing service obligation. Applicants who are already obligated to a Federal, State, or other entity for professional practice or service after academic training are not eligible for NHHSP scholarship awards unless the entity to which the obligation is owed provides a written statement satisfactory to the Secretary that i) there is no potential conflict in fulfilling the NHHSP obligation and the entity's obligation and ii) the NHHSP obligation will be served first. Scholars who subsequently enter other service obligations and are not immediately available after completion of their degree to fulfill their NHHSP scholarship service obligations will be subject to the breach-of-contract provisions described on page 22. (See next page for an exception for individuals of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces including the National Guard.);
- (i) Has defaulted on a prior service obligation to the Federal Government, a State or local government, or other entity, even if the applicant subsequently satisfied that obligation through service, monetary payment or other means; or
- (j) Has defaulted on any Federal payment obligations (e.g., Health Education Assistance Loans, Nursing Student Loans, FHA Loans, Federal income tax liabilities, federally guaranteed/insured loans such as student or home mortgage loans, etc.) or non-Federal payment obligations (e.g., court-ordered child support payments); or
- (k) Has had a Federal or non-Federal debt written off as uncollectible.

Eligible applicants in needed health professions will be competitively evaluated and scored. Please remember that all applicants who demonstrate a high potential for providing quality primary health services may not receive a Scholarship Program award due to limited funding.

Scholarship recipients, except military reservists, who subsequently enter other service commitments and are not available to commence service as required will be subject to the breach-of-contract provisions described in “Breach of Contract Information.”

#### **Military Reservists:**

Individuals in a Reserve component of the Armed Forces or National Guard are eligible to participate in the NHHSP. Reservists should understand the following:

- Placement opportunities may be limited by the NHHSP in order to minimize the negative impact that deployment would have on the vulnerable populations served by the reservist.
- Military training or service performed by reservists will not satisfy the NHHSP service commitment. If a participant's military training and/or service, in combination with the participant's other absences from the service site, will exceed 7 weeks (28 workdays) per service year, the participant should request a suspension. The NHHSP service obligation end date will be extended to compensate for the break in NHHSP service.
- If the approved NHHSP service site where the reservist is serving at the time of his/her deployment is unable to reemploy that reservist, the NHHSP will reassign the participant to another NHHSP-approved service site to complete his or her remaining NHHSP service commitment. Because it is sometimes difficult to identify short-term assignments, a participant may be asked by the service site to sign an employment contract which extends beyond the completion date of his or her NHHSP service commitment.

#### **What are the selection criteria?**

1. **Academic Performance, Transcripts & Cumulative GPA.** NHHSP is seeking well-prepared applicants who demonstrate the ability to excel and maintain good academic standing as determined by the school in which the participant is enrolled, throughout their education. The required applicant transcripts are reviewed to assess the applicant’s ability to manage the rigors of the impending college curriculum.
2. **Commitment to a Career Working with Native Hawaiian Communities.** Applicants must demonstrate a strong commitment to providing adequate and quality health care services; interest/motivation to provide care to Native Hawaiian populations; and relevant work experience and/or activities (e.g., community service, research, and internships) that have prepared the applicant to work in various Native Hawaiian island communities. This factor is reviewed through the following:
  - a. **Applicant’s Resume and Narrative Statements (Essay).** The applicant’s resume and responses to three questions/inquiries is intended to aid NHHSP in the review process and help gauge an applicant’s background and interest in health care and his or her commitment toward working in Native Hawaiian communities.
  - b. **Interview.** Provides an opportunity for the applicant to express their interest in and desire to serve the Native Hawaiian community, to relate their understanding of Native Hawaiian health disparities and the relevant historical and cultural issues that serve as barriers in accessing adequate and quality health care services.
  - c. **Recommendation Letters.** Provide a detailed description of the applicant’s performance in school; education/work achievements; community/civic or other non-academic achievements; ability to work and communicate constructively with others; and interest and motivation to serve Native Hawaiian populations through work experience, course work, special projects, research, etc.

#### **What are the Funding Priorities?**

Among the applicants who score in the competitive range, NHHSP and the Secretary shall give priority to:

- A) First, to current or former scholars who are seeking, and are eligible for, additional support for the 2017-2018 school year or through the date of their graduation;

- B) Second, to any application submitted by an individual who has characteristics that increase the probability that the individual will continue to serve within Native Hawaiian communities after the period of obligated service;

**Characteristics of Applicants Likely to Remain in Service within Native Hawaiian Communities**

Applications and interviews will be scored numerically based on the extent to which the applicants appear to have characteristics that increase the probability they will continue to serve underserved Native Hawaiians after the completion of their service obligations. These characteristics include:

- a) Strong primary care post-service career goals in underserved Native Hawaiian communities, especially those on neighbor islands; and
  - b) Significant pre-service health experiences in rural or urban community-based health care agencies serving Native Hawaiians in underserved areas.
- C) Third, subject to subparagraph (B), to any application submitted by an individual who is from a disadvantaged background.

Note: Applicants who wish to claim a “disadvantaged background” status must submit a copy of their **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** - which is provided on the **Official Student Aid Report (SAR)** generated through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The applicant must complete their FAFSA after January 1, 2017 and submit their SAR-EFC to NHHSP by March 1, 2017, 12:00am HST.

**How many awards does the NHHSP expect to give?**

The NHHSP remains committed to fund scholars for their tuition cost for each year they are in college, plus an annual allotment for other related educational cost and a monthly stipend for living expenses. Please remember that all applicants who demonstrate a high potential for providing quality primary health services may not receive a Scholarship Program award due to limited funding. NHHSP awards an average of 10 scholarships per year.

**When will I be notified of the disposition of my application?**

NHHSP can only make recommendations to HRSA of potential scholarship awards. Once an applicant has been pre-selected by NHHSP for a potential award, the NHHSP staff will notify the applicant of such by telephone and by letter of notification via e-mail on or about July 1, 2017. Within a week of this notification, the applicant’s signature will be required to acknowledge NHHSP’s pre-selection for a potential award by HRSA. Upon the applicant’s acknowledgement, the NHHSP recommended list of pre-selected and potential recipients and their application documents are sent to HRSA for final review and approval. By or before September 30, 2017, HRSA will make the final selection and awards. After HRSA has made the final selections, NHHSP will send the successful applicants information regarding the award and instructions on completing other required documents.

Individuals whose application and interview scores did not fall within the competitive range to be considered as a recipient or alternate will receive a Notification of Non-Selection letter no later than July 1, 2017.

Individuals pre-selected as alternates by NHHSP will receive a Notification of Alternate Status letter no later than July 1, 2017. By September 30, 2017 and if not sooner, pre-selected alternates will be notified as to the disposition of their status.

Should an applicant’s mailing address or contact information change at any time during the application process, it is imperative that the applicant notify the Scholarship Program, *in writing*, immediately upon any changes. Please send your change of address or contact information to:

**Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program  
Administered by Papa Ola Lokahi  
894 Queen Street,  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
E-mail: [adminassist@nhhsp.org](mailto:adminassist@nhhsp.org)**

**What is the process once my application is approved?**

Selectees will be required to furnish banking information to facilitate the electronic transfer of funds (Direct Deposit Form/Instructions), submit a completed Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate (W-4 form) and other forms as determined by NHHSP. The selectees will also be notified and required to attend NHHSP's Program Orientation in July 2017.

**Can I decline an award?**

Selectees whose class attendance during the 2017-2018 school year that will begin after September 30, 2017 must decline the award. Selectees will be given the opportunity to decline awards without penalty to permit the promotion of alternates to scholar status.

A signed letter declining the scholarship offer must be mailed or faxed to the Scholarship Program no later than seven business days after receipt of the award letter. Telephone declinations will not be accepted. Once a selectee declines the Scholarship Program award in writing, the award is offered to an alternate. There will be no opportunity to reclaim the award. A decision to decline the Scholarship Program award is final and cannot be changed under any circumstances.

**UNDERSTANDING THE CONTRACT AND LENGTH OF THE SERVICE COMMITMENT**

**How many years of school does the contract cover?**

The NHHSP award and contract is for the 2017-2018 academic year (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018). Any funding provided after June 30, 2018, is considered another contract year. Any additional school years (Optional Contracts) requested by the applicant and agreed to by the Secretary or his/her designee is indicated in the executed contracts. Support will be provided during the academic years agreed to in the executed contracts (not to exceed 4 years), beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year and will be based on the cost of the initial school of record (i.e., the school attended at the time the initial contract is executed). Application funding may not be deferred. Awards are for consecutive academic terms. Those attending schools where the standard curriculum is designed to be completed in more than four years will be considered eligible to receive awards for the last four years of their course of study.

**Can I request additional scholarship support after I receive my award?**

Additional scholarship support will only be provided for the specific degree that the NHHSP participant's original contract funded. To request additional scholarship support for the 2017-2018 or any subsequent academic years, the NHHSP participant must submit an application, and if approved, must sign on the original contract for that academic year and a report verifying that he/she is still in an acceptable level of academic standing. The participant may also request optional contracts for subsequent academic years while pursuing the same degree program, on the original contract through graduation for a maximum of 4 academic years of support. The NHHSP will notify the participant when this submission is due.

The granting of continuation awards depends upon the availability of funds for the NHHSP and is contingent upon the participant's:

- (1) Continued eligibility to participate in the NHHSP (e.g., acceptable level of academic standing, not repeating coursework, etc.). Please be advised that a credit check will be conducted as part of the eligibility process; AND
- (2) Compliance with policies and procedures established by the NHHSP for requesting continued support; AND

(3) Past compliance with program policies and requirements.

Participants requesting continued support must be able to financially support themselves until the scholarship benefit payment schedule can be reinstated. If a continuation award is granted, the first payment may not be received until mid-November but will include stipends retroactive to July 1 and the annual Other Reasonable Costs (ORC) payment.

**Can I terminate my NHHSP contract?**

The Secretary of Health and Human Services or his/her designee may terminate an NHHSP contract for an academic year if the participant, on or before June 1 of the school year: (1) submits a written request to terminate his/her contract for that academic year; and (2) repays all amounts paid to, or on behalf of, that participant (tuition, stipends and Other Reasonable Cost) for that academic year.

If a scholarship participant does not meet these requirements, he/she will incur a minimum 2- year service commitment for the full or partial year of support received, as set forth in the “Program Requirements” Section of this Guidance.

**How long is my service commitment?**

All participants incur, at a minimum, a 2-year full-time service obligation (or part-time equivalent) and may have a longer service obligation, as set forth below.

NHHSP Participant contracts incur an obligation to provide one year of full-time service for each full or partial school year of support received beyond two years as set forth in the table below. For example, a student who receives a full year of support (12 months) the first school year, a partial year of support (6 months) the second school year, and a full year of support the third school year will owe the equivalent of 3 years of full-time clinical service. If a participant receives support for one year or less, there is still an obligation to serve two years.

Years of Scholarship Support	Years of Service Obligation
Up to 1 Full-Time School Year (2017-2018)	2 Years Full-Time
Up to 2 Full-Time School Years (2017-2019)	2 Years Full-Time
Up to 3 Full-Time School Years (2017-2020)	3 Years Full-Time
Up to 4 Full-Time School Years (2017-2021)	4 Years Full-Time

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

**What are the requirements while I am in school?**

1. **Maintain Enrollment.** The NHHSP scholar must maintain enrollment in their designated program until the program is complete. Every scholar must verify their enrollment status for each term (semester, quarter) by adhering to the following process:
  - a) An appropriate school official must certify the scholar’s full-time enrollment by completing, signing and providing a school seal to the *Scholar Enrollment Verification Form (SEVF)*
  - b) An appropriate official must submit a list of the courses and credit hours each term for which NHHSP will receive an invoice and describe the tuition and fees.
  - c) The scholar must also submit an official or unofficial transcript at the completion of each term for the previous (last completed) term.

Scholars who fail to complete this process each term could jeopardize their scholarship and stipend. Participants not in compliance may be recommended for default.

2. **Maintain an Acceptable Level of Academic Standing.** A scholarship recipient must be in an acceptable level of academic standing, or the level at which a student retains eligibility to continue attending school under the school’s standards and practices, for the duration of the academic year.

Applicants on academic probation are not considered to be in an acceptable level of academic standing by NHHSP.

3. **Notify NHHSP of Any Changes in Enrollment Status.** Scholars are required to notify the NHHSP in writing as soon as one of the following events is anticipated or has occurred:
  - a) Repeat course work for which the NHHSP has already made payments;
  - b) A change in the scholar's graduation date;
  - c) A leave of absence approved by the school;
  - d) Withdrawal or dismissal from school;
  - e) A change from full-time student status as determined by the school's registrar, to a less than full-time student status;
  - f) Voluntary withdrawal from any courses during an academic term; OR
  - g) A transfer to another school or program.
  
4. **Notify the NHHSP in writing of changes in personal or banking information.** Scholars must immediately notify the NHHSP of any changes in mailing address, email address, name, or financial institution (bank) information to ensure an uninterrupted flow of scholarship payments. In the case of a name change, please supply legal documentation for the change, such as a copy of a marriage certificate.

Non-compliance with the above events could have an adverse impact on a scholar's receipt of NHHSP payments. Participants may be placed in default and may have to repay the support they received.

**What happens if I have a change in enrollment status?**

A change in enrollment status can result in a reduction or discontinuation of benefits. A scholar is required to notify the NHHSP in writing as soon as one of the events listed above is anticipated. If a change in enrollment status has already occurred, the scholar must submit a letter from the school verifying that the change has occurred. Enrollment status change notifications should be sent to:

**Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program  
Administered by Papa Ola Lokahi  
894 Queen Street,  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Please be advised that if the NHHSP has any questions concerning a scholar's eligibility for continued support, the NHHSP may delay the payment of all benefits to that participant pending clarification of the scholar's continuing eligibility and status.

**TUITION, REQUIRED FEES, OTHER REASONABLE COSTS, AND STIPEND**

The NHHSP uses a Data Collection Worksheet (DCW) to collect information on tuition, fees, and student expenses for the current and upcoming school years. A school official will be asked to complete a DCW for each applicant considered for an award. This information will be used to determine award calculations including: Annual Tuition (both In-state and out-of-state), Eligible Program Fees, Books, and Other Reasonable Costs (e.g., Clinical Supplies/Instruments, and Uniforms) for the entire academic year (including estimated summer fees). If the school official does not complete the DCW, Program participants may experience delays in the process of their future tuition payments to their institutions. Please note, once submitted, information on the DCW cannot be changed after the award is made. If you are selected for an award, please ensure that school officials are aware of NHHSP specific invoicing and payment requirements. All educational institutions will be required to submit an invoice to the NHHSP for the payment of tuition and eligible fees for each term that the student is enrolled. All funds will be disbursed electronically; therefore, each institution must make sure they are registered with the System for Award Management (SAM) at the following web address: [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov). The first payment for new NHHSP awardees will be made no later

than November 2017 and will include stipend payments retroactive to July 1, 2017, and the annual payment for Other Reasonable Costs.

### What costs does the NHHSP cover?

#### 1. Tuition and Required Fees

- a. **Tuition and eligible required fees will be paid directly to the school.** The school or the school's authorized financial office must submit an invoice to the NHHSP for payment of tuition and fees for each term. Any fees on the invoice that are included in the Other Reasonable Costs (discussed below) will not be approved for payment to the school.
- b. **Summer sessions.** NHHSP will only pay tuition and fees for required courses in summer school sessions when (1) summer session is an academic term normally required by the school for all students in the same program and (2) the summer session is in progress during the participant's contract period.
- c. **Repeated coursework.** The NHHSP will not pay tuition and fees for repeated coursework for which the NHHSP has previously made a payment (e.g., cost of the repeated course, overload fees). If the repeated course work does not delay the participant's graduation date, the scholarship payments for other tuition and fees may continue. The decision to continue scholarship payments while a participant is repeating coursework will be made at the discretion of the NHHSP. Participants who must repeat coursework should immediately contact the NHHSP or risk losing their monthly stipend payments.
- d. **Increases in tuition or required fees.** Payments for any increases in tuition or required fees that are reported by the school after the award has been made are not guaranteed and are subject to the availability of funds.
- e. **Attending more than one school.** For participants enrolled in programs that require taking classes at more than one school/campus, please be advised that payments will only be made to other institutions which have degree program agreements with the institution as indicated on the NHHSP application and only for courses required as part of the degree program.
- f. **The NHHSP will pay for ONLY the courses that are required for graduation.** The NHHSP will not pay for additional courses beyond those required for graduation. Also, the NHHSP will not pay for tuition costs or fees unrelated to the degree/program, such as membership dues for student societies/associations, loan processing fees, penalty or late fees, and other similar expenses.
- g. **Transfers to other academic institutions are strongly discouraged.** Transfers to other academic institutions are strongly discouraged once the applicant has been accepted into the NHHSP. Transfers will be considered on a case-by-case basis and only for exceptional circumstances. Transfers must be approved by the NHHSP in advance to ensure continued eligibility for funding. Scholarship awards are based on the cost of attendance at the initial school of record for all school year contracts executed during the FY 2017 application cycle. If a transfer is approved, the NHHSP will not cover any increase in tuition and/or fees for the new institution; the participant will be responsible for the difference. Changes in type of degree program **will not** be approved.

#### 2. Other Reasonable Costs (ORC)

- a. The ORC is an additional, annual payment provided directly to each NHHSP participant to assist in the payment of books, clinical supplies/instruments, and uniforms. This information is obtained directly from the institution and is determined independently for each application. ORC payments will vary from student to student depending on the student's program and graduation date.
- b. The ORC payment will be reduced proportionately for students who plan to attend less than a full school year (e.g., December graduates).

#### 3. Stipend Amount

- a. During the 2017-2018 academic year, the NHHSP will pay each full-time student a monthly amount of \$1,330.00 (before Federal taxes). The stipend payments may be delayed or placed on hold if requested NHHSP documents—invoices, enrollment verification forms, current term courses and credit hours, previous term official or unofficial transcripts, etc.—have not been received. Stipend payments may also be stopped if a student is repeating coursework that has already been paid for by the NHHSP. (See “Changes in Scholarship Payments” on page 19 for more information.
- b. Stipend payments will stop the month the nursing course work is completed or when the contract ends, whichever comes first.

Receipt of the stipend payment does not mean that the NHHSP participant is employed by the Federal Government or participates in any of the benefits available to Federal employees.

**NHHSP TAX ADVISORY**

The **ENTIRE NHHSP award is taxable.**

Although the NHHSP does NOT withhold Federal, State, or local income taxes from a scholar’s tuition and fees, the scholar DOES owe taxes on the value of the ENTIRE AWARD.

The NHHSP does withhold Federal income taxes owed on the stipend payments and ORC (based on information provided by the participant on the W-4, Employee’s Withholding Allowance Certificate), but please note that State and/or local taxes are not withheld from stipend and ORC payments.

Any participant who wants additional funds withheld from the stipend amount to cover the income tax on his or her tuition and fees should indicate the additional amount to be deducted on the appropriate line on the W-4. It is the participant’s responsibility to ensure that federal income tax is paid on the full amount of the award.

Each year, participants will receive a 1099-Miscellaneous Income form for amounts paid for tuition and fees and a W-2-Wage and Tax Statement form for amounts paid for stipends and ORC.

NHHSP participants should consult their local tax authority regarding applicable federal, state or local taxes for which they may be liable.

**What if I have additional funding provided by an alternative source?**

Receipt of the NHHSP award does not automatically preclude an applicant from receiving funds from other programs, as long as no service obligation is involved. However, many student assistance programs are based on the applicant’s financial need, or may be limited to the payment of expenses already paid by NHHSP. Applicants should contact their financial aid officer to determine how the receipt of an NHHSP award may affect them.

*(1) Financial Aid Received Before Notice of Award.*

*\*Grants and Scholarships.* If tuition and fees for the academic year have been paid by another source of financial aid (e.g., Pell Grant, state grants or other scholarships) before the student received notice of the NHHSP award, then the school may return payments to the funding source and submit an invoice to the NHHSP for payment.

*\*Loans.* If a new NHHSP participant has taken out a student loan to cover the cost of tuition and fees for their summer and/or fall 2017 semester(s), while waiting for notice of an NHHSP award, the student’s academic institution should supply an itemized invoice to the NHHSP showing the amount of tuition and fees paid for with that student loan. The NHHSP will pay that amount to the academic institution to cover the tuition costs covered by the loan. After the fall 2017 semester, the NHHSP will not pay tuition and fee



costs covered by any student loans.

(2) *Financial Aid Received After Notice of Award.*

If a student receives financial aid to pay tuition and fees from sources other than NHHSP after he or she has received notice of the NHHSP award, the school will be instructed not to submit an invoice to the NHHSP for costs that have already been covered by the other source of financial aid. If the other source of financial aid covers the full cost of tuition and fees, the school should submit documentation stating that it will not be seeking payment for the term. However, if a balance remains, then the school may submit an invoice for the balance remaining. Please note this section only relates to financial aid/loans that are used for tuition and fees. The amount of the student's NHHSP award is not affected if the student collects financial aid/loans for non-tuition expenses such as cost of living expenses. However, the invoice must demonstrate the use of the financial aid/loan before NHHSP determines the amount to pay for tuition and fees.

## **CHANGES IN SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENTS**

### **What situations impact the NHHSP's payment of tuition and/or stipend?**

- (1) **Changes in Enrollment Status.** A change in enrollment status may result in a discontinuation of benefits. A participant is required to promptly notify the NHHSP, if one of the events listed below is anticipated. If a change in enrollment status has already occurred, the participant must submit a letter from the school verifying the status change.
  - a. Repeat course work for which the NHHSP has already made payments. The NHHSP may continue payments for stipends and all other non-repeated course work, provided that the participant continues to meet the NHHSP requirements;
  - b. A change in the participant's graduation date;
  - c. A leave of absence approved by the school. All payments will be discontinued;
  - d. A withdrawal or dismissal from school. All payments will be discontinued;
  - e. A change from full-time student status to a less than full-time student status. All benefits may be discontinued. An exception may be made if the participant is in his or her final academic term. In such instances, a participant with a student status change may receive scholarship support as long as the participant maintains enrollment and an acceptable level of academic standing and does not change the graduation date.
  - f. A voluntary withdrawal from courses during an academic term. All payments will be discontinued; OR
  - g. A transfer to another school (See below).
  
- (2) **Changes in Schools:** Changes in schools are strongly discouraged once the applicant has been accepted into the NHHSP. Changes in schools must be approved in advance by the NHHSP to ensure continued eligibility for funding and will be considered only for exceptional circumstances. Scholarship awards are based on the cost of attendance at the initial school of record for all school year contracts executed during the FY 2017 application cycle. If a transfer is approved, the NHHSP will not cover any increase in tuition and/or fees for the new institution; the participant will be responsible for the difference. Changes in type of degree program **will not** be approved. Participants must perform their Service Obligation in a health profession capacity that is consistent with the degree program for which they were awarded the scholarship.
  
- (3) **Delinquent Federal and State Debt.** Under the Treasury Offset Program, the U.S. Treasury Department is authorized to offset a student's NHHSP payments if the student is delinquent on a Federal debt. In addition, the Treasury Department is authorized to offset NHHSP payments for application to the student's State debts, including delinquent child support payments.

- (4) **NHHSP Overpayments.** NHHSP payments received by a participant, including payments made to a school on the participant's behalf, during the periods while the participant is on an approved leave of absence, is repeating course work, or is otherwise ineligible to receive payments are considered overpayments. Overpayments may also occur due to administrative error. A participant receiving an overpayment should immediately contact the NHHSP to make arrangements to promptly return all overpayments to avoid interest accrual and debt collection procedures.

Debt collection procedures include: sending delinquent overpayments to a debt collection agency, reporting the overpayments to credit reporting agencies, offsetting Federal and/or State payments due to the participant (e.g., IRS income tax refund) to collect the overpayments, recovery through Administrative Wage Garnishment, and/or referral of the overpayments to the Department of Justice for enforced collection. For participants who receive subsequent funding under the NHHSP and who previously received any overpayments which have not been repaid, the overpayments will be collected through administrative offset. The NHHSP will withhold scholarship funds payable to, or on behalf of, the participant (including stipends, ORC payments, and, if necessary, tuition payments) until the overpayment owed is paid in full. Administrative offset is not a repayment option for NHHSP participants who wish to terminate a contract.

- (5) **Resumption of Benefits.** To resume benefits discontinued under existing scholarship contracts, NHHSP participants must submit documentation from their school official confirming that they are now eligible to receive scholarship support (e.g., not repeating course work, returned from a leave of absence, resumed full-time student status, etc.). Requests for the resumption of scholarship benefits should be sent to the NHHSP. They will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the NHHSP to determine the participant's eligibility to receive continuing funds. For participants who have not repaid overpayments previously received, the resumption of scholarship benefits will be subject to the administrative offset described in the *NHHSP Overpayments* Section above. For participants whose benefits were discontinued due to their withdrawal or dismissal from school or due to their transfer to an ineligible program or school, benefits will not be resumed.
- (6) **Veteran Benefits.** Educational benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (G.I. Bill) generally continue along with NHHSP funds, if awarded, since Veteran benefits were earned by prior active duty in a uniformed service. However, Scholarship benefits may be reduced for participants receiving funding under the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill.

## **POSTGRADUATE TRAINING/ RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

### **Will I be allowed to participate in a residency program?**

**Physicians** are required to complete a residency in an accredited primary care training program in an NHHSP-approved specialty and must begin performance of their NHHSP service obligation no later than 9 months after completion of their residency. However, physicians may request to defer (i.e., postpone) their period of obligated service to complete advanced training (e.g., chief residency or fellowship) if it is consistent with the needs of the NHHSP.

**Dentists** may request to defer (i.e., postpone) their period of obligated service to complete NHHSP-approved postgraduate training. Scholars in these disciplines who choose not to complete postgraduate training must begin performance of their NHHSP service obligation no later than 9 months after graduation from the health professions training program.

**Clinical Psychologists** must complete postgraduate training (including supervised experience) that is required for licensure to practice in the State of Hawai'i. Candidates approved by NHHSP for postgraduate training must begin performance of their NHHSP service obligation no later than 9 months after the

completion of their training.

During the final year of health professions education, scholars will be sent information on NHHSP-approved postgraduate training programs and how they should obtain approval from the NHHSP of their postgraduate training plans. Scholars may postpone their period of obligated service while they complete postgraduate training (including residency, chief residency, or fellowship) **if the NHHSP determines that the training is consistent with the needs of the NHHSP to deliver primary health care services in NHHSP eligible service obligation settings.** The NHHSP expects eligible scholars to start their postgraduate training after graduation on or around July 1. Scholars may pursue only the postgraduate training that the NHHSP has officially approved and **may not** make any changes to the type or length of postgraduate training without prior approval from the NHHSP.

Note: When selecting a residency program, or other postgraduate training program, it is the responsibility of the scholar to research the program. The program must provide adequate training to enable the scholar to sit for the appropriate boards, if applicable.

Scholars who enter training not approved by the NHHSP will be in breach of their contract and subject to the damages provision.

### **What are the postgraduate training programs that are currently approved by the NHHSP?**

#### **(1) Postgraduate Training for Physicians**

For allopathic and osteopathic medical scholars entering postgraduate training in 2017-2018, the approved residencies are accredited programs in:

Family Medicine	3 years
General Internal Medicine	3 years
General Pediatrics	3 years
Obstetrics-Gynecology	4 years
General Psychiatry	4 years
Internal Medicine/Family Medicine	4 years
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	4 years
Family Medicine/Psychiatry	5 years
Internal Medicine/Psychiatry	5 years
Rotating internship with a request to complete a residency in one of the above	1 year

The NHHSP may approve, on a case-by-case basis, and consistent with the needs of the NHHSP, additional residencies not listed above. Allopathic and osteopathic medical scholars **MUST** complete one of the NHHSP-approved residencies described above prior to beginning service or be subject to the damages provision described in Breaching the NHHSP Contract. Physicians are required to use their best efforts to enter an approvable residency program by July 1 of their graduation year either through the residency match process or outside the match process. Allopathic and osteopathic medical students who are unable to commit themselves to primary care postgraduate training in any of the above-listed approved residencies are advised **NOT** to apply for participation in the NHHSP.

**Fellowships (Optional).** The NHHSP may approve, on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the needs of the NHHSP, requests submitted by scholars in their last year of residency training to complete one of the following fellowships:

- a. A 2-year Child Psychiatry Fellowship which follows the completion of

- residency training in General Psychiatry;
- b. A 1-year Obstetrics/Gynecology Fellowship which follows the completion of residency training in Family Medicine; OR
- c. A 1-year Geriatrics Fellowship which follows the completion of residency training in Family Medicine or General Internal Medicine.

**(2) Postgraduate Training for Dentists**

For dental scholars entering postgraduate training in 2017-2018, the approved residencies are accredited programs in:

General Practice Dentistry	1 Year
Advanced Education in General Dentistry	1 year
Pediatric Dentistry	2 Years
Public Health Dentistry	2 Years

Dental scholars are encouraged but not required to complete one of the above-listed postgraduate clinical training programs approved by NHHSP prior to commencing service. *Dental students* who wish to pursue training other than the programs listed above are advised not to apply for participation in the NHHSP.

**Fellowship (Optional).** The NHHSP may approve, on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the needs of the NHHSP, requests submitted by scholars in their last year of residency training to complete a one- year Geriatric Dentistry fellowship following the completion of postgraduate training.

**(3) Postgraduate Training for Clinical Psychologists in Hawai`i**

For Clinical Psychologists entering postgraduate training in 2017-2018, the approved postgraduate training requirements in accordance with Chapter 465, Hawai`i Revised Statutes, and Chapter 98, Hawai`i Administrative Rules concerning Psychologists in the State of Hawai`i are as follows:

**Complete** 1 year (1,900 hours) of postdoctoral experience in health service in psychology under the supervision of:

- 1) A licensed psychologist, or
- 2) A psychologist who holds an ABPP diplomat certificate, or
- 3) A person who holds a doctoral degree in psychology or educational Psychology from an accredited institution, granted prior to 1970, and is listed in the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology.

**(4) Postgraduate Training for Marriage Family Therapists in Hawai`i**

For Marriage Family Therapists entering postgraduate training in 2017-2018, the approved postgraduate training requirements in accordance with Chapter 436B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Professional and Vocational Licensing Act in conjunction with Chapter 451J concerning Marriage Family Therapist in the State of Hawai`i are as follows:

**Complete** 1,000 hours of direct marriage and family therapy experience and 200 hours of clinical supervision **in not less than 24 months**. Your supervisor **must** be an individual who is either:

- 1) A licensed marriage and family therapist whose license has been in good standing in any state for two years preceding commencement and during the supervision period; **or**
- 2) A licensed mental health professional whose license has been in good standing in any

state and who has been a **Clinical Member** in good standing in **The American Association For Marriage and Family Therapy** for two years preceding commencement and during the supervision period.

### **Postgraduate Training/Residency Programs for Other NHHSP Eligible Health Professions**

A scholar in any other discipline may submit a written request to complete postgraduate training to the NHHSP. The Scholarship Program will only approve deferment requests for proposed postgraduate training that is consistent with the delivery of primary health services in NHHSP eligible service obligation settings and as may be required for licensure purposes in the State of Hawai'i.

### **Failure to Complete Required Training**

Scholars who fail to begin or complete the required postgraduate training/residency programs listed above will be considered in breach of their contracts. If determined to be in breach of their contracts, these individuals will owe the United States damages equal to three times the amount of scholarship support they received plus interest. See Breaching the Contract on page 27 below.

### **Can I receive financial support from the NHHSP or service credit during my postgraduate training?**

Scholars do not receive NHHSP financial support nor do they incur additional period of obligated service for participating in any type of postgraduate training. Moreover, periods of postgraduate training are not credited toward satisfying the scholarship service obligation, even though the training may occur in a facility located in an NHHSP eligible service obligation setting.

### **What postgraduate training programs are not eligible?**

Postgraduate training programs that are **not approved** include the following:

- (1) Non-primary health care programs (e.g., emergency medicine, surgery, radiology, neurology, anesthesiology, ophthalmology, pathology, oral surgery, endodontics, etc.) or other programs which NHHSP determines are not consistent with the needs of the NHHSP to provide primary health services in its eligible service obligation settings;
- (2) Postgraduate health professions education conducted by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States. Participants in such programs incur military service obligations that conflict with the service obligation required under the NHHSP; and
- (3) Transitional residency training (except as specified above for DOs).

**Other NHHSP Eligible Health Professions Scholars must 1) Obtain their license and 2) start their postgraduate training no later than 6 months after graduation. Post-residency scholars have 3 months to commence employment after residency program completion, before being considered non-compliant with contract terms and at risk of default.** Scholars may pursue only the postgraduate training that the NHHSP has officially approved and may not make any changes to the type or length of postgraduate training without prior approval from the NHHSP. Scholars who have not requested or have not been granted service deferment to complete a postgraduate training program are required to begin their NHHSP service obligation upon degree completion no later than 9 months after graduation from the health professions training program. During the final year of a scholar's educational program, scholars will be sent information on how to pursue postgraduate training and how to notify and obtain approval from the NHHSP.

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **What are the licensure/certification requirements?**

Prior to commencing service obligation, scholars must be permanently licensed in their scholarship-supported profession prior to commencing service. Credit towards fulfillment of the service obligation will not be given in the absence of a current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional

license in the State of Hawai'i. Scholars are expected to take the appropriate licensure exam at the earliest possible date, in order to begin service within the timeframe as noted above. No service credit will be given to any scholar for practice in an NHHSP-approved site prior to receipt of their permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted license. Responsibility for obtaining the required State of Hawai'i license prior to the service start date rests with the scholar (Go to [www.hawaii.gov/dcca/areas/pvl](http://www.hawaii.gov/dcca/areas/pvl) for specific requirements and instructions in obtaining the required license to practice in the State of Hawai'i). In addition, each scholar is responsible for meeting the applicable board and licensure/certification requirements as outlined below.

### **(1) Physicians**

To ensure that physician scholars are able to fulfill their service obligation upon completion of their primary care postgraduate training, all physicians must successfully complete Steps 1, 2 (clinical skills and clinical knowledge components) and 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or Levels 1, 2 (cognitive evaluation and performance evaluation components), and 3 of the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX) by the time they complete their primary care residency training program. Specifically, NHHSP expects all MD/DO scholars to **take and pass**:

- a. Step 1 of the USMLE or Level 1 of the COMLEX by the end of the second year of their MD/DO program.
- b. Step 2 (both components) of the USMLE or Level 2 (both components) of the COMLEX by the end of the fourth year of their MD/DO program.
- c. Step 3 of the USMLE or Level 3 of the COMLEX by the end of the first year of their post-graduate (residency) training program.

MD/DO scholars unable to pass all parts of the licensing examination and obtain a license to practice medicine by the time their service is scheduled to begin should immediately contact the NHHSP in writing to request a suspension.

### **(2) Dentists**

All dentists must successfully complete the National Board Dental Examination Part 1 and 2 prior to beginning their NHHSP service obligation. To assure that dentists will have licensure in states with the greatest dental needs, NHHSP reserves the right to determine which regional or state clinical licensing exam the dental scholar should take and pass. Dental scholars are expected to take the appropriate exams at the earliest possible date.

If the scholar is unsuccessful in passing the exams and obtaining a license, the scholar should immediately contact the NHHSP in writing to request a suspension.

### **Certification Requirements for Other NHHSP Eligible Health Professions**

Scholars of other disciplines as referenced on pages 9-11 must successfully pass a discipline-specific and, if applicable, a specialty-specific, national certification exam prior to beginning their service obligation and are expected to take the appropriate certification exam at the earliest possible date.

If the scholar is unsuccessful in obtaining a license or passing the exams by the time the service obligation is scheduled to begin, the scholar should immediately contact NHHSP in writing, to request a suspension. For more information concerning "Suspension," see page 28 of this APG.

## **SERVICE REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBLE SITES UNDER NHHSP**

### **What are the service requirements after graduation?**

### **Obligated Service**

Scholarship recipients incur 1 year of obligated service for each full or partial school year of support received. The minimum service obligation is 2 years; the maximum is 4 years. Scholars are obligated to provide full-time clinical or non-clinical primary health services, as assigned, in the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems or other federally designated primary care sites in Hawai'i (see below, "What sites are eligible?").

### **Commencing Service**

Scholars who receive an approved deferment are expected to begin service no later than three months from the date the period of approved deferment expires. Those who do not receive a deferment to complete postgraduate training are expected to begin service no later than 9 months from the date the scholar graduates.

Credit for service toward the Scholarship Program obligation does not begin until the scholar:

(1) has obtained a permanent, unrestricted license/certification, if required to practice his/her scholarship-supported health profession in the State of Hawai'i; (2) has received written approval from the Scholarship Program to serve at that specific site; and (3) has begun to provide full-time clinical and/or non-clinical services at the approved site.

### **What sites are eligible?**

By law, the Scholarship Program service commitment must be completed in a full-time capacity, in order of priority, in:

- (i) any one of the five **Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems (NHHCS)**, or
- (ii) **Medically Underserved Area (MUA)** or a **Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)** located in the State of Hawai'i, or a geographic area or facility in the State of Hawai'i that is similarly federally designated.

In approving sites for scholars, the Scholarship Program will give first priority to positions at the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems and second priority to positions at federally designated primary care sites that predominantly serve Native Hawaiians.

Scholars cannot fulfill their Scholarship Program service obligations outside of the State of Hawai'i or by serving in one of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Veterans Administration, or the National Health Service Corps.

### **Where do I find a job that qualifies for the NHHSP?**

Prior to the scholar's graduation date or, if applicable, the expiration of the scholar's approved deferment, the Scholarship Program will provide scholars with information about 1) the placement process for that year and 2) the approved sites for their discipline.

Scholars apply for positions at approved sites for their discipline. If a scholar and an approved site reach an agreement regarding employment, the prospective employer must submit an employment verification letter —annually— on official letterhead to the Scholarship Program. The letter should include the following information:

- Name of scholar;
- Statement of scholar's full-time employment status;
- Name of employer;
- Employer's address, telephone number, facsimile number, e-mail address;
- Service area location;
- Start date of full-time employment;
- Hours worked per week;

- Percentage of Native Hawaiians to be served by the scholar; and
- Detailed position description.

Upon receipt of the employment verification letter, the Scholarship Program will send a letter to the scholar approving the assignment, unless there are concerns with the placement site prompting further investigation.

The Scholarship Program will consider the scholar's assignment preferences with respect to the available placement opportunities. However, the Scholarship Program reserves the right to make final decisions on all placements, in order to comply with statutory requirements for the placement of scholarship recipients.

### **What are the requirements for full-time practice?**

By law, scholars must be engaged in the full-time clinical or non-clinical practice of their discipline/specialty at the practice site to which they are assigned. Full-time practice is defined as a minimum of 32 hours per week, for a minimum of 45 weeks per year. The 32 hours per week may be compressed into no less than 3 days per week, with no more than 12 hours of work to be performed in any 24-hour period.

For all health professionals, time spent "on call," does NOT count toward the required 32 hours/week. No more than 7 weeks (28 work days) per year can be spent away from the practice for holidays, vacation, continuing professional education, illness, or any other reason. All scholars will work under the personnel system of the approved site. Malpractice insurance should be addressed in any written employment contract between the scholar and the employing entity.

For absences greater than 7 weeks in a 52-week service year, the participant should request a suspension. Absences greater than 7 weeks in a service year (52-week period) will extend the service obligation end date.

Non-clinical or other administrative activities include research, attending staff meetings, court appearances, and other non-treatment related activities pertaining to the participant's approved NHHSP practice.

### **When does my service obligation end?**

The last day of the service obligation is determined in whole years from the start date. For example, the last day of service for a scholar with a 3-year service obligation who began service on July 15, 2018, would be July 14, 2021. Adjustments in the ending date will be made by HRSA if the scholar takes more than the allowable time away from the site and/or if the obligation is suspended, interrupted, or otherwise delayed.

### **What happens if I fail to complete my service obligation?**

A scholar who fails, for any reason, to begin or complete his/her service obligation at the assigned site is liable to pay the United States damages equal to three times the amount of the scholarship support received plus interest, proportionally reduced for any service completed. See "Breaching the Contract" below.

## **BREACHING THE CONTRACT**

### **What is a breach of the NHHSP contract?**

A participant is in breach of the NHHSP contract if he or she:

- (1) Fails to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing;
- (2) Is dismissed from his/her academic program for disciplinary reasons;
- (3) Voluntarily terminates or withdraws from his/her program; or
- (4) Fails to begin or complete the service obligation as specified in the scholar's NHHSP contract.



### What happens if I breach the NHHSP contract?

1. The scholar's withdrawal or dismissal from school is a breach of the scholarship contract, and the scholar shall be liable to repay to the United States all scholarship funds paid to the scholar and to the school on the scholar's behalf. The amount owed must be paid in full within 3 years of the date of default. No interest will be charged on any part of this debt to the United States during the 3-year repayment period. However, if payment in full is not made within the 3-year period, interest will be assessed thereafter.

2. The scholar who completes academic training but fails, for any reason, to begin or complete the service obligation or fails to begin or complete required postgraduate advanced training is in breach of the scholarship contract, and shall be liable to pay to the United States damages equal to three times the Scholarship Program award plus interest, in accordance with the formula:

$$A = 3\emptyset (t - s)/t$$

In which:

- A is the amount the United States is entitled to recover,
- $\emptyset$  is the sum of the amounts paid to or on behalf of the scholar and the interest on such amounts which would be payable if, at the time the amounts were paid, they were loans bearing interest at the maximum legal prevailing rate, as determined by the Treasurer of the United States,
- t is the total number of months in the scholar's period of obligated service, and
- s is the number of months of the period of obligated service served by the scholar.

The damages which the United States is entitled to recover shall be paid within 1 year of the date of default.

Please note that scholars who default on their NHHSP contract will be ineligible to participate in other HRSA scholarship and loan repayment programs, including the Nurse Corps and the National Health Service Corps Programs.

### What happens if a debt incurred by a breach of contract is not paid?

Failure to repay the NHHSP debt within 1-3 years (as applicable) will result in delinquency and has the following consequences:

- (1) **The debt will be reported to credit reporting agencies.** During the repayment period, the debt will be reported to credit reporting agencies as "current." If the debt becomes past due, it will be reported as "delinquent."
- (2) **The debt maybe referred to a debt collection agency and the Department of Justice.** Any delinquent NHHSP debt may be referred to a debt collection agency. If the debt collection agency is unsuccessful in receiving payment in full, the debt may be referred to the U.S. Department of Justice for enforced collection.
- (3) **Administrative offset.** Federal and/or State payments due to the scholar (e.g., an income tax refund) may be offset by the U.S. Department of Treasury to repay a delinquent NHHSP debt. Also, recovery through Administrative Wage Garnishment may be enforced to repay a delinquent NHHSP debt.
- (4) **Medicare/Medicaid Exclusion.** Delinquent defaulters who are unwilling to enter into, or stay in compliance with, an agreement to repay their scholarship debt can be excluded from participation in Medicare, Medicaid and other Federal health care programs.

## SUSPENSION & WAIVER

### How do I inform the NHHSP about my upcoming maternity/paternity/adoption leave?

If a scholar plans to be away from his/her site for maternity/paternity/adoption leave, the scholar is required to inform the NHHSP before taking the leave. The NHHSP will allow scholars to be away from their site within the timeframes established by either the Family Medical Leave Act (up to 12 weeks) or the scholar's state of residence; however, the scholar must adhere to the leave policies of his or her NHHSP-approved service site. If a scholar plans to take additional leave, the scholar is required to request a suspension (see "Suspension" below), which may or may not be approved by the NHHSP. Requests should be submitted to the Program in writing. Remember that a scholar is required to serve a minimum of 45 weeks per service year and is allowed to be away from the NHHSP-approved service site for no more than 35 workdays per service year; therefore, a scholar's obligation end date will be extended for each day of absence over the allowable 35 workdays.

### What should I do if I cannot continue my service or payment obligation?

The Secretary of Health and Human Services may, under certain circumstances, suspend (put "on hold") or waive (excuse) the NHHSP service or payment obligation in whole or in part. A request for a suspension or waiver must be submitted to the Program in writing to: Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program, POL, 894 Queen Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Additional supporting documentation will be required following submission of the request.

- (1) **Suspension.** This mechanism provides temporary relief to an NHHSP participant if he/she has short-term (not permanent) circumstances that currently make compliance with the obligation impossible or would involve an extreme hardship such that enforcement of the obligation would be unconscionable. Periods of approved suspension will extend a participant's NHHSP service obligation end date.

The major categories of service suspensions are set forth below.

- a. **Medical or Personal Hardship** – A suspension may be granted for up to one year, if the participant provides independent medical documentation of a physical or mental health disability, or personal hardship, including a terminal illness of an immediate family member (e.g., child, or spouse, including a same-sex spouse regardless of where the couple lives), which results in the participant's temporary inability to perform the NHHSP service obligation. Upon receipt of the suspension request, the NHHSP will notify the participant of instructions for submitting supporting documentation.
- b. **Parental (Maternity/Paternity/Adoption) Leave** – Participants must notify the NHHSP of pending parental leave and provide appropriate documentation. Parental leave of 12 weeks or less will be automatically approved, if properly documented. If the participant's parental leave will exceed 12 weeks during that service year, a suspension may be granted by the NHHSP based on documented medical need or if additional parental leave time is permitted under State law.
- c. **Call to Active Duty in the Armed Forces** – Participants who are also military reservists and are called to active duty will be granted a suspension, for up to one year, beginning on the activation date described in the reservist's call to active duty order. In addition to the written request for a suspension, a copy of the order to active duty must be submitted to NHHSP. The suspension will be extended if the applicable Armed Forces entity continues the period of active duty. The period of active military duty will not be credited toward the NHHSP service obligation.

- (2) **Waiver.** A waiver permanently relieves the participant of all or part of the NHHSP obligation. A waiver will be granted only if the participant demonstrates that compliance with his/her obligation (a) is impossible or (b) would involve an extreme hardship such that enforcement of the obligation would be unconscionable. A waiver request must be submitted by uploading a signed request letter, including the reason(s) the waiver is being sought, as an inquiry to the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) Management Information System (BMISS) through its Customer Service Program Portal. The scholar will be contacted by the BHW Legal and Compliance Branch regarding any medical and financial documentation necessary to complete the waiver request. Note that waivers are not routinely granted and require a showing of compelling circumstances.

**When would my service obligation be cancelled?**

A participant's obligation would be cancelled only in the unfortunate event of the participant's death. No liability would be transferred to the participant's heirs.

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

### DEFINITIONS

- (1) ACADEMIC YEAR** – All NHHSP scholarship contracts are for a specific year. Under the NHHSP, all academic years run from July 1 through June 30 of the following year. If for example, a student is in a full-time 24-month program that begins on August 2, 2017, and he/she signs contracts for 2 academic years, the student will receive stipend, ORC and tuition payments from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Funding for the extra months of the program beyond June 30, 2017, would require the student to request a third year of scholarship funding, and if granted, obligates the participant to 3 years of full-time service. If a student is in a 24-month program that begins on May 2, 2017, and he/she signs contracts for 2 school years, the student will receive stipend, ORC and tuition payments from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, or the month the participant completes the required classes for graduation, whichever comes first.
- (2) ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF ACADEMIC STANDING** – The level at which a student retains eligibility to continue attending school under the school's standards and practices. Applicants on academic probation will not be considered at an acceptable level of academic standing by the NHHSP.
- (3) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFSET** – Administrative offset is the withholding of funds payable by the United States to, or held by the United States for, a person to satisfy a debt. For NHHSP participants who received overpayments which have not been repaid, the NHHSP will withhold scholarship funds payable to, or on behalf of, the participant (including stipends, ORC payments, and, if necessary, tuition payments) until the overpayment owed is paid in full. Administrative offset is not a repayment option for NHHSP participants who wish to terminate a contract.
- (4) CONTRACT** – A written contract for an academic year pursuant to which (1) the individual agrees to serve for a period of not less than 2 years at an NHHSP-approved eligible service obligation site, and (2) the Federal government agrees to provide the individual with a scholarship, for attendance at an accredited school/program during that academic year.
- (5) DEFAULT OF SERVICE OBLIGATION** – Failure for any reason to begin or complete a contractual obligation resulting in a breach of the NHHSP contract.
- (6) DEFERMENT** – Deferment is a delay in the start of service obligation granted by the NHHSP upon a scholar's request, for a specified period of time to enter and complete an approved postgraduate nursing residency program.
- (7) ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE TUITION, FEES AND OTHER RELATED COST ITEMS – 2017-2018**  
Non-tuition educational expenses (fees and other reasonable costs) are expenses incurred by all students within the same discipline/program and class year. If all students will not incur an expense in a category, the expense is not eligible for payment. Amounts should be based on the least expensive means of satisfying the educational requirements.

The following lists contain items that are either eligible or ineligible for payment as part of the scholarship award.

**Eligible Other Reasonable Costs (ORC) Items:**

NOTE: All ORC items are subject to evaluation by the Scholarship Program and may be limited to what the Scholarship Program considers as a reasonable cost.

- Books (subscriptions to professional journals are not eligible)
- Computer Software (if it replaces all books and related course materials) (dental students only)
- School ID Cards/ID Fees (if not billed as part of tuition and fees)
- Uniforms (limited to two sets) and Name Tags
- Clinical Costs
- Microscope (Rental or Purchase [purchases must be accompanied by documentation that rental is not available])
- Instruments
- Health Insurance (only for student if not billed as a fee - family members are not eligible)
- Malpractice Insurance (if not billed as part of tuition and fees)
- Disability Insurance (if not billed as part of tuition and fees)
- National Boards (Parts I and II - CS and CK) (medical and dental students only)
- Travel for Clinical Training (this does not include local commuting expenses)
- Amount awarded will be determined by the Scholarship Program on an annual basis
- Educational Material Costs
- Computer/PDA rental or purchase only if required of all students
- Graduation Fees (if not billed as part of tuition and fees)
- CPR Certification Fee

**Eligible Tuition and Fees:**

- Tuition (resident or Non-Resident)
- Surcharge (when added by the school to the tuition)
- Education Fees
- University Fees
- Administrative Fees
- Matriculation Fees
- Curriculum Fee
- Academic Support Services Fee
- Health Insurance (if a charged fee of all students)
- Malpractice Insurance (if a charged fee of all students)
- Disability Insurance (if a charged fee of all students)
- Health Services Fees and Immunizations
- Transportation Fee (does not include privately owned vehicle related costs)
- Student Activities Fee
- Student Services Fee
- Laboratory Fees
- Building Use or Facility Fee
- Technology Fee
- Computer Lab Fee
- Library Fee

- Recreation Fee
- Processing Fee Campus Life Fee
- Background Check (if required)
- Capstone Course (if required) - mandatory preparatory course
- Counseling Fees
- Drug Testing
- Material Fees (if required and not specifically covered by the ORC - does not include books)
- NCLEX Review (if part of curriculum or program) - mandatory preparatory course
- Registration Fees
- Student Association and Union - for campus services; not educational associations
- Testing Fees (if required) – for course advancement
- Transportation Fees (if required) - for campus-wide system only, not personal transportation or parking
- Transcript Fees

**Ineligible for Payment as Tuition and Fees or ORC:**

- ID Maintenance
- Parking Fees
- Yearbook
- Educational Associations
- Financial Aid Trust Funds
- Attorney Fees
- Residency Interviews
- Certification Boards for non-MD/DO health professionals
- Post Office Box Rental
- Class Dues
- Room and Board Expenses
- Personal Laundry
- Automobiles and Automobile Maintenance Expenses
- National Boards (part III) for medical students
- Dental Insurance (if separate from general health insurance)
- Life Insurance
- Student Association/Unions – for educational associations
- Refundable Property Deposit
- Penalty Fees for Over extension in the Distance Learning Programs
- Late Charges
- Subscriptions to Professional Journals

**(8) ENROLLED OR ACCEPTED FOR ENROLLMENT** – NHHSP defines “Accepted” to a school as having been officially granted entrance without contingencies. Wait-listed and alternate selection candidates do not meet this criterion. A Letter of Acceptance is typically provided by the school for confirmation. “Enrolled” is defined as having been formally admitted to a program at an accredited school, committed to attend the program and have scheduled or are eligible to schedule classes which have begun, or will begin, no later than September 30 of the year for which the award was made.

- (9) EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION** – The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is the amount of money your family is expected to contribute to your college education for one year, as determined by the Department of Education in your Official Student Aid Report.
- (10) FAMILY/FAMILY MEMBER** – As used in this Guidance and for the purposes of the NHHSP, “family member” includes spouse, as well as unmarried partner (same-sex or opposite-sex).
- (11) FULL-TIME CLINICAL PRACTICE** – Full-time practice is defined as the provision of services for a minimum of 32 hours per week. At least 26 hours per week, of the minimum 32 hours per week, must be spent providing clinical services (direct patient care) to patients. No more than 35 work days per service year can be spent away from the approved practice site for vacation, holidays, continuing education, illness, maternity, or any other reason. Absences of greater than 35 work days in a 52-week service year will extend the service obligation end date or result in a breach of contract, as determined by the NHHSP.
- (12) FULL-TIME STUDENT** – A student will be considered full-time if the student meets the school registrar’s definition of a full-time student.
- (13) INITIAL SCHOOL OF RECORD** – The school indicated on the NHHSP application and attended at the time the initial contract is executed.
- (14) LEAVE OF ABSENCE** – A period of approved absence from a course of study granted to a student by his or her school for medical, personal, and other reasons. The leave of absence is usually granted for a period of 1 year or less. When a leave of absence is expected, a participant is required to notify the NHHSP immediately in writing and submit a letter from the school approving the leave of absence and indicating the start and end dates for the period of the absence. Payment of all benefits is discontinued when a participant is on an approved leave of absence, and may be resumed when the student returns to the course of study for which the scholarship was awarded.
- (15) LOCATED IN A STATE, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, OR A TERRITORY** – One of the following: a State within the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Territory of Guam, the Territory of American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The definition of “located in a State, the District of Columbia, or a Territory” does not include any location outside of the U.S. that is not listed above.
- (16) NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (NHHCS)** - The NHHCS consists of five Native Hawaiian health care organizations that are located in Hawai‘i. These organizations are the “**Priority One**” sites for NHHSP scholars to complete their service obligation and include:
- HUI MALAMA OLA NA `OIWI (Hawai‘i Island)
  - HUI NO KE OLA PONO (Maui Island)
  - NA PU`UWAI (Molokai & Lanai Islands)
  - KE OLA MAMO (O`ahu Island)
  - HO`OLA LAHUI (Kaua`i Island)
- (17) POSTGRADUATE TRAINING** –Types of postgraduate training include residencies and fellowships. No credit towards NHHSP service obligation is given.

- (18) SPOUSE** – As used in this Guidance and for the purposes of the NHHSP, “spouse” includes same-sex couples, legally married in jurisdictions that recognize their marriages. This applies regardless of whether the couple lives in a jurisdiction that recognizes their same-sex marriage. Any same-sex marriage legally entered into or recognized in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, a U.S. territory or a foreign country will be recognized. However, this does not apply to registered domestic partnerships, civil unions or similar formal relationships recognized under state law as something other than a marriage.
- (19) SUSPENSION** – A temporary status. A suspension of the service or payment obligation will be granted if compliance with the obligation by the participant (1) is temporarily impossible or (2) would involve a temporary extreme hardship such that enforcement of the obligation would be unconscionable. All requests for a suspension must be submitted in writing via the Program Portal and be supported by full medical and/or financial documentation.
- (20) THE SECRETARY** – The Secretary of Health and Human Services, and any other officer or employee of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to whom the authority to administer the NHHSP has been delegated.
- (21) UNENCUMBERED LICENSE** – A license is unencumbered if it is not revoked, suspended, or made probationary or conditional by a licensing or registering authority in the applicable jurisdiction as the result of disciplinary action.
- (22) U.S. SYSTEM OF AWARD MANAGEMENT** – A website ([www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)) maintained by the General Services Administration for the purpose of disseminating information on parties that are excluded from receiving federal contracts, subcontracts, and federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits, pursuant to E.O. 12549, E.O. 12689, and implementing regulations.
- (23) WAIVER** – A permanent release of all or part of a participant’s NHHSP service or payment obligation. A waiver will only be granted if compliance with the obligation by the participant (1) is impossible or (2) would involve an extreme hardship such that enforcement of the obligation would be unconscionable.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. How do interested applicants apply to the NHHSP?**

The application deadline for the 2017-2018 academic year is 12:00 am HST, March 1, 2017. Those interested in applying to the NHHSP should read the Application and Program Guidance. To apply for the NHHSP, complete the online application at NHHSP.org and submit the required Supporting Documentation.

### **2. What if an awardee changes his/her mind about going into his/her chosen field after he/she has accepted the NHHSP?**

Accepting an NHHSP award is a serious commitment to serve in Native Hawaiian communities. Individuals who accept the scholarship and change their mind before completing their degree or the service commitment, have breached their contract with the U.S. Government and must pay back all monies paid to directly them and to the school on their behalf, with interest. The amount owed, including interest, must be paid within 3 years of the date of default. Please note that participants who default on their NHHSP contract become ineligible to participate in any Federal loan repayment programs, including the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program and the National Health Service Corps.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services or his/her designee may terminate an NHHSP contract for an academic year if the participant, on or before June 1 of the school year: (1) submits a written request to terminate his/her contract for that academic year; and (2) repays all amounts paid to, or on behalf of, that participant (tuition, stipends and Other Reasonable Cost) for that academic year.

### **3. What if an NHHSP participant changes his/her mind about the type of degree he/she wants to complete?**

Participants cannot change degree once the NHHSP contract has been signed. The terminal degree indicated on a participant's application is the ONLY degree that the NHHSP will support. Service commitment must be consistent with the degree for which the award was made. For example, if you received an award for NP degree, you must perform service as a NP, and not as a RN.

### **4. Can an NHHSP participant defer his/her scholarship start date?**

No, scholarship start dates cannot be deferred. The scholarship will start at the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year.

### **5. What is an eligible health facility where NHHSP participants can fulfill the service obligation?**

By law, the Scholarship Program service commitment must be completed in a full-time capacity, in order of priority, in:

- any one of the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems (NHHCS), or
- Medically Underserved Area (MUA) or a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) located in the State of Hawai'i, or a geographic area or facility in the State of Hawai'i that is similarly federally designated.

NHHSP participants are responsible for finding their own employment site and confirming its eligibility with the Program. The NHHSP reserves the right of final approval to ensure a participant's compliance with statutory requirements related to the service obligation as referenced above.

In approving sites for scholars, the Scholarship Program will give first priority to positions at the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems and second priority to positions at federally designated primary care sites that predominantly serve Native Hawaiians. Scholars cannot fulfill their Scholarship Program service obligations outside of the State of Hawai'i or by serving in one of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Veterans Administration, or the National Health Service Corps.

**6. How many hours must an NHHSP participant work at an NHHSP approved site to be considered full-time?**

Full-time employment is considered to be no less than 32 hours of services per week. At least 26 hours of the minimum 32 hours per week must be spent providing clinical services (direct patient care) to patients.

**7. When does the NHHSP service obligation begin?**

Participants have up to 9 months from the date of graduation to (1) obtain a license and (2) accept an offer of employment from an NHHSP-approved facility.

**8. How much is the NHHSP monthly stipend and when is the payment made?**

For the 2017-2018 academic year, the monthly stipend will be \$1,330.00. The stipend is disbursed by the end of each month; payments are not considered late until the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month. The first stipend payment is issued in November and includes a lump sum payment for all months (July through October) of the Fall term and Summer term only if the Summer term was still in session on July 1. Payment of tuition and fees are made directly to the school on the participant's behalf. The Notice of Award Letter issued by the NHHSP to the participant serves as authorization to the school to bill the NHHSP directly for tuition and required fees. It takes approximately 6 weeks from date of receipt of the invoice by the NHHSP for the school to receive payment.

**9. Is the entire NHHSP award taxable?**

Yes, all NHHSP payments made to and on behalf of the participant (e.g., tuition, fees, Other Reasonable Costs, and stipend) are considered taxable income.

**10. Once a participant is selected to receive an NHHSP award, will the Program cover tuition and fees if his/her program started prior to July 1, 2017?**

Yes, the NHHSP will pay tuition and required fees for summer sessions when (1) summer school is an academic term normally required by the school for all students in the same program and (2) the summer session is in progress during the participant's contract period (i.e., through July 1, 2017).

**11. How are NHHSP stipend and other reasonable cost payments issued?**

NHHSP stipend and other reasonable cost payments are transferred electronically to each participant's financial institution through direct deposit. Direct deposit is mandatory.

**12. What happens if tuition has been paid by another source of financial aid before the participant receives notice of the NHHSP?**

Tuition and fees are paid directly to the educational institution that the scholarship participant is attending.

If tuition and fees for the initial Summer and/or Fall term of the academic year have been paid by another scholarship or a grant (e.g., Pell Grant, state grants or other scholarships), pending notice of an NHHSP award, the school may return payments to the source of funding and then submit an invoice to the NHHSP for payment.

If a scholarship participant has taken out a student loan to cover the cost of tuition and fees for their initial summer and/or fall semester(s) while waiting for notice of an NHHSP award, the student should supply an itemized invoice to the NHHSP showing the amount of tuition and fees paid for with the student loan. The NHHSP will then pay that amount to the academic institution.

**13. Does the NHHSP cover additional books or materials a participant is required to purchase during the school year?**

During the fall of the academic year, the NHHSP makes a single "other reasonable cost" payment to the participant. This payment is to assist with covering expenses for required materials such as books, clinical supplies/instruments, and uniforms during that school year. If additional expenses for books and other materials arise, those expenses are not covered by the NHHSP. The participant is responsible for paying those expenses. The "other reasonable cost" payment is established in the initial award year and cannot be adjusted.

**14. Is health insurance coverage included in the fees paid for by the NHHSP?**

If health insurance is required and purchase through the school is mandatory, the cost can be included in the fees paid by the NHHSP to the school. Insurance for family members is not covered.

If the required insurance is purchased through any other source, then the school will not be allowed to submit the costs for the insurance fee.

**15. Can the rules change after an individual selected to receive the NHHSP has accepted the scholarship?**

NHHSP participants may be subject to changes in the statute, regulations, and/or policies of the NHHSP that occur after they have received their awards.

**16. What happens if an NHHSP participant takes a leave of absence and/or repeats course work while attending college?**

The NHHSP will discontinue the payment of all benefits during a leave of absence approved by the school (for personal, medical or other reasons). If the participant is repeating course work for which the NHHSP has already paid, the NHHSP will not pay for that repeated course work but may maintain payments for stipends and all other non-repeated course work provided that the participant continues to meet the NHHSP requirements.

**17. What if an NHHSP participant's college does not offer courses needed during the participant's first fall semester in the program?**

NHHSP participants must be enrolled full-time in classes by September 30, 2017 in the program. If a participant's school does not offer enough courses for the participant to enroll full-time, they will have to forfeit the scholarship. An exception is granted if the participant is on an official leave of absence from the school. In this case, the participant must provide official documentation from the school confirming the leave of absence. During this leave of absence, the participant will not be eligible to receive stipend or ORC payments, but can apply to have their stipend and ORC reinstated at the conclusion of their leave of absence.

**18. What happens if the NHHSP runs out of money or is discontinued?**

When a scholarship is awarded, funds are obligated (set aside) for the number of school years of support requested by the participant and agreed to by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as indicated by the signed contract(s).

If the participant did not sign contracts through the date of graduation, he/she will be given priority for continued funding when the existing scholarship support ends. Continuation funding will be subject to the availability of future funding and the continued existence of the NHHSP.

**19. When can an NHHSP participant start applying for positions to fulfill the service commitment?**

Participants are encouraged to begin searching and applying for open positions as soon as possible. Participants have up to 9 months from the date of graduation to obtain a license, accept an offer of employment, and commence full-time (work providing clinical services).

**20. Who pays the salary of an NHHSP participant fulfilling the service commitment?**

The health care facility that employs the NHHSP participant pays the participant's salary. Each NHHSP participant negotiates his/her own salary and benefits packages with the employer. There is no "typical" salary. Salaries vary by employing facility and location.

**21. What is the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and what if my EFC needs to be updated?**

The EFC (Expected Family Contribution) is part of the Official Student Aid Report (SAR) that you receive when you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The SAR is required on the application and must be complete and official. The report is generated directly from the Department of Education.

The EFC measures a student's expected family contribution in terms of the ability to pay for educational costs. It is used to determine eligibility for Federal student aid. The NHHSP has a funding preference for applicants of greatest financial need, defined as qualified applicants with an EFC between \$0 and \$5,815.

The NHHSP uses the EFC listed on the SAR. If your EFC has changed due to special circumstances, the SAR must be corrected. Call 1-800-433-3243 to speak with the Federal Student Aid Information Center about your situation and obtain help updating your FAFSA. If your EFC changes before the NHHSP application cycle closes, you must notify the NHHSP. The NHHSP will reconsider your application based on this change. The NHHSP does not calculate your SAR. Your SAR is determined from the Department of Education by filling out a FAFSA.

Important Note: Applicants who wish to claim a "disadvantaged background" status must submit a copy of their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) - which is provided on the Official Student Aid Report (SAR) generated through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The applicant must complete their FAFSA after January 1, 2017 and submit their SAR-EFC to NHHSP by March 1, 2017, 12:00am HST.

**22. What does the NHHSP mean when it says participants must make "at least a two-year service commitment"?**

Individuals who receive the NHHSP are required to serve, at a minimum, a two-year full-time service obligation.. NHHSP participants who receive less than 2 years of scholarship support will still owe the equivalent of 2 years of full-time service. The service obligation is extended by one year for each full-time year of NHHSP support received beyond two years.

The NHHSP hopes that participants will remain at their service sites and continue serving those in need even after the service commitment is fulfilled.

**23. Can an NHHSP participant transfer schools and still receive NHHSP support?**

Transferring to another school or changing programs is strongly discouraged once the applicant has been accepted into the NHHSP. Transferring to another school or changing programs will be considered only for exceptional circumstances and must be approved in advance to ensure continued eligibility for funding.

**24. Can an NHHSP participant make changes to banking information after it has been submitted?**

Yes, once the scholarship award has been accepted and the participant has signed his/her application he/she will be asked to enter banking information including a bank account and routing number along with the Enrollment Verification Form and W-4.

Information about subsequent changes to banking information may be submitted through the participant portal. Paper submission is acceptable only if the Portal is experiencing technical difficulty preventing the applicant from electronic submission. Contact the NHHSP office at 808-597-6550 to report the technical difficulty and for further instructions on submitting a paper application.