

Roy & Betty Sakamoto Scholarship
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Sakamoto
PO Box 10068
Lahaina, HI 96761

May 31st, 2018

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Sakamoto,

I'd like to start off by thanking you for my final renewal of the Roy & Betty Sakamoto Scholarship for the 2018-2019 school year. Well here I am, three of four years completed and excited for what the future holds! I just finished my third year in the Global Environmental Science program within the oceanography department, and managed to pull off straight A's; a 4.0! My last fall semester also went well where I had A's except for a single B+. While a bit uncertain of my path when I first arrived, I now believe I have found my niche. I have been able to take a broad range of classes from public speaking and computer programming, to ecosystem ecology where we measured changes in water quality from the back of Mānoa valley to the Ala Wai Canal.

Due to my financial circumstances growing up all through school I recieved free breakfast, lunch, and bus passes, while I simultaneously saw the toll that the stress of working three jobs to keep a roof over our heads and food in our stomachs took on my mother. I now feel truly lucky to have the opportunity to follow my passion in the company of driven students and faculty members who continue to encourage me to excel and I have done my best to take advantage of every opportunity that comes my way that will assist me in reaching my goals. During the past three years I have been out to sea on two oceanographic research cruises for 5 and 10 days respectively, became a certified scientific scuba diver, co-authored a published scientific paper with another one under review at the moment, and earned a total of 15 awards and scholarships. While I have dilligently worked to improve myself I have not forgotten those that have helped me along the way, nor those younger than me that wish to follow the same path. When I am not studying or research I enjoy participating in various volunteer opportunities. For my sophomore and junior years I was a peer leader for incoming freshmen in geology, atmospheric science, and environmental science where I tell them about the opportunities that I have had and answer any questions they have. Additionally I gave a presentation to ~150 middle and high school students about the use of "drones" in science which was a ton of fun. My favorite however would be volunteering as a judge for the Kapolei High School science fair. The experience of having an extremely nervous student tell you about their project while they simultaneously have a

palpable sense of excitement is truly rewarding and I look forward to participating in similar events in the future.

Although it is my final summer as an undergraduate I have quite a few things on my plate. I am working on my senior research project which I have designed with my mentor to take place over the next year, I am continuing my regular job here in the oceanography department, and I will be starting an additional job at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Pearl Harbor as soon as my paperwork clears.

But my time in academia is not over yet! Around December of 2018 I will be applying to graduate programs where I will be able to continue following my passion and taking part in outreach activities for younger students. I will be applying to both Masters and PhD programs though my long-term goal is to complete a PhD in oceanography. I will be applying to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution on Cape Cod, Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla just north of San Diego, the University of Washington in Seattle, and of course here at UH Mānoa.

I would like to close by saying that I am honored to have been selected for the Roy & Betty Sakamoto Scholarship and have done my best to not let your investment in me be in vain. The lessened financial burden as a result of your scholarship has allowed me to focus more on my studies and becoming not only the best scientist that I can be, but the best person. While at the time I did not realize the amount of effort my mother put in to take care of me, I now look forward to living a fulfilling life where I will be able to take care of my mother and let her be proud of the man I have become.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noah Howins', written in a cursive style.

Noah Howins

P.S. If you are ever on Oahu I would love the opportunity to thank you in person for your support. You can contact me at howins@hawaii.edu.