

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT - WOW SCHOLARSHIP 2025**

My name is Alaysia Kyle, and I am a proud native of the Leeward Coast; a community deeply affected by homelessness, substance abuse, and domestic violence. Unfortunately, these challenges weren't just things I witnessed; they were my reality. Despite these hardships, I remained focused on my education, knowing it was my path to breaking the cycle and creating a better future.

Growing up, my parents' struggles with addiction led to instability and homelessness at a young age. School became my safe space, a place where I found support through teachers and mentors who encouraged me to keep pushing forward. However, my journey took a devastating turn at the start of my senior year when my mother passed away in a car accident. Shortly after, I was placed in Child Protective Services (CPS), uncertain of what the future held.

In 2017, I graduated Magna Cum Laude from Wai'anae High School with three distinguished honors, proving to myself that I had the power to succeed no matter what obstacles I faced. I then enrolled at Leeward Community College (LCC), where I earned an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts and two Academic Subject Certificates in Hawaiian Studies and Hawaiian Language in Spring 2019.

While in the pursuit of my bachelors degree, I also took on the responsibility of caring for my father, who was struggling with addiction. Even as I balanced school, work, and caregiving, I remained focused on my goals. After his passing in 2020, I knew I had a choice: to let these hardships define me or to use them as motivation to push forward.

Now, I am back at LCC, pursuing an Associate of Science in Accounting, maintaining a 3.62 GPA, and gaining hands-on experience through internships and student employment. Since Spring 2018, I have worked as a Peer Facilitator III at LCC Wai'anae Moku, helping fellow students navigate their own academic journeys. I am also an intern with Kinohi Mana Nui Support Services, a non-profit that helps individuals transition out of incarceration and into clean and sober living.

Through my internship, I have the opportunity to go into prison facilities and share community resources that can help individuals rebuild their lives after release. I connect them with employment opportunities, housing assistance, and recovery programs, ensuring they have the support they need to succeed. Having witnessed firsthand how difficult it can be to break cycles of hardship, I am committed to being part of the solution.

However, as I continue my education, I now face the financial challenge of funding my schooling without financial aid. Receiving this scholarship would ease my financial burden, allowing me to stay focused on my studies and continue making a difference in my community.

My immediate goal is to complete my Associate of Science in Accounting this Spring 2025. From there, I plan to earn a bachelor's degree in Accounting, become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), and eventually start my own business. My long-term vision is to provide financial stability for my family and create job opportunities within my community, empowering others to build a brighter future.

Education has been my greatest source of strength, guiding me through life's challenges and giving me the tools to succeed. This scholarship would not only support my academic journey but also allow me to continue giving back to those in my community who feel like there is no hope. Thank you for considering my application and for allowing me the opportunity to share my story.