

# A Guide to Completing the Application for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo

## Master of Arts in Hawaiian Language & Literature

### CHECKLIST

- UHH Graduate Application
- \$50 Application Fee
- Official transcripts from all colleges (must be received directly from the institution)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Sample undergraduate academic paper, preferably written in Hawaiian
- Successful completion of oral/written exam in Hawaiian language and culture

**PRIORITY DEADLINE: DEC. 1**

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission of the M.A. program in Hawaiian Language and Literature is to prepare scholars to carry out research to enhance our knowledge of Hawaiian language and culture in order to ensure their preservation and revitalization. The program draws upon the tremendous wealth of Hawaiian literary resources from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and examines the contemporary use of Hawaiian language and culture.

The M.A. in Hawaiian Language and Literature was UH Hilo's first graduate program and the first to focus on a Native American language in the United States. The program is designed for students who have already achieved fluency in spoken Hawaiian and competency in reading modern and historical Hawaiian texts. Student cohorts are accepted every three years. The program requires a minimum of 36 credits of coursework. Currently, the college offers only a Plan A degree, which requires a thesis.

The program seeks to produce graduates prepared to meet the increasing demand for in-depth knowledge of Hawaiian language and literature in all sectors of contemporary life in Hawai'i. With government promotion of the language mandated by the Hawai'i State Constitution, Hawaiian is the language area of greatest need in Hawai'i public schools. It is the only language besides English used in the public schools as a full medium of instruction. In addition, students are enrolled in Hawaiian language-learning programs in English-language high schools and throughout the University of Hawai'i system. The substance and

growth of such programs depends heavily upon individuals with graduate level training in Hawaiian language and literature.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

The priority application deadline is December 1. Applications received after the priority deadline will only be accepted on a space available basis.

The UH Hilo Admissions Office receives applications. All supporting documents are sent directly to Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language.

Applications that meet initial requirements will be forwarded to the College of Hawaiian Language Admissions selection committee for a comprehensive review and consideration for admission into the program. Admissions decisions made by the committee will be returned to the Graduate Division which sends the final notification to the applicant.

### CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

1. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
2. 30 completed upper division credits in courses with a HAW or HAWS alpha, with no grade lower than a "B" and an overall minimum GPA of 3.5
3. sample undergraduate academic paper (by preference written in Hawaiian)
4. three letters of recommendation
5. success in passing an oral/written entrance exam in Hawaiian language and culture

*Experience in Hawaiian medium classrooms or similar environments where a high level of Hawaiian language is used is recommended.*

**Transfer of Credits:** Up to 12 credit hours may be transferred from an accredited university (if not previously counted toward another degree). Requests for transfer of credits must be made during the first semester enrolled. Only credit hours with a Grade of "B" or better are transferable. Transfer credits must have been completed within seven years preceding the date upon which the M.A. is to be conferred by UHH.

***For questions regarding the application process,  
please contact:***

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[hilograd@hawaii.edu](mailto:hilograd@hawaii.edu)  
[www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate)

***For questions regarding program information,  
please contact:***

Ku‘ulei Kepa‘a  
Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani, UH Hilo  
200 W. Kāwili Street  
Hilo, HI 96720-4091  
Phone: 808-932-7732  
Fax: 808-932-7214  
[kuulei.kepaa@hawaii.edu](mailto:kuulei.kepaa@hawaii.edu)

Apply online at:

<http://hilo.hawaii.edu/admissions/Apply.php>

**All supporting documents should be directed to Ka  
Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language.**