Application Deadline: November 16, 2026

University of Hawai‘i at Hilo
Fall 2026
Student Commencement Speaker Application

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a candidate for Student Speaker for the Fall 2026 Commencement Ceremony. The person selected will represent the graduating students of the Class of Fall 2026 and will play a very important role in the Commencement Ceremony.

The following section describes the criteria and process to be used for selecting the speaker. Attached is the application itself, which is to be emailed along with a recorded video of your speech to Dr. Colby Miyose at colbym@hawaii.edu *by 11:30pm (HST) on November 16, 2026.* Graduating undergraduate and graduate students who registered for graduation are eligible. In situations where selecting a speaker is closely competitive, finalists may be asked to audition in-person the following week. The selected speaker will be asked to be available at the in-person graduation to present their speech live. If you have any questions, you may contact Dr. Colby Miyose at colbym@hawaii.edu.

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CRITERIA:

I. <u>High Academic Achievement</u>
The student must demonstrate academic achievement, as evidenced by a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 from UHH courses at the end of the Spring 2026 semester.

II. <u>University/Community Service</u>
The student must have a record of meaningful University and/or community service.

III. <u>Graduating Senior/Graduate Student</u>
The student must have applied for graduation and be graduating this semester as an undergraduate or graduate student.

IV. <u>Public Communication Skills</u>
The student must demonstrate the potential to communicate to a large audience on a graduation-related theme in a meaningful, clear, and an expressive manner.

V. <u>Video Speech Recording</u>
- **Speeches should be approximately 3 minutes long.**
- **Speak as if you are addressing those assembled at the graduation ceremony itself.**
- **Make sure you are well illuminated; turn extra lights on.**
- **Position the camera at shoulder height or head height, on a tripod, shelf, or cabinet.**
- **Focus the lens to capture a few inches above your head to a few inches below your waist.**
- **Make sure to silence or minimize as much background noise as possible.**
- **Send as .mp4 format as an email attachment or share via Google Drive.**

PROCEDURE OF APPLICATION:

Complete the attached brief application and email it along with a recorded video of your speech to Dr. Colby Miyose at colbym@hawaii.edu by *11:30pm (HST) on Monday November 16, 2026.* Late applications cannot be accepted.

I. Applicants who meet all the above criteria will be considered by the Student Speaker Committee.

III. Final selection will be based upon the student’s application and the attached sample speech video submitted. Both content and delivery will be considered (along with academic achievement and service in especially close competition).

IV. The student selected to be the Student Commencement Speaker will receive assistance from UH-Hilo faculty in refining their speech and its delivery. The student selected must email the speech to the committee in a timely manner.

Unicersity of Hawai‘i at Hilo
Undergraduate Student Commencement Speaker
Application Form

Please provide us with the information requested and email this application, along with a recorded video of your speech, to Dr. Colby Miyose <colbym@hawaii.edu> by 11:30pm (HST) on Monday, November 16, 2026.

Name and e-mail address of applicant (please print):

_____

Phone: _____ Major: _____ GPA (cumulative): _____

Student ID: **_____**

1. Academic Honors or Awards at UH:

2. Campus and/or Community Service:

3. **Please describe the qualities or experiences which you believe make you qualified to represent your fellow graduates as the Student Speaker at Commencement.**

4. **Please describe your future plans after graduation.**

5. **On an attached sheet, provide a brief summary or outline of the content of the speech you would like to present at Commencement.**