

University of Hawai'i at Hilo Spring 2026 Student Commencement Speaker Application

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

The following section describes the criteria and process for selecting the speaker. Attached is the application to be emailed along with a recorded video of your speech to Dr. Colby Miyose at colbym@hawaii.edu by **11:30 pm (HST) on Friday, March 27, 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.

CRITERIA:

1. High Academic Achievement
The student must demonstrate academic achievement, as evidenced by a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in UH Hilo courses at the end of the Fall 2025 semester.
2. University/Community Service
The student must have a record of meaningful University and/or community service.
3. Graduating Senior/Graduate Student
The student must have applied for graduation and be graduating this semester as an undergraduate or graduate student.
4. Public Communication Skills
The student must demonstrate the potential to communicate to a large audience on a graduation-related theme in a meaningful, clear, and expressive manner.
5. Video Speech Recording
 - 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-lit; turn on extra lights.
 - 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 an .mp4 format as an email attachment or share via Google Drive.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Applicants who meet all the above criteria will be considered by the Student Speaker Committee.
2. Final selection will be based on the student's application and the attached sample speech video. Both content and delivery will be considered (along with academic achievement and service in especially close competition).
3. The student selected as the Student Commencement Speaker will receive assistance from UH Hilo faculty in refining their speech and delivery. The student selected must email their speech to the committee in a timely manner.

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT HILO
SPRING 2026
STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
APPLICATION FORM**

Please complete this application and email the completed form along with (1) the attachment required in Question #5 and (2) a recorded video of your speech — as a shareable Google Drive link in the email or as an attached .mp4 file — to Dr. Colby Miyose at colbym@hawaii.edu **no later than 11:30 p.m. (HST) on Friday, March 27, 2026.** (Late submissions cannot be accepted.)

NOTE: If you are accessing this application online (rather than as an email attachment), please download the fillable PDF form first before completing it.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Student ID:

Major:

GPA (cumulative):

1. Academic Honors or Awards at UH:

2. Campus and/or Community Service:

3. Please describe the qualities or experiences that 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.