



Lola Rayne DeMotte
Class of 2025

Sandra E. Taosaka Future
Teacher Scholarship
and Konawaena Foundation
Fine Arts Scholarship
Recipient

Aloha, I'm Lola DeMotte, I was the recipient of the Sandra E Taosaka Future Teacher Scholarship and Fine Arts Scholarship from Konawaena. As the first semester comes to a close and the holidays draw near I've taken the time to reflect a lot about what I'm grateful for, my journey, and who got me to where I am today. One of the biggest changes of my life has been going to college, and I can not be more grateful that I was able to have such an amazing opportunity. Without the scholarships from the Konawaena Foundation I don't think I ever would have been able to do it.

A lot has changed since I received the scholarship in May and started my first semester at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. In fact, I'm pleased to say that I've changed my major to Education Studies so that I can graduate with my Bachelor's degree and am on track to getting my elementary school teaching license with it. Since classes have begun I've learned a lot and have grown a lot. I've come to learn just how big the education field is and that it's a career path that I know that I'll always find myself a part of. Not only that but working with

students is something that brings me so much joy. And it's inspiring to be surrounded by others that are just as passionate if not more both in academics and in their professions.

I've also been able to experience so many amazing opportunities from being on campus. One of them being my employment through the school at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center. It has shown me just how much work is behind education and what it can look like in a setting other than a classroom. It has also given me the opportunity to learn new skills that I couldn't have anywhere else. Being on campus as well has given me the chance to look into publishing some of my art and written pieces into the magazines made by the college.

I've learned and faced so many things that I couldn't be prouder of the way's I've grown. And none of this would have been possible without the Konawaena Foundation. I am sincerely grateful to have been the recipient of the Sandra E Taosaka Future Teaching Scholarship and Fine Arts Scholarship. I'm ecstatic to continue my journey in education, and I'm particularly excited for some of the classes I have in this coming spring semester. In the future I hope to give back to my community when I graduate. One of the things I most look forward to is being able to return to Konawaena elementary and be able to inspire others like the teachers that inspired me. So, thank you sincerely for giving me this amazing opportunity.

Mahalo and Happy Holidays,
Lola Rayne DeMotte