



**HAWAII  
STATE**

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

*always right by you*

# creditLINES

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## Hawaii State FCU Scholarship Program Accepting Applications Through February 26

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2026 Hawaii State Federal Credit Union Scholarship Program now through February 26, 2026 at 4 p.m. HST (Hawaii Standard Time). Twenty deserving recipients will each receive a \$5,000 scholarship to further their education.

Hawaii Community Foundation will administer this year's scholarship program.

For more information on eligibility, requirements and how to apply, please visit

**[www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/scholarship](http://www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/scholarship)**.



## Investing in Education Begins February 2

Attention all Hawaii Department of Education classroom teachers! Hawaii State FCU will be accepting applications for our 2026 Investing in Education teacher grant program beginning February 2. We will once again have \$40,000 in total funding to award public school teachers needing classroom supplies.

The dollar amount of each grant will be up to \$500 and will be determined based on individual need and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. To be eligible for a 2026 grant, you must be a classroom teacher in the Hawaii Department of Education, a member of Hawaii State FCU and must not have received an Investing In Education grant within the last three years. For more information and how to apply, visit **[www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/InvestingInEducation](http://www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/InvestingInEducation)** in February.

## EVENTS & BRANCH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

For more info, visit **[www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/events](http://www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/events)**

- Jan. 1 Branch Closure: New Year's Day
- Jan. 19 Branch Closure: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Feb. 16 Branch Closure: Presidents' Day
- Mar. 26 Branch Closure: Kuhio Day
- Apr. 3 Branch Closure: Good Friday

## Free Tax Preparation Service in 2026

Hawaii State FCU will once again offer free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) services to eligible members through our involvement with Goodwill Hawaii. Volunteers will be available at the Goodwill Office (1075 S. Beretania Street) every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. from February 10 to April 9, 2026.

### What is VITA?

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$69,000 or less annually, persons with disabilities, limited English-speaking taxpayers, and senior citizens.

The program is staffed by IRS-certified volunteers who provide basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified members.

### Key Benefits of VITA:

- **Free Service:** No cost for tax preparation.
- **Expert Assistance:** Help from trained and certified volunteers.
- **Maximize Refunds:** Ensure you receive all eligible tax credits.

VITA is part of our Community Impact areas focusing on Basic Necessities, Financial Literacy, and Kupuna. We believe in supporting our community in every way possible, and this program is a key part of our commitment to being "*Always right by you.*" More information will be posted on our website:

**[www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/vita](http://www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/vita)**.





In 1936, a small group of territorial employees founded the Hawaii Territorial Employees FCU, serving the financial needs of government workers out of a small office in the basement of the Territorial Office Building. Today, Hawaii State FCU has grown into the state's largest credit union, with more than 136,000 members and 14 branches on Oahu and Maui.

As we celebrate 90 years, we want to take the opportunity to honor our rich history and the many relationships we've built with our members, employees, and the community. Stay tuned as we have some fun things planned for our 90th anniversary!



## Call for Nomination Applications for 2026 Hawaii State FCU Board of Directors

We are accepting nomination applications to fill positions on our Board of Directors that begin in June 2026. Board members serve on a voluntary basis and work with credit union management to establish the general direction and control of the credit union.

Preferred candidates are strategic thinkers with nonprofit, business or organizational development experience. Candidates should understand the credit union's vision and values, be able to develop relationships, and be willing to assume leadership positions on the Board. In addition, the Board as a whole should reflect diversity of skills, experience and perspective. The Nominating Committee will consider the applicant's ability to commit the required time, ability to serve in an unbiased capacity, and desire to act in the credit union's best interest.

Please contact the Administrative Office for a list of qualifications and to request an application packet.

Call: (808) 447-8050 on Oahu

Email: [administration@hsfcu.com](mailto:administration@hsfcu.com)

Write: Hawaii State FCU, Attn: Nominating Committee,  
P.O. Box 3072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96802-3072.

We must receive your completed nomination application by 5 p.m. Monday, February 2, 2026. All applicants will be required to sign a consent form allowing the credit union to conduct a credit and background check.

## Check Out Season Two of the Voices of Change Podcast

Voices of Change: The HSFCU Podcast is back for season two! Join us every third Thursday of the month to hear inspiring stories from community leaders about key issues affecting our islands.

Miss an episode? View current and past episodes at [www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/voices-of-change](http://www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/voices-of-change) or listen on Spotify.

## Stay Informed About Fraud

Scammers are getting more sophisticated, finding new ways to steal your personal information. From imposter scams to phishing, learn about ways to safeguard yourself against the latest fraud attempts by checking out our Fraud Alerts page at [www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/fraud-alerts](http://www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/fraud-alerts).

## Member Receives \$1,500 from Refer A Friend Promotion

Congratulations to Rupert V., our 3rd Quarter 2025 Refer A Friend winner! Rupert was automatically entered into our quarterly drawing after referring a friend to join the credit union.

We give away \$1,500\* each quarter to a member who refers friends and family to join Hawaii State FCU. The more referrals you make, the more entries into the drawing you earn! [www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/refer-a-friend](http://www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/refer-a-friend).

\*Must be 18 years or older and a resident of the State of Hawaii to be eligible to win. No purchase or payment necessary. Visit [www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/referral](http://www.HawaiiStateFCU.com/referral) for official rules and more information. Prizes are awarded in a random drawing from all eligible entries.





# Heads-Up: New Tax Deduction for Car Loans

Buying a new car is exciting, but it can also be expensive. Fortunately, a new federal law passed in July 2025 offers a temporary tax break that could help ease the financial load for Hawaii State FCU members financing a new, American-assembled vehicle. If you're planning to purchase a new car using an auto loan, you may qualify for a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 per year on the interest you pay. Here's what you need to know:

## What's the New Benefit?

The new law allows individuals to deduct up to \$10,000 annually in interest paid on auto loans for new vehicles assembled in the United States.

## When is the Deduction Available?

The deduction applies to qualifying purchases made between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2028. Even better, it's available whether or not you itemize your taxes.

## What Vehicles Qualify?

To be eligible, your vehicle and loan must meet all of the following criteria:

- The loan must be signed on or after January 1, 2025
- The vehicle must be brand new (not used) and for personal use only
- The vehicle must weigh less than 14,000 lbs. (includes most sedans, SUVs, trucks, vans, and motorcycles)
- The loan must be secured by the vehicle (not a personal loan)
- The vehicle must have undergone final assembly in the U.S.

*Tip: Check the window sticker or Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) to confirm assembly location. You can verify VIN details through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at [www.nhtsa.gov/vin-decoder](http://www.nhtsa.gov/vin-decoder).*

## What Doesn't Qualify?

To avoid confusion, here's what does not qualify:

- Auto loans signed before January 1, 2025
- Vehicles purchased before 2025, even if still being paid off
- Leased vehicles
- Vehicles not assembled in the U.S.
- Vehicles used primarily for business or commercial purposes

## How Will Hawaii State FCU Notify You?

- In your January 2026 loan statement, you'll see the total interest paid during 2025 listed under "Last Year Interest Paid."
- If you paid off your loan before December 2025 and your vehicle is a qualified vehicle, we will send you a letter summarizing your total interest paid for the year.

## How Can Hawaii State FCU Help?

If you're shopping for a new vehicle, our lending team is here to help you understand your options and find the right loan to fit your needs.

*Hawaii State FCU does not provide tax advice. This information is for educational purposes only. Please consult your tax professional to determine your eligibility and potential benefits based on your personal financial situation.*

**IMPORTANT: IRA WITHHOLDING NOTICE:** This distribution from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is subject to federal income tax withholding. You have the right to elect whether or not withholding will apply. If you have not made an election, federal income tax has been withheld at the default rate of **10%**. To change your withholding election, please submit a completed **IRS Form W-4R** (for nonperiodic payments) or **Form W-4P** (for periodic payments). These forms are available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). You may revoke or change your election at any time. If you're withholding and estimated tax payments are not sufficient, you may be subject to penalties under IRS estimated tax rules. Withholding does not affect the amount of tax you owe. For assistance or to make changes to your election, contact our Member Service Call Center at (808) 587-2700 (Oahu) or U.S. Toll-Free at (888) 586-1056. *Hawaii State FCU does not provide legal or tax advice. Please consult your tax advisor for personalized guidance.*

### Board of Directors

Chair	Mark Yamakawa
Vice Chair	John Katahira
Treasurer	Grant Tanimoto
Secretary	Dawn Kurisu
Director	Kira Higa
Director	Brennon Morioka
Director	Darren Nakao
Director	Garret Yoshimi

### Supervisory Committee

Chair	Judy Dang
Secretary	Joshua Strickler
Member	Marcus Chun
Member	Gordon Fukumoto
Member	Tayler Mori

**CEO & President** Andrew Rosen

### Member Service Call Center

Oahu:	(808) 587-2700
US Toll-Free:	(888) 586-1056
Monday to Friday:	7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday:	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

For a full list of branches and hours please visit [www.HawaiiStateFCU.com](http://www.HawaiiStateFCU.com)

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