

Admissions

Admission to the Law School is competitive. To be considered for admission, all applicants must: earn a bachelor's degree, have a valid LSAT score, and register for the LSAC Credential Assembly Service. Applicants must also submit a completed application for the Law School at www.lsac.org. The Law School does not have a paper application.

Lehua Admissions

There is no separate application process for the Ulu Lehua Scholars Program. However, applicants who are interested in being considered for the Program are required to include an additional statement in their application packet discussing how they meet the Law School's criteria for admission as a Lehua Scholar. These include:

- Activities and/or employment manifesting a strong commitment to social justice, community service, and work on behalf of legally, socially, and economically disadvantaged communities;
- A record of overcoming social, educational, economic, or other sources of adversity;
- The ability to serve as a role model for and a mentor to members of disadvantaged communities who are striving to overcome adversity and reach their full potential;
- The ability to bring distinctive viewpoints and life experiences to the law school community, enriching the understanding of all who work and study here; and
- Educational and other achievements demonstrating that one's ability to succeed in law school is inadequately reflected by one's numerical admissions indicators, such as the LSAT score and/or undergraduate grade point average.

Need Additional Information

William S. Richardson School of Law
Ulu Lehua Scholars Program
2515 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Email: ululehua@hawaii.edu
Web: www.law.hawaii.edu/ululehua

The University of Hawai'i is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

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William S. Richardson SCHOOL OF LAW

ULU LEHUA

SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Photo of a lehua blossom in the law school's courtyard

UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I®
MĀNOA



The Ulu Lehua Scholars Program

The initiative now known as the Ulu Lehua Scholars Program was established by the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1974 as a manifestation of its commitment to make legal education accessible to members of all of Hawai'i's diverse communities. Each year, the Program provides a small number of students who have demonstrated their academic potential, leadership ability, and commitment to social justice with an opportunity to obtain a legal education at Richardson. Candidates who are chosen for the Ulu Lehua Scholars Program have, through their actions, demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to social justice and community service, an ability to overcome educational and other forms of adversity, an impressive academic record, and the intelligence and seriousness of purpose required to succeed in law school, pass the bar, and become a public spirited legal professional.

"I consider the program as a pioneer on the frontier of legal education. One gets to experience the best of legal education while maintaining a critical eye on the process as a whole. . . . There is much to learn from this program."

Randy Compton, Ulu Lehua Scholar
Former Fellow and Staff Attorney
Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i



The Lehua 1L Year

Lehua Scholars enter the Law School as fully matriculated J.D. students. Like all first year ("1L") students, in their first semester, Lehua Scholars take Contracts, Civil Procedure, and Lawyering Fundamentals. Their fourth class, Torts, will be taught by the Program Director and will be only for Ulu Lehua Scholars. In addition to these classes, Lehua Scholars take American Legal Systems I, which is also taught by the Program Director, and provides structured, individualized instruction in legal reasoning, legal writing, law school study techniques and other foundational legal skills. The seminar also introduces students to critical legal theory and other interdisciplinary perspectives on the relationship between law and social change. Depending on their first semester experience, in the second semester, Lehua Scholars may take advantage of additional course flexibility.

Lehua Pathways to the Juris Doctorate Degree

At the end of the first year, Lehua Scholars will have accumulated significantly more units than students in the Law School's part-time program, but slightly fewer units (anywhere from 2 to 6) than students who begin law school in the non-Lehua full-time program. Some Lehua Scholars choose to complete the J.D. in seven rather than the usual six semesters. Others, by taking summer school and J-Term classes, or credited summer externships, complete the J.D. in three years. Other Lehua Scholars end up pursuing joint degrees, combining their J.D. with a Masters in Social Work, a Masters of Business Administration, or some other professional degree. Joint degree programs generally also require more than six semesters to complete. Over their law school careers, Lehua Scholars work with the Program Director to design an educational and professional development strategy that best meets each student's individual needs and goals.

Lehua Scholars with U.S. Associate Justice Stephen Breyer



The Lehua Tutorial Program

Lehua 1L's and first semester 2L's benefit from a structured program of tutoring in civil procedure, contracts, criminal law, real property, and constitutional law. These tutorials are led by upper division Lehua Scholars who excelled in those courses. Serving as a tutor is a way for upper division Lehua Scholars to give back to the Program, and to prepare themselves for the Bar Exam.



"I grew up in the village of Fagasa, American Samoa, and am the first in my family to attend college, let alone law school. When I graduated from high school, my English was very limited. But now, I can look forward to being a successful lawyer – an inspiration to my village and to the Samoan community."

Uilisona Tua, Ulu Lehua Scholar
Judge Advocate
United States Army



"Entering law school as an Ulu Lehua Scholar was the greatest gift. Our program is a symbol of Richardson's commitment to social change in Hawai'i. We, Lehua, have a very strong, special kinship among our students and alumni. We have a deep understanding of our responsibility to serve our communities and protect those most vulnerable to injustice."

Amanda Jenssen, Ulu Lehua Scholar
State of Hawai'i Office of the Attorney General

Tradition of Lehua Leadership

Lehua Scholars participate fully in the life of the Law School, often assuming leadership roles in such organizations as the University of Hawai'i Law Review, the 'Ahahui o Hawai'i, the Asian Pacific Law Journal, and the School's award-winning moot court teams. Lehua Scholars have been instrumental in launching new initiatives, such as the LSAT preparation course, that expand legal educational opportunities to communities under-represented in the Hawai'i Bar. Upon graduation, Lehua Scholars become part of a large and influential Lehua alumni community, which includes current judges, political leaders, social justice advocates, business administrators, and prominent attorneys.

Andres Y. Gonzalez
Ulu Lehua Scholar

Access to Justice Fellow
Corporate Attorney, Comity Inc.



Leslee Dawn Matthews
Ulu Lehua Scholar

Attorney and Founder
Speak Out & Up Law, LLLC



Jeremy Butterfield
Ulu Lehua Scholar

Attorney
Law Office of Jeremy J.K. Butterfield

Seen here speaking to students at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo during their celebration of Constitution Day.

