



Big Island

Federal Credit Union

The first chartered credit union in the State of Hawaii

First Quarter 2024

\$15,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AWARDED IN 2024!!

We are so excited to announce that we will be increasing our total scholarship awards to \$15,000 in 2024! A total of nine (9) scholarships will be awarded: four (4) \$2,500 scholarships and five (5) \$1,000 scholarships.

As part of our ongoing commitment to education, we invite all eligible Big Island FCU members to apply for our cash scholarship awards:

- Students who will be or are attending a two-year post-secondary institution of higher learning such as a community college or junior college.
- Students who will be or are attending a four-year post-secondary institution of higher learning.
- Students that have earned a baccalaureate degree on or before December 2023 and are pursuing or will pursue an advanced degree.

Our Scholarship Committee will review and score all applicants based on academic excellence, personal achievements, community involvement, academic & career goals and letters of recommendation.*

Formed as the Big Island Teacher's Federal Credit Union in 1936, Big Island Federal Credit Union remains committed to helping members succeed in their educational goals by offering scholarships. Applications are now available at any Big Island FCU branch or can be downloaded from bigislandfcu.com/scholarship-program.

*Applicant must be a member in good standing of the Big Island FCU, a member can win an award only once, only one award per immediate family per year, applicant must be a Big Island FCU member prior to the deadline.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED OR
POSTMARKED BY MARCH 15, 2024**

OTHER SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES...

Check out our Scholarship Search Tool*. You can get matched with scholarships that fit you best based on your skills, activities, and interest. Visit <https://www.smscholarships.com/partner/search.cfm?id=74&iiframe=false>, and fill out a Student Profile. You'll then be able to search a database of over 3.5 million scholarships worth more than \$18 billion! Check it out today!

*Scholarship Search Tool is powered by Sallie Mae, Inc. © Sallie Mae, Inc. All rights reserved.

Big Island FCU Participates In The 2023 Hawai'i Island Career Pathway Expo

On October 26, 2023, Big Island FCU participated in the 2023 Hawai'i Island Career Expo held at Aunty Sally's Lū'au Hale. There were a total of 15 Hawai'i Island High Schools and 735 students who participated in the event. The objective of this event is to offer students information about various career options, educational programs, and community volunteer and internship opportunities.

Our staff on site at the event discussed with attending students different job roles and departments within the Credit Union, and their different duties and responsibilities. They shared information on education and experience that can be helpful in a career with the Credit Union. The students also had an opportunity to play games and win prizes!



Left to right: Shanel Chow - Collections Manager, Cheyenne Doronio - Director of Operations, Destinee Pakani - Loan Representative II, Ariana Ramo-Segovia - Compliance and Security Officer.

BIG ISLAND FCU MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY & ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

On **Wednesday, March 13, 2024**, please stop by any of our three branches for Member Appreciation Day. We will have a special gift for members to show how thankful we are for your patronage, loyalty, and continued support. Special gifts will be available while supplies last.

Our Annual Business Meeting will also be held on that day, Wednesday, March 13, 2024. The Business Meeting will start promptly at 4:30pm in our Keaau Branch lobby, located in the Shipman Industrial Park at 16-594 Kipimana Street. Only Big Island FCU members are allowed to attend the Business Meeting.

IMPORTANT - KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT

Have you moved? Changed your address, phone number or email? Don't forget to keep us informed! Having your correct contact information is critical to protecting your money and keeping your accounts safe.

Take a moment to verify your information and make sure its current.

- Call us at 808.935.9778
- Visit us in Hilo, Keaau or Kona
- Log into your Online Branch account, then go to **Settings, Profile**



NEAR OR FAR...RETIREMENT IS IN YOUR FUTURE

Be ready. Saving for retirement is important. Big Island FCU has several options to meet your needs.

Traditional IRA (Share and Term Certificates)

Contributions to a Traditional IRA are tax-deductible*. Your earnings grow tax-deferred, so you will not pay income taxes on your investment earnings until you make withdrawals. Both deductible contributions and earnings are then taxed at your regular income tax rate when money is withdrawn.

Roth IRA (Share and Term Certificates)

Contributions to a Roth IRA are not tax-deductible*. The money you contribute to your Roth IRA can be withdrawn tax-free at any time. And if you qualify, you can withdraw the earnings tax-free too.








Call us today at 808.935.9778 for more information on our IRAs

*Please consult with your tax advisor for details



cyber safety

As the world advances in technology, fraudsters are also advancing and becoming more clever. Here are some tips to help minimize your risks and keep you safe:

-  **Create a strong password:** Create a password with a mix of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and special characters when possible. Avoid common phrases or a password that contains your name, date of birth or social security number.
-  **Secure your computer and keep it up-to-date:** Make sure you are running anti-virus software and your firewall is turned on. Keep your operating system and other software up-to-date to ensure there are no security holes.
-  **Watch out for fraudulent emails:** No financial institution should be sending you emails asking you to provide any confidential information. Also watch out for links and attachments within the emails.
-  **Access your accounts from a secure location:** It's always best to connect to your accounts using computers and networks you know and trust. Make sure the URL of the site begins with "https".
-  **Always log out when you are done:** It is good practice to always log out of your online banking session when you are finished. This will lessen the chance of session hijacking and cross-site exploits.
-  **Set up account notifications (if available):** Check to see if your financial institution allows you to set up text or email notifications to alert you to certain activities on your account. These alerts could give you quick notice of suspicious activity on your account.
-  **Monitor your accounts regularly:** Monitoring your account on a regular basis will help you become aware of unauthorized transactions on your account. With online banking, you have access to your account 24/7. Take advantage of that and monitor your account on a regular basis.

Please also remember, Big Island FCU will **never** contact you directly to request any of your account information, including: social security number, credit or debit card number, security code or CVV, PIN, date of birth, address, or Online Banking information. If you feel you have been a victim of fraud or your account may have been compromised, please call us at 808-935-9778 immediately. Member vigilance is the most effective form of fraud prevention.

Start earning points today.

- 1. Register**
- 2. Earn**
- 3. Reward**

It's that simple.

Visit www.uChooseRewards.com today and register to start earning points!

You'll earn points for all of your purchases - wherever you shop!

- Earn 1 point per \$3 when you use your **Big Island FCU Visa® Debit Card**
- Earn 1 point per \$1 when you use your **Big Island FCU Visa® Credit Card**
- Earn additional points by shopping at participating retailers in-store and online at www.uchooserewards.com.

Redemption options are endless! Redeem points for travel, gas, gift cards and more.

For more information, please visit contact any Big Island FCU branch or visit www.uchooserewards.com.



uChoose Rewards

Earn every time you shop with your Big Island FCU Visa® Debit or Credit Card

BIG ISLAND FCU BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

The following candidates were submitted by the Nominating Committee to fill the two (2) vacancies on Big Island FCU's Board of Directors. These position will be filled March 13, 2024 at the Annual Membership Business Meeting.

TERESA AGPOON - Teresa has been a member of Big Island FCU since October 2006 and has been on the Board since March 2022. She has also served on our Scholarship Committee since January 2018. Teresa is the Administrative Assistant at Hawai'i Affordable Properties, Inc. and is also a local business owner. She has also served on several local boards and committees. Teresa is committed to using her experience to serve the best interest of the Credit Union and its members.

NECELYN YAMASHIRO - Necelyn has been a member of Big Island FCU since November 2016 and has been on the Board since August 2017. She currently serves as the Board Treasurer. Necelyn is a Certified Public Accountant and a joint owner of a local business. Necelyn uses her skills and background as a CPA to serve the best interest of the Credit Union and its members.

NOMINATIONS BY PETITION:

The Nominating Committee is also currently accepting nominations by petition to fill the two (2) vacancies on the Board. The nominees must be a member in good standing with Big Island FCU, at least 18 years of age, and must be bondable by Big Island FCU's Fidelity Bond Company. Nominations made by petition must be signed by at least 1% (99 signatures) of the membership. Minimum age to sign the petition is 18. Petition forms are available at Credit Union offices. The deadline for receipt of the petition by the Committee is February 2, 2024.

For more information on nominations by petition, please call 808-935-9778.

BIG ISLAND FCU'S DEBT PROTECTION WITH LIFE PLUS

Your financial safeguard
against the unexpected



Life can take some unexpected turns. That's why there's Debt Protection with Life Plus

Financial Protection for the unexpected - protect the ones that matter most. Debt Protection with Life Plus could help your family's financial situation against a variety of covered life events:

- Involuntary Unemployment
- Disability
- Death

For additional protections, Life Plus can extend your Debt Protection with Life Plus to address a wide range of circumstances, giving you the reassurance of knowing you've taken steps to help secure your finances.

- Accidental dismemberment
- Terminal illness
- Hospitalization or family medical leave
- Death of a non-protected dependent

Things to know about Debt Protection with Life Plus:

- It's easy - Simple to apply for.
- It's budget-friendly - Comfortably fits into your monthly payment.
- It puts you at ease - Rest easy, knowing you may be taken care of in so many problem situations.

Take an important step toward financial security. Ask us about Debt Protection with Life Plus today.

Your purchase of Debt Protection with Life Plus is optional and will not affect your application for credit or the terms of any credit agreement required to obtain a loan. Certain eligibility requirements, conditions and exclusions may apply.

Please contact your loan representative or refer to the Member Agreement for a full explanation of the terms of Debt Protection with Life Plus. You may cancel the protection at any time. If you cancel protection within 30 days, you will receive a full refund of any fee paid.

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PRIVACY NOTICE

Federal law requires us to tell you how we collect, share, and protect your personal information. Our Privacy Policy has not changed and you may review our Policy and practices with respect to your personal information at bigislandfcu.com/privacy-policy or we will mail you a free copy upon request if you call us at 808-935-9778.



HILO

66 Lono Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
(808) 935-9778
Loan Dept.: (808) 935-6665
Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm

KEAAU

16-594 Kipimana Street
Keaau, Hawaii 96749
Ph: (808) 930-2600
Loans: (808) 930-2610
Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm

KONA

75-5737 Kuakini Hwy, Ste 101
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
Ph: (808) 329-8889
Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm

WEBSITE

www.bigislandfcu.com

EMAIL

info@bigislandfcu.com

AUDIO RESPONSE

(808) 961-3316

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman:
Henry Kaaihue, Jr.
Vice Chairman:
Lenny Sugiyama
Secretary:
Loren Tsugawa
Treasurer:
Necelyn Yamashiro
Director:
Teresa Agpoon

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Martin Luther King Jr Day-January 15
Presidents' Day-February 19



We do business in accordance
with the Federal Fair Housing Law
and Equal Credit Opportunity Act

Federally Insured by NCUA