



# Scholarships for higher education on Maui

We've expanded a long-running Sentry® scholarship program, Sentry Scholars, to Maui. As of the 2019 fall semester, we offer annually renewable scholarships to students attending University of Hawai'i institutions.

The scholarships are administered by the university. Students must be graduates of Maui public schools and maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or above to be eligible. Our goal is to encourage higher learning and ongoing engagement with the students' home island.

"The fact that we can grow students and keep them here on island to become professionals contributing to their communities is so important now, more than ever before, it seems," says Dr. Jocelyn Romero Demirbag, Ed.D., director of development for the University of Hawai'i Foundation.

Current scholarship recipients span across disciplines and interests. As of 2019, our Sentry Scholars on Maui include students of biology, creative media, business administration, and natural sciences. As the program expands, we plan to offer four scholarships each year to incoming freshmen—two at the community college level and two at four-year institutions. When the program is fully implemented, 12 students will receive a Sentry scholarship each year.

We modeled the Sentry Scholars program at the University of Hawai'i after scholarships we offer in Wisconsin, where we've maintained our home office for more than a century. Since 1964, we've offered higher education scholarship opportunities at more than 19 institutions throughout the state, including 16 scholarships at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point. In total, more than 200 students per year receive some level of financial scholarship from the Sentry Insurance Foundation, with just under \$300,000 dedicated to supporting higher education.

Even with the program in its early stages in Maui, students who've received support from Sentry are also engaging with other opportunities directly associated with the Sentry Tournament of Champions. Excited by the opportunity to get involved with the PGA TOUR, 2019 Sentry Scholar and University of Hawai'i Maui College student Cameron Viernes will be joining the 2020 tournament staff as an intern.

Dr. Demirbag is thrilled to see the initial impact of Sentry Scholars and eager to see long-term results. "Sentry has wanted to be a part of the community in a way that I've never seen before," she says. "They want to get to know the students. They want to have people meet them. They want to give them opportunities like the internship at the Tournament of Champions. It feels like a real relationship, and we're very grateful."

As we enjoy the 2020 Sentry Tournament of Champions, we're excited to see our Sentry Scholars in Maui make the most of their relationship with us. We look forward to extending this opportunity to more young Hawaiians in the years to come—and to see the positive impacts of their continued community involvement.