

HRYF Speech (sample)

HRYF* RYLA* PDG* PETS* PHF* ADG*

Acronyms are used by all organizations for efficiencies in writing and speaking, but when the uninitiated run into them, they can be real confusing.

As a new Rotarian in Hawaii it is pretty easy to get mixed up about HRYF and RYLA, both are youth focused. However, RYLA is a worldwide youth leadership program that trains students in camps run by Rotarians, and HRYF or Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation is a scholarship program for graduating high school seniors in Hawaii, it helps worthy students go on to a 4-year college of their choice.

In 2018 HRYF awarded 48 scholarships. A student choosing a mainland college receives \$5,000, for Hawaii Universities it is still \$5,000. No different! One outstanding student is selected from the highest ranked by each Rotary Area committee to receive the Maurice J Sullivan Award for \$10,000. A second \$10,000 scholarship named the Joanna Lau Sullivan Award goes to a student attending college in Hawaii. In total, \$250,000 in scholarships helped Hawaii students and their parents with the cost of a college education this year.

Let's talk about one of them from last year. Dorian Raboy-McGowan – winner of the \$10,000 Maurice J. Sullivan Scholarship for 2017. Dorian graduated from Kamehameha Schools Maui with a 3.935 GPA. Dorian is attending Stanford University and is studying Aerospace Engineering. Our scholar says that engineers are “the architects of the life of tomorrow.” He wants to reach the stars once observed by his Hawaiian ancestors. With the unconditional love from his Grandmother and a work ethic from his Grandfather, Dorian has overcome an absent father

and a mom who has worked hard to raise her 4 children. Dorian wants to repay his family with his success. Dorian excels at math and science. He was a football player and a National Honor Society member. Dorian made a difference as a Big Brother to children who have faced many of the same hardships he has. He has volunteered at a camp for special needs children. And has interned at Island Support Net, assessing damaged computers and running diagnostic checks. For his Senior project he reconfigured a lawnmower to operate using ethanol and employed the machine to cut lawns for his elderly neighbors.

The oldest of 4 children, his abusive father was removed from the home and is now incarcerated. Mom is doing her best. The family needed the financial help for college and the HRYF \$10,000 ensured that Dorian gets his shot at the stars.

How did HRYF come about? It was started by Maurice J. “Sully” Sullivan – you may know his name as the founder of Foodland Supermarkets in Hawaii. Sully was a member of the Rotary Club of Waikiki when he and some friends decided to form a new club, the Rotary Club of Ala Moana. So the Ala Moana Club was formed in June of 1972 and Sully became its President in 1973, he went on to become District Governor in 1976-77 and it was during his year as Governor that he founded HRYF. The Foundation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Hawaii as a non-profit organization September 3, 1976, over 42 years ago and Sully served as its President for the first 10 years.

The first HRYF college scholarship was granted in 1977 and the cumulative total since then is 1,702 scholarships representing over \$6.4 MILLION DOLLARS. Those numbers are great, but remember Dorian? Well HRYF has helped 1,750 students like Dorian! That is what is so exciting. As a bonus, some recipients of scholarships go on to become Rotarians! And the families learn more about Rotary. Great PR!

A small office for HRYF is provided in the FOODLAND Building in Kaimuki and part time Office Manager, Faith McFatridge is available by phone or email.

Now you may well be asking how can one person working part time can do all that? Well Faith is terrific and HRYF has a working Board led by Kristine Westmoreland. But to make it happen we have the help of every Rotary Club in Hawaii. That old adage about “many hands make less work” applies here.

Each Rotary Club has a Representative, or 2 or 3 that HRYF communicates with and they are the people who carries the HRYF message to their club. We try to make their job easier with “Info Sheets”, volunteer speakers, and our Score Cards for each year’s giving.

In November of each year, HRYF sends packets to high school College Counselors with applications, a February 6th deadline to get their apps to a Rotary Club in their area, and descriptions of the requirements. Some scholarships require financial need to be established and others do not. The Rotary Club receives the applications from their area’s high schools, checks them for completeness and sets up a time to do personal interviews with the students they deem to be good candidates. Each club now chooses their own winner! At least 3 Rotarians should do the club interviews and complete them by the end of February. Do volunteer for this because the students are awesome and it will really give you a lift. The Clubs then forward their selected candidate to their Area committee members who will interview them again and rank them. Some clubs take the additional step of coaching their students on how to do a more successful interview before they present themselves to the Area committee. Helpful tips and even a rehearsal! All are ok.

By mid-March the Area committee will interview the candidates and rank them 1st to last before they are sent to HRYF for the selection of the 2 - \$10,000 winners and the awarding of scholarships for that year. By this method each club will have at least one \$5,000 winner.

It is the clubs that select their winner. The instructions provided by HRYF for interviewing and selecting the candidates are meant as “Guidelines”, not hard and fast rules. Of course, we have to have complete forms but if someone’s community service is light due to their having to work and you think they are terrific, you can choose them for the scholarship.

The dollar amount funding the scholarships from the Foundation is determined by calculating 5% of the earnings in the Foundation over 20 quarters, then we add donations designated for that year and funds available from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation that year.

The HRYF Office Manager sends out letters announcing the awards, and prepares the full-page newspaper ad with pictures of the \$10,000 winners and the names, high schools and the sponsoring Rotary Club of all other winners. The full-page ad also thanks the Rotary club members for their generous donations, which make the scholarships possible. More great PR for ROTARY!

HRYF notifies each club of their winner. Each club should invite their student along with their parents to a club meeting and introduce them to the members, present Certificates provided by HRYF and perhaps allow the scholars to speak about their career goals. This is also a great way to educate club members about the good HRYF does! Some clubs invite their winner to return for a free lunch after their first year of college and report on their experiences.

Mr. Sullivan had a goal of teaching our young people about the advantages of the free enterprise system, which he felt was the basis of our democracy. The HRYF scholarships are for 4-year college programs; anyone donating money to HRYF can designate the money for the current year's scholarships or the Foundation.

There are many ways you can encourage donations to HRYF:

1. During Foodland's "Give Aloha" Campaign in September, you can distribute letters to club members explaining how it works and that gifts are matched by Foodland making each gift go even farther (approximately 20%)! Or, run the ads provided by HRYF in your club's newsletter.
2. When you bill your members for their dues in July and January, include a line for donations to RI Foundation and another for HRYF donations. This makes it easy for your members to write one check for all their giving!
3. You can do a special fundraising event or designate part of the proceeds from a current fundraiser to HRYF.
4. When you do "Happy Dollars" or honor a member for their Birthday, you can ask them if they want their donation to go to RI Foundation or HRYF? Of course, Rotarians should support the RI Foundation first. HRYF does not wish to compete with RI Foundation; it is simply another good opportunity to give to something you believe in and be assured that your dollars will go for scholarships for Hawaii's children and not to someone's large Administrative salary.
5. Do your Amazon shopping through smile.amazon.com and enter Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation. Then HRYF will get a donation equal to .5% of the cost of your eligible purchases!

Information is available on your club's giving. A Club's giving currently has no barring on awarding the scholarship. Many clubs

have their own Foundation and/or scholarship fund – we applaud them for their proactive generosity but we hope all Clubs will help members to know about the HRYF option as well.

We want you to know that we **do need more donations to continue to have each District 5000 club award a \$5,000 scholarship.** Average donations per Rotarian are just over \$36. We need that average to rise to **\$40 per Rotarian, per year** to help us keep giving out a quarter of a million dollars in scholarships each year. We are open to questions at any time. Mahalo for your support!

HRYP

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RotaryD5000.org -look for the link to:
www.hawaiirotariyyouthfoundation.org