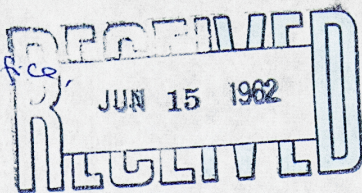


Barack H. Obama,
1482 Newcastle St.,
Honolulu 16, HAWAII.
13th June, 1962.

Mr. Robert L. Sherman,
Staff Associate, New York office,
African American Institute,
345 East 46th Street,
New York 17, N.Y.



Dear Mr. Sherman,

I am writing this letter to enquire about my application for transportation from Hawaii here to the East Coast. I am graduating here on the 17th of this month. I am intending to leave here on the 21st of this month, which means that I have only one week in which to find the money for travel. I am desperate and I shall, therefore, be most obliged if you will let me know what because of the application and whether I am going to get the assistance. I did not write earlier because I was all the time expecting to hear from you. I am writing now because I am desperate and I have no transportation money. Unless I get some assistance I will be stranded here. Please let me know about this before the 20th of this month, if you can. The fare from here to Harvard is about \$400.

Since I wrote to you last I have been admitted to Harvard University for work leading to my Ph.D. Further, they have offered me a fellowship of \$1,500. Since this does not include tuition, it will only be enough to cover tuition which is \$1,500. This means that I have to get the money for living expenses. They tell me that I should count on \$200 per month for this. That means that I now need \$2400. I am therefore wondering about what consideration the institute gave to my application. I asked for \$2,500. I shall, therefore, be most obliged if you will let me know about this. I will appreciate anything that the institute can give me. I have so far applied to several organizations for help, but I have not gotten anything from them. The African American Institute is my last chance. Should I get nothing, then I do not know how I will manage to live in Harvard.

I am happy to inform you that I have been awarded the Phi Beta Kappa; Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa Honour Awards, all for sound scholastic achievements and leadership. Thanks to the assistance that I got from your institute.

I hope to hear from you very soon, at least about the transportation, since I have only one week remaining. We can talk about my application for assistance while at Harvard when I come there, if not now. This is very urgent.

Yours very sincerely

Barack H. Obama.