Q&A
Pūlama Lānai’s Charlie Palumbo on finding aloha in places—historic and new—on Lānai.
PG.8

THE NEW STORYTELLERS
Great story. New tech. How next-gen storytellers reach out to weave a tale.
PG.12

THE TIES THAT BIND
Why the Lau ‘ohana just might be Hawai‘i’s First Family of Sports.
PG.20
UH Alumni and Supporters, You Could Save an Average of $385* a Year on Auto Insurance!

Here’s why you should switch to Farmers Insurance Hawaii:

- Discounts for being claims-free, a homeowner and multi-policyholder
- Save even more with our Paperless, Full Pay, and Early Shopper discounts
- Local claims servicing and 24/7 claims assistance
- Sales and Service locations on Maui, Kauai, Oahu, and Hawaii Island
- Flexible payment plans
- Online and Mobile App policy servicing
- 24-Hour Emergency Roadside Service for $7.50**

Call 877-244-3495 or visit us at farmershawaii.com for a free quote today!

Keycode: 6M4MAG

*Average saving from information provided by newly placed policies from 6/1/17 to 6/1/18 which showed that they saved by switching to Farmers Hawaii. **The vehicle, per 6-month policy period. May be subject to vehicle inspection. Some restrictions apply. Insurance underwritten by 21st Century Centennial Insurance Company.
Ethnic differences remain when taking into account known risk factors of pancreatic cancer.

LOIC LE MARCHEAND, UH Cancer Center epidemiologist and co-author of the 25-year study, the first to highlight ethnicity and involving 180,000+ participants, published in Cancer Medicine. It found that Native Hawaiians face a 50 percent and Japanese Americans, 33 percent, greater risk of pancreatic cancer than European Americans.

[Pancreatic cancer risks are greater for Hawaiians, Japanese Americans.” Honolulu Star-Advertiser 6/4/19; “Native Hawaiians, Japanese Americans have higher risk of pancreatic cancer” UH news 6/6/19]

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations by providing administrative support around registering, monitoring and tracking apprentices. These tasks are onerous. Our work has been a game changer for many employers.”

Two of Kapi’olani’s partners, Queen’s Health System and Duke’s Waikiki, really engaged the mayors about the staffing benefits they gained after adopting the RA model. With many cities facing massive workforce shortages, “happy employers make for happy mayors” says Pestana.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND/OR TO PARTICIPATE: Sally Pestana (pestana@hawaii.edu)

GOTCHA! Professor Adam Pack videotapes a humpback whale’s behavior and “fluke print” to later match against his lab’s 43-year historical archive of over 23,000 fluke (tail) images to discover the whale’s life history. Pack’s groundbreaking work, based on whale sightings in the Hawaiian Islands, will be featured in “Mystery of the Humpback Whale Song,” an episode of Changing Seas, a PBS series available in November to public television stations nationwide. The episode is also available on YouTube and the PBS website.
Update

$2.5M

“Value of a National Science Foundation Grant to UH West O‘ahu to expand STEM capabilities, including increasing number of Native Hawaiian students enrolled; development of a five-year plan to enhance STEM degrees, concentrations and certificates offered; and strengthening summer bridge programs for high school students.” [5/17/19]

“I think this is the future”

“I really didn’t want that”

“I think this is the future”

“I think this is the future”

“Look for a yearlong celebration...and perhaps a few surprises along the way!”

“As Eran Ganot, UH Rainbow basketball head coach, on the upcoming 100th season this fall. “It’s been no secret that honoring the history of this great program has been a priority for us from Day 1. Our 2010–20 season is the culmination of these efforts as it signifies our 100th season...Look for a yearlong celebration honoring players, coaches, and special moments in our program’s history as well as interactive events with our fans, unveiling of a special 100th logo, some retro looks, and perhaps a few surprises along the way!” [Via email, 8/14/19]

YOUR CAREER PATH MAY NOT BE A STRAIGHT LINE

At the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Outreach College, we offer year-round learning opportunities that keep your future in focus. Using the world-class resources available at the Mānoa campus and through strategic partnerships, Outreach College provides high-quality professional and continuing education programs, workshops, and public events to organizations, students, and lifelong learners.

outreach.hawaii.edu
In 2013, Charlie Palumbo began working for Pūlama Lāna'i, the company created in 2012 by Oracle Corp. co-founder Larry Ellison, who owns 97 percent of Lāna'i, to manage the island's land, assets and operations. Palumbo is the head architect and project manager for the company. He says the position was not only a dream job—and he’s worked on the East Coast and in Tokyo—it was a coming home. The 59-year-old spent much of his childhood on Lāna'i, playing near pineapple fields. Today, the UH Mānoa School of Architecture alumnus is responsible for renovating existing businesses and homes and thoughtfully creating spaces for new ones.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE GROWING UP ON LĀNA‘I?

We actually grew up in the middle of a pineapple field with no electricity. We had a battery-operated TV and kerosene hot water heater, propane refrigerator from the ‘50s or early ‘60s and a propane stove. It was a very interesting life. We would watch “The Waltons” on our battery-operated black-and-white TV. We were actually like the Waltons watching the Waltons on TV. That’s how we lived.

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO JOIN PŪLAMA LĀNA‘I? IN 2013 AND GO BACK TO LĀNA‘I?

From almost immediately after leaving Lāna'i to start my continuing education, I’ve always tried to figure out a way I can get back to live here. It’s just such an awesome environment. We have wonderful weather, people are super friendly; it’s a great way of life ... Pūlama Lāna‘i was really the vehicle to allow me to get back here and use my talents as an architect. With all the places that I’ve lived, when people would ask me, where are you from? And my answer would always be, I’m from Lāna‘i, a small island in Hawai‘i.

THE ISLAND HAS A VIBRANT, TIGHT-KNIT COMMUNITY. AS AN ARCHITECT, HOW ARE YOU ENSURING THE CHARACTER OF LĀNA‘I IS PERPETUATED?

A lot of what I do is restoring commercial buildings in town, repairing older houses and infilling vacant lots and putting in new homes for people to live. It’s been my desire from day one here to really perpetuate the continuity of the feel of Lāna‘i City, the fabric of Lāna‘i City, to continue to try and provide, basically, the invisible matrix from where we started in 2013 through to the future. So that what we’ve done, what we’ve built, blends in as perfectly as possible with what was originally built here starting in the 1920s.

WHAT PROJECTS ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT NOW?

There’s a real love for the island. Pūlama means “to cherish;” and that is part of our mission, vision and values, to really care for the island and the people that live here. We’ve tried to prepare for the future to sensibly scale projects to be beneficial to both the people that live here and to guests.

IN WHAT WAYS IS THE COMPANY MAKING LĀNA‘I A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK?

There’s a real love for the island. Pūlama means “to cherish;” and that is part of our mission, vision and values, to really care for the island and the people that live here. We’ve tried to prepare for the future to sensibly scale projects to be beneficial to both the people that live here and to guests.

WHAT FEEDBACK HAVE YOU RECEIVED FROM RESIDENTS?

I receive constant feedback 24/7, because of my involvement in the community. As an active member at the church, I’ve mentored kids in architecture and aquaponics for the past five summers over here. I am really tied into the goings on here and people are constantly discussing with me their feelings on this project or asking me, “What’s the next step here?”

WHAT PROJECTS ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT NOW?

One of the things that I’m excited for the community is that we are planning a substantial increase in homes. There is a real housing crunch here and in order for us to relieve some of the pressure—the current experience of multi-generational families living in the same house—and giving younger folks the opportunity for home ownership. To me that’s super exciting. One of the great things about it is the style of the home, the layout of the new blocks is going to blend in very nicely. The new development, the old development is just going to be a continuum of where we’ve come from and where we’re going.
Happy At Home: The Latest Option for Aging in Place

Many older adults know that they have at least two options for aging: move into a retirement community or stay at home. In the best of both worlds, kupuna would have access to a network of support while they age in the familiarity and comfort of their own homes. This third option does exist, and it’s called Continuing Care Without Walls.

“What is Continuing Care Without Walls?”
Picture a retirement community with an array of social activities, wellness amenities, and aging support that covers independent living, assisted living, and long-term (round the clock) care. Until recently, these benefits were only available to residents who moved in; however, certain Life Plan Communities (LPCs) now offer their benefits as a membership plan sans move-in. Members remain independent at home, but they also gain a network of support at the parent community. They can participate in activities, make friends with the residents, and interact with staff who know them by name. The LPC may also offer members access to its amenities, such as event rooms and a fitness center.

The most important benefits of membership are care coordination and access to a skilled nursing bed (if or when it is needed). For adults aging at home, care coordination is critical during a health incident. In an emergency, or even for planned events like surgeries, a care coordinator supports members in ways that would be difficult for a member’s spouse or family. Care coordination alleviates stress for all parties by advocating for the needs of the member and helping them navigate complex healthcare systems.

Furthermore, the member can rely on the Life Plan Community, which is standing by to provide short-term recovery or long-term care if needed.

Who Should Join? How Much Does It Cost?
Continuing Care Without Walls appeals most to adults in their early to mid-70s. Members in this age group are typically independent in good health, and able to take advantage of an active lifestyle that includes frequent visits to the parent LPC.

Members usually pay an entrance fee between $67,000 - $97,000, which guarantees them access to long-term care.

They also pay a monthly membership fee averaging $519 - $727 per month, which provides access to the parent LPC’s amenities, care coordination, and aging support services.

Arcadia At Home
Arcadia At Home is the only program in Hawaii to offer Continuing Care Without Walls. Members receive guaranteed lifetime care and access to a skilled nursing bed at 15 Craigside or Arcadia (if or when this care is needed). They also have access to a menu of services that includes care coordination, home maintenance, fitness training, housekeeping, an emergency response system, and personal care.

As part of their benefits, members enjoy priority access to 15 Craigside and Arcadia. They may participate in free group activities like exercise classes, games, educational programs, and other activities that are normally exclusive to residents. Members can also take advantage of the amenities at 15 Craigside and Arcadia, including the dining rooms, gyms, pools, and event venues. Whether members choose to visit the communities regularly or occasionally, they always have the opportunity to develop friendships with residents and employees.

Arcadia At Home is available to adults 62 years and older who live from Aiea to Hawaii Kai. As part of the Arcadia Family of Companies, the program offers 52 years of experience in senior living excellence.

For more information, visit arcadia.org/AtHome or call 883-5915.

Arcadia At Home maintenance

Consuelo Rogers, Arcadia At Home Member and her IT Support Specialist from the Arcadia Family of Companies

Stephanie Sims, Arcadia At Home Member 15 Craigside pool

Arcadia wellness center

arcadia.org/AtHome
When the keiki audience at Honolulu Theatre for Youth (HTY) are engrossed in a story, their engagement is audible. “Kids are the most honest audience,” says Chan, an actor/playwright/director with HTY. “If they’re bored, they’ll shout ‘boring!’ But when they’re in it, they’ll try to warn the characters on stage, like ‘no, don’t do it!’ Hearing that, as a writer, that’s the most rewarding, that’s real, that’s in the moment.”

Chan has been working with HTY since 2012, when artistic director Eric Johnson first approached the UH Mānoa theater graduate. To date, Chan has written eight plays, each drawing upon his upbringing in Hawai‘i, background as an actor, and studies of jīngjù (Beijing Opera) in China and kyōgen (comedic Noh theater) in Japan.

“A lot of my work is a sort of cultural fusion, using traditional techniques that I’ve learned and pairing them with contemporary ideas,” says Chan of his plays that bring classic, beloved stories to the stage but tells them in innovative ways that resonate with young audiences. He credits Johnson and the independence of HTY with giving him the freedom to experiment and take risks.

In his HTY production of *Anime Momotaro*, actors dressed in black (considered invisible in traditional Japanese theater) held up emoji signs next to the main characters to punctuate the story, which is based on the traditional Japanese children’s story of Peach Boy. Chan also staged a pivotal fight scene in the play. He then reversed the fight, “as if pressing rewind,” to un-do the violence as a contemporary statement against bullying, he says. For *The Ballad of Mu Lan*, Chan wanted to offer an alternative to the well-known Disney version of the heroic Chinese woman warrior. “I wanted to present it in a way that was more culturally viable, which is why I wanted to root Mu Lan in Beijing Opera.” The entire play is set to percussion; however, instead of the traditional strained falsetto, the singing is contemporary.

Originally presented at HTY in 2017, *The Ballad of Mu Lan* was picked...
up by Imagination Stage in Washington DC in summer 2019. Initially, the play’s traditional Chinese percussion was met with some resistance, but Chan says that Mainland theaters are interested in presenting more diversity on stage.

“I think in Hawai‘i, we’ve been ahead of the diversity game, which is only now catching up on the Mainland. People here are a lot more culturally open, so if I say I’m going to do a K-Pop Cinderella, people are just like GASP, that’s amazing!” says Chan.

“When you go to the theater, you’re learning cultures and new things, so why not push the envelope? And with kids, it’s easy: I can say, this is how this world works on the stage and they accept it. They’re like, ‘Okay, tell me a story.’”

[Alvin Chan’s A Korean Cinderella was re-staged by HTY in fall 2019. He is currently working on his MFA in directing at Northwestern University. He plans to return home to Hawai‘i to teach the theater to the next generation.]

**KAMAKA PILI**

**VIDEO STORYTELLER**

A NATURAL STORYTELLER, Pili says his gift of gab is what got him on television. Discovered talking story at a craft fair, he was approached by ‘Olelo Community Media, along with the Hawaii Culture and Retail Association, to develop and host Aloha Authentic, a TV show that highlights local artisans and allows them to share their stories.

“As the show progressed,” Pili says, “my passion started to influence the direction, so we brought in more cultural practitioners and organizations in the community that had something to do with showcasing the lifestyle here in Hawai‘i, our art or our culture.”

Starting in 2014, Pili (BA 2010 political science, UH Hilo) videotaped 38 episodes of Aloha Authentic, which featured one-on-one talks with artists, musicians, performers, cultural practitioners and community organizations. The series ended on ‘Olelo Channel in November 2018, when Pili started as a weather anchor on KHON2.

This October, a reboot of Aloha Authentic will premiere on KHON2. With the new show comes a new format that features multiple segments, including demonstrations and a behind-the-scenes look at the guests’ work. Important to Pili is keeping the talk story aspect of the show.

“When we’re sitting down talking story, it’s as if we’re in the backyard Hibachi-ng and drinking beer,” Pili says. “That’s the whole feel and the kind of conversation I want on the show. I don’t want it to seem like a polished, robotic interview. I think the rawness of talk story is what connects with viewers.”

Pili hopes that viewers will walk away more informed about what Hawaiian culture really looks like, as opposed to what the visitor/tourism industry has marketed as being Hawai‘i.

“When I was growing up, Hawai‘i was spoken about by people who were not Hawaiian,” says Pili. “I think we’re now coming into an era, in which Native Hawaiians can be their own storytellers. I’d like Aloha Authentic to be a means for the world to comfortably, and without intimidation, learn about Hawai‘i from Hawaiian people.”

Whether it’s correctly pronouncing Honolulu (not “hah-nolulu”) or understanding the story and, thus, meaning behind street names in Hawai‘i, Pili says he would like to share his conscientious brand of “educating with aloha” with a wide audience. He identifies his viewers as Native Hawaiian, Hawai‘i-born, transplant residents and visitors.

“The last two [audience] groups are the most uncomfortable for me,” Pili admits. “I still have that kū‘ē, that anger, hurt, pain from our history that drives me to do what I do. The challenge for me is taking that and becoming a bridge that connects people to our history and to an understanding of where we come from.”

[See new episodes of Aloha Authentic with Kamaka Pili on KHON2 and KHII one Sunday every month. Check local listings. Also check out archived episodes online at alohaauthentic.org.]
A HEADY MIX of music, poetry, literature, conversation and reflection, It’s Lit “celebrates the shine” of often-underrepresented authors of Hawai‘i and the Pacific. Originally aired live on KTUH radio, the show migrated to a podcast format in August 2018, allowing for flexibility in programming.

“The podcast’s roots in radio are the reason why we have this format of music and literature,” explains host Anjoli Roy (aka PhDJ). “What’s cool about our show is, with the combination of music and literature, you get this breathing space after someone performs a piece.”

Originally from Los Angeles, Roy (PhD English/creative writing 2017, UH Mānoa) worked in publishing in New York before attending UH. “Coming to Hawai‘i, I was stunned by how incredible the writers are and their connectivity to ancestors and performance. Like when I saw No’u Revilla (featured in episodes 1, 25, 100) perform at a museum event, her embodiment of her work was this whole other dimension — it wasn’t quite theater, but it felt like theater. She was amazing!”

It’s Lit episodes have featured audio performances of works by Bryan Ka-maoli Kuwada, Serena Michel, Kathy Jerflil-Kijiner, and Julia Katz. The accompanying music, often selected by the authors, provides the ideal backdrop for listeners to de-compress, absorb and reflect upon the poetry or reading they just heard, says Roy.

Featured guests set the tone, which can run the gamut from fun and playful to serious and somber. With more than 100 episodes to date, the show offers a wide variety of voices, but Roy is personally drawn to work that is grounded in ethnic and cultural identity, indigeneity and sexuality. And the format is loose, which is how Roy picked up co-host Jocelyn Ng along the way.

“Anjoli had invited me to feature on Episode 19,” says poet and artist Ng, “and then I just kept showing up.” The two are good friends, and their chemistry creates a friendly and safe space in which authors can share their work.

The podcast’s most popular show to date, episode 101, featured the words of three kia‘i (guardians) of Mauna Kea: Emalani Case, Joy Lehuanani Enomoto, and Jamaica Heole-keelekalani Osorio.

“It seems that listeners are hungry to hear directly from folks who have put their bodies on the line,” Roy says. “Poetry and creative nonfiction are not window dressing — they’re central to movements and central to the ways that activists, who are also artists, make sense of what’s going on around them. And that’s a very powerful tool to mobilize other people.”

Roy, an English literature teacher at Punahou School, points out that literature — like all storytelling — is not only about written words, but also about the personal reflections and queries the reader brings to the exchange.

“The story isn’t just made on the page, it’s made between the reader and whatever artifact is on this page — it’s some place in the middle. You have to ask, ‘Who are you coming to this text?’ Literature is only powerful insofar that it transforms you ... or how you let it transform you.”

[Listen to It’s Lit with Anjoli Roy and Jocelyn Ng online at mixcloud.com/anjoli-roy.]
FOOTBALL PLAYER, volleyball player and soccer player are gathered around the TV. So what sport are they watching? Surfing, of course.

"If Zeke went to UH, he probably would have ended up playing football," says the football player, pointing to the 25-year-old wave rider on the screen. "Zeke" is professional surfer Ezekiel Lau, the Vans World Cup of Surfing defending champion. As accomplished as he is, however, Zeke is just one member of a remarkable sports-loving family that includes three former University of Hawai‘i student-athletes.

The family patriarch, Leonard Lau, was a Rainbow Warrior wide receiver in the late 1980s. Mom Daina was a member of one of Coach Dave Shoji’s most talented Rainbow Wahine volleyball teams. And daughter Sarah was a four-year standout for the UH Wahine soccer team.

Each of them carries a special memory of their time in competitive college sports at Mānoa. For Leonard, it was being a part of Hawai‘i’s historic 56-14 win in 1989 over archrival, the BYU Cougars.

“It was the first time [since 1973] that we beat them,” recalls Leonard, who graduated in 1990 with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. “After the game, we ran around the stadium with the UH flag, celebrating with the fans. It was one of the best feelings I ever had as an athlete.”

For Daina, playing for coaching legend Shoji in 1989 was a reward in itself. “He was an amazing coach,” says Daina, a 1991 graduate with a degree in business administration. “His knowledge of volleyball was at such a high level, and so was his ability to recruit. We had so many talented players then: Teee Williams, Karrie Trieschman, Cheri Boyer, Jaime Paet…”

And then there’s Sarah, who graduated this past May with a degree in communications. For the budding model and aspiring sports broadcaster, the last five conference games of 2018, her senior year, hold a collective memory she will always cherish.

Together with fellow senior co-captain Raisa Strom-Okimoto, “We really got the whole team on the same page, and we felt unstoppable. We trusted each other and weren’t second-guessing ourselves. It was a great feeling.”

The Rainbow Wahine fell one goal short of making their first Big West Conference Tournament in program history. “That was the saddest part,” Sarah recalls. “We were peaking and had this crazy momentum, then suddenly it just ended. I felt like we could have accomplished so much more.”

The Lau’s say their experiences at UH were beneficial not just in athletics, but in life.

Leonard, now a teacher at Dole Middle School and associate head football coach/offensive coordinator for the Punahou Buffanblu, was challenged to be independent and to make football practice: “I had to learn to be disciplined enough to go to class, complete my assignments and meet deadlines. It developed skills that helped me become successful later on.”

For daughter Sarah, lessons learned from Dad were reinforced by college sports. “If you don’t take care of your responsibilities, for example, it’s not just you who will suffer, you’ll let your teammates and coaches down. You can’t just think about yourself.”

Leonard sums it up nicely: “We support each other in everything we do. Daina and I see sports as an opportunity to make our kids better, to give them a better future. It gives them a foundation to build on, and then they can take it as far as they want. If I had my way, all our kids would go to the University of Hawai‘i.”

For the Lau ‘ohana, sports has provided a hard-earned path to life successes.

The Ties that Bind
FROM FOOTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL TO SOCCER AND SURFING, THE LAU ‘OHANA MAY BE HAWAI‘I’S CURRENT FIRST FAMILY OF SPORTS.

By LANCE TOMINAGA

PHOTO BY MARIE ERIEL HOBRO
“Ging Ho'olo-Ho'olo as a child with grandfather to pick seaweed at O'ahu’s beaches,” says Mahina Paishon-Duarte, setting the foundation for her becoming the founding executive director of Paepae O He'eia, established in 2001 to care for historic He'eia Fishpond. The Kamehameha School graduate also helped crew, at age 21, the voyaging canoe Makali'i from Hawai'i to Majuro; taught for more than four years at Hawaiian language immersion charter schools; and has danced with hula for 20 years to gain skills as a Hawaiian cultural practitioner and social entrepreneur.

“The skills I have in management, strategizing, public relations, leadership come from these cultural practices,” says Paishon-Duarte (BA ’01 Hawaiian Studies, Mānoa; teaching certificate ’02, Hilo).

Today she is managing partner and one of three co-founders of Waiwai Collective (Ka Waiwai), a unique contemporary Hawaiian co-working space established in 2017 and located on University Avenue. Ka Waiwai (meaning “the wealth”), based on “values-aligned relationships around aloha,” is the culmination of a year-long process to a challenge posed to Paishon-Duarte and her two co-founders, Keoni Lee and Jamie Maka-sobe. At a First Nations (Native American) fellowship event, they were asked: Given seed funding, what urgent Native Hawaiian issue would you tackle?

“Research showed many issues, education, health, etc. What we didn’t see was the effort to bring people together, face-to-face, on the economy,” says Paishon-Duarte, noting the dearth of Native Hawaiian-owned businesses worth $10+ million and employing more than 100 people. Ka Waiwai’s diverse members include small businesses, nonprofits and freelancers representative of Hawai‘i’s growing gig economy. By design, “we gather around shared, collective values for all people who want to steward and take care of Hawai‘i,” says Paishon-Duarte. Included are some familiar ones: zero tolerance for single-use plastics and an intentional food system using locally-sourced food. A co-working hub for members from 8am to 5pm, its 5 to 8pm seminar/meeting time has attracted Bank of Hawaii, HMSA and the East-West Center, among others. After 8pm near the weekend, come and take off your shoes to enjoy local music with 'awa and local pūpū treats from its small café. For more information: http://waiwaicollective.com—Gail Miyasaki
**Milestones**

**Aloha ‘Oe**

**Ruth D. Gates**
(1962-2018), world-renowned coral researcher, innovator and advocate for coral reef conservation, was director of Mānoa’s Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology. Her recent efforts focused on “super corals” to survive climate change and other environmental threats.

**Georgia Engel**
(1948-2019), (BA ’69, Mānoa), breathy, squawky-voiced TV and film actress best known and twice-nominated for an Emmy as Georgette (wife of TV anchor Ted Baxter) on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show.”

**Dick Tomey**
(1938-2019), beloved and inspiring UH head football coach whose outstanding tenure (1977-’86) earned UH its first national ranking, first national TV appearance and record home game attendance. He is one of UH’s winningest football coaches (63-46-3).

**Harriet M. Aoki**
(1937-2019), (BBA ’59, Mānoa), pioneer financial industry executive, became Hawai’i’s first woman commercial bank president (First Interstate Bank of Hawai’i). She also served on boards of HMSA, Aloha United Way and UH Rainbow Advantage Program.

**Wesley T. Park**
(1937-2019), (BEd ’59, MEd ’63, Mānoa), astute organizational turnaround specialist called “the local boy’s local boy,” was dean of Mānoa’s College of Continuing Education and Community Service (1976 –’82), VP of the East-West Center, and president of Hawai’i Dental Service.

**Chuck Gee**
(1933-2019), influential co-founder and longest serving dean of Mānoa’s School of Travel Industry Management, was a visionary contributor to Hawai’i tourism internationally, a 2014 inductee to Pacific Asia Travel Association’s prestigious Gallery of Legends, and one of the 100 people who made a difference to Hawaii in the 20th century by Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

**Domingo Los Banos, Jr.**
(1925-2018), World War II combat veteran and first Filipino principal (1956 at Anahola Elementary, Kaua’i), left Mānoa his freshman year for the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment in the Philippines, and later became a prominent educator and Filipino community leader.

---

**First Translator**

KEAO NESMITH: HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER’S STONE IN HAWAIIAN

“T**H**OUGHT IT WOULD BE COOL to have a widely popular book, a global phenomenon like Harry Potter in Hawaiian,” says UH Mānoa Tahitian language instructor Keao Nesmith of his translation of the first Harry Potter book. “I wanted to help provide Hawaiian speakers today, especially kids, books that they want, material from today’s pop culture.”

Having learned ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i growing up from mānaleo (native speakers), his grandmother and his neighbors on Kaua‘i originally from Ni‘ihau, Nesmith (BA Hawaiian studies ’94, Hilo; MA Pacific Island studies ’02, Mānoa; PhD applied linguistics ’12, University of Waikato, NZ) was uniquely qualified and personally interested. In the 1990s, he had translated many Hawaiian classics, in response to growing demand from emerging Hawaiian immersion schools for books on historical heroes such as Kamehameha the Great.

A turning point came when Nesmith translated Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland for the book’s 150th anniversary in 2016: The Little Prince, The Hobbit, Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There, and The Wonderful Wizard of Oz soon followed. His Hawaiian versions of Chronicles of Narnia (all seven books) are awaiting publication and he just finished translating the second of J.K. Rowling’s books, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

Working on these translations, Nesmith says he “always hears my grandmother’s voice in my ear. I hope she’s smiling.”

He says ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i has attained a level of “presence” today but more needs to be done to engage youngsters and young adults. “We need to pick up the pace so (they) don’t lose interest...We are actually far behind in producing books, originals and translations, for our emerging generations today!”

---

**PHOTO BY AARON YOSHINO**

**VISIT DNBPARTY.COM OR CALL (808) 589-2215**

**CONGRATS GRADS! CELEBRATE WITH US IN 3 DIFFERENT WAYS!**
What’s My Job?

Avi Soifer

‘GENTLEMAN AND A SCHOLAR’

My family moved often as I was growing up and I lived in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Iowa—which no doubt helped me get into a college on the East Coast through geographic distribution. Documentary filmmaker Marlene Booth and I got married many decades ago, and we raised our two children in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

EDUCATION

• BA cum laude, American Studies ’69, Yale College
• M. Urban Studies ’72, Yale City Planning
• J.D. Law ’72, Yale Law School

WORK

Dean, William S. Richardson School of Law, UH Mānoa (2003 – present. In March 2019, Soifer announced his retirement upon a successor being named, and plans to continue as professor in constitutional law)

Soifer led the UH Law School through a period of major growth to become “a nationally recognized center of excellence in legal education,” says Associate Dean Denise Antolini who calls Soifer, “a gentleman and a scholar.” Among his tenure’s achievements: national recognition for student and faculty diversity; Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, the only one of its kind in the nation; a highly-ranked part-time evening program; an innovative January term taught by renowned scholars and judges; and a new clinical and trial advocacy building (September 2019) for community clinics in immigration, medical/legal issues, the Hawai‘i Innocence Project, etc.

I have loved being the dean of our unique Law School and have learned much more over the past 16+ years than in any comparable period. By also continuing to teach and write about constitutional law, I have benefited immensely from discussion and engagement with people not only at the Law School, but throughout the UH community. And I am certain the William S. Richardson School of Law faculty, staff and alumni are more committed to the ongoing success of our students than at any other law school in the United States.

PROUDEST MOMENT

It is a recurring moment: At every graduation, it is clear that our students have learned to celebrate other cultures without forgetting their own backgrounds. It is striking how much our students support one another and take pride in becoming Richardson lawyers and leaders.


Questions?
Email emba@hawaii.edu or call 808-956-8135

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

Our executive degree programs equip Hawai‘i’s professionals to lead their organizations to new heights of success.

Executive MBA
Distance Learning Executive MBA
Distance Learning EMBA
Health Care Track
Master of Human Resource Management

➢ Convenient schedules for working professionals
➢ In-person and online options
➢ Team-based learning

Learn more today or sign up for an upcoming info session: shidler.hawaii.edu/executive
GRANT KUROTA

GRANT KUROTA (BBA '99, MBA '05, Mānoa), named Forbes Magazine’s 2010 America’s Best-in-State Wealth Advisors. The Punahou School graduate is senior VP and financial advisor, Morgan Stanley’s Honolulu Wealth Management office.

JOE KUHIO LEWIS (AA '10, HonCC, BA '15, West O‘ahu), named CEO, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, a member-based nonprofit certified as a Native Community Development Financial Institution (U.S. Treasury) and as a Housing Counseling Agency (HUD).

JANET MOCK (BS '05, Mānoa), first black woman to land a three-year, multi-million deal with Netflix to executive produce/direct upcoming Hollywood series, and create new shows and films on historically underrepresented communities.

CAMERON NEKOTA (BA '97, JD '02, Mānoa), named president, First Hawaiian Bank Foundation, which donates about $4.25 million annually to the communities it serves, culture and the arts.

ROY PFUND (BBA '80, MBA '87, Mānoa), named president, Roberts Hawai‘i, succeeding 40-year company vet, Percy Hagashi, to oversee Hawai‘i’s largest employee-owned tour and transportation company with 1,800 employees and 900 vehicles on four islands.

DANNY SEPkowski (BA '08, MEA '11, Mānoa), second-place winner, National Geographic Society 2019 Travel Photo (nature category), for “Dreamcatcher,” photo shot of a wave at Sandy Beach, O‘ahu.

JEREMY SHIGEKANE (1995–97, 1998, Leeward CC), new owner as of March 1, Chef Mavro restaurant founded by James Beard Award-winning chef George Mavrotathassitis in 1998, has been executive chef at Chef Mavro since 2016; formerly Hokū’s chef de cuisine and executive sous-chef at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

SAM SPANGLER (BA '12, Mānoa), new weekend news anchor, KHON2, replacing Kathy Benham and UH West Oahu's public face. Named interim CEO, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, a Native Community Development Financial Institution, and vice president of administration, Kamehameha Schools.

LAURA KAUKUA (JD '07, Mānoa), new president/CEO, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT), was recently Alū‘ina Project Manager for the Trust for Public Land. HILT oversees nearly 18,000 acres of conservation land; formerly held by four local land trusts.

At left, Danny Sepkowski’s award winning photo “Dreamcatcher”
Co-captains Mia Fong (left), Honolulu Community College natural science engineering student, and Katherine (Kat) Bronson (AA liberal arts ’16, Windward; BS mathematics ’18, Mānoa) are hands-on rocket experts, having led the 14-member Project Imua Mission 6 student team that won the Rookie Award as the top new team in the April 2019 NASA student launch competition in Huntsville, Alabama. Composed of students from three community colleges (Honolulu, Kapi'olani and Windward) and UH Mānoa, the team had to propose, design, build and test a reusable rocket with a payload that had to reach between 4,000 to 5,500 feet and return safely.

For more information on Project Imua: http://imua.wcc.hawaii.edu

PARTING SHOT

IT IS ROCKET SCIENCE!

PHOTO BY DAVID CROXFORD
Help us level the playing field.

The Fund for Excellence helps level the playing field, opening doors of opportunity for students at the University of Hawai‘i. Unrestricted gifts support UH where the needs are greatest, across its 10 campuses throughout the state.

Your gift to the Fund for Excellence will help us sustain students’ well-being, provide quality instruction, and improve their overall UH experience—regardless of their background, age or ability.

Your gift will change the University of Hawai‘i. Your gift will change lives.

uhfoundation.org/ChangingLives