

# Kūpono

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UH program helps new farmers  
get growing | Page 4



# A friendship for the ages

## Prentices help their good friend by supporting his archaeology & anthropology research at UH

For Dr. Debra Prentice, giving back to UH during one of the most challenging years in recent memory represents her lifelong interest in anthropology, her commitment to academic research, and a friendship standing the test of time.

She and her husband recently established the Debra and Arlen Prentice Research Fund for Pacific Island Archaeology and Anthropology. It will support the research of their longtime friend, UH Mānoa anthropology professor Dr. Patrick Kirch. Their generous gift will allow him to concentrate fully on his research for the next five years.

### A history of friendship

Prentice was a graduate student at Mānoa in the late 1970s when she met Kirch, who had just returned to Honolulu from research work in Tonga. While Prentice’s research interest was Polynesian

societies, Kirch focused on historical anthropology, particularly archaeological excavation work in the Pacific Islands.

Kirch, who was born and raised in Mānoa Valley, continued his work as a historical anthropolo-

gist and became one of the most respected in his field. His accolades are numerous and his research is prolific.

Kirch’s career spanned many decades, from his apprenticeship at Bishop Museum, undergraduate degree at the University of Pennsylvania, master’s and doctorate degrees from Yale University, to a longtime teaching career at the University of California, Berkeley.

Kirch returned to the islands in 2019 and joined the anthropology faculty as a professor in the UH Mānoa College of Social Sciences.

Through it all, Prentice’s appreciation and respect



Dr. Patrick Kirch in 2005 at the Onemea archaeological site on Taravai Island in French Polynesia.

for Kirch's research continued: "Although I left the field of anthropology in the late '80s and moved into the business world, I continue to follow Pat's work," she says. "I am particularly fascinated by his holistic approach, blending oral traditions with the archaeological record."

### Giving back to UH

Kirch and his colleagues originally studied Hālawala Valley on Moloka'i in 1969 to understand

settlement patterns and ecological change, two new perspectives at the time, says Prentice.

"It looms large in Hawaiian prehistory as one of the earliest settlements in the islands. Pat's research today allows him to continue unraveling the story, using new techniques and knowledge gained over decades of study."

Last year on an archaeological dig in Hālawala Valley, Kirch and his research team discovered

evidence of sophisticated engineering and irrigation methods used in taro farming dating back as far as 800 years. He will be able to continue his work there this year thanks to the Prentices' gift.

Debra says, "Pat's work is important. I firmly believe that in order to move forward and solve some of our challenges in today's complex world, we need to understand our history, to know where we came from and how we got

here. Prehistory can teach us so much."

The Prentices, who now live in Montana, established the research fund at a crucial time when university funding is uncertain and scarce.

"I fully understand how difficult it is to secure funding," Prentice says. "I couldn't have continued my education and doctoral research without graduate fellowships at UH Mānoa. This is my way of giving back." ❄️



Debra & Arlen Prentice  
in Montana

# Go Farm!



# Building food sustainability in Hawai‘i

In Hawai‘i, the food we eat celebrates our diversity and practically defines our local culture. But we might be surprised to know how little of it is actually *grown* here.

“Hawai‘i imports about 85 to 90 percent of its food, making it particularly vulnerable to disruptions in food supply,” said Nicholas Comerford, dean of the UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources.

The State of Hawai‘i’s 2050 Sustainability Plan has a goal of doubling local food production by 2030. CTAHR’s GoFarm Hawai‘i, one of the largest and most successful beginning farmer development programs in the nation, is helping to make that happen.

Comerford said, “GoFarm Hawai‘i is providing farmers with the tools



they need to be successful, and is expanding our local food supply—a necessity for our entire community.”

UH President David Lassner says food sustainability and economic diversification are key post-pandemic priorities for our state.

“Many of the GoFarm Hawai‘i program’s alumni have started independent businesses or secured jobs in the agricultural industry,” Lassner said.

One of those alumni is Shane Abelaye of Trinidad Farms, now on Hawai‘i Island. He started his farm business on a 1/4-acre GFH AgIncubator plot on the North Shore.

When asked in a GFH video interview what his greatest takeaways from the program were, he said there are two.

“The connections—with all the people that want to help us. And the confidence that you can actually do it. That’s the main thing I got from it.”

GFH provides business technical assistance, educational opportunities,



and access to a suite of resources designed to remove barriers to farming and agribusinesses. It operates five beginning farmer training sites across four islands and an agricultural technician training program at the Waiawa Correctional Facility.

The multi-phase GFH program teaches people how to start a small, for-profit commercial farm. It pairs business training with a science-based curriculum that gives would-be farmers hands-on experience at local farms.

GFH is financially supported by competitive grants and private donations. It recently received a \$2 million gift from American AgCredit and CoBank. Both companies are members of the nationwide Farm Credit System, the largest single provider of credit to American agriculture.

“Everyone in American agriculture understands the need to grow and develop the next generation of farmers and ranchers,” said Bill Davis, executive vice president of CoBank’s Farm Credit Banking Group.

“It is absolutely critical for the industry and for the country as a whole. But for those who don’t come from a farming background, it can be difficult to get started. GoFarm Hawai‘i has a proven and successful model for engaging beginning farmers.”

In addition to its farmer-training programs, GFH offers educational video tutorials to the community about gardening and sustainability, available at [youtube.com/GoFarm-Hawaii](https://youtube.com/GoFarm-Hawaii).

To learn more about buying produce through local community supported agriculture, visit [gofarmhawaii.org/find-your-farmer](https://gofarmhawaii.org/find-your-farmer). 🌱

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Cover and photos on this spread are from GoFarm Hawai‘i sites on Kaua‘i & O‘ahu. Photos courtesy of GoFarm Hawai‘i.

# UH Hilo soccer star continues to inspire

Lindsey Poulsen was the heart of the UH Hilo women's soccer team, a two-time selection for the All Pacific West team.

She was "forceful, relentless, and determined on the attack," according to the *Hawaii Tribune-Herald*, and one of the greatest Vulcans in the program's history.

"She came to Hilo ready to play," says Tom Poulsen of his daughter Lindsey. "The coach mistakenly sent her the off-season workout regimen for the men's team.

Making the times was difficult, but she did it. When she reported, she was the only member of her team to pass all the fitness tests."

Her mother Jill says, "She was very humble, and she inspired the other girls. She loved the community and team feeling. She loved the game, and she loved Hilo."

On an impromptu visit to UH Hilo while taking a look at other Hawai'i colleges, the coaches showed her the campus. Tom says, "They took her to every office and



department in the school, showed her the dorms and walked through the campus. Lindsey said, "This is it. This is where I want to be."

Before the visit was over, UH Hilo offered her a scholarship.

"She said she had to have number 22," says Jill. "He made her an offer, promising her the jersey number, and she said, 'I'm in!'"

## Always a force

At first, Lindsey was attracted to the beaches, ocean, air and campus, "but she fell in love with the coaches and professors," says Tom.

"She made a lot of friends and learned to live aloha. She discovered a land of people with their own

cultures and identities, and wished to make it her home."

In 2018, four years after graduating with a bachelor's degree in accounting, Lindsey lost her battle with ovarian cancer. Yet even in treatment, Lindsey was a force.

"There weren't a lot of girls her age," says Tom. "She was getting treatment with children and women who had children. As a testament to her drive and pursuit of a better life for all, she created a video for a fundraiser, to help them open up this area of support for women in their 20s."

Gene Okamura was a senior on the Vulcan men's team during Lindsey's frosh season. Today he's





Opposite, bottom left:  
Poulsen 'ohana

Opposite, top right:  
Lindsey graduates  
from UH Hilo in 2014

This page: Lindsey playing  
soccer for the Vulcans

PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
POULSEN 'OHANA

the head coach for the women's team.

"On the field, she was tenacious and aggressive. In the 89th minute, you could rely on her whether you needed a goal or someone to race back 120 yards to defend," he says.

"Off the field, she had a glowing personality. You knew who she was right away: outgoing, loyal, and a very good friend."

Gene remembers visiting California a few years after Lindsey's graduation.

"During my trip, I got

pretty sick," he says. "Lindsey kept checking on me, making sure I was comfortable, asking if I needed help. She was the one battling cancer, the one in pain. I just had a little cold and she kept making sure I was okay."

#### **A tribute to greatness**

The Poulsen family and UH Hilo community established the Lindsey

Poulsen #22 Memorial Scholarship in 2018, and the soccer team retired Lindsey's jersey number. Recently, Tom and Jill committed to growing the scholarship, adding a bequest intention from a portion of their estate.

"As the fund grows, the scholarship will bring more players to expand the program over time.

We want it to help as many students as possible," Jill says.

Into the distant future, while no player will wear Lindsey's jersey number again, many will carry her spirit onto the playing field, empowered by the scholarship bearing her name, representing the college and town she loved. ❀

### **UH Foundation Office of Estate & Gift Planning**

If you would like information about including the UH Foundation in your will, trust or other gift plan to benefit the University of Hawai'i, please contact us!

**808-376-7874** • [giftplanning@uhfoundation.org](mailto:giftplanning@uhfoundation.org) • [uhlegacygift.org](http://uhlegacygift.org)



CORPORATE CORNER

# HDS & UH join forces in advancing children’s oral health

Hawai‘i kids have the highest prevalence of dental decay in the nation, according to a 2015 state Department of Health report. Statewide, 71 percent of Hawai‘i’s third-graders experienced tooth decay, 22 percent had untreated tooth decay, and 7 percent needed urgent dental care, compared to the national rate of 1 percent.

The UH Maui College Dental Hygiene Program and the UH Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene with support from the Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) Foundation are leading various outreach efforts to improve oral health outcomes for Hawai‘i’s keiki. These efforts provide treatment and education in elementary schools on Maui, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i and O‘ahu, focusing on underserved communities.

UH Maui’s dental hygiene students prepared lessons in the Smiles for Maui program, targeting three Title I schools. These future hygienists brought tooth-brushing kits for school-children—toothbrushes with covers, toothpaste, floss picks and kit bags—providing age-appropriate instruction on oral care for daily, dedicated tooth-brushing time in school.

Follow-up visits by dental hygiene students offered reinforcement for students and troubleshooting for teachers.

UH Mānoa’s Hawai‘i Keiki program’s mission is to keep keiki healthy and ready to learn by providing access to school nursing services in Hawai‘i’s public schools. It recently added oral healthcare services,



*Big smiles & healthy teeth: UH Maui College Dental Hygiene students teach children about oral health at Pā‘ia Elementary School on Maui. (Photo taken before pandemic.)*

offering assessments and dental sealants in Title I Department of Education Public schools.

Families of participating students received assessment reports, referrals and oral care kits, and students needing urgent care received referrals to community dental service providers.

HDS Foundation has generously supported UH’s oral health outreach efforts since 2002.

This long history of partnership has helped recruit and train dental hygienists to serve our communities while improving access to oral health services for all Hawai‘i’s children.