

# UNIVERSITY of HAWAI‘I

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



## Q&A

We Are Oceania's Josie Howard  
on Hawai'i's Pacific Islanders

PG. 6

## TRANSFORMATIVE ART

Can art change how you look at the world?  
At yourself? Two homegrown artists hope so.

PG. 9

## WHAT'S MY JOB?

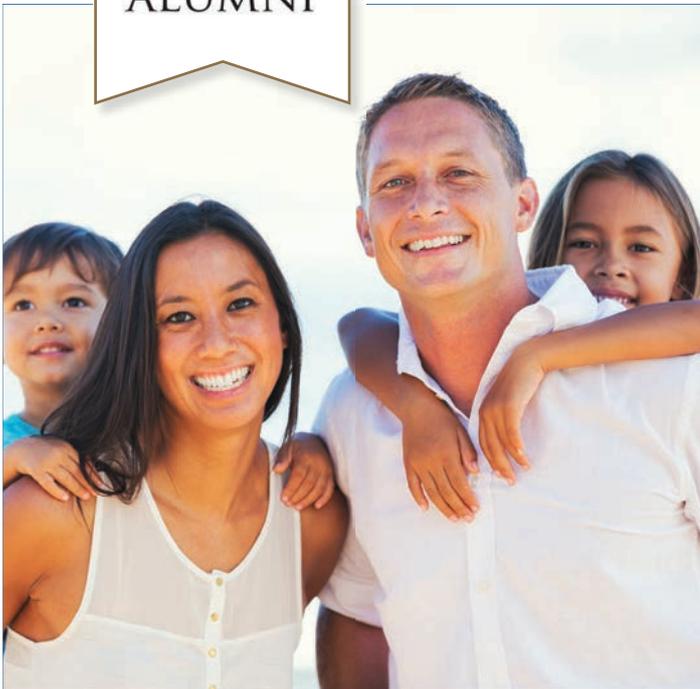
Astronomer David Tholen on  
"killer asteroids"

PG. 16

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SPRING 2021



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Artist Derick Fabian  
aka 7Sketches.  
Photo by Aaron  
Yoshino



📍 MĀNOA

## GROWING FARMERS GETS A BOOST

**“I** T’S A HUGE DEAL,” says GoFarm Hawaii Director Janel Yamamoto (BA Finance ’91, Mānoa) of the \$2 million donation pledged over five years from American AgCredit. “It provides a level of stability we’ve never had and gives us assurance of survival, especially during these times.” The program depends on competitive grants and private donations for financial support.

One of the nation’s largest and most successful beginning farmer development programs, GoFarm Hawaii, which began as a business consulting service (marketing, business planning, etc.) for existing farmers, expanded to offer training—an ag pathway in business entrepreneurship—to new farmers with a desire to farm but with no experience. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources program offers courses for participants to begin farming on

a small scale. Students start by focusing on about 30 diversified, short-term crops on five beginning farmer training sites on four islands.

“The average age of a Hawai’i farmer is 60; our student farmers’ average age is 40, and almost half are women,” says Yamamoto. While most applicants are local, the program looks for “a commitment to Hawai’i, and especially to Hawai’i’s food sustainability,” she adds. The Hawai’i 2050 Sustainability Plan aims to double local food production by 2030.

Since COVID, demand for GoFarm training doubled but safety precautions had kept the capacity the same. The program responded, with CARES funding, to a real-world farming challenge. It did a video series to engage the community on how to grow your own food and held workshops for existing farmers on new revenue streams. And its student farmers created a subscription bag service that marketed and sold fresh local vegetables directly to customers.

For more information: [gofarmhawaii.org](http://gofarmhawaii.org)

“

...(I)t’s the way we are approaching our vision for the entire University of Hawai’i.”

📍 MĀNOA

► **MARGARET MCFALL-NGAI**, Pacific Biosciences Research Center (PBRC) former director, on the new \$65 million Life Sciences Building, a 70,000-sq-ft state-of-the-art teaching and research facility engaging students, post-docs and faculty in “interdisciplinary collaboration and communication” that includes genetics, genomics, microbiology and molecular biology. Opened in fall 2020, it houses the newly merged School of Life Sciences, PBRC and the state’s only transmission electron microscope.

[“New UH building gives life science study a boost.” Honolulu Star-Advertiser 6/23/20; UH Mānoa completes \$65M Life Sciences building 6/23/20]

📍 MĀNOA

**ISLAND LIVES AT SUNDANCE** – Steve Iwamoto and Constance Wu (pictured) star in “I Was a Simple Man,” a feature film by Christopher Makoto Yogi (BA English, BBA Marketing '05, Mānoa) and one of 10 films selected for the U.S. Dramatic Competition at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival held virtually in January. Also shown at Sundance was Ciara Lacy’s “This is the Way We Rise,” a short documentary on slam poet and Mānoa political science assistant professor Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio. It is the first film by a Native Hawaiian woman filmmaker screened at the prestigious and competitive international film festival.



10,000

Estimated expanded seating capacity for Warrior football fans at Mānoa’s Clarence T.C. Ching Athletic Complex’s football practice field to attend six home games, starting in September 2021, and over the next three years, if Aloha Stadium remains closed. In December 2020, the Aloha Stadium Authority announced a moratorium on new events for the aging 46-year-old stadium and the pursuit of a new stadium by 2023.

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 [“University of Hawai’i drafts plan to host football games at Mānoa,” Honolulu Star-Advertiser 2/03/21; UH football to host season games on Mānoa campus,” UH News 1/11/21]

📍 HONOLULU

## PROTECTORS OF HAWAI’I’S NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

**T**WELVE ROOKIE CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS made history in January as the first newly commissioned protectors of Hawai’i’s natural and cultural resources, thanks to an innovative partnership between Honolulu Community College and the state Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Starting last summer, these first recruits combined six months of academic course work in Honolulu CC’s administration of justice program with four months of land and sea field work statewide in the state’s first ever DOCARE (Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement) Academy. Designed to produce workforce-ready officers, DOCARE expanded eligibility to those without any previous law enforcement expertise who meet the program’s qualifications.

While these new DOCARE officers are responsible for enforcing all state natural and cultural resources laws and rules, the emphasis in their classroom training with Honolulu CC’s justice program is on “educating the public, residents and visitors, to help protect our environment and cultural sites,” says

Honolulu CC Dean of Communication and Services Programs Keala Chock. These can include illegal fishing, unauthorized off-trail hiking and even inadvertently breaking laws protecting Native Hawaiian cultural resources, from ‘Tolani Palace to ancient heiau.

According to Chock, the DOCARE officers completed more than half of the required coursework needed to earn an administration of justice degree, including critical communications skills for interacting with the public and reports.

“If you love the environment, enjoy working outdoors, this academy breaks the mold of traditional law enforcement careers,” says Chock. Application to Honolulu CC’s administration of justice program itself is open to all students who, if they qualify, will be ready when DOCARE Academy opens its next recruitment, he adds.

For more information: [honolulu.hawaii.edu/aj](http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/aj)



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER MAKOTO YOGI



# Josie Howard

Interview by GAIL MIYASAKI



A native of Onoun Island, one of 2,100 islands that comprise the sovereign nation of the Federated States of Micronesia, **Jocelyn (Josie) Howard** is an advocate for Hawai'i's Pacific Islander community. She is the chief executive officer of We Are Oceania, which focuses on Micronesians.

**WHAT INSPIRED AND INFLUENCED YOUR INTEREST IN COMMUNITY SERVICE?**

As one of nine children, I grew up as part of a community that depended on people and the environment. We helped each other, did things together—fishing, harvesting, education, health care, celebrations—as a village where everyone is “family.” As a clan, my grandparents, my parents (my father came to Onoun, my mother’s home island, as is tradition for husbands to follow wives) set an example of caring for people. I am guided by *Amanamanu*, a Chuukese word in the Onoun dialect that means “to guard and give company to or give/provide a spiritual guardian.”

**WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO ATTEND UH HILO IN 1989 AS ONE OF THE FIRST MICRONESIANS MIGRATING TO HAWAII UNDER THE COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION (COFA) TREATY?**

Education (in the U.S.) became accessible under COFA. This allows citizens of Micronesia to live and legally work in the U.S., with access to social and health services, in exchange for the U.S. to have full international defense authority and critical military control over the northwestern Pacific Ocean.

My whole family inspired me to go. My uncles, who were involved and struggled with nation-building (in Micronesia), urged me to aspire. I’m the first in my family to graduate from college (BA ‘97, Hilo), studying biology, anthropology and Pacific Islands Studies. My work later at Goodwill Industries of Hawai'i with the ‘Imi Loa Program to create a one-stop employment service for immigrant and migrant COFA citizens showed me that I had a purpose and I could do it. I later earned my master’s in social work (Mānoa ‘14) to help me serve my purpose of helping the Micronesian people.

**WHAT LESSONS ABOUT DEALING WITH COVID-19 CAN YOU SHARE FROM WORKING WITH PACIFIC ISLANDERS, WHO REPRESENT 4 PERCENT OF OUR POPULATION BUT HAVE SUFFERED THE WORST RATES OF 25 PERCENT OR MORE OF INFECTIONS?**

Understanding cultural values has been very important in communicating, both talking to and listening in return. We are unique cultures representing unique nations that the census data does not disaggregate. We learned there are pockets of Micronesian populations here, in Wai‘anae and Waipahu. Collaborating with stakeholders became important to ensure access and outreach for essentials, such as food. We are vulnerable. We have seen how things we count on can be quickly taken away from us—jobs, health, housing. But we learned there are so many kind people willing to help our families.

In February, We Are Oceania partnered with the Kalihi-Palama Health Center on a COVID vaccination clinic at St. Elizabeth’s Church. Dozens of Pacific Island elders and caregivers showed up to get their first shots. Many don’t speak English so translators were there to help. Trust is very important to ensure that our people have access to the COVID vaccine to save lives.

**AS A MEMBER OF THE HAWAII STATE SUPREME COURT COMMITTEE ON COURT INTERPRETERS AND LANGUAGE ACCESS, YOU SPEAK AND CAN TRANSLATE IN THREE LANGUAGES, CHUUKESE, ONOUNESE AND ENGLISH. IS PERPETUATING PACIFIC ISLANDER LANGUAGES AN ISSUE?**

Not yet. But I am very concerned that the loss of (native) languages will happen really fast. Right now, our first immigrants still speak the language, as do their children. But with their peers, kids speak English. Language is tied to culture. *Tirow Fairo*, for example, is a Chuukese phrase that has no English equivalent and closely means respect for others, to show humility. *Fairo* is (something) bigger (than yourself)—a system, a way of life, like Buddhism. When words lose their meaning, cultural attitude and behavior also disappear.

**WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES CONCERNING WE ARE OCEANIA IN ITS MISSION OF “EMPOWERING THE MICRONESIAN COMMUNITY IN HAWAII TO NAVIGATE SUCCESS WHILE HONORING THE INTEGRITY OF OUR DIVERSE HERITAGE?”**

Communications right now because we are all lumped together in data (as Pacific Islanders)—Chuukese, Marshallese, Samoans—with different languages, which adds to systemic inequity, especially during the pandemic. Accessibility is an immediate issue to food, quarantine, vaccines. This extends (and is ongoing) to higher education, voter registration and health care. Last December, access to Medicaid for COFA citizens was finally restored 25 years after it was wrongly revoked.

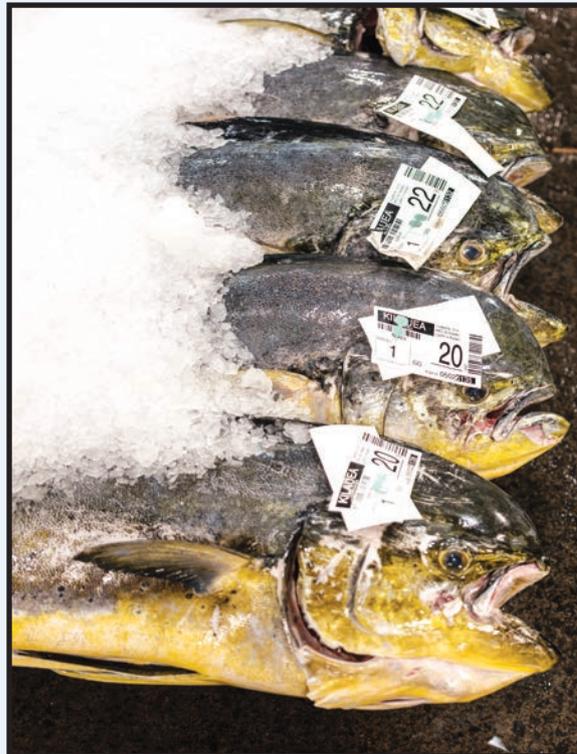
There’s more to be done. I work because I believe my family saw something in me. I feel like they are behind me, looking over my shoulder.

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► **NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS, FROM FOUR ISLANDS**, who produced PSA videos on cybersecurity as members of the inaugural CompuGirls Hawaii program to educate girls on cybersecurity and IT. 61 percent attend Hawai'i public schools and five are cadets from the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy, according to CyberHawaii Chair and UH Chief Information Security Officer Jodi Ito (BS Computer Science '82, MS Information & Computer Science '87, Mānoa)

["CompuGirls Hawaii introduces cybersecurity to Hawai'i's high school girls who are underrepresented in STEM education," CyberHawaii news release 12/21/20]

**“If it can work with fish, it can work for everything because fish is the hardest one.”**



► Soojin Jun, UH associate professor and project lead, on the development of a “supercooling” technology that preserves perishable items at below-freezing temperatures without forming ice crystals. Using electric and magnetic fields, researchers have figured out how to keep an ‘ahi filet “fresh” for 10 days without deterioration or quality loss. ["UH researchers develop method to keep fish fresh," Honolulu Star-Advertiser 12/19/20]

**“...(Last) March when we had to close down the campus, (we) were ready to put everything on the line, to just step up our personal touch with all of our students.”**

► **MAENETTE AH NEE-BENHAM (EDD EDUCATION '93, MĀNOA)**, UH WEST O'AHU CHANCELLOR, on the campus' record 709 degrees awarded in 2020. Seven of UH's 10 campuses improved their on-time graduation rates, despite the coronavirus pandemic and the sudden switch to online learning. ["University of Hawai'i graduation rates rise even during coronavirus pandemic, Honolulu Star-Advertiser 11/27/20]

**3,300** Number of photovoltaic (PV) modules installed on UH Maui College's campus as UH's second net-zero campus, joining Leeward Community College, and as one of the first U.S. campuses to generate 100 percent of its energy from on-site solar PV systems coupled with battery storage.

["University of Hawai'i Maui College reaches net-zero sustainability," PBN 1/25/21]

**“This partnership has been a fun and eye-opening voyage.”**

► **NEAL A. PALAFOX (MD '80, MĀNOA)**, UH Cancer Center researcher and principal investigator, on its collaboration since 2003 with the University of Guam, which was recently awarded a \$14 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to address the impact of cancer on Pacific Islanders, using cancer research, career training and community outreach. ["\$14M to address cancer disparities across the Pacific," UH news release 10/20/20]

**33,000** Size in square feet of the brand new \$35 million Academy for Creative Media at UH West O'ahu, serving its fastest growing degree program with cutting edge facilities and hands-on courses in video animation, video games, design, social media, web and app development, virtual and augmented reality and more.

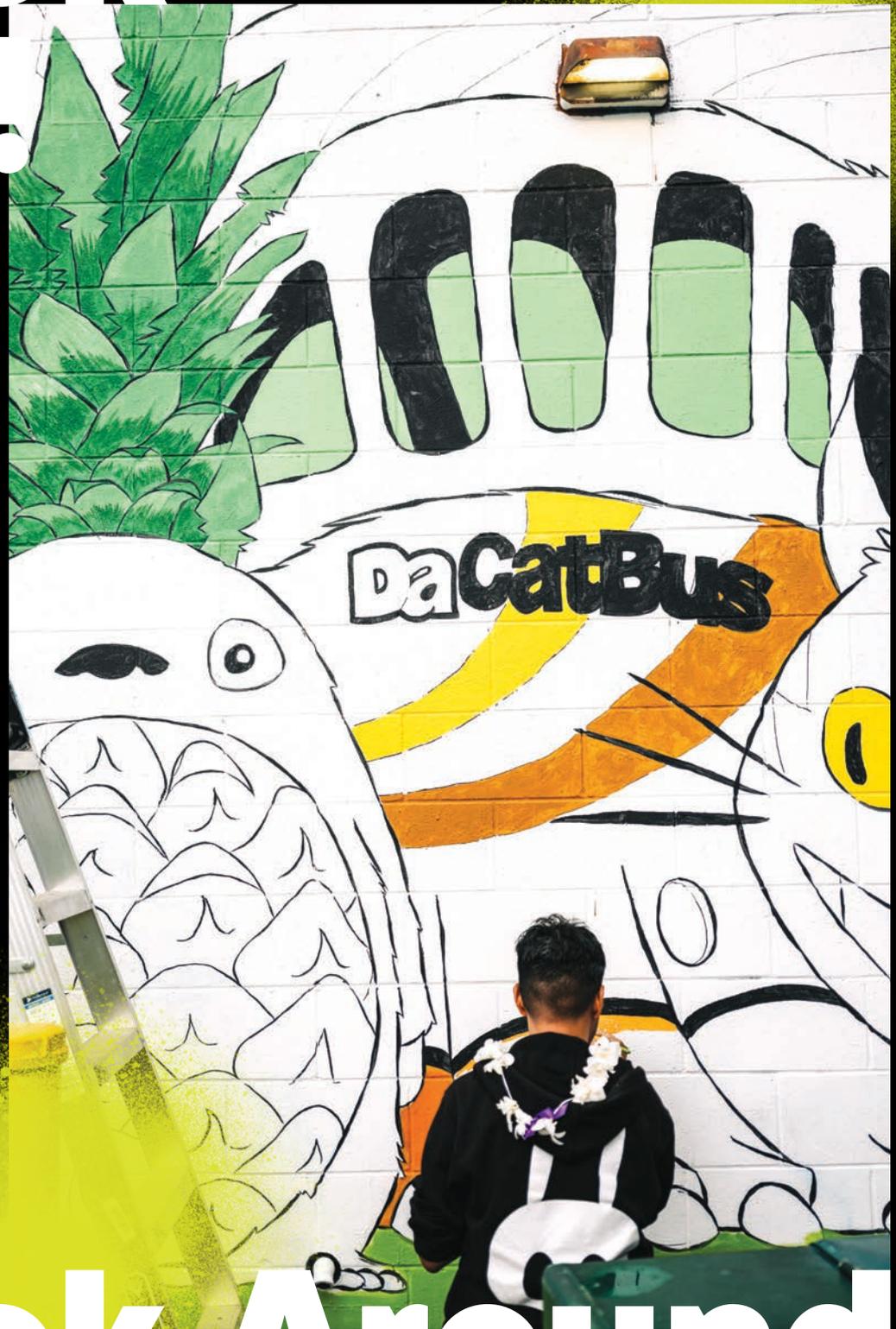
["New state-of-the-art Academy for Creative Media facility ready for students," UH news 2/07/21]

# Look Up!

ART AROUND YOU HAS THE ABILITY TO MEANINGFULLY CONNECT YOU WITH PLACE AND COMMUNITY. ITS IMPACT AT A PERSONAL LEVEL IS AT THE CORE OF ITS TRANSFORMATIVE POWER. IT SHIFTS PERCEPTIONS, TUGS AT THE COMMON TIES THAT BIND, AND BRINGS US CLOSER. THROUGH THEIR VERY DIFFERENT RESPECTIVE ART PRACTICES, KAILI CHUN AND DERICK FABIAN DELVE BEYOND THE SURFACE OF THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE.

by **NICOLE DUARTE**

Photography By  
Aaron Yoshino



# Look Around



## **Kaili Chun**

UH MĀNOA, MFA '99  
SCULPTOR +  
INSTALLATION ARTIST,  
G70



**A SCHOOL OF UHU TWISTS AND TURNS**, lending a fluttering sense of motion to the otherwise still, concrete facade of the newly erected Hawai'i State Hospital in Kāne'ohe. Rendered in monochromatic white, the medium-relief sculpture forms a pattern that swarms in a myriad of directions yet, somehow, remains a cohesive whole.

Artwork depicting fish may seem counterintuitive on a building at the base of the Ko'olau Mountains, but artist Kaili Chun says the work encompasses a strong connection to place and notions of healing.

"I wanted to recognize the story of Keahiakahoe, which is the promontory or mountain peak behind the hospital, and I wanted to recognize the connection between the mountains and the ocean as an ahupua'a," Chun said.

The mo'olelo (traditional Hawaiian story) of Keahiakahoe is one of two brothers: a fisherman named Pahu and an upland farmer named Kāhoe. While the farmer always shared his best har-

vest with his brother, the fisherman did not reciprocate, sharing only leftovers. When the farmer found out about this practice, it created a rupture between the two brothers. And when famine hit, the fisherman was left without food, while the farmer enjoyed an abundant harvest. Keahiakahoe (the fire of Kāhoe) refers to the fires the fisherman would see in the mountains, signaling his brother's bounty.

"The story kept on bugging me, though," Chun said. "I kept thinking can we do something to heal this rift." Through her art installation, Chun symbolically brings back some of the best fish to the brother in the mountains, to mend the divide and to mark the hospital as a place of healing. Chun cites the 'ōlelo no'eau (Hawaiian proverb): "Pala ka hala, momona ka uhu" (When the hala [pandanus] ripens, the uhu [parrot fish] is fat). The proverb deftly conveys the interconnectedness and exchange within an ahupua'a, while specifically referencing hala, which used to grow in abundance in the area.

As an artist at Honolulu-based architecture firm G70, which is the architect of record for the new Hawai'i State Hospital building, Chun draws upon her academic training in architecture. Her work often contemplates space in the context of place with a focus on material. Her work also grapples with Native Hawaiian and Western modes of thinking, and the ways in which they contradict, co-exist, and coalesce in our everyday life in Hawai'i. She has found, through her art practice, "that one [culture] doesn't exist without the other." Most often, how-

ever, Chun's artwork returns to water.

"I'm an ocean person, a saltwater person," Chun said. "I'm a Pisces. I have swum all my life; I was a competitive swimmer when I was younger. I surfed from baby time, and I paddled canoe for a time. I love to eat akule (big-eyed scad) and 'ōpelu (mackerel scad). I've lived my entire life in the ocean, so it's super important."

A deep reverence and concern for water are the impetus for the artwork Chun is currently developing for the 10th edition of the prestigious Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary

Art in Queensland, Australia. Titled *Uwē ka lani, Ola ka honua* (When the heavens weep, the land lives), the installation will comprise hundreds of vials of water collected by Indigenous Australians from sources that are important to them.

"Waiwai (a lot of water) means wealth in Hawaiian," Chun said. "I think that we really need to re-evaluate what has value and what's important. And we need to strengthen our resolve to take care of it. I hope that my work contributes a layer of thought to the entire process of the change we need in the world."



▲ Chun's artwork on the facade of the Hawai'i State Hospital in Kāne'ohe



## Derick Fabian

KAUA'I COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AA LIBERAL ARTS '98;  
UH MĀNOA, BA ART '11  
ARTIST + ILLUSTRATOR,  
AKA 7SKETCHES



**IN THE HEART OF KAKA'AKO,** on a Pow!Wow! Hawai'i mural wall, an amusing anthropomorphic pineapple welcomes passersby into a fantastical painted landscape in which "DaCatBus" swirls through rows of cheery kalo. Pineapple Totoro, a mashup of a tropical fruit and the popular Japanese animé character, is the creation of artist Derick Fabian, aka 7Sketches.

A life-long illustrator, Fabian remembers as a kid, always drawing, particularly on boxed computer paper from Sears—the old, perfo-

rated kind with the tiny holes along the sides, banded in light green and white. He would usually draw cartoons, like Garfield, and superheroes from comic books. In high school and college, he got into graffiti art, hip-hop culture and Japanese animé. He also earned two associate degrees in new media arts from Kapi'olani Community College in motion graphics design (2004) and interface design (2009). Around



that time, a girlfriend in new media arts introduced him to Sanrio characters, such as Hello Kitty. All of these influences—street, mischievous, and cute—melded to form a cast of characters that inhabit the world of 7Sketches, where an edgy urban aesthetic exists comfortably alongside the adorably cute.

The Kaua'i-born artist is perhaps best known for his character dubbed Sad Panda. The panda initially started out as a drawing exercise inspired by the work of Woes (Aaron Martin), an artist Fabian admires. But friends saw the private sketch and encouraged him to sell it as a sticker, which almost instantly took off.

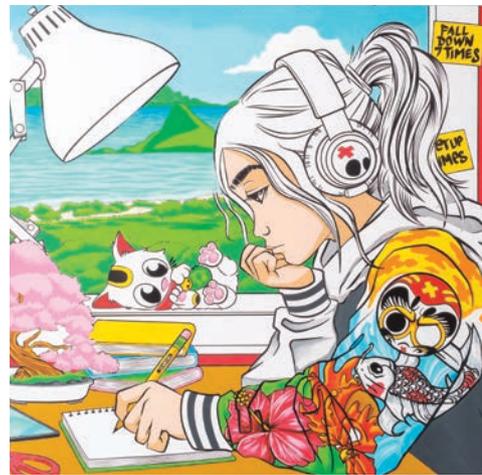
Sad Panda is at once sweet and downcast, with an oversized head resting upon a toddler-like body. His big, round eyes convey an endearing cuteness, while his slouched posture impart a misplaced defeat that ought not to be in something so innocent. People gravitated

toward the panda, whose sadness seemed to engender a universal compassion.

Fabian has since made numerous iterations of Sad Panda, pop culture mashups that outfit the character in everything from rapper LL Cool J gear to Star Wars Stormtrooper armor. Sad Panda has carried a Marvel Deadpool's katana, scratched a turntable, and sported two bandages on his head. Over time, a narrative for the character emerged.

"He's sad because he's shy and can't make friends. Other characters talk about how sad he is and how he probably has an 'owie of the mind.' So, he puts two bandages on his head to help his sadness heal faster," Fabian explained. "You know, it wasn't my goal when I made him, but I'm basically talking about depression."

Fabian has struggled with depression and, with Sad Panda, he inadvertently found an outlet through which to express it. In doing so, Fabian connects with



his audience on a deeper level, many of whom find Sad Panda's backstory resonates with their own experiences. Some even reach out to Fabian personally to share their struggles with anxiety and depression, and let him know how Sad Panda has impacted them. It's an unintended by-product, but Fabian welcomes a discussion around mental health and believes the exchange can be healing.

"When I started getting

serious about art and putting myself out there, it seemed to keep the depression at bay," Fabian said. "I still go through my ups and downs, but I feel like I'm in a better place because I have something that's coming from within that I'm putting out into the world and it's being appreciated by people."

Fabian's work has gained enough of a following "to drop" a designer toy of Sad Panda with the help and encouragement of local shop From the Heart. Realizing the limited-edition collectible toy has been a massive dream come true for Fabian.

"It's so crazy, I'm so humbled by this experience," Fabian said. "The way that people supported this project—both From the Heart [in Honolulu] and Strange Cat Toys in Florida—has been insane. I'm just so overwhelmed with the support I've been getting online, with people hitting me up saying they want a toy."

For all of character's sadness and shyness, it has had no trouble making connections with people in real life. The Sad Panda designer toy sold out within minutes. **UH**



HONORED

# FINDING YOUR PLACE

**MELODY KAPILIALOHA MACKENZIE: 2020 NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Ō‘Ō AWARD**

**S**TEPPING UP AT THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME is why Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie has been recognized with an Ō‘Ō Award, one of the most prestigious honors presented to “outstanding Native Hawaiians who through their talents have made significant contributions to improve their communities and wellbeing of Native Hawaiians.”

She is the founding director of UH law school’s Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law (established in 2005), the only one of its kind in the U.S. Its Certificate in Native Hawaiian Law, earned by three students in its first class, was awarded to 130 by 2020. MacKenzie served as editor-in-chief and also a writer of *Native Hawaiian Law: A Treatise* (2015), the 1,400-page definitive resource for understanding legal issues affecting the Native Hawaiian community. As a member of the first graduating class of UH law school (1976), she is “proud to bring to light and awareness the possibilities for Native Hawaiian law.”



Helping ‘ohana and the community, while growing up in an area of Kailua traditionally known as Ka’ōhao, set MacKenzie on her path to law as her eventual career choice. Her eye-opening work with the Colorado-based Native American Rights Fund, a national law firm advocating for Indigenous Peoples, and what’s now the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation sparked her later work on the defense team for Protect Kaho’olawe ‘Ohana members charged with trespassing (1976-’77) and at the landmark 1978 Hawai‘i Constitutional Convention. Hula became “another awakening experience,” and MacKenzie has danced at nine Merrie Monarch festivals.

The “biggest influence” early in her

law career was William S. Richardson, chief justice of the Hawai‘i Supreme Court and namesake of the UH law school. As his law clerk for four years, MacKenzie saw how “his decisions recognized and validated Hawai‘i custom as the basis of Hawai‘i law, particularly relating to natural resources.” Thus, Hawai‘i’s beaches should be open to all and cannot be privately owned, and water is held in trust for the benefit of the people by the sovereign (the state).

A UH professor of law emerita and teaching classes in Native Hawaiian law, MacKenzie is “optimistic about the future of Native Hawaiians and Hawai‘i.” To young Native Hawaiians interested in law, she says, “Go for it!”

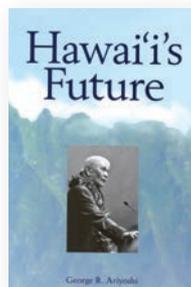
**CONFIRMED**

**TODD EDDINS**, (JD ‘91, Mānoa), as associate justice, Hawai‘i Supreme Court by unanimous vote of the state Senate in November 2020 will serve a 10-year term on the state’s highest court. The former public defender and Circuit Court judge also teaches as an adjunct professor

at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

**PUBLISHED**

*Hawai‘i’s Future* by **GEORGE R. ARIYOSHI**, Hawai‘i’s third and longest-serving governor (1974-1986) attended UH after World War II. A leader in long-range planning and natural resource protection



and management, he reflects on 60 years of statehood and offers a blueprint for managing growth and shaping Hawai‘i’s future. (Legacy Isle Publishing, 2020)

**ELECTED**

**J. UDUCH SENGEBAU SENIOR**, (BA ‘88 philosophy, Hilo; JD ‘93, Mānoa), as vice presi-

dent of the Republic of Palau in 2020. A former judge in the Palau Land Court and on its Supreme Court’s appellate division, the former Palau senator was an advocate for gender equality, introducing bills to mandate maternity leave and ban discrimination against pregnant women.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MELODY KAPILIALOHA MACKENZIE; LEGACY ISLE PUBLISHING

# Aloha 'Oe

## William (Billy) Kenoi

(1969–2021), (JD '96, Mānoa), colorful, charismatic, “a true Big Island boy” first elected Mayor of Hawai'i Island at age 39 (2008), as one of the county's youngest mayors and served two terms. A former intern of the late Sen. Daniel Inouye, a legislative aide in the Hawai'i state House and Senate, and executive assistant to former Hawai'i Mayor Harry Kim, Kenoi had a well-earned reputation for hard work.

## Muriel Miura Kaminaka

(1935–2020), (BS home economics '56; PDNUH secondary education, vocational HEC '57, Mānoa), genial, gracious host of the first local TV cooking shows in the 1970s; and author of more than 20 cookbooks, starting with “Cook Japanese: Hawaiian Style” (1974) featuring tasty, non-nonsense island-style food.

## Rose Nakamura

(1928–2020), (BS recreation leadership '50, Mānoa), co-founder and founding administrator of Project Dana, a statewide interfaith coalition, initiated at Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji Mission that trains volunteers to assist age-in-place frail and elderly persons. A PE teacher at Hilo High and UH Hilo, she was a program officer at the East-West Center for 25 years.

## Ralph Stueber

(1927–2020), dedicated professor (1959–'93), one of the founders of Mānoa's College of Education's research journal *Educational Perspectives*, devoted chair and advisor to educational foundations master's and doctoral students, and deeply committed to multicultural education, peace studies and community service. Named a “Community Treasure” by the Hawaii Community Education Association.

## Fujio Matsuda

(1924–2020), first UH president and first president of a major university in the nation of Asian descent, interrupted his studies at Mānoa to join the nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team in World War II, and later taught in UH's engineering department and served as department chair (1955–'62). Co-founder of SMS Engineering, he was appointed director of the state Dept. of Transportation. Built during his UH presidency were the UH law school, Marine Sciences building, Institute for Astronomy and Gilmore Hall.

## Alfred Laureta

(1924–2020), 'Ewa-born son of immigrant laborers, became the nation's first federal judge, first cabinet member (Gov. John Burns' director, department of labor) and first state judge of Filipino descent. A lifelong public servant and volunteer, he graduated from UH Mānoa (BED secondary education '47; PDUH '49) and later attended law school on the Mainland.



SELECTED

**JANICE IKEDA:**  
2020-'21  
OMIDYAR  
FELLOWS

**“WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?” WAS THE CHALLENGE POSED, not once, but three times to Janice Ikeda. Looking back at her responses (cooking a monthly meal for students at her daughter's preschool, going back to college for a degree in IT, and finding her place as a community stakeholder), the Hilo-born Ikeda says the challenges became guideposts on a personal journey. They built her self-confidence, set her career path, and, by joining her with others, pointed her toward helping to realize a valued, healthy and resilient Hawai'i.**

Along the way, the one-time single mother earned an associate degree in IT (Hawai'i CC '07), a BA in communication (Hilo '12), an MA in organizational leadership and acceptance into the PhD program in leadership studies at Gonzaga University. Her experience in nonprofit administration includes Hope Services Hawai'i working with the homeless, Hawai'i Island United Way, and 'Aha Pūnana Leo, her daughter's Hawaiian language immersion school.

One of 16 emerging local leaders selected in 2020

for the Omidyar Fellows program, Ikeda is executive director of Vibrant Hawai'i, a grassroots Hawai'i Island-based nonprofit that brings together “multi-sector groups to advance collective contribution toward our vision of a vibrant Hawai'i.” Launched in 2018 during the devastating Kilauea lava flows, Vibrant Hawai'i did outreach and interviewed residents, including in Puna where 78 percent of the population lived in poverty, according to ALICE reports.

“We heard people say, ‘We might be the worst in income but we are the best in 'ohana.’ And, ‘We don't feel poor;’” says Ikeda. “It shifted our perspective on what wealth means to people in Hawai'i.”

A subsequent pre-COVID gathering that attracted over 200, from youth to kūpuna, underscored what investment mattered most to Hawai'i Island residents. “Human capital—people—was the highest,” says Ikeda, followed by social (relationships), natural (environment) and last, financial.

Vibrant Hawai'i has seen its mailing list grow during the pandemic from 600 to 4,000 by 2020. “Everyone has something to contribute,” says Ikeda. “How we excel together is a story yet to be told.”—GAIL MIYASAKI

## KILLER ASTEROID HUNTER

# David Tholen



### HOMETOWN

I was born and raised in Hays, Kansas, where the dark, unobstructed and generally clear skies of western Kansas and a small telescope purchased by my parents first inspired me to look up at the skies. In high school, a rare evening astronomy class offered by my physics instructor allowed me, who had a full daytime class schedule, to take this class. The rest is history.

### EDUCATION

- BS physics and astronomy, '78 University of Kansas
- PhD planetary sciences, '84, University of Arizona

I grew up 50 miles and 50 years from Clyde Tombaugh, the discoverer of Pluto and a fellow University of Kansas alumnus. My interest in distant objects, such as Pluto, and previously unknown small bodies in our solar system like Farfarout, began with the discovery of Pluto's satellite Charon in the summer of 1978. My beginning of grad school that fall coincid-

ed with one of the first in-depth presentations on that discovery. I was hooked.

*Tholen "seized the opportunities" presented in his post-graduate work at a time in astronomy when little was known about outer solar system science. Among these were: his involvement with the first decent size and density measurements of Pluto and Charon, enabled by the rare event of Charon's orbit being viewed nearly edge-on from Earth, which led to his appointment to NASA Outer Planets Science Working Group; and his dissertation work on asteroids, including some of the few near-Earth objects known in the early 1980s, which led to his appointment to two NASA committees tasked with reporting on how to find threatening bodies and what to do if one was found to be on a collision course with Earth.*

### WORK

- Astronomer, Institute of Astronomy, UH Mānoa (1983 – present)
- My primary area of research for the last two decades has been to look for and

track "killer asteroids" that was aided by the switch in the early 1980s to then new digital camera technology initiated by the Spacewatch project. Such work wasn't popular at the time. But with two asteroids skimming close by Earth in 1989 and 1991, and comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 smacking into Jupiter in 1994, things started getting serious, and more research funding by Congress was devoted to the field. Such near-Earth events not only add to our scientific knowledge, they have the potential to protect the Earth, which I find particularly appealing, from a catastrophic event.

*Working with other astronomers and scientists, nationally and internationally, Tholen has been part of the discovery of near-Earth Apophis asteroid (visible in 2029); the Japanese Hayabusa spacecraft mission that brought back to Earth a sample from asteroid Itokawa (2010); and in February, the confirmation of the most distant object observed in our solar system, a planetoid nicknamed Farfarout.*

The Earth is constantly being pelted by extraterrestrial material. The small stuff hits frequently and is harmless (meteors); the somewhat larger stuff hits less frequently and adds to our meteorite collection (2008 TC3); even larger things happen correspondingly less frequently and can cause damage and injuries (Chelyabinsk 2013). Someday we'll find the next object that will be of concern. That advance knowledge will save lives.

### PROUDEST MOMENT

Being selected for the Urey Prize in 1990 ranks way up there, because it was a recognition by peers of the work I was doing. But it's also hard to top the discovery of Apophis, which has played such a central role in the whole "killer asteroid" field. It triggered the whole new concept of "keyholes," regions of space designated by astronomers that an Earth-threatening asteroid has to pass through on its orbit around the Sun to end up colliding with Earth.

LEARN MORE ABOUT DAVID THOLEN AND HIS WORK:

[tholen@ifa.hawaii.edu](mailto:tholen@ifa.hawaii.edu); [hawaii.edu/news/2021/02/10/most-distant-planetoid-confirmed/](http://hawaii.edu/news/2021/02/10/most-distant-planetoid-confirmed/)

## SUPPORTING ALUMNI-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

**T**HE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS CREATED the Small Business Spotlight Series in an effort to draw awareness to amazing alumni-owned businesses. As part of the series, alumni business owners are featured in a special Q&A that delves into the stories behind their company, what makes their business or products special and what they love most about their work.



*Pictured: From greeting cards and stickers to pins and reusable totes, Tiny Hearts specializes in 100 percent original designs and products—handcrafted and made with aloha by UH alumni and husband-and-wife team Sheri (BS Apparel Production Design & Merchandising '04, Mānoa) and Kevin Ching (BA Art '03, Mānoa). For more about Tiny Hearts, visit [go.hawaii.edu/JRL](http://go.hawaii.edu/JRL).*



*Pictured: In August 2020, KITV reporter Malika Dudley (BA Speech '04, BA French '04, Mānoa) took over the @uhalumni account and gave followers a behind-the-scenes look at her work reporting remotely from Maui. To re-watch Malika's takeover, visit our @uhalumni Instagram highlights.*

### ALUMNI TAKEOVERS SHOWCASE CAREER PATHS

Follow @uhalumni on Instagram and be the first to know about upcoming UH alumni takeovers! Each takeover provides a glimpse into the professional lives of our successful alumni, showcasing the wide range of industries alumni specialize in and the meaningful ways they put their UH education to work.



### KEEPING THE UH 'OHANA CONNECTED, VIRTUALLY: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Launched in May 2020, the Community Conversations webinar series features informative conversations with UH Mānoa community leaders with the goal of sharing pertinent and valuable knowledge with our UH community through the trusted voices of UH experts. The series is hosted by UH Mānoa Provost Michael Bruno and has covered topics such as the impact of COVID-19 on UH Mānoa and the State of Hawai'i, the university's response to the pandemic, efforts to create a COVID-19 testing lab and the intersection of COVID-19 and sustainability.

### WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

1. Keep your contact information up to date to ensure you receive the most relevant event invitations and announcements. Visit [uhalumni.org/contact/update](http://uhalumni.org/contact/update) to submit updated contact information.
2. Join UH Connect, our online networking platform exclusively for UH alumni, students, faculty and staff and friends. To join, visit [connect.uhalumni.org](http://connect.uhalumni.org)
3. Check your email regularly for alumni events, invitations, news, discounts and more!



JILL TAKASAKI  
CANFIELD

**KEITH AMEMIYA** (BBA '88, JD '91, Mānoa), appointed executive director, Central Pacific Bank Foundation, to manage its strategic planning, programs and operations. Previously senior VP, Island Holdings, Inc., the 2020 Honolulu Mayoral finalist has leadership experience in public and private sectors.



JOHN KOMEIJI

**DONNA CAMVEL** (BA '09, MA '12, PhD '20, Mānoa), named executive director, Hui o Ko'olaupoko, a nonprofit dedicated to restoring 'ainā and its waters in the Ko'olaupoko moku (Kualoa to Kuli'ou'ou Ridge). With degrees in Hawaiian Studies, women's studies and political science, she has taught Hawaiian Studies at UH Mānoa and Windward CC.



RON MIZUTANI

**JILL TAKASAKI CANFIELD** (BA '88, Mānoa) is the new executive director, Hawai'i Literacy that helps over 3,000 people annually learn basic literacy skills. Previously director of dual language and international programs, Maryknoll School; and executive director, Pacific and Asian Affairs Council.



SHANA TONG

**SHERI-ANN LAU CLARK** (BA '95, JD '01, Mānoa), promoted to COO and corporate secretary, Hawai'i Employers Council, a new position working directly with the president and CEO on board relations, budget and staff matters.



KOLTEN WONG

**R. PUALANI FERNANDEZ** (BS '00, MHRM '11, Mānoa), appointed resort manager, The Kahala Hotel & Resort, responsible for operations and strategic management for the 338-room resort. Previously hotel manager, Prince Waikiki, she has nearly 20 years of hospitality industry experience.

**MAJ FORSBERG** (BBA '01, Mānoa), named WNBA's first woman referee crew chief, worked nine years of playoffs and seven finals in WNBA basketball, and three NCAA Final Four. A Rainbow Wahine in basketball, she credits her UH Mānoa coach Vince Goo and UH Hilo men's basketball coach Jimmy Yagi (and wife Jeanne) as mentors.

**PEDRO HARO** (MPH '09, Mānoa), appointed executive director, American Lung Association Hawai'i. With over 20 years of leadership experience, he has headed statewide programs and campaigns focused on health issues, including kupuna care, mental health, tobacco control and youth empowerment.

**LESLEY KANESHIRO** (BBA '86, Mānoa), named COO, Mid-Pacific Institute. The former Pūlama Lāna'i's senior VP of finance, and managing director, Lanai Air, has experience in finance, operations and customer service. She is a former MPI trustee and parent.

**JOHN KOMEIJI** (BEEd '75, Mānoa), appointed general counsel and VP, Kamehameha Schools. Previously chief administrative officer and general counsel, Hawaiian TelCom and a senior partner at Watanabe Ing & Komeiji LLP. Past president of the Hawai'i State Bar Association, he was honored in 2011 as a UH Distinguished Alumni.

**LORI KWEE** (PD '86, Mānoa), honored as the 2021 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year. With UH degrees in elementary education and language arts and over 30 years in public school teaching, she encourages students to solve real-life problems using an inquiry-based curriculum.

**LEAH MAGAÑA** (MEEd '10, Mānoa), promoted to Le Jardin Academy lower school principal. She formerly served as the director of learning for the Windward PK-12 independent co-ed day school.

**RON MIZUTANI** (BA '87, Mānoa), named president and CEO, PBS Hawai'i. The former TV news anchor previously served as head of the Hawai'i Foodbank since 2018. He has also held public relations positions at Hawaiian TelCom and CommPac.

**SAM MOKU** (BA '87, MBA '92, Mānoa), named chief of staff for Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi, previously served as director of

community relations at Hawai'i Pacific University and also as HPU's executive athletic director. He served in management with the City and County of Honolulu and the state Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

**SHARI OSHIRO** (MD '02, Mānoa), appointed chief medical director, Rehab Hospital of the Pacific, the only acute-care rehabilitation hospital in Hawai'i. A specialist in physical medicine with Rehab since 2006, she previously served as medical director of stroke and amputee rehabilitation programs.

**BEN TREVIÑO** (MBA '13, Mānoa), named president and CEO, Hawai'i Institute for Public Affairs, a nonprofit, nonpartisan and independent research and educational organization providing public policy research, analysis and recommendations. Previously HART's sustainability planner, he was also the founding president/COO of Bikeshare Hawai'i.

**SHANA TONG** (BA '87, Mānoa), named the first woman and first graduate to serve as president of Maryknoll School, Hawai'i's largest Catholic School serving over 1,000 K-12 students. Beginning as a grade school teacher, then principal and later VP of academic affairs, she has worked at Maryknoll for more than 30 years.

**KOLTEN WONG**, two-time Golden Glove honoree, joined Major League Baseball's Milwaukee Brewers after eight seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals. Playing for UH Mānoa (2009-'11), the MVP second baseman led UH to the WAC title and the NCAA finals. He is only the third player to have his number (14) retired in UH baseball history.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JILL TAKASAKI CANFIELD, KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS, PBS HAWAII, SHANA TONG, MILWAUKEE BREWERS



“With all the activities, learning never ends at 15 Craigside.”

—Leroy and Roberta Chang  
15 Craigside Residents

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Virtual Tour at [arcadia.org/15-craigside](http://arcadia.org/15-craigside)



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## Aloha 'Oe

### Chad Kālepa Baybayan

(1956-2021)

BA Hawaiian Studies, 1997, UH Hilo  
AA Liberal Arts, 1977, UH Maui College

Baybayan's work through the Polynesian Voyaging Society and University of Hawai'i has helped shape a new generation of navigators, educators, scientists and community stewards. We mourn the loss of our highly respected, deep-sea voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a captain, who served as a navigator-in-residence at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i at UH Hilo.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 'ŌIWI TV