

Kūpono

University of Hawai'i Foundation News
SPRING 2022 | Vol. 12 No. 1

\$50 MILLION

for HEALTHIER OCEANS

Historic gift by Dr. Priscilla Chan
and Mark Zuckerberg supports
UH ocean research | [Page 4](#)



Campbell Family Foundation impact

[Scholarship recipients nurture next generation of educators]

The scholarships Shanna La‘a and Ray Pikelný-Cook received when they were studying at UH Mānoa to become teachers impacted not only their lives and careers, but also the futures of their own children and countless children they influence through their work as public school educators on O‘ahu’s Wai‘anae Coast.

The James and Abigail Campbell Family Foundation Scholarship in Teacher Education made it possible for both women to continue school after advancing from Leeward Community College to the four-year program at UH Mānoa College of Education by helping to pay for expenses so they wouldn’t have to juggle jobs and family with school.

For more than 25 years, the James & Abigail Campbell Scholarships in Teacher Education have helped more than 200 UH education students committed to working as teachers or education leaders on the Wai‘anae Coast.

The foundation has given more than \$1 million to support UH programs and students, including two teacher education scholarships: at UH Mānoa, where it has supported 174 students to date, and at UH West O‘ahu, which has supported 22 students in the five years since its inception.

For La‘a and Pikelný-Cook, the scholarships meant they could advance their studies from community college to UH Mānoa, and

the bond formed by two young mothers with a common goal has turned into a lifelong friendship.

Paying it forward

The impact of the scholarships didn’t end with graduation: 17 years later, the effects endure.

“We’re still reaping the benefits of the scholarship, and paying it forward,” Pikelný-Cook says.

She and La‘a were hired after graduation as public school teachers on the Wai‘anae Coast. Today, Pikelný-Cook is the principal of Wai‘anae Elementary School and interim principal of Wai‘anae High School, and La‘a is the instructional coach at Mākaha Elementary School. Both women





Ray Pikelnny-Cook and Shanna La'a

went on to earn master's degrees in education and are now working on doctorates.

La'a always wanted to be a teacher and started college with that goal after graduating from Nānākuli High School. But family responsibilities, including the birth of her daughter, put college on hold. At 21, she returned to classes at Leeward Community College's Wai'anae Moku campus, where she met Pikelnny-Cook, who was also juggling family responsibilities, including a new baby.

The two women shared the common goal of becoming teachers in their Wai'anae Coast community, and they became close friends.

Providing peace of mind

After transferring to UH Mānoa, the longer commute left little time to earn money, and the higher tuition strained family finances.

"At that point in my life we were

figuring out how to get by," La'a says. "Getting the scholarships gave me the peace of mind to focus on what I needed to do at school, so it didn't take away from my family."

"Having that flexibility to use the money the way we needed to during that time really helped us be able to focus and get through our years at Mānoa," Pikelnny-Cook says.

After working together as teachers at Mākaha Elementary School, Pikelnny-Cook moved to administration. When there was a vice principal opening at Wai'anae High School, she chose La'a to be her partner, and they worked together again before Pikelnny-Cook became principal and La'a moved to Mākaha Elementary.

La'a says she and Pikelnny-Cook have each mentored future teachers at the UH Mānoa College of Education – some of whom also

received Campbell scholarships. And Pikelnny-Cook has seen students who graduated from Wai'anae High School return as teachers.

"It's a full circle kind of thing," La'a says. "We're still recipients."

Legacy for Wai'anae Coast

Today, La'a's daughter recently graduated with her master's in geology and geophysics from UH Mānoa, while her son is studying to be a carpenter. Pikelnny-Cook's daughter is finishing her requirements for a nursing degree and her son is studying to become an electrical engineer.

"It couldn't have happened for them if it didn't happen for us," La'a says. "There's a legacy that we leave for our children."

And it's a legacy for the children on the Wai'anae Coast, where many go on to become the first in their families to attend college.

"College is not a word that we don't speak of anymore," says Pikelnny-Cook.

At one time it seemed college was an opportunity for a certain group of people, not all. Now, they're working to shift that mindset.

"Not just the students, but the adults on the campus – getting them to see kids can make it," Pikelnny-Cook says.



Dr. Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg make two transformative gifts that directly address pressing challenges facing our oceans, our communities and our world.

Improving Hawai'i's OCEAN health

A \$50 million commitment from Dr. Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg will support research at the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology in the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at UH Mānoa.

This gift funds programs that document changing ocean conditions, explore solutions to support healthier ocean ecosystems, enhance coastal resilience from storms and sea-level rise, and tackle challenges to marine organisms – from the tiniest corals to the largest predators.

“This transformative gift will enable our world-class experts to accelerate conservation research for the benefit of Hawai'i and the world,” said UH President David Lassner. “There is no place on Earth

better than Hawai'i to do this work, and no institution better able than UH.”

The gift funds research on the impact of climate change on Hawaiian coastal waters, including areas of particular concern or natural refuges from ocean acidification effects. It will also support research on methods for more accurate forecasting of future ocean conditions, as well as efforts to study marine organisms like coral reefs, sharks and other species.

The gift also leverages efforts to grow community partnerships, and it supports Indigenous resource management practices and training for the next generation of coral scientists and ocean conservationists.

“Hawai'i has one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world – and having a deeper understanding of this ecosystem is the key to preserving and protecting it. We're honored to support the University of Hawai'i's conservation efforts, including their trailblazing research on coral reef restoration, the impact of climate change on coastal waters, and other areas related to the health of our oceans.” –Dr. Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg

Addressing Kaua'i's PHYSICIAN shortage

The \$10 million gift to UH Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine funds the new Kaua'i Medical Training Track, a multi-pronged program on Kaua'i to help address the physician shortage and improve access to healthcare services.

"We know that doctors who train in rural areas, especially areas where they have family and community ties, are more likely to practice in a rural setting," JABSOM Dean Jerris Hedges said.

According to UH's 2021 Annual Report to the State Legislature, Kaua'i needs more than 61 doctors to meet the local community's current healthcare needs. The Garden Island has more uninsured people, more strokes and hypertension, and more adults with cancer than the rest of Hawai'i. The physician shortage, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, poses serious challenges for all residents – especially for those struggling with chronic illness and preventable diseases.

"To address Kaua'i's physician shortage, we need more medical students from Kaua'i and we must expand medical training on Kaua'i," he said. "This six-year initiative will help us grow medical student and resident trainee numbers on Kaua'i and help practicing doctors on Kaua'i benefit from the stimulating educational environment associated with training new doctors."



“Expanding the medical community will help improve access to healthcare services for local residents – which is crucial to building a healthier community on Kaua'i.” –Dr. Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg

Through the Kaua'i Medical Training Track, six JABSOM medical students with ties to Kaua'i or another neighbor island, or a strong interest in rural health, will be accepted into this program annually beginning July 2022. The program will fund tuition and fees for four years, plus transportation and lodging.



Ocean gift



JABSOM gift

Lums endow funds with lifetime of love

Couple leaves a legacy of kindness for UH health, culinary programs

Bernard and Pamela Lum were best friends and soul mates who shared a life full of love and laughter, traveling together abroad, enjoying good food and friends, and cheering for the UH basketball teams.



Bernard Heong Kin Lum was born in Honolulu and graduated from Kaimuki High School. He majored in accounting at UH Mānoa, then worked as a graduate teaching assistant at the School of Accounting before earning his MBA.

In 1974, he became a CPA and launched his career at Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co. – now KPMG – and after a long career in finance with G.W. Murphy Construction, a large Waikiki hotel and First Hawaiian Bank, he retired in 2011.

Pamela Reiko Lum was born in New York City and graduated from Mount Vernon High School before earning a BA from the City College of New York. She worked for a publishing house in New York City before moving to Honolulu and spent 30 years with what is now Territorial Savings Bank. She worked her way up from administrative assistant to treasurer and CFO, retiring the same year as Bernard.

Pamela and Bernard met on a blind date set up by a mutual friend. The two had met their perfect match in one another, and they married in 1983.

“I was blessed to have had a loving wife, best friend, and soul mate throughout our more than 33-year marriage,” Bernard wrote. “We enjoyed a lifetime of experiences together.”

Pamela felt the same way, having described Bernard as someone “with an abundance of love and kindness, along with a hilarious sense of humor.” Their life reflections convey an overwhelming sense of joy and contentment.

The Lums both battled cancer, so they created several scholarships

to support medical research at UH, including the Bernard & Pamela Lum Endowment for Cancer Research at the UH Cancer Center. They also created the Dr. Haruto Okada Memorial Endowed Scholarship at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, named for a Honoka‘a physician who was the father of Pamela’s best friend, Esther.

Pamela passed away in 2016 with Bernard by her side, hopeful to see her loved ones who had departed before her and taking solace that she and Bernard would be reunited again. Five years later, in December 2021, Bernard passed away.

Pamela and Bernard lived their lives with love and gratitude. As a testament to the many blessings in their lives, they chose to add to their philanthropic legacy through a gift in their estate plan. The gift expanded their existing funds and created three additional scholarships:

- **Bernard & Pamela Lum Endowed Scholarship in Nursing at Kapi‘olani Community College**
- **Esther E. Okada Memorial Endowed Scholarship at UH Hilo**
- **Bernard & Pamela Lum Endowed Scholarship in Culinary Arts**

These scholarships will continue in perpetuity so that generations of students will benefit from their generosity – and remember their beautiful love story.

Hawaii Pacific Foundation empowers Native Hawaiian students and communities

Hawaii Pacific Foundation has invested nearly \$1 million in UH programs that benefit Native Hawaiian students and their communities by helping to empower them and those around them.

The Native Hawaiian Organization believes in thinking differently about the social, economic and cultural issues faced by the Native Hawaiian community, seeking to engage in upstream solutions that treat the source of problems, rather than programs that address only the symptoms.

“We’re taking the helpers and the people who need help, and we’re building a bridge between them,” says retired Brig. Gen. Edwin A. “Skip” Vincent, an alumnus of the UH Mānoa Shidler College of Business and the group’s chair. “We try to find ways to help them communicate better.”

Vincent founded HPF after retiring from a long career in the Hawai’i Air National Guard as a way to give back to the Native Hawaiian community. Its mission is to empower Native Hawaiian communities through educational programs that create opportunities for success. It primarily focuses on STEAM fields – science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

HPF holds a majority ownership in five Native Hawaiian-owned small businesses that engage in



Li’i Nahiwa, Skip Vincent, Jon Osorio, Jory Scoville and Walt Kaneakua at the Hawai’i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge.

federal contracting. The foundation reinvests its profits from the businesses in supporting the economic, social and cultural issues within the Native Hawaiian community.

“It’s a symbiotic relationship,” says Vincent. “Our NHO gives them the attributes and the purpose, and the companies provide us with the resources.”

HPF made its first gift to UH at the end of 2017 to purchase bus passes for high school students enrolled in a program at UH West O’ahu. Since then, it has increased its giving each year, with gifts to the Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health, Hawai’i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, the College of Engi-

neering at UH Mānoa, UH West O’ahu and the UH System.

At the Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health, HPF funded five programs, including scholarships and funds that support hiring graduate students to work with Native Hawaiian communities and conduct research on the issues that impact them.

“The university is giving students the education and tools they need to become successful within their own communities,” says HPF President and CFO Jory L. Scoville, who is also an alumna of the Shidler College of Business. “These students go on to strengthen their communities by becoming mentors, teachers and future leaders.”



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I® FOUNDATION

1314 S. King Street, Suite B
Honolulu, HI 96816

uhfoundation.org/news

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Honolulu, HI
Permit No. 1572

CORPORATE CORNER

\$1 million HMSA gift endows health economics professorship

The Hawai'i Medical Service Association has donated \$1 million to establish the HMSA Distinguished Endowed Professorship in Health Economics at the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization in UH Mānoa's College of Social Sciences. The endowment supports UHERO's research in the area of health economics.

"This is a key part of a larger health policy initiative at the College of Social Sciences focused on improving the health care of Hawai'i's people and economy," says Dean Denise Eby Konan, professor of economics and UHERO research fellow. "This endowment will enable the university to attract and retain the highest-caliber health economics faculty and advance research in the area of health economics. We're grateful to HMSA for recognizing the critical importance of health care to Hawai'i's economy."

UHERO Executive Director Carl Bonham has worked closely with HMSA President and CEO Mark M. Mugiishi, M.D., F.A.C.S., on Hawai'i's response to the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years.

"UHERO has been a key player in our economic development recovery efforts as we emerge from the damaging effects of COVID-19 across the state," says Mugiishi. "HMSA remains committed to creating a healthier Hawai'i, especially in our efforts to improve the overall economic health in our local community."



"We have a common vision of a future where shared data, research and analysis drive policy to improve the lives of Hawai'i's people," says Bonham. "We already have several projects underway that will benefit from a close collaboration with HMSA, including the development of a new linked housing and health database, and a new longitudinal health survey in Hawai'i."

"Both efforts are designed to study systemic health disparities exacerbated by COVID-19 and inform the design and execution of public health programs in Hawai'i."

