

Kūpono

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Dr. Bernyce Peplowski is helping MD students repay their loans with a gift from her estate | Page 4



\$165
MILLION
RAISED FOR
UH IN FY22



UH Foundation partnered with donors for record year of funds raised in FY22

Aloha,

I'm pleased to report to you that we had an amazing fiscal year in 2022, a record year for cash commitments – more than 22,000 extraordinary gifts totaling \$165 million. These are investments that change lives and elevate the teaching, learning and research being done at the University of Hawai'i.



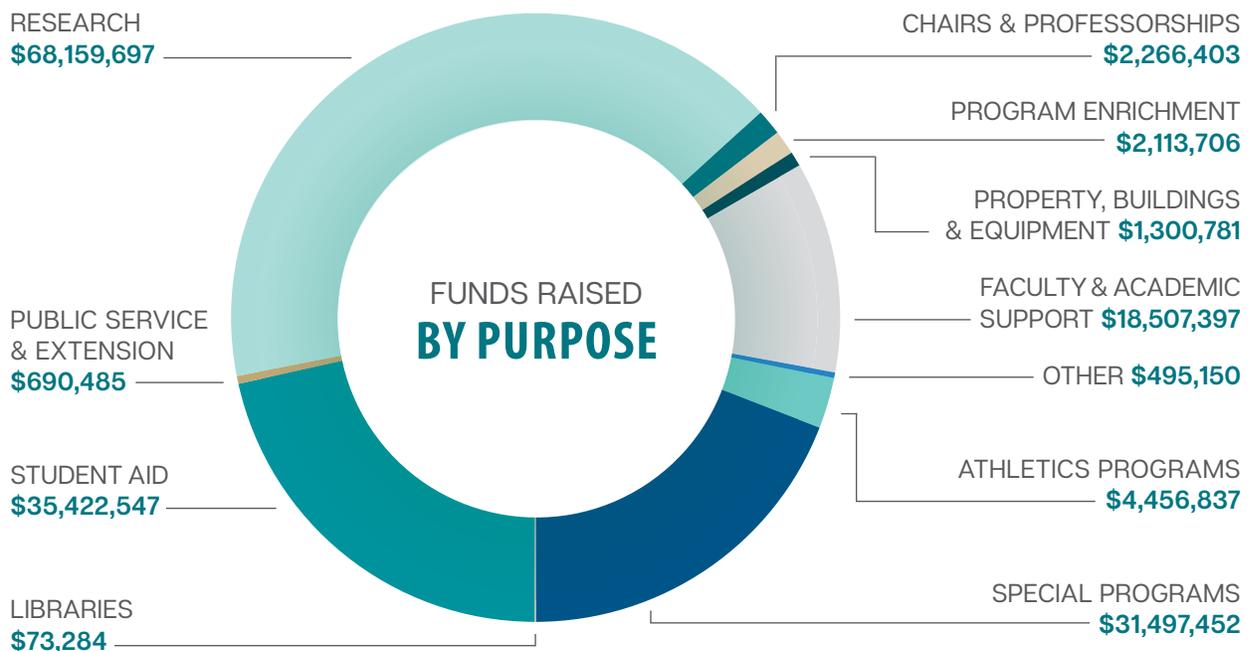
And we could not have done it without each of you.

Your ongoing support impacts everyone at UH, from students to faculty to researchers, and it is appreciated more than you know.

You've all shown tremendous confidence in UH, backed by your support that changes lives and strengthens our economy here in Hawai'i. Your generosity shows how much UH means to you, and for all that you do, we offer our heartfelt gratitude.

Tim Dolan

UH Foundation CEO & UH VP of Advancement



Anonymous donor endows \$3M in scholarships at UH Hilo, including first for LGBTQ+ students

Janis Magin | Director of Comm.

An anonymous donor recently gifted the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo the largest scholarship endowment in the history of the school. The \$3 million gift will provide three new scholarships for students at UH Hilo.

The Kruschel Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ Endowed Scholarship for students who identify as LGBTQ+ is a first for the UH System and UH Hilo, which is one of the most diverse universities in the nation.

The Kruschel First-Generation Endowed Scholarship gives preference to students who are the first in their families to attend college, while the Kruschel Endowed Scholarship is open to all full-time undergraduates or graduate students who graduated from a Hawai‘i Island high school.

“It’s exciting to see these students celebrated and supported with scholarships that will open new opportunities for them,” said UH Hilo Chancellor Bonnie D. Irwin. “Our university is stronger when all students have the tools and the resources they need to reach their full potential.”

The scholarships cover costs associated with attending school and have no limitations on what recipients may study, only that they



be enrolled full-time to pursue a degree at UH Hilo.

Resources

UH Hilo offers an array of resources for its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual (LGBTIQ+) students, including an LGBTQ+ Center and Pride Hilo, a registered independent student organization formed more than 30 years ago to nurture, educate and advocate for LGBTIQ+ issues on campus and in the community.

Faculty and staff are also trained to provide safe zones for students, which raises awareness and encourages them to provide a comfortable place for LGBTQ+ students.

The UH System President’s Office offers resources through the UH Commission on LGBTQ+ Equality, which promotes a safe and inclusive environment.

“We are grateful for this groundbreaking gift, the largest ever for UH Hilo, that will benefit so many under-represented and often marginalized students with scholarship funds that help them complete their UH journey,” UH President David Lassner said. “This donor is especially remarkable for their generosity and passion—and compassion—for bringing equity to deserving students who are often overlooked and most in need to succeed in attaining a college education.”

“It’s incredible to work with such generous donors who follow their passions to support students who don’t always get recognition, even as they themselves wish to remain anonymous,” said Tim Dolan, UH vice president of advancement and UH Foundation CEO.

Dr. Bernyce Peplowski returns the favor

Life skills, determination lead to special gift for Hawai'i students

Mitchell K. Dwyer | Staff Writer

“What makes you think you can go to medical school?” asked a neighbor when Bernyce Peplowski was a high-schooler in 1960s Pennsylvania. “People from this town rarely go to college, let alone medical school. And you’re a girl!”

“My mom was ready to deck him,” says Bernyce.

While others in her rural hometown near Pittsburgh underestimated her, Bernyce’s parents would not hear of small dreams or short-sighted expectations. She says, “What my mom, dad, grandma and dog couldn’t give me in material things, they gave me in life skills and determination.”

Her father gave her a hammer and nails when she was 3, around the age when her mother took her to less expensive Sunday performances of the Pittsburgh Civic Light Orchestra. When she was 10, years after her father died, her mother taught her to write checks, pay bills and manage a household, in case anything happened to her.

“It’s easy to say the cards are stacked against you in a town like that, but with my family, they were stacked for me instead,” she says.

Equipped for success and coming home

Her years in medical school were a continued exercise against expectations. A doctor at her first medical school interview asked how her flight was. When she said she rode a bus overnight to get there, he wanted to know why.

“How many wonderful doctors don’t become doctors because they don’t have the support structure I had? How many of them feel as I did? I loved medical school, but often felt like I didn’t fit in.”

–Dr. Bernyce Peplowski

Bernyce says, “I was so embarrassed I didn’t know what to say. Should I tell him I couldn’t afford a plane ticket and hotel room? I walked out of the interview thinking maybe this isn’t what I wanted to do.”

She found her place instead at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, where she

earned her Doctor of Osteopathy degree while working to pay for it.

“PCOM was a 180-degree turn from that first medical school,” she says. “I liked those people; I liked it there, and that’s how I feel about the University of Hawai’i’s medical school, where post-baccalaureate programs like Imi Ho’ola offer structure for students to succeed.”

When a residency in California prompted a relocation for Bernyce and her mother via cross-country rental van, Bernyce practiced medicine first and then served as a medical director for health insurance companies. Frequent work-related trips to Maui and Hawai’i Island led to discovering her new home.

A commitment to healthy island living

On a side-trip to O’ahu, she looked out the window as the plane flew over Ala Moana and said to her mother, “You know, that’s home down there. I just know that’s home.”

Hawai’i has now been home for nearly 20 years, a special connection leading Bernyce to leave a gift in her estate to the University of Hawai’i, most of which will go toward student loan



repayment for future physicians at UH Mānoa’s John A. Burns School of Medicine. Recipients will be students from underserved areas of Hawai‘i who commit to practicing medicine in such areas in their island home.

“How many wonderful doctors don’t become doctors because they don’t have the support structure I had?” she asks. “How many of them feel as I did? I loved medical school, but often felt like I didn’t fit in. I couldn’t do things other medical students did be-

cause I had to work. Loans often take 20 years to pay off, but maybe we can reduce the stressors and have them paid off much sooner.”

A portion of Bernyce’s estate will also support outreach services at the University of Hawai‘i’s Culinary Institute of the Pacific, specifically to engage and support food-insecure seniors with healthy, sustainably sourced meals.

In these post-career years, Bernyce offers consulting services for the American

Medical Association and the Western Occupational Medical Association. “In the mornings, I get on calls pro bono to talk policy stuff and some clinical review, helping to review and establish policy,” she says.

The rest of her day is spent building a new home near Diamond Head. She says, “These islands are my home, and this is what drives me. I feel a connection with the people here. I know my body was born in Pittsburgh, but my soul was born in Hawai‘i.”

Discovering TREASURE



Mitchell K. Dwyer | Staff Writer

In the early days of the COVID-19 lockdown, Mary Lynn and Richard Marrs spent time on pursuits they were often too busy for: getting organized, going through storage, and sorting old family photos as they compiled their family's history.

“On a Google search,” says Mary Lynn, “my late grandmother’s scholarship appeared. The Ruth Small Memorial Music Scholarship. It was like discovering buried treasure!”

Mary Lynn had a faint memory of conversation surrounding this scholarship, established after her grandmother’s death while Mary Lynn was in her first year of college. Her memories of visiting Ruth in Hawai‘i were a lot stronger.

“My father’s parents moved from the mainland to Maui and then O‘ahu in the 1960s where they lived until their passings. I was lucky, beginning as a small girl, to travel there often, for major holidays and summer vacations,” she says. “When I’m on the island, I feel at home because it is such a part of me.”

Years later, a guiding star

Ruth West Small taught music at UH Mānoa. Mary Lynn remembers her stories about

accompanying great acts visiting Hawai‘i for performances.

She says, “Music was a core part of my growing up, and my Tutu was a huge reason why. We sat side-by-side on her piano bench in her tiny, damp music studio overlooking the waters of Kailua Bay while she practiced, what seemed like endlessly!”

Richard and Mary Lynn had been considering re-planting their roots on O‘ahu. The discovery of Ruth’s scholarship spurred them to action when it was safer to travel from their California home.

“It felt like a guiding star for planning our retirement years,” says Mary Lynn. “After some research and information from the UH Foundation team, we toured the campus and instantly felt a

“On a Google search, my late grandmother’s scholarship appeared. The Ruth Small Memorial Music Scholarship.

It was like discovering buried treasure!”

—Mary Lynn Marrs

connection—or a reconnection to UH Mānoa’s music department.

“Seeing my grandmother’s name on the scholarship plaque wall, hearing the inspirational stories and performances, and feeling the overall warmth: the fine character of everyone we met helped us decide to invest in the futures of music students.”



Mary Lynn & Richard Marrs

Mary Lynn and Richard intended to bolster Ruth's scholarship with added funds, but their campus visit prompted them to do more.

Learning through travel

Richard says, "The nostalgia we experienced and our desire to be a positive force in students' lives led us to create a travel scholarship for music students."

The Mary Lynn Ruth Small MARRS Endowed Student Travel Award in Music supports exceptional, motivated students pursuing degrees within the department of music, encouraging them to expand their musical experience and repertoire by traveling outside the state of Hawai'i. Funds cover costs for participating in conferences, auditions, and musical performances.

Mary Lynn traveled to Europe while she was in high school, to play in her high school band for festivals and ceremonies in Austria and Germany.

"It changed my life and expanded my way of thinking," she says. "For the first time, I experienced multiple different cultures, languages and unfamiliar surroundings. I discovered and understood at a crucial time in my development that music was the universal language. We firmly believe that music makes the world a more beautiful place and has the power to unite us."

Immense impact

UH Mānoa music department chair Laurence Paxton says the



Mary Lynn MARRS with her grandmother, Ruth Small

new scholarship's impact will be immense. "Mary Lynn and Richard's gift provides necessary travel funding for our most talented students, who are invited to prestigious summer music festivals," he explains.

"Our distance from Europe and the rest of America can otherwise be prohibitive. Now, students' doors are open to much-needed immersion in the musical world outside our Hawai'i home. The musical connections made with friends and respected artists will be immeasurable."

Richard and Mary Lynn hope the award will inspire students to seek new experiences and venues for showcasing their talents. They wish to support them in their new

adventures, so their talent and personal growth are not curtailed by monetary constraints.

Richard says, "This gift is a vote of confidence in the recipient's future, along with some advice: go into the world and make it beautifully united through your musical talents. Grasp every opportunity to expand your thoughts and develop your musical creativity. They are linked, and travel is one vehicle for accomplishing this goal."

"Travel wide—whether in your state or another continent," adds Mary Lynn. "Explore and absorb, lean-in and learn, be open to new faces, places, sounds, and spaces, but always remember to share your musical gifts with your Hawai'i home."



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CORPORATE CORNER

HDS Foundation continues supporting keiki dental program

Hawaii Dental Service Foundation has provided a \$133,447 grant to UH Mānoa's Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing to continue its public school dental sealant program in partnership with the Hawai'i State Department of Education and the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn Program.

Developed in 2019, the Hawai'i Keiki-HDS Dental Sealant Program coordinates dental screenings at high-need Title I public elementary schools, bringing licensed dentists and dental hygienists to the school to minimize students' time away from class. More than 650 children at 28 schools on O'ahu, Maui and Kaua'i were screened in the last school year, two thirds of whom received dental sealants at no cost.

"The schools and parents just love this program because we are providing safe and effective sealants to prevent future cavities," said Deborah Mattheus, the Hawai'i Keiki-HDS Dental Sealant Program director.

Dental sealants, typically applied by a dentist around second or third grade, help prevent cavities on permanent molars. The application is quick, non-invasive and painless.

"In addition to sealing teeth, we are screening students for urgent dental conditions and making referrals to get them



A dental hygienist applies dental sealants on a student's teeth to prevent future cavities.

immediate care. It is hard to learn if you have sore teeth," Mattheus said. "We are also teaching the kids about the importance of brushing and flossing daily."

With HDS Foundation's support, Hawai'i Keiki nurses, dentists and dental hygienists are improving oral and overall health of students. They will continue to screen more students during this school year.

Dr. Diane Paloma, president and CEO of Hawaii Dental Service, said, "Increasing access to dental care in schools helps families establish good oral health habits now to ensure their children have a lifetime of healthy smiles."