

UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

HOW TO GO GREEN

Your guide to creating an eco-friendly home

PG. 12

RIDING THE WAVE

Baseball Coach Rich Hill on leading the Rainbow Warriors

PG. 24

CULTURAL VISIONARY

The creative producer behind Cirque du Soleil's "Auana"

PG. 29

SUMMER 2025



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Cirque du Soleil's "Auana" show at the Outrigger Waikīkī Beachcomber Hotel features a fiery finale with dancing and acrobatics.

ALOHA TO OUR UH ALUMNI AND 'OHANA

AS 2025 FLIES BY, I AM FILLED WITH GRATITUDE AND EXCITEMENT FOR THE INCREDIBLE 'OHANA THAT IS THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII. Since stepping into my role as UH president at the start of this year, I have had the privilege of visiting every campus and nearly every education center in our 10-campus system. At each stop, I have been welcomed with genuine aloha and have witnessed firsthand the unwavering dedication of our students, faculty and staff. I have also been blessed to visit with many of our alumni at gatherings during these visits. It is clear that we all have so much aloha for our campuses.

From Kaua'i Community College to UH Hilo, from the classrooms and laboratories of UH Mānoa to the deeply rooted education centers serving rural communities, one thing remains constant: the passion for learning and the commitment to lifting each other up. Each campus is unique, reflecting the diversity of the communities they serve, but they are all bound by a shared mission — to provide transformative education and empower the next generation of leaders for Hawai'i and beyond.

These visits have reinforced to me that UH is not just a university system; it is a family. Our students are supported in their academic journeys as individuals with dreams, challenges and aspirations. I have met students whose lives have been profoundly changed by the opportunities offered through our campuses. I have seen faculty who infuse Hawaiian culture and values into their teaching, ensuring that learning is deeply connected to place. And I have met alumni — many of you — who have returned to your campuses to give back, uplift and inspire the next generation.

As we move forward, I want to acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. Changes at the federal level continue to impact higher education, and we must stand firm in our commitment to ensuring access and excellence. No policy shift can change who we are or diminish our responsibility to provide a welcoming and empowering educational environment. Now more than ever, we must stand together, unified in our purpose and resolute in our dedication to public higher education.

Let's join together in the important work that lies ahead. We are strengthening our system in ways that will provide every UH student — whether they attend a community college, a four-year university or an education center — with the same high-quality opportunities and support. We are modernizing our technology, expanding online and hybrid learning, and eliminating barriers to student success. We are reimagining how education can best serve Hawai'i, aligning our curriculum with industry needs and ensuring that every learner, from recent high school graduates to working professionals, has access to the tools they need to thrive.

Alumni are a vital part of this journey. You are ambassadors of UH excellence, and your successes are a testament to the power of education. I invite you to stay connected, to mentor, to give back and to help shape the future of our great university. Together, we will continue to build a brighter future for Hawai'i — one rooted in knowledge, opportunity and aloha.

Mahalo for your unwavering support and for being a part of our UH 'ohana.

With gratitude and aloha,

Wendy Hensel
President, University of Hawai'i



PILOTING DRONES

Hawai'i Community College is the first community college in the state to offer a drone certification program. The Unmanned Aerial System Flight course, which falls under the Engineering Technology program, teaches students hands-on and practical knowledge in operating drones for various fields, including agriculture, civil defense or environmental conservation. It also prepares students for the FAA required certification to become a licensed drone pilot.

VIRTUAL MARVELS

More than 30 students from multiple UH campuses came together last year to create virtual and augmented reality experiences, similar to those seen in the global exhibit "Beyond Van Gogh," as part of a new Creative Computational Media course. It was a collaboration between UH Mānoa's Information and Computer Sciences Department and the UH Academy for Creative Media Systems. The students designed and developed immersive experiences, such as stargazing, yoga in space and a fantasy flower garden, using virtual reality and augmented reality applications.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ADELA'S COUNTRY EATERY



NOODLING AROUND

UH MĀNOA IS PARTNERING WITH ADELA'S COUNTRY EATERY TO CREATE ALGAE NOODLES.

by **M. KRUSE**

AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT UH MĀNOA, ZHI-YAN "ROCK" DU NEVER THOUGHT HE'D BE IN NOODLE RESEARCH.

But when Richard Chan, farm coordinator of Adela's Country Eatery, reached out to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience looking for an algae expert, Du answered the call.

"This was exactly the type of research I was interested in," says Du, the lead researcher in aquaculture and microalgae and principal investigator of Du Lab at UH Mānoa. "It was very exciting."

Located in Kāne'ohe, Adela's Country Eatery is famous for making noodles out of local ingredients, such as 'ulu and taro. However, last year, it ventured into new noodle territory with algae. "As a restaurant, we are on a mission to make Hawai'i more sustainable. Algae is our next step," says Chan. "Through my wife Millie's (BS '79, UH Mānoa) connections with CTAHR as an alumni, we were able to begin a dialogue with Dr. Du."

Together, Chan and Du embarked on a mission: to develop noodles made with nutrient-rich marine algae. Du's lab analyzes the nutritional profiles of local algae species like spirulina and chlorella,

Adela's Country Eatery's spirulina (algae) noodles will be featured on a special seasonal menu.



LASTING IMPACT

NEARLY TWO YEARS AFTER THE MAUI WILDFIRES, MAUIWES CONTINUES MONITORING FIRE SURVIVORS’ HEALTH.

by **CHRISTINE HITT**

FOLLOWING THE LAHAINA FIRE IN AUGUST 2023, THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII’I ECONOMIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION created a comprehensive study to look at the long-term health and social impacts of survivors over a period of time. The Maui Wildfire Exposure Study, or MauiWES, recruited over 2,000 participants affected by the Maui fires to take part in the study, including children ages 10 to 17.

Some of the study’s initial findings in its May 2024 report were that nearly

half of participants reported a decline in health compared to the previous year; and more than half were showing symptoms of depression. Now, nearly two years since the fire, MauiWES is learning new information as it undergoes the first follow-up appointments with participants since the study began.

“We have an initial panel of results from the first wave of participants showing various degrees of heavy metal exposures,” says JABSOM professor Alike Maunakea. “We do find evidence that there is a strong association between some of these heavy metal lev-

els and poor lung health function, for example, and [we’re] trying to understand that more.”

Proximity to the fire and pre-existing conditions are two factors that contribute to health issues. “If you had struggles with some mental health challenges before the fires, those individuals tended to be more affected by mental health challenges after the fires, as well as those that have pre-existing pulmonary health conditions,” Maunakea says.

MauiWES is also finding that social support reduces the risk for participants to have depressive symptoms and other mental health issues. However, while social support helps mental health, it doesn’t help some of the physiological health issues. “There are more interventions that need to be done, and more support that we still need to have in Maui to take care of those other issues.”

A positive outcome of the study is that it has encouraged survivors to seek care. After meeting with MauiWES, more than half of participants are reporting they are seeking follow-ups with a specialist, primary care physician or mental health provider. They’re taking the MauiWES results along with them.

Maunakea says the website, mauiregistry.com, was created for people who experienced the wildfire disaster and want to learn about long-term health impacts and access resources. “There’s more than 10,000 or so people [affected by the fires], and that’s beyond the scope of our reach with the cohort, but we want to share what we’ve learned,” Maunakea says.

Previous page: JABSOM Professor Alike Maunakea collects samples for the Maui Wildfire Exposure Study. This page: UH Mānoa Anthropology Professor Christopher J. Bae studies ancient human species.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAUIWES; CHRISTOPHER BAE

seeking varieties that are not only healthful but also viable for large-scale production. He’s also expanded the research to sea asparagus and ogo seaweed. Meanwhile, at Adela’s, Chan’s culinary team transforms these scientific candidates into delicious dishes.

“At my lab in UH Mānoa, we study the nutritional profile of different algae and identify the best candidates to use. My lab handles the healthy part,” Du explains. “Then, Richard and his top chefs test recipes in his kitchen to make them delicious. Usually, people think healthy means not tasty, but we’re proving that food can be both.”

This partnership is more than product development though. It’s an educational initiative, too. Chan repurposed part of the restaurant space into a showroom, where customers can see how local ingredients are grown and processed. With Du’s help, the area features microscopes, display tanks and educational videos, offering a transparent window into the science behind the food. The showroom will soon be available for the public to see how the noodles are made.

With Hawaii’s limited land and abundant ocean resources, Du sees marine agriculture as the future. “We only have so much land in Hawai’i. We have a serious food security issue, where 90% of our food is imported, and algae can be the future for us and the world. Through this partnership, we’re trying to develop new technologies,” he says, “and also answer exciting scientific questions along the way.”

BANNER YEAR

The UH System reached a significant milestone last fall, surpassing 50,000 students for the first time in six years. UH Mānoa saw a 4% increase compared to 2023, enrolling 20,028 students. Among the community colleges, Leeward CC had the highest increase at 7%, enrolling 6,471 students. Additionally, UH saw a 10% increase in the number of freshman students enrolled from Hawai’i high schools.

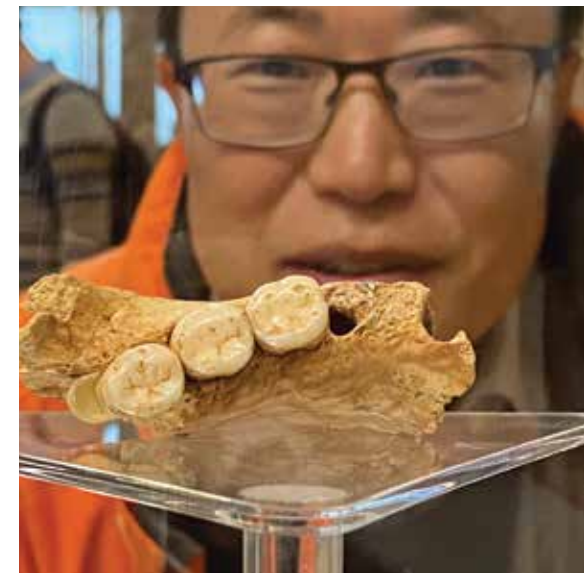
BREAKTHROUGH DISCOVERY

A UH study has found that Native Hawaiians age faster biologically in comparison to White and Japanese-American residents. A team of researchers, led by JABSOM professor Alike Maunakea, analyzed DNA samples from 376 participants to determine each person’s biological age. “Biological aging refers to the gradual deterioration of cellular and physiological functions over time, reflecting the body’s true age at a molecular and cellular level, which may differ from chronological age,” JABSOM explained. The study concluded that other factors, such as education, nutrition and physical activity, can make a difference and improve longevity.



ANCIENT ANCESTORS

Christopher J. Bae, an anthropology professor at UH Mānoa, made headlines last November, when he uncovered a possible new human species called *Homo juluensis*, which lived approximately 300,000 years ago. Bae has studied ancient humans across Asia for more than 30 years and published his findings in the science journal “Nature Communications.” The breakthrough came after re-examining fossil evidence. *Homo juluensis* had a distinctively large head and a brain bigger than *Homo sapiens*. The species lived in Asia, hunting wild horses and making tools for survival, and went extinct about 50,000 years ago.



FILLING THE NEED

In January, a new bus driver training class was added at Leeward Community College as a way to fill a workforce gap in the state. The Department of Education had a severe shortage of bus drivers last year, which resulted in suspended routes and affected students statewide. The 80-hour course prepares learners for the state’s Commercial Driver’s License test.

Into the Blue

Interview by **CHRISTINE HITT**

Born and raised on O‘ahu, **Nolan Omura** (BS '22, UH Mānoa) is a skilled photographer and videographer who has worked with various local and national brands, including GoPro, Hawaiian Airlines, American Express and Google Pixel. Since a young age, Omura has loved capturing the outdoors and his photos have captivated over 625,000 followers on Instagram. He has a talent for pulling the beauty of the ocean, such as its breaking waves and underwater wildlife, into the lens of his camera.

WHEN DID YOU KNOW YOU WANTED TO BE A PHOTOGRAPHER?

I started sharing my work and saw how it resonated with people. It was never just about taking a nice photo, it was about capturing a moment, a feeling or a story, especially one that not everyone could experience. Growing up in Hawai‘i, it was amazing to capture underwater images and share them with people who have never been in the ocean before. That’s when it clicked that this was something I wanted to do for real.

DESCRIBE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY STYLE AND WHAT YOU LIKE TO CAPTURE MOST.

I’d describe my style as natural, vibrant and grounded in storytelling. I love to go the extra mile and push a little further than others would. I’m especially drawn to capturing ocean and surf imagery, as well as landscapes and travel moments. I love documenting real experiences in beautiful places.

YOU HAVE A DEGREE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING. HOW DID YOU TRANSITION TO PHOTOGRAPHY?

It actually happened the opposite way around! I shared my work on social media while in high school, and over time, brands started reaching out. Social media really helped me grow and connect with clients, and eventually, photography became something I could pursue full time. I studied civil engineering because I love problem-solving and there are always civil engineering jobs here in Hawai‘i.

DID YOUR TIME AT UH HELP YOU WITH THE WORK YOU DO TODAY?

UH gave me a lot of freedom to explore other interests outside of the classroom. I’d say the discipline and problem-solving I learned through engineering actually helped me in unexpected ways when it came to photography and running a business.

TELL ME ABOUT A PROJECT YOU WERE PROUD TO WORK ON.

One project that stands out was going to Japan with my girlfriend for Hawaiian Airlines. It really pushed me creatively and reminded me why I love doing this. I haven’t been to Japan for many years so absorbing the culture made it feel very genuine to my background and ethnicity as well. The final outcome and the response to it made all the hard work worth it.

HOW DID THAT PROJECT PUSH YOU CREATIVELY?

Japan really inspired me to think outside of the box. I was a bit out of my element in terms of the change in scenery. I wanted to capture both the energy of the cities and the calm of nature in a way that felt true to the culture. Balancing photo and video made me think differently and pushed me to be more intentional with every shot.

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU USE TO SHOOT UNDERWATER? HOW DIFFICULT IS IT?

Underwater photography definitely has its challenges! It’s not like shooting on land because in the ocean, everything is constantly moving. There’s always a sense of making sure

your safety is the No. 1 priority. I use a pretty hefty underwater housing for my camera and fins to move around making it possible for me to maneuver as I please. You’re constantly moving with the water, managing light, breath and gear all at once. It can be tiring, but capturing those moments in the ocean makes it all worth it.

AND YOU’RE ALSO A VIDEOGRAPHER?

That interest grew alongside photography. As I started getting deeper into visual storytelling, video felt like a natural next step. It’s a different challenge, but one that I really enjoy. It allows for an even more immersive experience of a place or moment. Everything from the sound design to color grading makes the entire piece come together.

DO YOU FORESEE YOURSELF WORKING AS A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR A LONG TIME?

Absolutely. This work brings me a lot of fulfillment. It’s creative, it connects me with amazing people and places and it’s always evolving. I definitely see myself in this field for the long run. I’m grateful that photography has opened so many doors and I’m excited to keep building on that.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING PHOTOGRAPHERS?

Just start shooting and share your work. You don’t need fancy gear, just a good eye and a story to tell. A close friend and mentor always told me that it’s not about the size of the camera, but how you use it. Stay curious, be consistent and don’t worry if things grow slowly. Every shoot helps you grow.



BREAKING GROUND

Located at the center of UH Mānoa's campus, McCarthy Mall is undergoing a transformation. As part of an improvement project to improve campus life, the tree-lined walkway will be widened and there will be a significant amount of seating added. Amenities, such as electrical outlets and enhanced lighting, will also be included. Additionally, on the mauka side of McCarthy Mall, a new five-story, 77,575-square-foot building will be constructed. Its floors will house office spaces, conference rooms and classrooms.



33,000

Last year, Leeward Community College and the State of Hawai'i opened the Wahiawā Value Added Product Development Center, a 33,000-square-foot food manufacturing facility. The center, which offers consultation services, lab testing and a production kitchen, supports students, farmers and entrepreneurs who are interested in starting a small business, developing a food product and taking it to market.

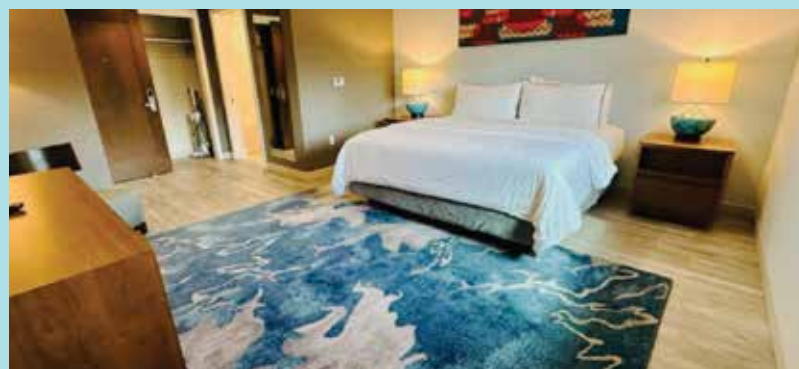
“We are excited to bring these resources to North Hawai'i.”

► **PELE KAIO, POINT OF CONTACT FOR KŌ EDUCATION CENTER**, on how the completed renovation of Hawai'i Community College's Kō Education Center will empower students and support the community. The center's renovations include two new classrooms, a certified science lab and an instructional kitchen. The center's academic programming has also been updated with new courses in math, Hawaiian mythology and more.

[“Hawai'i Community College Revitalizes Kō Education Center in Honoka'a,” UH News, 1/10/25]

\$4.3 MILLION

The U.S. Department of Education awarded Kaua'i Community College a grant to establish a Transfer Center, the first of its kind within the UH system. The Transfer Center streamlines processes for students wanting to transfer to a four-year university at UH Mānoa, UH Hilo or UH West O'ahu. On-site counselors are available to provide academic assistance and career guidance.



“As part of UH Maui College's commitment to training a workforce that can meet our community's future needs in all fields and because we believe the demand for skilled hospitality professionals has never been greater, we are proud to now have on our campus the new Hospitality Academy (HA) of Maui.”

— **LORELLE PEROS (BBA '92, UH MĀNOA), PROFESSOR OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM AT UH MAUI COLLEGE**

► **UH MAUI COLLEGE IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO OPEN THE STATE'S FIRST HOSPITALITY ACADEMY OF MAUI IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.** Located on the southern end of the campus, the academy is a state-of-the-art training lab that will be used by the next generation of visitor industry leaders. Similar to a hotel, the building will have a meeting room, lobby, front desk and five guest rooms.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF UH MAUI COLLEGE; RENDER: COURTESY UH NEWS; WAHIAWA VALUE ADDED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT CENTER



Drawing Laughs

ALUMNUS JON J. MURAKAMI (BFA '93, UH MĀNOA) ILLUSTRATES ISLAND-INSPIRED JOKES IN A NEW BOOK.

by **CHRISTINE HITT**

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE CUSTOMER WHO ASKED THE WAITER FOR A QUICK BITE? The waiter brought out a shark. It's one of illustrator Jon J. Murakami's favorite jokes in his new book, “Hawai'i's Joke Book for Kids.” “I have this kind of snooty waiter with this shark looming over the guy,” says Murakami. “It's used on the cover as well.”

The book, which was released last year by BeachHouse Publishing, is packed with 400 knock-knock jokes, silly puns, fun wordplay and Hawai'i trivia. “I have fun with a lot of these,” Murakami says. They're all separated by topics, such as volcanoes, bees and surfing. He illustrated roughly



every eighth joke, and describes his style as whimsical with a lot of exaggeration and energy.

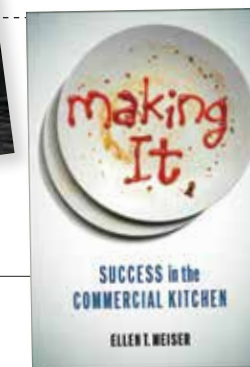
Murakami is a longtime comic strip artist, who's been making people laugh for over 20 years. He started with the “University of Diversity” comic strip at UH Mānoa's Ka Leo newspaper, when he was pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in printmaking. He then went on to create the “Calabash” comic strip for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, which later became the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, and the “Generation Gap” comic for the Hawai'i Herald. He is also the writer and illustrator for the “Local Kine” greeting cards, which he has done since 1997, and is working toward releasing a second “Adventures with Zori” comic strip book about a little mischievous cat.

But this is Murakami's first joke book, he says. “A lot of times when I work on these, I'm listening to cartoon music or android music or something like that, so it's kind of genuine, like, this energy,” he says. “I always love just drawing comics and cartoons, and this was a great opportunity for me.”

MORE TO READ



“Honolulu Noir,” edited by Chris McKinney (MA '98, UH Mānoa) A collection of short stories by 13 writers about the dark side of Honolulu.



“Making It: Success in the Commercial Kitchen” by Ellen Meiser (MA '14, PhD '21, UH Mānoa) Meiser, who is a professor of sociology at UH Hilo, dives into the restaurant industry and studies how its workers rise in ranks.



“Costas: Warrior for Life” by Costas Theocharis (Dual BBA '03, UH Mānoa) A former Rainbow Warrior volleyball player, Theocharis recounts his athletic journey through triumphs and challenges in this memoir.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JON J. MURAKAMI; BOOK COVERS COURTESY BEACHHOUSE PUBLISHING, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESS, AKASHIC BOOKS AND COSTAS THEOCHARIDIS



How to Go Green:

Your guide to an eco-friendly home

SIMPLE LIFESTYLE CHANGES AT HOME CAN CUT COSTS WHILE HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT.

by CHRISTINE HITT

BY ADOPTING MORE ECO-FRIENDLY OR SUSTAINABLE METHODS, homeowners and renters will find that going green is not only good for the environment, but it has other benefits as well, such as lowering utility bills. Whether living in a house or apartment, conscious changes or upgrades can be made over time, no matter the budget.

"Some of the easiest energy saving things are replacing your light bulbs from incandescent to LED light fixtures," says Eric Peterson, assistant professor at the UH Mānoa School of Architecture. "Replace older refrigeration equipment, like refrigerators and AC units. Look at the energy ratings of those sorts of things."

He suggests thinking about how to live comfortably at the current temperature without using electricity. "For instance, people will crank the AC but not change into shorts," he says. "So thinking about what it means to be comfortable and how to best adapt to the environment, rather than trying to adapt our environment."

Before turning the AC on, open the window or use a ceiling fan, which is more efficient. "If you think about it, a ceiling fan is a motor, an electric motor, so we're basically digging up some oil somewhere, refining it somewhere, shipping it to Hawai'i, burning

it for electricity, and transmitting it to our homes," Peterson says. "If you can figure out how to avoid even one step in that process, you're reducing the energy consumption in a pretty dramatic way."

The next time the AC needs replacing, he says to consider the lowest energy model. Other appliances and plumbing fixtures that could be upgraded to eco-friendly models are dishwashers, washing machines and toilets that are low-flow or dual flush.

"There's a lot of variability in how people choose to wash their dishes by hand, but most studies say that on average, dishwashers are more efficient than hand washing," Peterson says. Skipping the dishwasher's drying cycle, using the quick wash function on the washing machine, placing clothes on a line to dry and putting the water heater on a timer can further reduce energy and water consumption.

The groceries or take-out meals brought into the home are important to consider as well, as their packaging produces waste that will eventually get burned by the state's trash facilities. Choosing reusable bags, biodegradable products or kitchenware that's meant to last a long time will help. "I think anything that individuals can do to help reduce consumption helps the state and our community overall," he says.



ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS FOR YOUR HOME

THESE COLLECTIONS FEATURE ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY HOUSEHOLD GOODS CREATED BY FORMER UH STUDENTS.

MĀLAMA ECO PRODUCTS sells a full line of compostable and biodegradable kitchenware, such as bowls, utensils, lunch and dessert plates. “The utensils are compostable. The plates are biodegradable. The chopsticks are biodegradable. Our resealable bags are 97% degradable,” says David Pang, owner of Mālama Eco Products. He started the company in 2007 after seeing the large amount of rubbish at beaches. “Our whole goal is to reduce the amount of stuff that is out there that we have to go pick up, that the Earth has to absorb,” he says. “Let’s just take what we can out of the pipeline so it doesn’t get there for somebody else to clean up.”



Made with Hawaiian beeswax, **MELI WRAPS** offers reusable food wraps, which can be used to cover dishes, sandwiches and snacks. The colorful wraps come in various sizes, and they are washable and can be reused. “One pack will replace, like, 40 rolls of plastic wrap,” says Melia Foster, co-founder and owner of Meli Wraps, which began in 2016. “Our wraps last about two years on average or 150 washes, so there’s no plastic waste. Everything composts, so it goes back into the Earth. And then also, wax is a natural preservative, so it does keep your food super fresh.” The company also sells reusable Swedish dishcloths and 100% cotton kitchen towels.



QUICK TIPS

University of Hawai‘i–West O‘ahu shares concepts taught in its facility management courses. “These sustainable practices are particularly relevant for Hawai‘i, where our isolated location and unique ecosystem make environmental consciousness even more critical,” says Charles Chen, an instructor in the business administration division.

ENERGY

- REPLACE LIGHTBULBS WITH LEDS
- UNPLUG ELECTRONICS WHEN NOT IN USE
- POSITION FURNITURE TO MAXIMIZE NATURAL WIND FLOW
- WASH CLOTHES IN COLD WATER AND LINE DRY
- USE CEILING FANS
- INSTALL SOLAR PANELS
- ADD WINDOW TINTING OR SOLAR SHADES TO REDUCE HEAT

WATER

- INSTALL LOW-FLOW SHOWERHEADS AND FAUCET AERATORS
- FIX LEAKY FAUCETS
- COLLECT RAINWATER IN BARRELS FOR WATERING PLANTS
- USE NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANTS FOR LANDSCAPING
- CONSIDER A DUAL-FLUSH TOILET

WASTE

- SET UP A RECYCLING SYSTEM
- COMPOST FOOD SCRAPS
- SUPPORT ZERO-WASTE STORES AND FARMERS MARKETS
- USE REUSABLE BAGS, CONTAINERS AND UTENSILS

MORE TIPS FOR APARTMENT DWELLERS

While some tips work for any living situation, these are specific to renters.

- APPLY WINDOW FILM TO REDUCE HEAT
- USE SMART POWER STRIPS
- COORDINATE WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO SHARE RESOURCES
- REQUEST ENERGY-EFFICIENT UPGRADES FROM LANDLORDS
- CONSIDER WORM COMPOSTING



Over the Moon

A UH MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MAJOR REFLECTS ON HIS “OUT OF THIS WORLD” OPPORTUNITY.

by **LANCE TOMINAGA**



STARTING A HIGHER EDUCATION JOURNEY AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE HAS CERTAIN ADVANTAGES. For student Austin Cataluna, it presented him the opportunity of a lifetime.

In 2024, Cataluna was one of just 120 students nationwide selected as a NASA Community College Aerospace Scholar (NCAS). The six-month program provided him with a number of unique learning experiences, including hands-on instruction from top NASA professionals.

The 20-year-old Mā‘ili native grew up with an interest in science and math. Upon graduating from Hawai‘i Technology Academy, he enrolled at Leeward Community College.

“I felt that going the community college route gave me more flexibility when it came to extracurricular activities and internships,” says Cataluna. “It was also more affordable and offered more personalized teaching.”

The NCAS program included three missions. Mission 1 was a monthlong online course that presented a thorough history of NASA and its different branches. For Mission 2, Cataluna worked with nine other program scholars to design a simulated mission to the moon.

Cataluna served as the project manager for that assignment.

“We were spread all over the country, from Hawai‘i to California to Texas to North Carolina,” says Cataluna. “I had to wake up at 3 or 4 in the morning to attend our [online] meetings. That was tough, but it was fun interacting with the other students.”

Mission 3 allowed Cataluna to travel to the Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California. There, he spent a week learning about aerospace

technologies and innovations. He also got an up-close look at experimental aircrafts. “All things that I would otherwise never get to see,” he says.

Cataluna is now a junior at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. The mechanical engineering major’s post-graduation plans include experiencing a variety of related fields and “finding where I can find my most fulfillment.”

Cataluna says he will always be grateful for his time at Leeward CC.

“You might think a community college doesn’t provide many opportunities,” he says. “But going through the NCAS program helped me realize that there are actually many of them out there. You just have to look for them and get involved.”



Left and bottom: Jacob "Jack" Bilmes in 1973; and pictured (center) at an event. Top: Alice Dewey (on the left) at a book panel in 2009.

Honoring Mentors, Shaping Futures

ALUMNI DONATE A \$1 MILLION GIFT TO UH MĀNOA'S DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY.

by SIMPLICIO PARAGAS

JOHAN D'AMATO (MA '76, '77, PHD '86, UH MĀNOA) AND KRISTINA INN (MA '87, UH MĀNOA) have always believed in the power of reciprocity — a concept rooted in the teachings of French sociologist Marcel Mauss. According to Mauss, gifts are never truly free; they carry an obligation to give in return, helping to build and sustain the fabric of society.

With that spirit in mind, the couple made a \$1 million gift to the University of Hawai'i

at Mānoa's Department of Anthropology — the largest in the department's history. Their gift establishes two endowments: The Jacob "Jack" Bilmes Endowed Professorship in Cultural Anthropology and The Alice Dewey Graduate Student Endowment.

For D'Amato and Inn, both former students in the College of Social Sciences, the endowments are a heartfelt tribute to the professors who shaped their academic and personal lives.

"Jack and Alice were so kind, generous and dedicated to their students," says D'Amato. "I feel an obligation to honor their legacy and their contributions to anthropological academia."

Bilmes and Dewey were towering figures in cultural anthropology. Dewey, granddaughter of philosopher John Dewey, conducted groundbreaking research in Java, Indonesia, as part of a Harvard-MIT team in 1953. Later, at UH Mānoa, she became known for her rigorous

scholarship — and her generosity.

Graduate students lived in her Mānoa home rent-free, including D'Amato, who recalls cooking dinner weekly as the only "rent" required. "Conversations over dinner ranged from theory to politics to her many dogs," he says.

Bilmes, D'Amato's dissertation advisor, introduced him to phenomenological approaches that emphasized lived experience, especially meaningful for D'Amato, a Vietnam veteran processing his own trauma. He later followed Bilmes' lead by embedding himself in a Native Hawaiian community on the Wai'ānae Coast while conducting fieldwork. "A neighbor told me I'd found the right street — it was a good place for strays," D'Amato recalls with a smile.

"I have that obligation that comes from Mauss' idea about gift giving," says D'Amato. "I feel indebted to both of them, so I guess it does come full circle with these two endowments."

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF UH MĀNOA DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Blossoming Passion

HOW TRACI YOSHIYAMA (BED '07, MPA '15, UH MĀNOA) FOUND HER WAY TO DESIGN WORK, TAKING INSPIRATION FROM TROPICAL BOTANICALS.

by M. KRUSE

FOR HILO-BORN TRACI YOSHIYAMA, FOUNDER OF LATE BLOOMER, HER PATH WASN'T A STRAIGHT LINE — but there were signs pointing the way. "Art was there, in some shape or form, even at my elementary school teacher days," she says. "All of my lesson plans, for example, and lots of project-based learning included creating art."

Yoshiyama graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, with a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 2007 and a master's in public administration in 2015. She spent years teaching children both locally and abroad, including a refugee camp in Kenya. That experience ignited a passion for international development, eventually leading her to a nonprofit job in New York City.

While working for the nonprofit, Yoshiyama began dabbling in design — creating flyers and other visual marketing materials. What began as a side project soon blossomed into a full-fledged passion. "I was so burnt out in nonprofit work, and I just needed to explore this creative side of me I'd always loved," she says.

Today, Yoshiyama is a full-time graphic designer and artist. She launched her media company



Late Bloomer and she uses her creative skills to help local small businesses with their branding. She also designs and sells digital art prints inspired by tropical botanicals. "I'm drawn to bold, sturdy, almost alien-looking plants, like anthuriums or Hawaiian ginger," she says. "Tropical botanicals resonate a lot with me. I gravitate towards large florals that are very strong and sturdy. I love all the color varieties and textures."



Beyond prints, Late Bloomer is soon expanding into self-care goods, such as gratitude journals and gifts designed to uplift and connect. Yoshiyama continues to work with nonprofits and women-owned businesses on branding, web design and visual storytelling. "I love helping people tell their story and feel good about who they are," she says.



Commemorating alumna and chemist Alice Augusta Ball's (MS '15, UH Mānoa) contributions to science, a life-size bust of her was installed in Hamilton Library at UH Mānoa in December. Born in 1892, Ball was the first woman and the first African American to receive a master's degree from UH. Local artist and UH alumna Lynn Liverton sculpted

the lifelike bust and O'ahu woodworker Billy Jack Davis made the custom base it sits atop. Ball died in 1916 at the age of 24. Her achievements include developing an injectable technique for delivering a medicinal treatment to Hansen's disease patients. The "Ball Method," as it is known, became the preferred and most effective method.

PHOTO: UH NEWS

Fighting Cancer, Serving Community

Naoto T. Ueno, MD, director of the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center



UH President Wendy Hensel touring our Ho'ola center under construction



GROUNDBREAKING FIRSTS

THE UH CANCER CENTER WILL BE THE SITE OF HAWAII'S FIRST ON-CAMPUS CANCER CLINIC TO EXPAND ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE CARE FOR PATIENTS, thanks to a partnership with The Queen's Health Systems. The clinic, which will be located on the third and fourth floors of the cancer center's 'Ewa wing, will provide a range of services, including screenings, treatment and support.

Another first for the cancer center is the Ho'ola Early Phase Clinical Research Center, slated to open in early 2026 on the first and second floors of the cancer center's 'Ewa wing. Construction has been funded by \$13 million in federal and state funding (a \$6.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health and additional matching \$6.5 million in funding approved by the Hawai'i State Legislature), plus congressional directed funding.

Ho'ola, which is a Hawaiian word for healing, will be a 7,900-square-foot facility that will provide Hawai'i residents access to Phase 1 clinical trials, allowing patients to participate in groundbreaking research and treatment without the need to travel to the continental U.S. The Queen's Health Systems, Hawai'i Pacific Health, and University Health Partners of Hawai'i have been instrumental in the development of Ho'ola, Ueno says. It will be the first cancer treatment center of its kind in Hawai'i. With clinical trials in Ho'ola below, and Queen's oncology services above, it will become an innovative "one stop" for cancer patients. "We want to bring the latest advancements in cancer care directly to our community," says Ueno.

He says 20 patients will receive early-phase clinical treatments during its first year, with the goal to serve 100 patients annually. Having a physical early-phase clinic in Hawai'i means that more people of color will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of cutting-edge trials. According to a 2024 study published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are significantly underrepresented in cancer clinical trials.

In 2024, the UH Cancer Center also received a \$1 million donation from the Jay Shidler family. Established as the Director's Innovation Fund, the donation supports medical oncology fellowships, initiating clinical activities on neighboring UH campuses, and marketing and branding for the center. "Building trust and confidence in the community is essential," Ueno says. "It's not just about the science; it's about connecting with the community and demonstrating the impact of our research."

A portion of the Shidler gift supports Ka 'Umeke Lama, another initiative by the UH Cancer Center. It will be Hawai'i's first academic oncology program, aiming to address the state's severe shortage of cancer clinicians and researchers.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE

THE UH CANCER CENTER DOESN'T JUST FOCUS ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND MEDICAL TREATMENT. Its kuleana also includes community education, cancer prevention and early screening and diagnosis. For example, Ueno says the cancer center has culturally-appropriate resources to help local communities quit smoking. (Lung cancer is one of the most prevalent cancer types for Native Hawaiians, Asians and Pacific Islanders.) The center hosts scores of public education, scientific and community events each year.

Since its inception, the UH Cancer Center has fostered a culture of collaboration among faculty and staff. "Our faculty is really wonderful in terms of academics — they're renowned in terms of research — but what sets them apart is not just their knowledge but their connection to the community," says Ueno. "They do feel like they need to serve the community and we really see that in every aspect of what they do."

As the UH Cancer Center grows, Ueno remains committed to addressing the health disparities that originally brought him to the university. His vision may be ambitious, but he is optimistic about the future. "We are at a pivotal moment in cancer care," he says. "With the right support, we can transform the way cancer is treated in Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands."

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CANCER CENTER, WITH NAOTO T. UENO, MD, AS ITS DIRECTOR, WANTS TO TRANSFORM CANCER CARE IN THE ISLANDS, IMPROVE ACCESS AND TREATMENT FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND ERASE CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES AMONG NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS.

by TIFFANY HILL

Nearly half of all people will get cancer at some point in their lives.

Native Hawaiians have the highest mortality rate for all types of cancer compared with their Caucasian counterparts. The most prevalent cancers in the Islands are also some of the most aggressive: lung, liver, pancreatic and breast cancers. "Our research is driven by the needs of the community and the diseases we see most frequently," says Ueno.

Funding, strategic partnerships and the opening of the UH Cancer Center's Ho'ola Early Phase Clinical Research Center in 2026 are all advancing what Ueno says are its big picture goals to increase access to quality cancer care and reduce the burden of cancer in Hawai'i.

Disparities in cancer health outcomes are what actually inspired Ueno to direct the UH Cancer Center in late 2022. For nearly three decades, he worked at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, where he led the inflammatory breast cancer research program. "At MD Anderson, I saw many patients from Hawai'i who faced barriers to accessing care. I felt compelled to make a difference," he says of his move to UH. "I wanted to explore how we could provide equal opportunities for cancer treatment and research here."

"THE GOAL FOR THE CANCER CENTER IS TO MAKE SURE THAT PEOPLE DON'T DIE FROM THIS DISEASE," says Naoto T. Ueno, MD, director of the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center. Ueno, who is also a clinical researcher, cancer biologist, practicing oncologist and a two-time cancer survivor, understands what's at stake for patients — and he's leading the charge to transform cancer care in the Islands.

Located on the makai side of the UH Mānoa campus in Kaka'ako, the UH Cancer Center was established in 1971 and is the only National Cancer Institute-designated center in Hawai'i — a designation only given to the top 73 institutions, or 4% of 1,800 cancer centers nationwide. Approximately 300 research staff, faculty and students work and study at the UH Cancer Center, with an additional 200 affiliate members through its Hawai'i Cancer Consortium clinical partners.

The UH Cancer Center's clinical research, education and culturally-competent patient care all revolve primarily around understanding and addressing cancer health disparities for populations concentrated in Hawai'i and the Pacific, including Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and Asian populations. In Hawai'i and the Pacific, almost 80,000 people have cancer, and incidences worldwide are rising.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CANCER CENTER

Behind the Magic

HAWAI'I SCREENWRITER BRYSON CHUN FINDS SUCCESS WORKING WITH DISNEY.

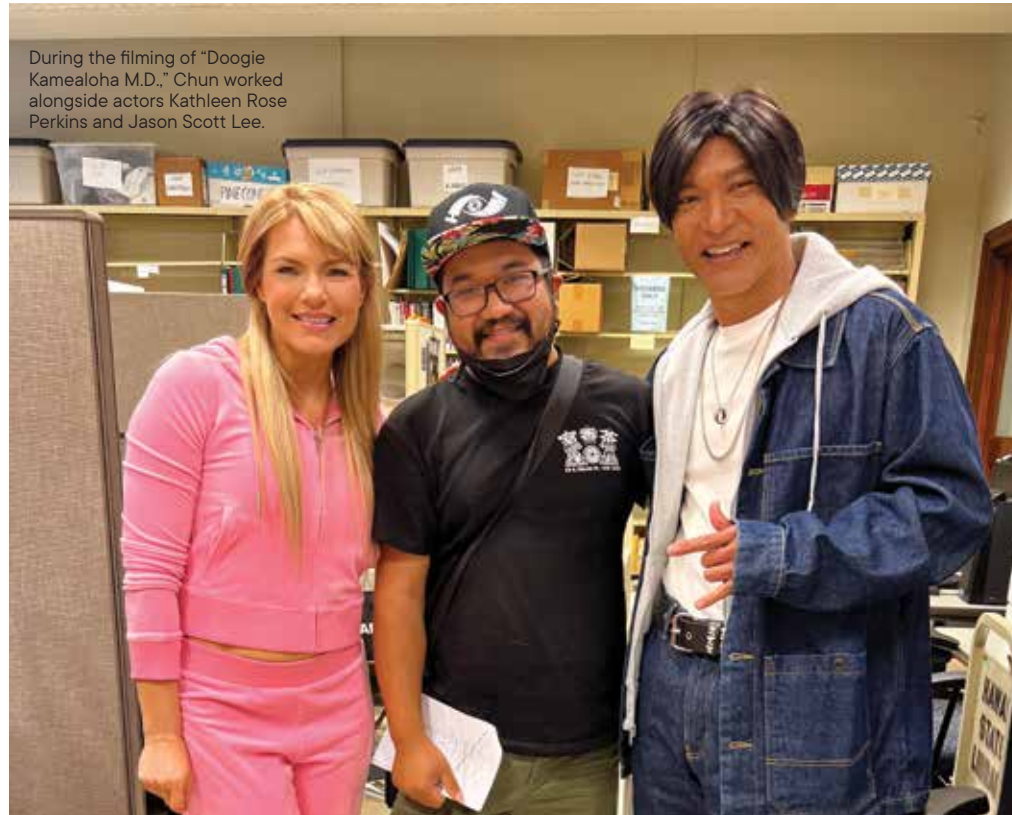
by CHRISTINE HITT

BORN AND RAISED IN HAWAI'I, BRYSON CHUN (BA '16, UH MĀNOA) IS A NATIVE HAWAI'IAN SCREENWRITER, WHO WROTE FOR WALT DISNEY ANIMATION STUDIOS' BIG HIT "MOANA 2." Previously, he was a staff writer for the Hawai'i-based Disney+ TV show "Doogie Kamealoha, M.D."

Chun took screenwriting at UH Mānoa and graduated with an English degree. He received fellowships with Sundance Labs and the Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment. His pilot TV script, "Poi Dogs," really opened doors for him, he says. It was selected by



Bryson Chun worked at the Disney Animation Studios while working on "Moana 2."



During the filming of "Doogie Kamealoha, M.D.," Chun worked alongside actors Kathleen Rose Perkins and Jason Scott Lee.



IN HIS ELEMENT

AN ALUMNUS FROM HŌNAUNAU, ACTOR JOSHUA "BABA" TAVARES (BA '12, UH Hilo; MFA '24, UH Mānoa) returned to Hawai'i after living and performing in New York

City for nearly a decade. Among his accomplishments, he landed a major Broadway role in the award-winning musical "Rent," the 20th Anniversary Tour, and performed on stages across North America.

Since his return, he received an MFA in acting and led the cast in last fall's Hawaiian theatre production of "Puana" at UH Mānoa. He is now an assistant professor in UH Mānoa's theatre and dance department, teaching act-

ing for TV, film and audition techniques, and took on roles in Cirque du Soleil's "Auana" show and the TV series "Rescue HI Surf."

The Black List, an online platform for screenwriters, for its inaugural Indigenous list. "It helped me get an agent, and it helped me to kind of get recognized by different producers or executives in Hollywood," says Chun.

"Doogie Kamealoha, M.D." was his big break, he says. "I love TV and I love the kinds of shows that are being made right now. It's always been kind of my goal to be a TV writer, so I'm very, very grateful," says Chun. He moved to Los Angeles and worked in the writer's room with about a dozen writers. "It's like being in a room full of really sharp comedic minds, and so every day was coming together to flesh out the character, flesh out the storylines for the season of the show."

For the TV show, Chun says he was able to help the most with storylines that were very local and very Native, such as about Polynesian wayfinding or Hawaiian legends. He also says he connected

the production team with the UH marching band so that it could perform in one of the episodes. "That was something fun that I was able to bring to the show," he says.

When Disney started working on "Moana 2," Chun says the studio was looking for Polynesian writers to be part of the project. "They found me through my agency," he says. "Just meeting with them, hearing the director's and producer's vision for what a sequel could be, and being able to join that team and collaborate with them was amazing."

The "Moana" sequel had new characters, which gave Chun more creative opportunities. "It was very fun developing the character, Moni, in particular," Chun says. "He was somebody who I think I very much related to, as he was kind of a storyteller of the bunch, and someone who felt so grateful to be going on a journey with Moana. So in a way, it mirrored my own journey and being at Disney Animation."

Now back in Hawai'i, Chun says that he's working on a few projects, including a feature film about Duke Kahanamoku. He's also finding time to give back to the community. Recently, he joined UH Mānoa's School of Cinematic Arts Advisory Board. "The school is taking great steps toward making people more prepared for the industry," he says. "I'm just one piece of the puzzle, but you know, we're definitely trying to envision a better film school that will help prepare Hawai'i students for the industry."

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BRYSON CHUN



PHOTO: COURTESY OF APPLE TV+

THE BATTLE FOR THE ISLANDS

ON AUGUST 1, THE NEW DRAMA SERIES "CHIEF OF WAR," STARRING JASON MOMOA, PREMIERES ON APPLE TV+. It is a nine-episode show based on true events in Hawaiian history, as it follows chief Ka'iāna during King Kamehameha's battle to unite the Islands.

An actor and storyteller, UH Mānoa alum Moses Goods is featured in the series as the character Moku, the father to Ka'ahumanu and Kamehameha's closest advisor. "Historically, Moku was the greatest war general and strategist of his time, and an incredibly fierce fighter. In the show, he represents the last of the keepers of the old ways as the people are going through a major shift," Goods says. After years of seeing the lack of Native Hawaiian representation from major studios, the series provides a significant breakthrough. "Here we have a chance for Hawaiians to see Hawaiians on screen in a piece that was written and created by Hawaiians," he says.

—CH

Her Best Foot Forward

UH HILO'S TEANI ARAKAWA REFLECTS ON HER STELLAR SOCCER CAREER.

by LANCE TOMINAGA

WHEN LIFE DROPS OBSTACLES IN YOUR PATH, IT'S UP TO YOU TO KICK THEM DOWN. UH Hilo senior Teani Arakawa can attest to that. And kicking, thankfully, is something she does exceptionally well.

Last November, Arakawa completed her collegiate soccer career in historic fashion, leading the Vulcans to the second round of the NCAA Women's Soccer Championships and earning four All-America awards. The Makawao, Maui native is the program's all-time leader in points (81), goals (30) and assists (21).

Arakawa, 22, has long excelled at soccer. She was a three-sport athlete for King Kekaulike High School, but she knew early on that soccer was her future. Her older sister, Tiera (BS '19, UH Hilo), had excelled for Nā Ali'i and also played for UH Hilo from 2015 to 2018.

As a junior, Arakawa led King Kekaulike to the 2020 Hawai'i High School Athletic Association state championship game, where Nā Ali'i fell to Kamehameha Schools Kapālama, 1-0.

Arakawa's perseverance was tested during the pandemic. It wiped away her

entire high school senior athletic season. It also jeopardized her hopes of playing college ball.

"There were challenges," she recalls. "I wasn't able to travel to schools that I was interested in, and I couldn't meet with coaches face to face."

With the help of her parents, Arakawa promoted her soccer resume and highlight videos on social media. She received an athletic scholarship offer from South Dakota State, a Division I school located in Brookings, South Dakota, and accepted it.

As a freshman in 2021, Arakawa helped the Jackrabbits capture the Summit League championship and a berth in the NCAA Tournament. Among her season highlights was scoring the winning goal in a game against the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

"That [moment] was a great feeling," she says, smiling. "Even better, my family was there to see it." (COVID protocols were still in place, and fans were not

allowed in the stands. Arakawa's family watched the action through an open gap in the stadium.)

Feeling homesick, Arakawa returned to the Islands after one academic year and enrolled in UH Hilo. In her three seasons as a Vulcan, under the guidance of head coach Gene Okamura (BA '10, UH Hilo), the prolific forward and midfielder was twice named the PacWest Conference Player of the Year. As a team, Hilo won two league championships. Arakawa also excelled in the classroom, maintaining a 3.57 GPA and earning United Soccer Coaches Scholar All-America honors.

This year, Arakawa is set to graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a concentration in finance.

And beyond that? "I haven't quite figured it out yet," she says. "I can see myself doing something in the financial world. Of course, soccer will always be a part of me. It's given me everything."



UH Hilo soccer star Teani Arakawa has collected many accolades while playing for the Vulcans.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MELANIE BROKAW AND JASON OLIVE

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII HILO AND HILO ATHLETICS

FIRST SERVE



Former UH men's volleyball player Jason Olive launched a new event in Honolulu. Olive set multiple records as a Rainbow Warrior.

FIVE NEWCOMERS TO WATCH

The new college sports season always brings fresh new faces. Here are five Rainbow Warrior and Rainbow Wahine newcomers to keep your eyes on.

TITAN LACADEN Football

(Freshman Receiver)
Lacaden helped Saint Louis School capture the HHSAA Open Division state title last year.

CHA'LEI REID Women's Volleyball (Freshman Outside Hitter)

The promising hitter from Kahuku looked solid in Hawai'i's exhibition matches this past spring.

SAIRA JOHAL Women's Soccer (Freshman Forward)

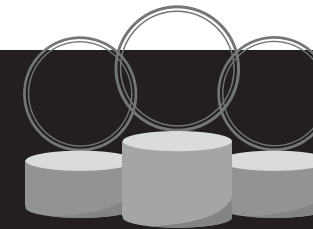
Hailing from British Columbia, Canada, Johal possesses the speed and explosiveness to spark Hawai'i's offense.

HUNTER CARTER Men's Basketball (Freshman Guard)

This 6-foot-6-inch phenom can play three positions and is said to have NBA range.

BAILEY FLAVELL Women's Basketball (Freshman Guard)

Flavell led New Zealand in scoring in last year's FIBA U17 World Basketball Cup tournament. — *LT*



ON THE PODIUM

Last August, 12 former, current and future UH athletes participated in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, and three of them won bronze medals.

USA MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

A player for the US Men's Olympic team, **Taylor Averill** (BA '15, UH Mānoa) won a bronze medal. The former Rainbow Warrior helped lead the UH men's volleyball team to an NCAA Tournament as a senior in 2015.

AUSTRALIA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Former UH basketball player **Amy Atwell** (Dual BBA '21, MS '22, UH Mānoa) won a bronze medal for Australia. At UH, she helped the Rainbow Wahine win the 2022 Big West tournament and was named Big West Conference Player of the Year.

NETHERLANDS WOMEN'S WATER POLO

Former Rainbow Wahine water polo player **Maartje Keuning** helped Netherlands win bronze. This was her second Olympic Games appearance and first medal. — *CH*



Riding the Wave

RICH HILL HAS LED A RESURGENCE IN RAINBOW WARRIOR BASEBALL.

by LANCE TOMINAGA

With more than 1,200 career victories, University of Hawai'i baseball head coach, Rich Hill, is one of the winningest coaches in college baseball. The 63-year-old Hill, who recently completed his fourth season overseeing the Rainbow Warrior program, sat down for a quick Q&A.

YOU HAD A GREAT GIG AS THE COACH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, WHERE YOU LED THE TOREROS TO NINE NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES. WHY DID YOU MAKE THE LEAP TO HAWAII IN 2021?

I had been coming here on vacation since I was 16, and then over the last couple of decades as a surfer and paddler. I wanted to expose my own kids to the culture and community and the people of Hawai'i. Also, when I played at San Diego State, I was exposed to that rivalry with Hawai'i, and I just fell in love with the program. I always had it at the forefront of my mind

that if this job ever came open, I would love to represent the state of Hawai'i and serve as its head coach.

HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS THE TALENT BASE IN THE ISLANDS?

Ten out of 10! If we had a team of all local boys, it'd be a College World Series type of team. The talent is definitely here. That's why our No. 1 priority is to mine our high schools and go after these guys early to have them in a Hawai'i uniform and represent our state and university.

WHEN IT COMES TO RECRUITING, YOU'VE STATED THAT YOU LOOK FOR PLAYERS WITH HIGH CHARACTER AS WELL AS PLAYING ABILITY, RIGHT?

Absolutely. It takes a certain type of player to thrive in our program. You have to have grit, toughness and character. Those things are just as important as talent, if not more important.

BY NOW, ALMOST EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT YOUR LOVE FOR SURFING. ARE THERE ANY SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SURFING AND BASEBALL?

Sure. I think surfing is a metaphor for just about everything in life. It's about managing fear, teaching you about preparation and mastering a skill. It's also about respect, following unwritten rules and overcoming adversity.

As far as baseball goes, as a coach you have this illusion that we have some control over the outcome of the game. But it's really all about the players. So surfing provides me that opportunity to be a player. It allows me to stretch my limits and see how good I can get. I love being obsessed with excellence and helping my players to embrace challenges and find out what they're made of.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

The most rewarding aspect is my relationships with former players and assistant coaches. To get text messages from former players when they get married or start a new job or just to express gratitude. It's not about the wins and losses. It's about the relationships.

ANY ADVICE FOR ASPIRING COACHES?

Focus on relationships. Create an environment of positivity and optimism. Keep your family first and figure out a way to do it all.

PHOTO: LANCE TOMINAGA

KAPULANI LANDGRAF (AA '86, Windward CC; BA '89, UH Mānoa) is the director of Gallery 'Iolani, an art exhibition venue, at Windward Community College. Renowned for her black-and-white photography and mixed-media artwork, Landgraf also teaches photography at Windward Community College. She formerly was a professor of art and Title III project director at Kapi'olani Community College.

TODD APO (MBA '92, JD '92, UH Mānoa) was appointed to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority board of directors in October and elected board chair in March. He is currently the CEO of the nonprofit 'Iole, an ahupua'a in North Kohala that researches sustainability solutions rooted in Indigenous knowledge. He previously worked at Hawai'i Community Foundation and Howard Hughes Holdings Inc.

JENNIFER ABLAN (BA '96, UH Mānoa) is the new editor in chief of Hawai'i Business Magazine, the oldest regional business magazine in the country. She plans to continue the magazine's deep-dive reporting on local business topics while also touching on global issues. Ablan formerly served as editor in chief of the international publication Pensions & Investments. She has also worked for Financial Times and Reuters.

TROY TENDO (BA '05, UH Mānoa) was promoted to Maui County Fire Department captain. Tendo had been with the department since 2007 and will move to the Puko'o Fire Station on Moloka'i with the promotion. He most recently worked at the Pā'ia Fire Station, and prior to that, he was on Lāna'i and in Kula, Kihei, Makawao, and Nāpili.

DEANNA D'OLIER (MEd '06, UH Mānoa) was promoted to executive director of the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, where she has worked since 2013. She brings over 20 years of educational experience, including oversight of accreditation and licensing for more than 100 Hawai'i private schools.

ERIC CO (MA '09, MBA '20, UH Mānoa), has been named CEO of Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, where he'll oversee internal operations, communications and special projects. Co has worked at the foundation since 2011, and most recently served as the vice president for resiliency. He also formerly worked at The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

MICHAEL O'KEEFE (MPA '09, UH Mānoa) was hired as the new deputy executive director and chief operating operator of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation. Formerly, O'Keefe was the deputy director of the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services, where he was responsible for the department's finances and oversight of operations and maintenance of the city's sewer lines, pump stations, treatment plants and other facilities.

KIANA BEIMES (AS '13, Kapi'olani CC) is the new general manager of Outrigger Waikiki Paradise Hotel. Beimes started with the company in 2013 as an intern at the Outrigger Reef hotel. Later, she took on other roles at various Outrigger properties, such

as front desk agent and guest services manager. Most recently, she was the hotel manager of the 'Ohana East hotel.

DANIEL BRIECK (BS '17, UH Mānoa) was appointed deputy director of the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services. For over 12 years, he has worked with the City and County of Honolulu. He previously served as program administrator for the Division of Wastewater Treatment and Disposal and as acting chief of the Division of Environmental Quality.

JASON FORD (BA '17, MLIS '22, UH Mānoa), who is Kaua'i Community College's Kikuchi Center Archivist, was voted president-elect of the nonprofit Association of Hawai'i Archivists. He will serve in this role for one year. The association supports the state's archivists, curators, historians and institutions on matters related to preservation and methodology.

JAEDYN PAVAO (BS '23, UH Hilo) won the title of Miss Aloha Hula this year at the 62nd annual Merrie Monarch Festival. She also won the Hawaiian Language Award. Representing Hālau Ka Lei Mokihana o Leinā'ala, Pavao's 'auana (modern hula) performance honored Queen Kapi'olani. Her kahiko (ancient hula) performance was a drum hula to the mele "He Wahi Mele No Kapuāleilaha'oleinapali."

Are you a University of Hawai'i System school graduate and have a milestone you would like to share? Send an email to news@uhfoundation.org.



TODD APO



JENNIFER ABLAN



MICHAEL O'KEEFE



DANIEL BRIECK



JASON FORD

Valley Food

CASEY KUSAKA SHAPES TWO NEW MĀNOA RESTAURANTS WITH COMMUNITY LOVE.

by M. KRUSE

LAST YEAR, IN THE QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD OF MĀNOA, TWO RESTAURANTS OPENED THEIR DOORS: LADY ELAINE AND LITTLE PLUM. Alum Casey Kusaka (CC '10, CA '11, Kapi'olani CC) works the magic behind the scenes as culinary director of both locations. He brings years of experience working both front and back of the house in restaurants, such as Quiora in Honolulu, Momofuku Noodle Bar in New York City and Californios in San Francisco.

"For both Lady Elaine and Little Plum, our goal is to be a part of the community," says Kusaka. "We want to be restaurants that Mānoa can take pride in — places people want to share with their family and friends."

Little Plum is the more casual of the two, hailing nostalgic flavors that draw inspiration from dishes Kusaka grew up eating in Hawai'i. "My dad is Japanese and he loves



Clockwise from left: Little Plum's fresh catch with vegetables, Purple Dragon cocktail, and Lady Elaine's chermoula shrimp couscous.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CASEY KUSAKA AND JEFF SANNER

Chinese food. My mom is Hawaiian-Chinese, and her favorites were Japanese and Mexican," he explains. "Growing up in Kāne'ohe, I loved having flavors across the board at home."

One of Kusaka's favorite dishes at Little Plum is the chicken jook, a comforting rice porridge inspired by his mother's recipe. "Jook is such a comfort dish," he says. "This is my mom's jook, essentially, but we took it in a different direction by adding chicken, ali'i mushrooms and a soy sauce marinated egg — heartwarming with a little bit of craft and thoughtfulness." Another stand-out dish at Little Plum is the fried chicken adobo, which he describes as "almost like Korean fried chicken, tossed again in adobo sauce for crispy, deeply flavorful skin."

Lady Elaine, named after the mischievous puppet in the TV show "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," has a Mediterranean-inspired menu. Kusaka is particular about that description, saying,

"We don't use words like authentic or traditional. We don't claim to be authentic. We're not trying to compete with someone's grandma in Lebanon and her cooking. But we are certainly inspired by those flavors," he says. "My take is that if it feels good making it and tastes good, we're doing something right."

The menu draws influences from Italy, Spain, Greece, Lebanon, Morocco and Turkey, resulting in creative dishes. The roasted eggplant risotto is one of Kusaka's favorite dishes there. It incorporates a baba ghanoush-style eggplant puree into the classic risotto base. "I love the flavor of the roasted eggplant," he says. "We top the risotto with a chili crisp and eggplant caponata, plus freshly grated Parmesan. It's rich, but balanced."

Studying culinary arts at Kapi'olani Community College provided Kusaka with fundamental cooking skills. He also learned the language and movement of a professional kitchen, skills that would later help him thrive in high-pressure environments. His instructors, such as Chefs Roy Yamaguchi and Frank Leake in particular, instilled in him a passion for learning more about food and technique.

"Those teachers inspired me to keep pursuing knowledge and that was a huge inspiration to why I moved to New York to attend the Culinary Institute of America," he says. "In a way, that first semester at the institute was similar to what I had studied at Kapi'olani CC, so I felt prepared and was able to get the most out of that experience."



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JUSTIN UDOM

THE ALCHEMIST

JUSTIN UDOM (AS '18, KAPI'OLANI CC) INVENTS FUN LOCAL FLAVORS AT POP CULTURE ARTISAN POPS

FLAVORS AT POP CULTURE ARTISAN POPS RUN THE GAMUT: blueberry lavender cereal, ume shiso strawberry and jasmine moon cake, to name a few. To date, owner Justin Udom has developed more than 80 flavors — and he's far from finished.

"We felt popsicles and ice cream bars haven't really been reinvented much," Udom says. "I think what sets us apart is not just our use of local ingredients, but also our creative flavor combinations."

A former accountant, Udom was born and raised in Hawai'i and lived in Los Angeles for nine years. After a career as an accountant, he decided it was time to make a change. "I didn't have the passion for it and wanted instead to be an entrepreneur in the food industry," he says. He moved back home to study in Kapi'olani Community College's culinary arts program and graduated in 2018. He explored different food concepts before landing on popsicles.

"Going to Kapi'olani CC and learning the industry, you not only gain culinary knowledge, but a hard work ethic," he says.

After opening in 2020 — at the height of COVID-19 — the popsicle store operated as an online business, partnering with local breweries like Hana Koa Brewing Co. and Inu Island Ales as pickup locations. "The idea was to not just sell our pops but also drive business to these breweries," Udom explains. As pandemic restrictions eased, he expanded into farmers markets, making his hand-crafted popsicles more accessible to the public.

So far, one of the most popular flavors has been the Coffee Cacao Nib Swirl, made with 100% Kaua'i coffee and cacao nibs from Mānoa Chocolate. Udom's also working on a flavor that uses crack seed syrup to create an old-school treat. "We're always experimenting, always growing," Udom says. "There's still so much we can do." —M. Kruse

A RECIPE FROM CHEF CASEY KUSAKA

BABA GHANOUSH

INGREDIENTS:

- Eggplant, round, 1
- Garlic, minced, 5 grams
- Lemon, juiced, 15 grams
- Tahini, 30 grams
- Aleppo pepper, 1/2 teaspoon
- Olive oil, 40 grams

INSTRUCTIONS:

Puncture eggplant, then place on the grill and char all around.

Once the eggplant is charred, place in a heatproof container and cover. Allow the eggplant to steam in the container for at least 20 minutes or until the skin is easily removed.

Remove charred skin and save the inside flesh.

Purée the flesh in a food processor with garlic, lemon juice, tahini and Aleppo pepper. While processing, drizzle in the olive oil.

Season with salt and pepper to taste.



HONORED

EMPOWERING GENERATIONS

WHITNEY ARAGAKI (MA '12, UH HILO; EDD '24, UH MĀNOA) RECEIVED THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING.

WHITNEY ARAGAKI IS NO STRANGER TO AWARDS AND ACCOLADES. In January, she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. In 2023, Aragaki was selected to the inaugural cohort of the Obama Foundation Leaders USA program. And in 2021, she was selected as one of three state finalists in the science category and was named the Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year.

The Presidential Award is the highest honor of STEM educators in the U.S. She won the award alongside Kailua Elemen-

tary School educator Gregory Kent (BEd '99, MEd '02, UH Mānoa), who also received the award.

"I am so fortunate to carry our stories and impact when I share this work broadly across the country," says Aragaki. "It is my mission as a teacher to develop students who will become leaders and decision-makers in our community."

Hawai'i born and raised, Aragaki has been a teacher for 15 years, 14 of them at Waiākea High School. "Teaching was always a career path simmering in the background," she says, crediting her parents for instilling in her the belief that she could dream big while remaining rooted in her community.

She currently teaches biology to about 100 10th graders and is fostering her passion for biology and conservation into a powerful educational force for students.

Beginning in the 2015 to 2017 school years, Aragaki helped pilot the first Advanced Placement Seminar and Research courses in the Hawai'i Public Schools. "I asked my students if they would be interested in a course that focused on academic reading, writing and speaking,

and the response was resoundingly positive and supported by my school administration," she says, adding that it's still a popular course for students 10 years later.

Additionally, Aragaki founded the New Warrior Professional Learning Community, a teacher induction and mentoring group at Waiākea High. She also co-authored a new book, "Place-Based Science Teaching: Connecting Students to Curriculum, Community, and Caring for our Planet," with her friend and Indiana-based educator, Dr. Kirstin Milks, slated to be released this September.

Through her work, she advocates for educational equity, ensuring that all students have access and support needed to thrive. "Our students hold knowledge from their families, ancestors, educators and community that will be integral to sustainable futures," she says. "It is now on us as educators to capitalize on their lived experiences, and reinforce their knowledge as needed and valuable, in and out of the classroom."

—Tiffany Hill

PHOTO: COURTESY OF WHITNEY ARAGAKI

APPOINTED

CULTURAL VISIONARY

AARON SALĀ (BA '00, MA '11, PHD '21, UH MĀNOA) BRINGS CULTURAL INTEGRITY TO TWO HIGH-PROFILE ROLES.

AARON SALĀ IS HELPING TO RESHAPE THE FUTURE OF HAWAI'I'S CULTURAL and visitor landscape. Last year, Salā was named CEO of the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau and cultural creative producer of the Hawai'i-based Cirque du Soleil "Auana" show at the Outrigger Waikiki Beachcomber Hotel.

"I first saw 'O' by Cirque du Soleil in Vegas in 2003, and I was awestruck by this standard of excellence for storytelling and challenging the human body to do extraordinary things, all in the name of really good storytelling," Salā says. "And so the potential of that level of production and entertainment, and really edutainment, to come and make a permanent residence in Hawai'i, I think is an important statement to be made."

In his role, he helped pull together a cultural team, such as a hula choreographer, costume designer and lyricist, and he still works to ensure that Hawaiian authenticity and the quality of performance are maintained.

Salā, who has a strong affinity for opera and classical music, graduated from UH Mānoa with a degree in music and a doctorate in ethnomusicology. "At the same time that I was going

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CIRQUE DU SOLEIL



through my master's degree and PhD, I was also building a performing career, building a consulting career and building a family," he says.

In 2020, he founded Gravititas Pasifika, a boutique consulting firm, focused on Pacific-based and Pacific-focused work. He is also a former chairperson for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

Last September, Salā was appointed to lead the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau as CEO. "HVCB is a fascinating job. I continue to learn so much

from my team and from the industry and from the community and from visitors. My approach to being a lifetime student is absolutely apropos in this work," Salā says. "Internally, we are going through a strategic planning process that's going to take several months."

He says the HVCB team is very excited, and that makes him excited. "To see the team sort of latch on to the energy and then ride that energy into the next chapter is going to be great."

—Christine Hitt



KUMU LĀ'AU LAPA'AU

Jackson Kōnane Brumblay

HOMETOWN

I'm from Wahiawā and I went to Leilehua High School. Back in high school, I just wanted to be a carpenter or laborer. But certain events led me to Kaua'i, where I met my first mentor at a Kōke'e resource conservation program right out of high school. He taught me about plants and where to find them.

I learned from him for six to eight months, and then got the message to move to O'ahu, and then I met my second mentor, who also taught me lā'au lapa'au (Hawaiian herbal medicine). I hung out with him for about two years.

EDUCATION

- AA in Hawaiian Studies, '14, Leeward Community College
- BA in Hawaiian Studies, '17, UH Mānoa
- MA in Hawaiian Studies, '21, UH Mānoa
- Certificate, '21, Hawai'i Healing Arts College

I met Kumu Keoki Kīkaha Pai Baclayon (BA '09, MA '12, UH Mānoa) at UH Mānoa and I've been practicing with him since. My Kumu Keoki told me it was time for me to learn lomi lomi, so

then I met Kumu Enrick Ortiz, Jr. and I've been practicing lomi lomi for seven years and lā'au lapa'au since I was 18, and I am 32 now.

I really enjoyed the work from the beginning, and I just kept getting deeper and deeper into it slowly. I started my own business [after graduation] doing lomi lomi, my massage therapy, and after a couple years of just doing that, now I teach at UH West O'ahu.

WORK

- Lā'au lapa'au instructor at UH West O'ahu

I teach lā'au lapa'au classes 305 and 405, and then I help teach 205. So 205 is like an introduction to the different modalities of ho'oponopono, lomi lomi and then lā'au lapa'au, and I teach the lā'au lapa'au portion of the 205 course. And it's just a very basic introduction to how we conduct our healing practices, and just give them a basic understanding of Hawaiian healing.

Then in 305, we go into basic healing modalities, teaching them how to juice and how to make tea for medicine. A basic one we like to use for our students is 'ōlena, because there's a lot of Western studies, so a lot of people feel comfortable using 'ōlena, which is turmeric in English. We teach them how to use that, how to make a tea and how to make a poultice or salve.

I like to teach them about laukahi (broad-leafed plantain), because that's a really good one, too. As a tea, it's good for diabetes. As a poultice, it helps pull insect bites. So if you have a bee sting, it will help to pull the venom out and help you heal a little bit faster than not putting anything on it. We also do a lemongrass ... we call it anti-inflammatory. You can put that in the tea as well. And then, if you use those three to make a salve, you can make, like, a triple-antibiotic ointment.

Then 405 is just a continuation, and the idea is to make a healer in every home. They don't leave being a practitioner, but they leave with a basic understanding of how to take care of them-

selves. They know how to take care of their family, but if they want to continue on and become a practitioner, they will need to find another teacher or more learning elsewhere, and it does happen.

TAKEAWAYS

The students really appreciate it because now they find that they have a lot more options to take care of themselves. They feel a little more in control of their health.

Another thing they say is the classes themselves are very healing, because we talk a lot about internal struggles that we have, and they say it's a very open space to talk about these things to begin their healing process. Internal struggles, such as emotional, mental, spiritual and physical. Sometimes your body isn't doing what you want it to do and how do you come to terms with that, you know.

It all pertains to lā'au lapa'au because we look at the four bodies that create the one person. So in this process of explaining how to take care of somebody, it ends up taking care of them. So we take care of the physical body, the mental body and emotional body and the spiritual body.

[The most important piece to remember is] making sure you always take care of the four bodies, because a lot of us, you know, we don't do that anymore. We don't mind ourselves. We get too stuck in work, work, work.

PROUDEST MOMENT

There's no one moment, but when the students or a patient of mine finds that happiness where they are comfortable with the way things are and they can just feel comfortable with who they are, how everything is and they can find that happiness, that is always really nice.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JACKSON KŌNANE BRUMBLAY

Aloha 'Oe

John Jefferies

(1925–2024) UH astronomy founder. An astronomer renowned for his breakthrough in solar physics. Jefferies began working at UH in 1964. He established the UH Institute for Astronomy and, in 1967, was named its first director. Jefferies' work laid the groundwork for what is, today, one of the world's largest university astronomy programs.

Philip Helfrich

(1927–2024) (PhD '58, UH Mānoa) Scientist and researcher. Helfrich was an associate dean of the Office of Research Administration from 1977 to 1980, and he served as the director of the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology at Moku o Lo'e (also known as "Coconut Island") from 1980 to 1993. In 1984, he was named Scientist of the Year by the Honolulu Chapter, Achievement Rewards for College Scientists. Helfrich retired as director emeritus.

Yong-ho Ch'oe

(1931–2024) Korean history pioneer and emeritus professor. In 1970, Ch'oe joined UH Mānoa's Department of History, serving for 30 years. He was a scholar in Korean and Korean American history and was a founding member of the UH Mānoa Center for Korean Studies, which was established in 1972.

Patsy Dung

(1937–2024) First Rainbow Wahine basketball coach. A pioneer, Dung was hired in 1974 for the brand new women's basketball program, and led the inaugural team to a 4-2 record. She continued as head coach for five years, closing out her tenure with a cumulative record of 31-20. She left an indelible mark as she helped build the foundation for the program's continued success.

Puanani Burgess

(1947–2024) (BA '79, JD '82, UH Mānoa) Native Hawaiian community advocate. Since her time as a law student, she used her skills to manage a nonprofit and help other organizations find funding for important services. She also was an activist, working to stop the bombing of Kaho'olawe, and served on the board of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. She was board president from 2014 to 2015.

Emmeline "Emme" Tomimbang Burns

(1950–2024) (AA '71, Leeward CC; BEd '73, UH Mānoa) Hawai'i broadcast leader and champion for the Filipino community. Tomimbang worked in radio and TV, including at KITV4 and KHON2, before founding her own production company, EMME, Inc. which produced "Emme's Island Moments" for more than 20 years. She also created the Burns-Tomimbang scholarship for JABSOM medical students committed to serving the Filipino community.

Wayne Metcalf

(1952–2024) (BA '75, UH Hilo; JD '78, UH Mānoa) Hawai'i Island lawmaker. A public servant, Metcalf served as Hilo's state representative from 1984 to 1992 and as senator from 1997 to 1998. Metcalf was also appointed during the Cayetano administration as Hawai'i State Insurance Commissioner from 1994 to 1997 and again in 1999 to 2002.

Bobby Curran

(1955–2025) (BA '87, UH Mānoa) Longtime sportscaster. For more than three decades, Curran was the voice of UH Mānoa's football and men's basketball games. He also called games for baseball and volleyball. He hosted the popular "The Bobby Curran Show" on ESPN Honolulu and was named Hawai'i Sportscaster of the Year six times. In 2023, he was inducted into the UH Sports Circle of Honor.

KEEPING UP WITH UH ALUMNI

THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS FOCUSES ON ENGAGING ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD by spotlighting their products and businesses, creating opportunities for young alumni to succeed in Hawai'i's workforce, sharing alumni success stories and more. The UH alumni community grows stronger each year, spreading its positive impact worldwide.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF UH FOUNDATION ALUMNI RELATIONS



UH ALUMNI MAKERS' MARKET

The 4th Annual UH Alumni Makers' Market is happening on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at The Royal Hawaiian. This event celebrates alumni entrepreneurs and features more than 40 alumni-owned or operated businesses. The UH community is welcome to gather to enjoy a variety of food, drinks and products from these incredible entrepreneurs. Visit uhalumni.org for more information.



POST-GRAD SUCCESS

In partnership with the Office of Vice President for Academic Strategy, the UH Alumni Office launched the Post-Grad Success Initiative. The event series aims to provide internship opportunities to current UH students through our alumni network. It also gives our alumni the opportunity to discover talented future employees getting their education at UH.



ALUMNI & FRIENDS PAU HANA

From New York to Japan, our Alumni & Friends Pau Hana brings together UH graduates from all over the world. These vibrant events foster meaningful connections and strengthen the bonds between alumni in chapters nationwide.



SUMMER SEND OFFS

The Summer Send Offs give alumni the opportunity to connect with incoming students and their families. In a few short years, these students will join the UH alumni network.



GOING BANANAS

UH Mānoa alumnus Andy Archer (MS '22, UH Mānoa) had just woken up from shoulder surgery, still groggy from the anesthesia, when he received a life-changing call in 2023. On the other end was the Savannah Bananas, a professional baseball team known for its show-stopping entertainment and trick plays. The caller invited Archer to interview for a spot on the team, an opportunity that soon led to a full-time player contract.

"The moment I knew I was going to be signed to a full-time contract was one of the highlights of my sports career," says Archer.

For two years, he had been working at Outrigger Hotels, but before that, he spent a season playing for UH while earning his master's in finance. Reflecting on his time at UH in 2021, he recalls a memorable three-game series against UC San Diego with what he called a

"skeleton squad." With nearly half the team testing positive for COVID-19 late in the season, the 'Bows were forced to travel to UCSD with a depleted roster. Against the odds, UH swept the series, returning home on a high note.

"You are defined as a team by what you do when you go through adversity," says Archer. "That was such a good memory because the odds were stacked against us but we still made it happen because we were a great team."

Today, Archer is giving back to the program that shaped him, donating the proceeds from his Savannah Bananas 2024 season jersey sales to UH Athletics. His goal is to support local students in their athletic and academic journeys at UH.

"When you represent some place like UH it doesn't just stop when you take off the uniform, because I am a UH alumni for life," he says.



PLUMERIA IN PRINT

UH alumna Traci Yoshiyama (BE '07, MPA '15, UH Mānoa) and owner of Late Bloomer, a creative studio born from her desire to deepen her connection with the natural world, recently reimaged the branding for the UH Alumni Office.

She brings a unique perspective as a student, alumna and lifelong supporter of UH. The design features pua melia (plumeria) flowers as buds and fully bloomed, as well as subtle hints of ti leaves.

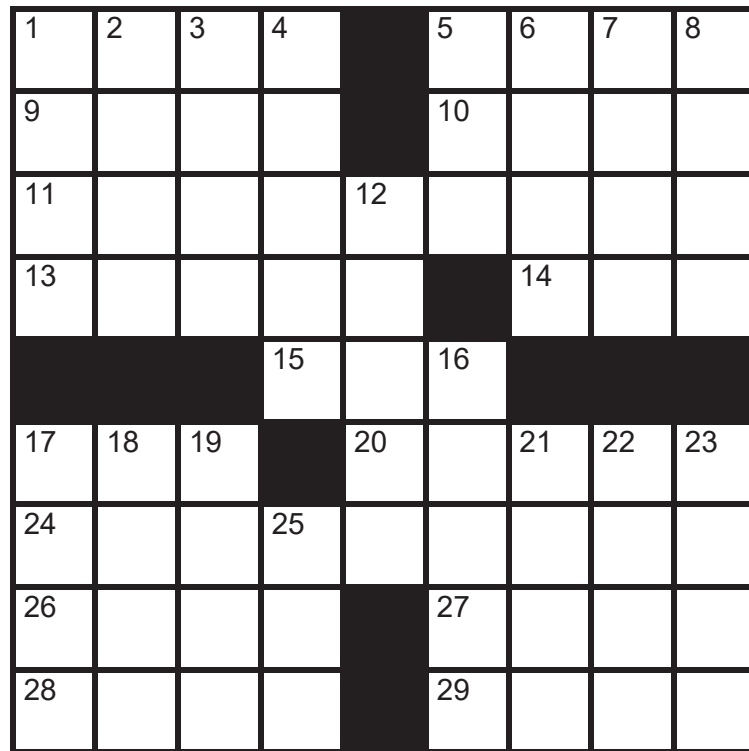
"When I was thinking about my time at UH, the thing that kept coming up was that everything was very new for me," says Yoshiyama. "I thought the pua melia bud was the perfect representation of my experience at UH, celebrating the journey of the girl I was then and everything that my education has led me to now."



STAY CONNECTED

Interested in attending an event, sharing your story, or staying

updated on UH alumni news and discounts? Update your contact information by going to uhalumni.org/contact/update.



To view solution or to solve this puzzle online: https://uhalumni.org/foruh_puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 (Hey, look over here!)
- 5 Run-DMC recordings
- 9 "I'll leave it ___ you"
- 10 Calculation in calculus and geometry
- 11 O'ahu neighborhood around Castle Hospital
- 13 The color of America's waves of grain
- 14 Not just some

DOWN

- 15 Lomi
- 17 ___ Wai Canal
- 20 Rule, guideline or statute
- 24 "For UH, ___" (current UH Foundation campaign)
- 26 Poker table buy-in
- 27 "___ no mountain high enough"
- 28 Pinkish wine
- 29 Nays' opposite

DOWN

- 1 Wildcat with an athletic shoe named after it
- 2 Musubi ingredient
- 3 Part of the ticket you save upon entering
- 4 Messy black stuff in a photocopier
- 5 Best way to eat ahi
- 6 Highlight of a Hawai'i Opera Theatre performance
- 7 Federal grant for student aid
- 8 What UH Mānoa's most buoyant teams do
- 12 "___, Jamaica, oooh I wanna take ya"
- 16 Highway and ___
- 17 Where secret admirers admire from
- 18 Hawaiian god of fertility, music and peace
- 19 The A in MFA
- 21 O'ahu town far north of Honolulu
- 22 Ua mau ke ea o ka ___ i ka pono
- 23 Keep your ___ about you!
- 25 Gung ___ Fat Choy



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Keiki Corner

Can you spot the logo?

Hidden throughout the magazine are five logos in random places. It won't be obvious.



Happy Hunting!

Find the answers listed on page 3

Parting Shot

Last November, Kapi'olani Community College held a day-long Makahiki Festival on its great lawn, welcoming all students, faculty and staff to celebrate the Hawaiian god Lono. Organized by the Title III Kūloa'a project team and Kapi'olani CC's 'Aha Kalāualani, the festival included a traditional ceremony, featuring the Akua Lono (Image of Lono), as well as games and activities. Twelve students won a \$1,500 scholarship as a grand prize of each game.

