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Photo by Olivier Koning
A Hero for Hawai‘i

Inouye’s vision for the state involved and encouraged his alma mater’s development as a Pacific center for learning excellence

By Gail Miyasaki

PHOTO: MARK ARBEIT
In 2004, the late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye was the commencement speaker for the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law. His speech coincided with the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that declared unconstitutional state laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students. The ruling, a civil rights victory, paved the way for integration in the United States.

“It was a wonderful talk,” recalls Aviam Soifer, dean of the UH law school. “The senator spoke about the kind of issue that never became an issue in Hawai‘i through his own life story.” Inouye talked about the discrimination he faced growing up in pre-World War II Hawai‘i. He cited, in particular, the public-funded English standard schools that he could not attend that essentially segregated Hawai‘i’s public school students by their English language proficiency.

“He spoke about being an outsider in his own place of birth and being part of a generation that brought about change. And he tied his experience to the disenfranchisement of Hawaiians in their own homeland,” remembers Soifer. The following year, with the support of the senator, federal funding through the Native Hawaiian Education Act created the Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the UH law school. It is currently known as Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law.
The senator foresaw that Native Hawaiians would have greater opportunities for self-determination and he wanted to see us have attorneys and policy makers well-versed in Native Hawaiian laws and Native Hawaiian environmental laws,” says Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie, associate professor and director of Ka Huli Ao. MacKenzie is also the chief editor of the Native Hawaiian Rights Handbook that describes Native Hawaiian law, a subset of laws of the State of Hawai‘i.

Federal funding for Ka Huli Ao has resulted in hundreds of scholarships for Native Hawaiian students to study and practice law, many in the service of their people. It has also enabled Pacific Islanders in American Sāmoa, Guam and CNMI (Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands), among other Pacific nations, to attend law school and return to work in their communities.

Ka Huli Ao, one of many Native Hawaiian programs supported by the senator, embodies some of the key themes that define his legacy to the university: a commitment to expanding higher education opportunities, an empathetic dedication to equity for the disenfranchised and a deep respect and advocacy for Hawai‘i’s first people.

‘A proud graduate’

“I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (BA, 1950), greatly benefitting from the GI Bill after returning home after World War II,” states the late senator on his website. Inouye, who died on Dec. 17, 2012 at the age of 88, first attended UH a year after the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor. He enrolled in premedical classes to become a doctor, but left school to join other volunteers when the all-Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team was formed in 1943. After his battlefield exploits in Europe, which later earned him the Medal of Honor, he returned to UH Mānoa, changing his undergraduate major to political science with the intent to attend law school.

“The senator saw and experienced firsthand how transformational education can be to peoples’ lives,” says David McClain, former UH president (2004-09) and currently professor of the Financial Economics and Institutions department at the Shidler College of Business.

The senator’s website lists his efforts “to establish excellence (at UH) in a variety of disciplines from oceanography, volcanology and astronomy to Hawaiian studies and language. Our law school, medical, nursing and pharmacy schools and our business school attract top-notch faculty and students, which ensure a trained cadre of Hawai‘i professionals to address the needs in our community. The university’s statewide community colleges provide training to meet our diverse employment needs from construction, tourism, healthcare and computer sciences.”

Says McClain, “Inouye understood what makes Hawai‘i special. He knew Hawai‘i implicitly and he knew the players. What Hawai‘i was really good at and could contribute in a unique way to the nation and the world was a benefit to the university.”

That benefit was no small impetus to UH’s growth and development. Inouye’s 60 years of public service, seniority in the U.S. Senate (second longest-serving senator in U.S. history and third in line to the presidency), and chairmanship of the powerful Appropriations Committee, enabled him to be a staunch advocate for and instrumental in bringing billions of dollars to his home state. According to UHERO research, Inouye’s economic impact on the state was an estimated $200 million to $450 million annually.

The UH programs receiving the
senator’s funding support are too numerous to recount. A select few provide some insight into what he considered Hawai’i’s strengths and what he envisioned would perpetuate the university’s continued contribution to the state’s growth and development.

**Neighbor Islands**

In a 2002 interview with then editor Warren Iwasa of the *Hawaii Herald*, Inouye recalled a discussion about 30 years earlier with some of Hawai’i’s movers and shakers. “I came to the conclusion that their concern was primarily O’ahu—Honolulu. This is understandable because this is where the finances are ... the seat of government—well, that’s still the plantation mentality. So I said, ‘Well, from now on, whenever there’s any available funds, out they go, to the Neighbor Islands.’”

A strong believer in making higher education available to all of Hawai’i’s residents, “(the senator) particularly wanted to ensure that students on the Neighbor Islands would not be overlooked,” says John Morton, vice president for community colleges. “His efforts at creating opportunity through the Federal Rural Development Grant program helped support program development on all the Neighbor Islands and rural O’ahu. Over the years, his advice, counsel and assistance have benefited many community college students.”

In November 2012, the University of Hawai’i Community Colleges, one of only 14 in the nation, was recognized as a leader in the national student completion movement by Achieving the Dream, a national nonprofit leading the nation’s most comprehensive non-governmental reform network for community college success and completion. Achieving the Dream commended Hawai’i’s seven community colleges for “raising the bar on promising practices that will impact policies to help more students succeed.”

Inouye also believed that every island was distinctive, with unique characteristics and potential to add a specialty to the UH System as a center of educational excellence. As head of the Senate Appropriations Committee, he brought national attention to what he called “the extraordinary need for high quality health care throughout the Pacific Basin region and the Neighbor Islands of Hawai’i.”

In 2000, at the age of 76, he initiated steps to realize a College of Pharmacy at UH Hilo. Since enrolling students starting in 2007, the four-year program has graduated two classes, launched new degree programs (including a PhD), attracted more than 500 students, faculty and staff, and made a statewide economic impact in excess of $50 million annually. In its first year of eligibility in 2012, the college ranked as one of the top five new schools of pharmacy by *U.S. News and World Report*.

As the only fully accredited school of pharmacy in the Pacific region, the College of Pharmacy was credited by the senator in his letter of support for accreditation for “changing many family’s expectations for what their children can accomplish.” In February, the college was renamed the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy by the UH Board of Regents.

**Health Care**

The senator saw opportunities for UH to help address the critical national issue of affordable and accessible health care for residents of our island state. In the late 1970s, he encouraged the National Cancer Institute to visit Hawai’i to learn of the medical challenges residents faced in large part due to isolation as well as the limited opportunities for research specific to the Pacific region. From his end, Inouye passed legislation calling for a federal presence in the Pacific that resulted in the construction of a research facility over time.

According to the senator’s office, his advocacy for a cancer research center was “to encourage the undertaking of quality research, and, as important, to entice world class researchers to Hawai’i...”
to improve the level of cancer care in Hawai‘i. He believed that quality cancer care should not be based on a person’s ability to travel to the Mainland.”

By the mid-1990s, while the Cancer Research Center of Hawai‘i on The Queen’s Medical Center campus was doing excellent research, its facilities were antiquated. In 1998, the senator secured $10 million as seed capital to build a new research center. In late February of this year, the senator’s nearly four-decade vision became a reality with the opening of the new UH Cancer Center in Kaka‘ako.

Inouye also saw opportunity for Hawai‘i to be a valued contributor in the national discussion on health care. In the 2007-08 congressional session, he secured funding to create the Health Law Policy Center at the UH Law School to gather resources on health care policy aimed at improving health care access in Hawai‘i. More than 30 years earlier, he had helped secure an exemption to federal health and pension law that enabled Hawai‘i to establish the landmark Pre-paid Health Care Act (PHCA) of 1974. Unprecedented at that time, the act requires companies to provide health insurance to employees who work more than 20 hours a week.

“The senator saw both sides of Hawai‘i,” says Hazel Beh, professor of law and director of the Health Law Policy Center at the William S. Richardson School of Law. “He understood how isolated we are and that UH can be valuable to the community by infusing expertise from elsewhere to advance our understanding of health care issues and enriching our students’ and community’s learning experience.

“At the same time, the senator knew how important Hawai‘i’s uniqueness can be as a laboratory for other states as we as a nation develop our health care policies. UH can present our knowledge and lessons gained from PHCA with other states.”

The 2010 passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), commonly called Obamacare, which aims to decrease the number of uninsured Americans and to reduce the overall costs of health care, has heightened interest in Hawai‘i. Obamacare has drawn many visitors to the Health Law Policy Center to learn more about PHCA, says Beh.

As part of a generation that witnessed and participated in Hawai‘i’s political and social transformation after WW II, Inouye invested a lifetime of effort in building the foundations for ongoing change in his home state that included the university as a worthy partner in that effort.

“Sen. Inouye recognized that Hawai‘i is a great representative of ‘Island Earth.’ Earth itself is an ‘island’ in space. He knew the rest of the world could gain a greater understanding of interdependency from us,” says McClain. “He understood our limitations and worked hard to increase our strengths. It’s up to all of us now to follow his lead.”
Tributes from UH colleagues and friends

A little known fact is that Sen. Inouye was also instrumental in Gallaudet University establishing a regional center here in Hawai‘i to help better serve deaf and hard-of-hearing students. At the time, Sen. Inouye was a board member of Gallaudet and believed that Hawai‘i’s deaf population could benefit from collaboration with Gallaudet University, a relationship that continues to this day.

John Morton
Vice President for UH Community Colleges on The Gallaudet University Regional Center-Pacific, located at Kapi‘olani Community College, which provides services and resources to Hawai‘i and American Sāmoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The senator would be so proud. He set an example of finding a common language with others to make things happen. What a hero for Hawai‘i! We are so fortunate that he chose to be a public servant. He had wanted to be a doctor. I believe he has touched more lives this way.

Hazel Beh
Director, Health Law Policy Center, UH Mānoa law school, on the center’s first recent gathering, inspired by Inouye, of those involved in health policy across the Mānoa campus to raise a common understanding of health care laws and issues in Hawai‘i.

In 2003, UH Hilo honored Mr. Henry Giugni—a dear friend (former aide and later U.S. Senate’s sergeant-at-arms) of Sen. Inouye ... When the senator arrived, we began to sing “Kaimana Hila” one of his favorite songs. He put on a big, warm smile ... and lo and behold began to dance the hula, graciously motioning the meaning of the words to the song. Of his many talents, how many of you knew that hula was one of them?!

The senator has been instrumental in providing educational programs that are grounded in Hawai‘i’s culture and scientific research opportunities ... ‘Imiloa would not have been a possibility without his advocacy and support for the mission of bringing our community together around advancing the culture and astronomy of Mauna Kea ... By relating Hawai‘i’s indigenous heritage to science and technology, we as educators are achieving positive results towards increasing Hawai‘i’s youth participation in science-based careers.

Ka‘u‘u Kimura
Director, ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i, UH Hilo.

When the senator permitted us to use his name on the endowed chair, it was easy to raise money. But more importantly, we are now able to bring remarkable people to our campus, such as John Hope Franklin, renowned scholar of African-American history, and (documentary) film director Frederick Wiseman. It has allowed our students to engage and even impress famous people, and it has raised the profile of the university and its students and faculty.

Aviam Soifer
Dean, William S. Richardson School of Law, UH Mānoa, on the Daniel K. and Margaret Inouye Endowed Chair for Democratic Ideals, a collaboration between the UH law school and American Studies department.

I had known Dan over a span of more than 60 years, from the time we were schoolmates at Washington Intermediate School. We met again at McKinley High School, joined the 442nd RCT as students at the University of Hawai‘i. I do not want to imply that we were close friends, we were not ... Over the years, though, I had many occasions to seek his help when our paths intersected, his in politics and national government, and mine in education and state government.

Fujio Matsuda
Former UH president (1974–84), the nation’s first Asian–American university president, and former State Department of Transportation director under Gov. John A. Burns.
The people and companies of aio are committed to an ongoing investment in Hawai‘i and its people—in the firm belief that our Island ways are truly world-class. We believe that the people of Hawai‘i can and should share our local values with the rest of the world, helping show others how to be more humane and understanding in the way they live, work and play.

aio is the holding company for a family of businesses involved in media, sports and food. But more important, aio represents the way we live our lives and how we conduct our business. In the years to come, it is essential that we can look back favorably upon our lives, on our value as human beings and on the contributions that we have made to the well-being of others.
The hiring of Ben Jay as the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s new athletics director was hailed by Chancellor Tom Apple as “a new beginning” for a program seeking new leadership. Jay, Ohio State’s senior associate AD for more than six years, settled into his new role in mid-January and took time to discuss the importance of strong alumni support.

Your extensive background in sports operations and finance ranges from more than two decades with the Pac 12 Conference, at Ohio State—even the Cleveland Indians. What are your goals as the new AD here at UH?

My goals right now—what they brought me in here for—is to basically reclaim the respect and trust in the department. To really take a look at our operations. To improve. I think, some of the internal control issues that recent internal audits have found. Again, just using best practices and improving what we do here, but also trying to grow the program. We have financial difficulty right now. What I aim to do is get to the heart of how we are spending our money, how much money we need to adequately fund a Division IA program and bring us back into competitiveness. We have great coaches, we have great kids and the staff is willing to work hard. It’s a matter right now of how do we right the ship and get the mechanism really working so that we can be competitive not just in football and basketball, but in all of the other sports where we have great coaches and great teams.

What can alumni do to support UH athletics?

I can’t tell you how many people here have stopped me to just say, “Hey, welcome to Hawai‘i, we’re glad you’re on board. We hope that you are going to do great things, and I am a proud UH alum.” They all speak to the fact that they’re all proud UH alums, and it says something about it. I come from what I call Buckeye Nation. Here I call it Warrior Nation. There are so many people who are just great fans and want to support us as we again get our teams competitive in all of our sports. I think that can be done. There’s so many people who really want to see us succeed.

Columbus, Ohio, is a long way from Mānoa. How is island life suiting you?

It is a long way from Columbus. The family is not here yet; the kids are going to finish school in June in Ohio. We did not want to displace them yet, and also it gives me time to do what I need to do here, and that’s to take a look at our strategic vision for the future, where we want to be. First, though, we need to answer who are we and then answer where do we want to be. Our foremost mission is to graduate these student-athletes. My concern is that academically they are well prepared and that they’re graduating at the end of their four-year experience here. Winning is great and obviously we all love to win. But those parents who entrust their kids to us, they want to see their kids become men and women that the community is going to be proud of, that they can be proud of and that are going to be the next great leaders in our community.

Anything else the alumni should know?

First, again for the alumni, I appreciate your well wishes, but also the generous support you’ve given year in and year out to the program and to the university. This is a great institution and you should be very proud of being an alumnus of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and the Hawai‘i educational system. You know, under the direction of Chancellor [Tom] Apple and under my direction in the athletic department, I really see us being able to attain greater heights. I think people are going to be very proud of what they see here and of being an alum of UH.
Being the oldest of six kids and part of a huge family in Hilo, Iliahi Anthony knows how important chairs and tables are. “You never have enough chairs,” says Anthony (BA, 2000 Hilo), laughing. “So you gotta make do. You have people sitting on buckets outside or you build a bench with some random log from a tree that fell down. You have to make it work.”

That thoughtfulness about how people sit and move in a space and, maybe more importantly, how objects can be designed and arranged to create an effective use of that space, is what drew Anthony to the Furniture Design program at the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design. In the master of fine arts program, her learning experiences ran the gamut of furniture design from conception to construction, and took classes on woodworking, welding and lamination. Her thesis focused on the idea of a gathering and what kinds of objects and furniture pieces would improve its function.

Anthony returned to Hilo last year to utilize her newfound skills and design philosophies to improve the gathering spaces—classrooms, galleries, educational displays—in her hometown. And she credits the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo in starting her on this journey of space exploration.

“I learned a lot of things that didn’t click until way later,” she says about the art program at UH Hilo. “But I realized that it’s OK if things don’t make sense at first.”

Anthony, who currently works on small projects for the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center and sells jewelry she makes with lauhala and metal, wants to design furniture and work on exhibits in Hawai‘i.

“There’s a place here, she says, for thoughtful, purposeful design.

“There is a place and there should be a place here,” Anthony says. “And it’s slowly coming.”

— Catherine E. Toth
Hawaiian: ‘As Easy to Use as English’

Computer giants adopt Maui instructor’s language technology

The next time you see diacritical markings on your computer screen as you type Hawaiian words, remember to give a quiet “thank you” to the efforts of University of Hawai‘i Maui College music faculty member Keola Donaghy.

Last November, after nearly three years of collaboration, Microsoft released its Windows 8 operating system that now includes the kahakō and ‘okina, and the ability to display days of the week and months in Hawaiian. In 2002, Apple added Hawaiian support in its Macintosh operating system using the standard U.S. keyboard to insert these critical pronunciation vowel-kahako characters and ‘okina marks into text.

“It sends a message that I can buy a brand new computer and use Hawaiian on my computer the same way as my neighbor can use English,” Donaghy says. “I hope that some people will take it for granted that there is a Hawaiian keyboard available.”

Typically, language support for computers relies on the number of speakers of that language and the market demand, says the 52-year-old Donaghy, who began this work two decades ago and continued working on it while working at Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikolani, UH Hilo’s College of Hawaiian Language.

“I think his enabling the insertion of Hawaiian kahakō and ‘okina into documents, emails, texts, tweets, other types of communication and social networking is helping greatly to normalize the use of Hawaiian in technology among Hawai‘i’s youth,” says K’Ope Raymond, UH Maui College humanities department chairperson and associate professor of Hawaiian Studies. “For Hawaiian language revitalization, it is important to build a base of those who use the Hawaiian language as their first language.”

Donaghy, a Maui resident, says that in the past computer users needed custom software to type a word using a Hawaiian diacritical. “It wasn’t easy,” he says. “We want Hawaiian to be as easy to use as English. Having the technology available is a huge boon to us.”

In 1995 when he devised an electronic bulletin board where people can post messages in Hawaiian, his motivation was to make typing Hawaiian into a computer — with diacritics — as accessible as any other language.

“The overall intent is to break down the barriers,” he says. “This is just a step to make the language viable in contemporary society. It’s important because we don’t want to tell our kids that technology is a place that Hawaiian doesn’t belong.”

— Suzanne Roig
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Celebrating 25 years of honoring the University of Hawai‘i’s outstanding alumni, the University of Hawai‘i Alumni Association (UHAA) Distinguished Alumni Awards has, since it was introduced in 1989, sought to pay tribute to alumni who have made a difference in Hawai‘i. For a quarter of a century, those recognized have come from many walks of life, studied a wide variety of academic disciplines on our campuses and gone forth to excel in diverse professions. They exemplify exceptional professional accomplishments, service to the University of Hawai‘i, and commitment to the betterment of the community.

UHAA is honored to present in the following pages the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Awardees. They continue a 25-year legacy of UH’s pride and aloha for our island state.
Growing up in family of 13 children in Hilo, I learned to make the most of what I had. This resourceful and practical approach proved valuable when I tried to begin my career in public health. I applied to many public health positions after I earned my master’s degree in 1982, but the only response was: “I’m sorry…” I was just getting by so I searched for any job in public health and medical technology, my profession prior to graduate school. After six months, I landed a part-time job in a very small clinic. Despite this “success,” I felt I reached a low point in my life—after my hard work and sacrifice to earn a master’s degree to start a new career, I returned to the profession I had left.

Regardless, I dived into my job, improved laboratory services and started an internship program for medical technology students.

A physician at the clinic noticed these improvements and, learning of my interest in public health, got me a temporary job at the Department of Health. By chance, a large measles outbreak occurred on Kaua‘i and O‘ahu and I identified the key factors for spreading measles. Because of this, I was offered a job at the health department. After four years at the health department, I felt inadequate about dealing with the health problems in Hawai‘i. Training in the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would give me the knowledge and experience I sought. But the EIS required all applicants to have an MD, DVM or PhD. So I applied to 10 graduate schools, got accepted to four and headed to Arizona for my doctorate. I graduated in four years and got accepted to the EIS and started my career at CDC.

Looking back at my professional career, I describe it as a succession of careers driven by education. I grew professionally because I was willing to change, to take risks and to recognize that failures may close one door and open another. Failure can be a heavy suitcase that you carry everywhere, or one that you learn from, then leave behind in a closet. I chose the latter.

For more on Henderson: UHalumni.org/henderson
Ed Gayagas talks about fulfilling a dream and facing mom’s look

My lifelong dream was to join the Army, become a soldier and wear the crisp Army khakis. Growing up in the only Filipino family among eight Japanese families in a small plantation community on Kaua‘i, I learned about discipline through martial arts at a young age. Later as an athlete in basketball and track at Kapa‘a High School, I got a good dose of hard work and competitiveness.

In my senior year, I went on a Future Farmers off-campus excursion, which ended early. Instead of returning to class, a group of us decided to go surfing. “No one will miss us,” we thought. Next day, our principal Gladys Brandt, Hawai‘i’s first woman public school principal and revered Hawaiian educator, called me into her office. My parents were there. My mom’s look alone was punishment enough.

That same year I helped make history for Kapa‘a High when we beat Castle High School to earn the first state basketball championship for our school. We were celebrating and someone offered me a cigarette. “Why not?” I thought. Coach got wind of the infraction and kicked me off the team. I went from rousing high spirits to bawling my eyes out.

After graduation from the University of Hawai‘i, my first Army assignment was with the 101st Airborne Division. Arriving at Ft. Campbell in Kentucky, the unit was sequestered and awaiting an executive order from the President for a clandestine operation into Cuba. I thought I would be excluded because I was not airborne qualified. I was shocked to find I was expected to parachute with my unit. I decided to tell the truth to the Battle Group Commander. He looked at me for a minute and said, “You’ll be OK.” I would parachute with my unit after a brief orientation. Fortunately, Castro, Khrushchev and President Kennedy amicably settled what became known as the Cuban missile crisis.

What I learned was that it’s not enough to excel and strive to reach one’s goals in life without a moral compass to guide you. I owe a debt of gratitude to UH (especially athletics and ROTC) and give back by mentoring cadets and student-athletes in maximizing their potential for achieving their goals as honorable officers in the United States Army.

For more on Gayagas: UHalumni.org/gayagas
‘Where there’s a will, there’s a way’
Barbara Tanabe reflects on what should be the news and being the first and only

My favorite saying growing up was “where there’s a will, there’s a way.” At the time, it was comforting because it was not easy growing up in Occupied Japan as an American. There were stressful situations difficult for children to understand. My “best friends” during that period were books with stories of people who overcame adversity using their skills in music, art, science, or literature. Sadly, I had no natural talent in music or art, but I had a strong will to be a better reader and writer. So I decided by the age of 10 that I was going to be a journalist—and change the world.

That led me to the University of Washington in the 1960s. It was a period of great social movements for civil rights, equality for women and protests against the Vietnam War. Because of the still new policy of affirmative action, in 1970 I was hired as a television reporter in Seattle, the only woman and person of color in the newsroom and one of just a handful in the U.S.

I was young and idealistic and decided to focus on news coverage that better reflected the diversity of the community. My professor used to say, “News is not just what people are talking about—it’s also what they should be talking about.” For December 7th, I asked the news director to include in the news coverage of the commemoration, the story of the Japanese-Americans who had been interned during World War II. He agreed, and on Dec. 7, 1971, we broadcast the story of the 120,000 Japanese-Americans who were imprisoned because of the wartime hysteria that swept the nation.

The reaction from viewers was strong, and it touched off a public and robust discussion about the mass arrests. Through the political will of Congressional leaders and the support of many people, President Ronald Reagan responded with redress and an official apology to the Japanese-American families by signing the 1988 Civil Liberties Act.

Where there is a will, there truly is a way.

Swims every day at 5 a.m. to keep fit.

1970
Becomes reporter for KOMO-TV in Seattle, first Asian-American woman on the air in the Northwest.

1971
Receives an Emmy for the first public broadcast of a documentary on the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

1974
Becomes news anchor and later senior business correspondent for KHON-TV Channel 2 News.

1983
Receives MBA through UH Mānoa’s Executive MBA (EMBA) program as the first Hawai‘i broadcast reporter with a graduate business degree in economic and business news.

1986
Joins Communications Pacific, then Hawai‘i’s largest and oldest public relations firm, and later promoted to president and CEO.

1994
Appointed to Bank of Hawai‘i Board of Directors.

2003
Establishes Ho‘ākea Communications, public affairs consulting partnership, with former KHON News Director Jim McCoy.

For more on Tanabe: UHalumni.org/tanabe
‘Why not?’

Oceanit’s Patrick Sullivan talks about new ideas, innovations and working hard as an opportunity

We moved around when I was growing up; my parents sought work, as neither had a college education. I experienced first-hand how it feels when the father is laid off and there are five kids to feed. I started working when I was 13 and was fortunate to have a strong back and could work long hours. Working alongside just-released prisoners at an early age gave me valuable perspective. These experiences shaped key pillars in my life: Working hard is an opportunity and education is vital.

By the age of 17, I started my first company, a commercial landscaping and irrigation operation. I was determined to get an education and needed to pay for college. We did hotels, restaurants and commercial buildings in the southwestern United States. It taught me about running a business.

I went into engineering because, at that time, all I was good at was math and science. After earning an undergraduate degree, I took a job with a group of ex-IBM engineers—this was in the early days of applied semiconductors. Even back then, however, I was always thinking of new ideas and innovations. I would ask “...why not?” but was advised “...don’t think too far forward.” This motivated me to seek more education. I earned my PhD at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa in Ocean Engineering. The experience provided an excellent inter-disciplinary education that mixed fields and subjects.

After graduating, I started Oceanit as a way to bring everything together. Oceanit was bootstrapped without capital; we immediately started providing engineering consulting services on unusual projects. Oceanit later evolved to take on research and development, starting with aerospace in 1996, life sciences in 1997, nanotechnology in 2006 and oil & gas in 2011. Oceanit has spun out multiple private equity-financed companies and continues to push at the forefront of technology.

Looking back, I was very fortunate to have the experiences and challenges that gave me perspective. However, it’s the people along the way who gave their time, energy, support and thoughtful advice that have had the most enormous impact on my life—all without any strings attached. For this, I am eternally grateful and am indebted to give back.

For more on Sullivan: UHAlumni.org/sullivan
Percent enrollment growth increase (344 students) in spring 2013 over spring 2012—the largest of any UH campus—by **UH West O‘ahu**. Total enrollment at the four-year Kapolei campus, which opened in August 2012, stands at 1,937 students. Source: UH System press release, January 18, 2013: www.hawaii.edu/offices/app/openenroll/

**MĀNOA**

“**Our assumption is that he would create a dynamic institution that is really addressing the challenges of our time. That would be a huge benefit for the state and especially the university.**

Robert Perkinson  
Project director for the Hawai‘i Presidential Center Initiative and UH Mānoa professor on the university’s effort to convince the Obama administration that Hawai‘i should be considered as the site for President Obama’s presidential library, forecast to be among the most popular of the presidential libraries due to the historic nature of his presidency. A gala benefit held at Obama’s inauguration on Jan. 19 raised $50,000 for the initiative. Gifts are welcome to the Presidential Center Fund through the UH Foundation.

To learn more/make a gift: Lori Admiral, associate vice president for development, UH Mānoa, (808) 956-5747; email: Lori.Admiral@UHFoundation.org.

uhfoundation.org/PresidentialCenterFund

**MAUI NUMBER ONE**

Rated first on the Open Table Diners’ “Best Overall Restaurants Hawai‘i” List in fall 2012 is Leis Family Class Act Restaurant, run by UH Maui College’s Maui Culinary Academy (MCA). “We’re a real five-star restaurant where students learn under fire what it takes to succeed as a culinary professional,” says MCA external affairs coordinator Chris Speere of the fine dining restaurant overlooking Kahului Harbor. Open Table Reservations is an online restaurant booking service used by millions of diners nationwide.

Check it out: maui.hawaii.edu. Reservations: 808-984-3367
Think small. That's what Larry K. Martin (BS electrical engineering 2011, UH Mānoa) did to help the UH small satellite program receive two NASA launch opportunities in 2013-14. As an undergraduate, Martin led the UH program in nanosatellite research, currently the smallest and most versatile satellite technology available. He was honored with the nation's top award for an electrical engineering student, the Alton B. Zerby and Carl T. Koerner Outstanding Electrical and Computer Engineering Student Award by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)-Eta Kappa Nu, the organization's student honor society.

Currently a graduate student at UH Mānoa, Martin credits Dr. Wayne Shiroma's Small-Satellite Program at Mānoa and his own selection as an undergraduate to an elite group of students nationwide to participate in the University Nanosatellite Program at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico.
KAUA‘I BACK TO BASICS

Make stock from scratch? Learn to sauté chicken? How to handle knives? “We wanted a different kind of kitchen (for our students) to teach the fundamentals of culinary arts,” explains Mark Oyama (AS ‘88 Kapi‘olani CC), one of three chef instructors with Kaua‘i Community College’s Culinary Arts program. He’s talking about Kaua‘i CC’s new Culinary Arts Fundamental Skills Learning Kitchens, which opened on its campus near Līhu‘e in November 2012.

As a practice kitchen able to accommodate two students each in eight alcoves, the state-of-the-art facility is designed to “allow each student to master the basics of cooking at their own pace,” says the Waimea, Kaua‘i-born Oyama, who began cooking when he was 8 years old and has been with the culinary arts program since 1992.

Working with Hawaiian Studies and other programs, Oyama is now seeking funding for an outdoor cultural cooking learning pavilion at Kaua‘i CC to incorporate a Hawaiian imu, a Portuguese bread oven and a Japanese mochi-pounding isu, among other traditional outdoor ethnic cooking implements.

For more information on the Culinary Arts program: info.kauai.hawaii.edu/program_desc/business/culinary.htm
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Celebrating its grand opening on Feb. 23, the new University of Hawai'i Cancer Center may well be a bellwether of 21st century health care research in Hawai'i. It is a state-of-the-art research facility with LEED Gold certification for its sustainability design and construction elements. Completed four months ahead of schedule and with a 14 percent construction savings of $17 million, the $103 million facility in Kaka'ako brings together talent, technology and timeliness in cancer research unprecedented in the Pacific area.

A number of key developments have set the stage for this new chapter in research in Hawai'i. For the first time since the center was established in 1981, it is now able to consolidate operations, including 75,000 square feet dedicated to laboratory space, about three times the size of the old center, which had been scattered among different buildings. The facility's unique interior glass-panel walls and glass-wall laboratories are design ingenuities that welcome natural sunlight and invite human interaction and collaboration. It's built for humans so its 150,000 square feet of space includes offices, computer labs and classrooms, as well as lunch rooms and fitness and recreation areas. And it's in Hawai'i, so there are island-style patios and views of Waikiki, Honolulu Harbor and the ocean from many offices.

As one of only 67 research organizations in the nation and the only one in the Pacific designated by the National Cancer Institute, the UH Cancer Center, by meeting the NCI's rigorous and constant evaluation, is poised to be ranked among the best cancer research institutions in the world. Its unique Asia-Pacific location, cutting edge equipment and facilities and strong research team are expected to attract top international researchers and research funding. Ultimately, through collaborative efforts, the center's work is expected to lead to patents that can generate revenue for continued research, according to Dr. Michele Carbone, director of UH Cancer Center.

The center currently has more than 100 cancer research projects underway and has attracted about $30 million in grant-funded research into the state. Its long-awaited stepped-up capability to conduct clinical trials with the state's leading health care organizations is realized with the formation of the Hawai'i Cancer Consortium. The consortium's clinical partners are The Queen's Medical Center, Hawai'i Pacific Health, Kuakini Medical Center and UH Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). Collectively, these developments raise the bar for Hawai'i's role in cancer care and cancer research in the Pacific.

The center also offers a gratifying opportunity for UH-educated researchers to participate in world class cancer research right here in Hawai'i. Their research activities offer a glimpse into the leading edges of cancer research today. “We see the center as the cornerstone of the expansion of our research of the life sciences and health sciences and as the anchor of our efforts to help transform and save lives in Hawai'i and beyond,” says UH President M.R.C. Greenwood.
Andrea Fleig, PhD
PhD, Biomedical Sciences: UH Mānoa
UH Cancer Center Researcher: Cancer Biology

A native of Germany with a master’s degree in biology, Andrea Fleig was drawn to Hawai‘i by her interest in behavioral studies to work with the then world’s expert in animal psychology, the late Dr. M.E. (Jeff) Bitterman, at the University of Hawai‘i. She discovered a love for biomedical sciences, earning her doctorate in that specialty at UH Mānoa, and became a biomedical researcher for a UH and The Queen’s Medical Center collaboration. Three years ago, she was named the director of clinical research at Queen’s and is also a researcher at the UH Cancer Center.

“My research focus in cancer biology is on disease models that can lead to experimental therapeutics, which can translate basic research ultimately into new drugs that benefit patient care in cancer treatments,” says Fleig, also a professor of cell and molecular biology at JABSOM. Biomedical researchers like Fleig work with biochemists to address the pressing need for new cancer drugs having specific effects on tumor cells and minimal side effects. They are part of the research bench team that initiates the long and rigorous process that delivers new drug therapies to the patient’s bedside.

Fleig is currently researching new molecular mechanisms in cells involving ion channels that act as “gates” of what goes in and out of cells. “A cancer tumor is the result of cells dividing uncontrollably. We want to know why,” she says.

For cancer biology researchers like Fleig, “the new cancer center opens up choices for collaboration with other researchers and allows shared resources for greater economies.” Additionally, the Hawai‘i Cancer Consortium’s hospital partners provide the patient population and the clinical expertise that complements research. “My research needs all these aspects to be successful. The cancer center provides the focal point.”

Fleig is confident in the near future (as early as three years) that Hawai‘i will produce a cancer drug therapy developed through research and clinical trials originating at the UH Cancer Center.

“The new cancer center opens up choices for collaboration with other researchers and allows shared resources for greater economies.”

PHOTO: OLIVIER KONING
For Hawai‘i-born Brenda Hernandez, working in cancer epidemiology at the UH Cancer Center meant being able to stay home. A graduate of Harvard (BS in biology and anthropology) and Yale (MPH in epidemiology), Hernandez came home to earn her doctorate in public health at UH. Her specialized training and skills then found a "home" with her first job a decade ago at the UH Cancer Center.

"Hawai‘i’s unique ethnically diverse population offers a fertile ground for cancer research as to how differences in genetics, lifestyle and environment affect cancer incidence," explains Hernandez, whose research focuses on how viral infections associated with human cancers increase a person’s risk.

Specializing in studies of HPV (human papilloma-virus) in Hawai‘i and other Asia-Pacific communities, Hernandez manages an HPV testing laboratory using advanced DNA-based methods to detect the virus. She has collaborated with investigators on HPV and cancer in other countries, including Tanzania, American Sāmoa and Vietnam. She also studies the role of hepatitis B and C in the development of liver cancer, of which Hawai‘i has one of the highest incidences in the nation.

"Infection-associated cancers pose a challenge today with the ease of long distance travel," says Hernandez, who also heads the Hawai‘i Tumor Registry, part of the National Cancer Institute’s Seer Program to track cancer cases. The registry reports all Hawai‘i cancer cases to help track rates of cancers in the nation. Overall cancer rates are declining nationally.

"I’m excited that the center’s geographical and cultural location can serve as a focal point for Asia-Pacific initiatives in cancer research," says Hernandez. "We are already looking at (American-affiliated) Pacific Island nations and see opportunities to work with other Pacific areas." The UH Cancer Center is the only National Cancer Institute designated research center in the Pacific.

"My work can’t be done in isolation and the center encourages and enables collaboration. I also knew I wanted to raise my kids in Hawai‘i. Now I get to do both."

Brenda Hernandez, PhD
PhD, Epidemiology: UH Mānoa
UH Cancer Center: Cancer Epidemiology
University of Hawai’i Alumni Association proudly presents its

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS
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UH Founders Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree:

David Ezra, JD

Honorary Event Chair:
U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka
A 1976 graduate of JABSOM, the second graduating class for the UH medical school, and with 21 years of practicing medicine in Hawai‘i, Dr. Jonathan Cho early on saw the opportunities in cancer research to improve patient care. Joining the UH Cancer Center as a faculty member in 1991, he has seen the center evolve from having no centralized clinical sector, and its clinical trials limited and available only through private practitioners.

Today, as co-medical director and clinical professor of the center’s Clinical and Translational Research Program, Cho has been instrumental in expanding the center’s infrastructure of clinical trial activities. This has allowed greater patient access to both investigator-initiated as well as pharmaceutical-sponsored trials. (The center’s translational research serves as a bridge to help turn discoveries of its research into clinical applications that aim to benefit cancer patients).

“With our 40 percent minority population, we are among only 13 or 14 cancer centers nationwide eligible for funded minority clinical trials,” says Cho, who serves as principal investigator of the five-year, $1 million NCI-funded Hawai‘i Minority-Based Community Clinical Oncology Program (MBCCOP) at the UH Cancer Center. As a result, “Hawai‘i was active in the landmark breast cancer trials that demonstrated that lumpectomies could be as effective in treating certain breast cancers.”

Cho is also a practicing physician with OnCare Hawai‘i, which is comprised of board-certified oncologists, and sees additional benefits of the Hawai‘i Cancer Consortium beyond critical access to patients and clinical care. The UH Cancer Center’s partnerships with major hospitals and health systems create an important critical mass in developing relationships with large pharmaceutical companies for clinical trials, according to Cho.

“The benefits to Hawai‘i’s people are enormous,” says Cho of the UH Cancer Center. Patients can receive the latest in treatments right here. And the center’s anticipated ability to attract international researchers and even clientele holds promise for economic growth for all of Hawai‘i.

Nicolas Villanueva was only five months old when he was diagnosed with a rare liver cancer—hepatoblastoma—and doesn’t remember how he survived. What the Saint Louis School graduate from Makakilo does remember is the constant and reassuring care he received from doctors during his many years of regular checkups that followed.

“I knew from a young age that I wanted to be a doctor. Having cancer so young, I’ve been fortunate to survive and it showed me that working in the health care field was an opportunity to give back,” says Villanueva, now 25 and cancer-free. The May 2013 graduate of JABSOM is the first doctor in his family and plans to practice internal medicine in Hawai‘i, with a specialty in hematology (blood) and oncology. Villanueva has worked with research mentors from the UH Cancer Center during his undergraduate years. While at medical school at JABSOM, he also participated in research projects at the center.

“It’s an exciting time for cancer research and treatment in Hawai‘i,” says Villanueva of the UH Cancer Center. He points to the promise of new treatment breakthroughs, new researchers coming to Hawai‘i and the opportunities for clinical trials to help Hawai‘i’s own special ethnic mix of patients.

“I couldn’t ask for a better time to give back by helping others like me.”
**Five Things You Ought to Know About Women and Education at the University of Hawai‘i**

*Ma‘ono*

**TEN-HUT! WOMEN IN ROTC**

As one of only 10 universities nationwide authorized to admit women into the ROTC in the early 1970s, UH was a pioneer in helping launch a successful nationwide program for college women to join the Army ROTC in 1975. Today, women make up about a third of the approximately 250 cadets in UH Mānoa’s program, the state’s only senior ROTC program, which includes participants from Hawai‘i Pacific University, Chaminade and other UH campuses.

“Women meet the same criteria as men, including physical fitness, land navigation, leadership assessment, and leading a squad on patrol,” says Lt. Col. Kevin McKay. More than half of the UH ROTC women have consistently ranked in the top 20 percent of 6,000 ROTC students nationwide, based on GPA, ROTC performance and its Leadership Development Assessment course.

With women now formally eligible for combat duty, McKay says ROTC stresses above all looking for quality candidates to serve as America’s finest.

For more information: www.hawaii.edu/armyrotc/

*Honolulu CC*

**BEAUTY AND BRAVURA**

“So many things I want to do, so the only way is just to do it.” For 19-year-old Jasmyne Garay, that meant being the only girl in her Mililani High School woodshop class and one of a handful of high school girls to earn college credit through Honolulu Community College’s Construction Academy’s summer bridge program. “I found I just loved welding!” says Garay, who “loves to work with my hands,” of the six-week exploratory program for high school students in welding, sheet metal, carpentry and more.

One of three women enrolled in Honolulu CC’s welding program after high school graduation in 2011, Garay completed her first year, got accepted by the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 675 Union, (placing seventh among the 200 accepted out of 600 applicants), and is now the youngest and only woman on a welding crew working on refinery boilers at Chevron, H-Power and other plants. In February, she was chosen Miss Popularity in the Miss Latina Hawai‘i Scholarship Pageant, a prelude to the Miss Hawai‘i competition.

For more information on Honolulu CC’s Construction Academy: www2.honolulu.hawaii.edu/content/construction-academy.
HILO

LIVING A DREAM

Volleyball, good grades and a shared dream of attaining a higher education brought together two diverse people—Vulcan women’s volleyball outside hitter Patricia Snel and Hilo physician Dr. John K. Uohara. The Spanish-born, Mexico-raised Snel came to UH Hilo on an athletic scholarship, fulfilling her family’s dream of a college education for her in the United States.

Uohara, the volunteer team physician for Hilo women’s athletic teams since 1979, realized his family’s dream of a doctor in the family as a member of JABSOM’s first graduating class in 1975. Now he is helping make possible Snel’s dream of graduate school in pharmacology. She is the recipient of the Uohara Family Endowed Excellence Scholarship in Women’s Volleyball he funded.

“I am so grateful to be able to apply for grad school thanks to Dr. Uohara’s generosity. After all the hard work, it’s a wonderful reward.”

The full-time student-athlete graduates in May 2013 with a BS in chemistry.

MĀNOA

SATELLITE ENGINEER

Amber Imai (BS 2012 UH Mānoa) is the only woman on the UH team of engineers, students and faculty building HiakaSat, the first satellite scheduled to be launched in fall 2013 by the UH-based Hawai‘i Space Flight Laboratory. Specializing in spacecraft electronics, the 23-year-old avionics engineer works on the 15.9-inch tall satellite’s infrared cameras’ support system to help capture images remotely during its low-Earth orbit 320 miles in space. The Hilo-born Imai hopes to eventually return to Hawai‘i Island to work on telescopes atop Mauna Kea.

For more information on HiakaSat: hsfl.hawaii.edu/
A Pool of Insurance Talent

University of Hawai‘i West O‘ahu Chancellor Gene Awakuni and Myles A. Murakami, president of Atlas Insurance Agency, were playing golf back in 2010 and the talk turned to the insurance industry’s need for a pool of trained applicants. Not long after, UHWO launched the state’s first Certificate in Risk Management & Insurance (RMI).

The program consists of six courses and leads to jobs in an industry that employs nearly 8,000 people in Hawai‘i.

“Due to an aging workforce and changes in employment trends, Hawai‘i’s insurance industry faces a significant shortage in talent over the next 10 years,” says Sonia Leong, executive director of the Hawaii Independent Insurance Agents Association (HIAA). “With the certificate program now under way, the hope is more Hawai‘i graduates will choose careers in insurance, help fill a critical need and keep the industry moving forward with their ideas and innovation.”

Dr. Eun Ahn, associate professor of economics and finance at UHWO, helped put a certificate curriculum together by fall 2011. “The insurance companies have been very pleasantly surprised by our students,” he says. “The supervisors of our first interns have all reported that our students displayed great work ethic and attitude, were quick learners and possessed a solid base of knowledge about the insurance industry and products.”

The program has been eagerly received by students, too. “When I first heard of the insurance certificate, I thought it just taught you how to sell insurance. I couldn’t have been further from the truth,” says Jonathon Ringor, who is on track to get his certificate. “Everything I learned in this program gave me the confidence to obtain a paid internship with one of the leading insurance companies in the nation. With graduation near at hand, I can happily say that I have future job assurance in insurance.”

RMI Sponsors
As a toddler, instead of locating dropped objects with his eyes, Monty Anderson would crouch down and sweep the floor with his hand. That was the first indication his parents had of their child’s failing vision.

As Anderson’s many accomplishments in life will attest, being blind has only proved to motivate him. In 2012, he was awarded his fifth degree from the University of Hawai‘i when he completed the William S. Richardson School of Law’s Evening Part-Time Juris Doctor Program.

“I didn’t have really any experience with law before I got into it, so it was a foreign field initially,” he says of earning his law degree. “It was such a breakneck pace and the hardest thing I had ever done.”

A move to Maui in 1991 from Glendale, Ariz., gave Anderson time to immerse himself in books and plan his education track. “It’s amazing how much power that literature can have over someone,” he says. “I discovered the joy of learning.”

Working with UH’s KOKUA Program, which assists students with special learning needs, Anderson was equipped with an arsenal of audible technologies that allowed him to be a successful student and contribute to his campus community. The prolific scholar is in the process of completing his sixth degree, a specialized PhD in psychology and law. His dissertation focuses on cognitive neuroscience and the persuasiveness of neuroimagery on a jury.

In his spare time, Anderson DJs The Monster Show on KTUH Radio, which broadcasts on Saturday mornings.

“What advice would he offer his fellow students and alumni?

“I’m constantly reminded of Thomas Edison, who experimented with the light bulb a couple of thousand times before he experienced success,” he says. “It’s easy to give up. It’s hard to persist and keep going. If you get knocked down, you regroup, gather your energies and keep going. That’s the only option.”

—Monty Anderson

—By Tara Zirker
A Global Attraction

Name the sixth largest major at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. If you said the School of Travel Industry Management, hana hou! Some 400 students a year go through the TIM School, founded in 1966, to study tourism, hospitality and transportation management as well as travel information technology, international hospitality management, strategic marketing and global tourism analysis.

Students can also explore specific topics of interest including sustainable tourism, electronic commerce, services marketing, and management among others.

“Studying tourism in Hawai‘i is kind of unbeatable,” says Juanita Liu, professor and interim dean of the school. “The students get a great experience while they’re in the premier tourism destination.”

The program allows for hands-on exposure as interns at hotels and resorts in the Islands. “We have such a strong internship program. Our students are involved with many companies before they graduate,” Liu says.

Two-thirds of the school’s students are from Hawai‘i, she says. The rest hail from “all over the world,” and also account for 20 percent of the international students on the Mānoa campus.

Juanita Liu

Two-thirds of the school’s students are from Hawai‘i, Juanita Liu says. The rest hail from “all over the world,” and also account for 20 percent of the international students on the Mānoa campus.

Learning How Cells Talk

Blending biology and engineering enhances Ohta’s research

Inside Aaron Ohta’s lab on the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa campus, the 32-year-old engineer studies things no larger than a strand of human hair.

The world of micro-technology and micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS) is often used for sensors in airbags, but Ohta is developing technology that will enable scientists to learn how cells talk to each other. He’s received accolades as well as federal science grants that recognize his work in creating this “smart” cell culture dishes that allow biologists to precisely control the growth of cells.

“I got interested in this field when I was in grad school (at UCLA). I thought it was an interesting interdisciplinary area, not just engineering,” Ohta said. “It’s an interesting intersection of these two fields: biology and engineering.”

As an undergrad, Ohta did similar work, said UH Engineering Department chair Wayne Shiroma. Even at a young age, his work earned him recognition from the Alton B. Zerby and Carl T. Koerner Outstanding Electrical and Computer Engineering Student award, the Hi Chang Chai Outstanding Faculty Member in Electrical Engineering award and the 2012 Regent’s Medal of Excellence in Research award. He also received several National Science Foundation grants.

“He has become somewhat of a poster child for our university leadership, who enjoy touting his success as a ‘local kid who did good,’” Shiroma said. “He serves as a role model for all our students.”

In the coming years, Ohta hopes to have his research projects move out of the concept stage and into applications.

“I’d like to see someone develop our systems so they can be useful outside the lab and reach a wider audience and help more people,” he said.

–By Suzanne Roig
We sincerely thank the dedicated members of the University of Hawai‘i Foundation Board of Trustees for volunteering their time, contributing resources and sharing their talents. Mahalo for all you do to support our mission: To unite donors’ passions with the University of Hawai‘i’s aspirations by raising philanthropic support and managing private investments to benefit UH, the people of Hawai‘i and our future generations.

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Mahalo

For Our University, Our Hawai‘i, Our future.

University of Hawai‘i
FOUNDATION
Michele Lani Bray was already juggling a career as a public health nurse and raising two teenagers before she started the master’s program in nursing at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

It was challenging, but Bray completed the E Ala Pono program, which provides graduate level advanced public and community health education to Native Hawaiian nurses, in two years.

“As old as I was, it was something I had always wanted to do,” says Bray, who earned her master’s degree in 2011. “Through that, wow, amazing changes happened in my life.”

Through this program—and with more than 25 years as a nurse in Hawai‘i—Bray saw firsthand the need for more Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander nurses to help improve the health and wellness of the people within their communities. She now works as an instructor in the ‘Ike Ao Pono program, which, for more than 10 years, has focused on exactly this.

“We are the host culture, and it’s nice to give back to the community and help them make better choices and make a difference in their health,” Bray says. “It’s about giving them opportunities and access to resources. Just your voice may be the change.”

As a pilot program in 2001, ‘Ike Ao Pono had just six students. This year, the workforce diversity program has 130 native nurses enrolled and is expected to graduate about 200. Since its permanent status in 2004, it has increased the number of native nurses graduating with bachelor’s and advanced degrees from 2 percent to 15 percent at the Mānoa campus, and has contributed to more Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander nurses—culturally informed and sensitive—to Hawai‘i’s workforce than in the past 80 years.

To date, ‘Ike Ao Pono has graduated more than 150 students—in baccalaureate, graduate and doctoral programs—and earned the national American Association of Colleges of Nursing Award for Innovative Education in 2010. The program was also listed in the Congressional Record by the late Sen. Daniel Inouye.

“There’s been a critical need to increase the number of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander nurses in Hawai‘i. These native groups have higher incidence rates of cancer, diabetes, obesity and heart disease, and have higher mortality rates than other ethnic groups. And many in these communities don’t have access to quality health care.

“We know what needs to be done and we know there needs to be more people doing it,” says Nalani Minton, program director and the only Native Hawaiian tenured in the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene. “I think the greatest accomplishment has been to increase the number of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who are committed to changing that whole profile.”

—By Catherine E. Toth
$1.4 BILION

Total annual University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa-related expenditures contributing to Hawai‘i’s economy in 2012 through local business purchases, employee payments and spending by students and visitors.

“The Contribution of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa to Hawai‘i’s Economy in 2012,” University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization (UHERO), January 18, 2013

283

Rank of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa in the QS World University Rankings of the top 400 universities worldwide in 2012. UH Mānoa rose from 295 in 2011 and ranked in six categories, including academic reputation and faculty-student ratio.

www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/

RAISING LEADERS FROM POLITICS TO SCIENCE

4 of 4

Number of Hawai‘i’s city and county mayors who are UH alumni: Bernard P. Carvalho of Kaua‘i (UH Mānoa, Communications); Kirk Caldwell (UH Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law) of Honolulu; Alan M. Arakawa of Maui (UH Mānoa Shidler College of Business); and Billy Kenoi of Hawai‘i Island (UH Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law).

University of Hawai‘i Alumni Association (UHAA)

Number of UH faculty members among 2,200 scientists nationwide elected to the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors a scientist can achieve. They are: George H. Herbig (astronomy), David M. Karl (environmental sciences and ecology), Steven M. Stanley (geology), David C. Ward (medical genetics, hematology and oncology), and Ryuzo Yanagimachi (animal, nutritional and applied microbial sciences). The NAS celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2013.

Number of alumni women executives in leadership at Hawai‘i’s top 40 companies: Virginia Pressler, Hawaii Pacific Health (#7); Donna Tanoue, Bank of Hawaii (#12); DeeJay Mailer, Kamehameha Schools (#25); and Faye Kurren, Hawaii Dental Service (#37).

Hawaii Business Magazine Top 250, August 2012; UHAA
More than 1,000 University of Hawai‘i fans attended the UHAA Road Warriors Tailgate before the USC football game on Sept. 1. Alumni and friends gathered at Exposition Park in Los Angeles to support the Warriors.

May 4–5
UHAA & Friends–Las Vegas Spam Musubi Sales at the 16th Annual Lei Day Polynesian Festival
The California Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nev.

May 10
Spring Commencements: Hawai‘i Community College, Honolulu Community College, Kapi‘olani Community College, Kaua‘i Community College, Leeward Community College

May 11
Spring Commencement: Maui College

May 14
UH Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner
Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, Honolulu

June 2
UHAA–San Francisco Bay Area Scholarship Fundraiser Lū‘au
Roosevelt Community Center, San Jose, Calif.

June 7
College of Education Alumni Association Annual General Membership Meeting/ Luncheon
Willows Restaurant, Honolulu

June 27
William S. Richardson School of Law Alumni Association Wine Tasting & Annual Meeting
Indigo Restaurant, Honolulu

July 27
John A. Burns School of Medicine MD Alumni Reunion
JABSOM, Honolulu

August 23
William S. Richardson School of Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament & Awards Banquet
Hawaii Kai Golf Course, Honolulu

September 7
UHAA Oregon State Football Tailgate
Corvallis, Ore.

September 27
William S. Richardson School of Law Alumni Association 10th All Class Reunion
Hale Koa Hotel, Honolulu

November 9
UHAA Navy Football Tailgate
Annapolis, Md.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALUMNI EVENTS go online at UHalumni.org/events

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UHAA ANNOUNCES 2012 SERVICE AWARD HONOREES

The University of Hawai‘i Alumni Association (UHAA) presented its annual awards in recognition of outstanding commitment to UH and UHAA. The recipients were The Queen’s Health Systems for the Outstanding Community Service Award, Rainbowtique for the Partner of the Year Award and the College of Education Alumni Association for the Chapter of the Year Award. At the award presentation were, from left, Jill Hasegawa ’04, Don Nugent ’69, ’93, Roberta Mayor ’66, ’81, ’91, Mark Fukeda, Judith Saranchock ’65, ’78, ’82, ’86 and Alvin Katahara ’79.

Rainbowtique was honored as Partner of the Year by the UH Alumni Association. At the award presentation were, from left, Alvin Katahara ’79, Tricia Ejima ’11 and Patrick Oki ’92.
MEET UP! ALUMNI AND FRIENDS MIXER

More than 250 alumni and friends from all campuses were invited to the inaugural UH social mixer on Oct. 11 at M Nightclub. Guests enjoyed hosted pūpū, Happy Hour cocktails, meeting up with classmates and making new contacts at the event sponsored by GEICO. Among those attending were, from left, Dana Kagawa, Jennifer Shido ’11, Hernan Co ’11, and Puna Kaneakua.

ROAD WARRIORS: SAN DIEGO STATE

More than 350 alumni and friends gathered in the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot in San Diego for a Road Warriors Tailgate before UH played San Diego State University on Oct. 6. With the GEICO Gecko are Tammy Wallace ’90, ’92, ’96 (left) and Daniel Robinson ’86.

UH MĀNOA NURSING ALUMNI WELCOMED BACK TO CAMPUS FOR HOMECOMING

As part of 2012 Homecoming Week, the UH Mānoa Nursing Alumni Association welcomed more than 80 alumni and guests back to campus for its Homecoming Pau Hana Party on Oct. 8. Alumni are, from left, UHMANAA director at large Erik Anderson ’11, UHM Nursing Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Scott R. Ziehm, UHM Nursing Dean Mary G. Boland, UHMNAA President Sally T. Ishikawa ’70, ’90, UHMNAA Vice President Lori Kaneshige ’89, ’91, ’96, and UHM Nursing Director of Translational Health Science Simulation Center Lorrie Wong ’79, ’09.
Rene Watanabe Day (BBA ’79 Mānoa), has been promoted to vice president, senior account consultant, client services at Burke, Inc., a marketing research and decision support company. She joined Burke in 2000 as a member of its client services team in Dallas.

Douglas M. DeGrave (AS ’76 Mānoa) of Poliquin & DeGrave LLP, was elected the 2013 president of the California American Board of Trial Advocates Chapter (CAL-ABOTA), which has more than 1,500 members and eight chapters statewide and fosters improvement in the ethical and technical standards of practice in the field of advocacy. A Villa Park, Calif., resident, DeGrave, 58, was sworn in by California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye during the CAL-ABOTA Conference in November at the Mauna Kea Beach Resort on the Big Island.

Dawn Hirai (BA ’92 Mānoa) has been promoted to senior vice president of Stryker Weiner & Yokota Public Relations’ (SWAY) corporate and public affairs group. Specializing in corporate communication, public affairs, issues management, crisis communication and media relations, she oversees SWAY’s corporate and public affairs clients including the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority, James Campbell Company/Kapolei Property Development and the Ulupono Initiative. She provided strategic counsel to the APEC Hawai‘i Host Committee in preparation for Leaders’ Week 2011.

Ian Hlawati (JD ’03 Mānoa) of New Orleans became senior counsel for Entergy in its legal services employment/benefits/labor department. He leads the legal-labor group for Entergy’s integrated energy and nuclear power generation business.

George M. Jones (BA ’80 Mānoa) has joined the law offices of Charles D. Naylor, a Los Angeles maritime law firm. An experienced trial attorney, Jones has more than 20 years of maritime law experience and leads the firm’s Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act (LHWCA) claims team, as well as continuing to litigate Jones Act and cruise injury claims.

Tom Klohe (BFA ’64, MFA ’68 Mānoa) founding director of the University of Hawai‘i Art Gallery and emeritus professor, draws upon three decades of award-winning design work in producing his text on what makes for compelling and unforgettable museum exhibitions. *Exhibitions: Concept, Planning and Design* presents the basics—the elements and principles of design, use of space, budgets and resources, lighting and wall labels, and more—as well as the inspiring.

Lorraine Minatoishi (BArch ’89 Mānoa) has helped launch WRNS Studio Hawai‘i, an architectural and planning firm in Honolulu and San Francisco. Minatoishi, who will be managing director, also is president and founder of Minatoishi Architects, Inc. She recently produced *Aloha Buddha*, a documentary exploring the history and life of Japanese temples in Hawai‘i. She has held adjunct teaching positions at UH and Chaminade University.

Barbara Moir (MA ’78, PhD ’89 Mānoa) was appointed president and executive director of Lyman House Memorial Museum. Before moving to the Big Island in 2006 she worked as curator of collections at the CNMI Museum of History and Culture and as vice president of Northern Marianas College on Saipan. Since joining the Lyman Museum she most recently served as deputy director.

William “Billy” C.A. Pieper II (MBA ’04 Mānoa) was named vice president of business development at O’ahu-based Makai Ocean Engineering Inc. He is charged with expanding and developing the firm’s business opportunities, community involvement and overall exposure. He was a vice president and manager of Bank of Hawaii’s Institutional Services. Heavily involved in the community, Pieper lists directorships with the Ke Ali‘i Pauahi Foundation, the Bishop Museum and is chairman of Alu Like Enterprises.

Keith Tallett (BA ’96 Hilo) was one of 25 artists in the United States to receive a 2012 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant of $25,000. The Painters and Sculptors Grant Program was established by the Joan Mitchell Foundation in 1993 to assist individual artists and to acknowledge painters and sculptors creating work of exceptional quality. Tallett, co-owner of Ma‘ili Creative on the Big Island, is a mixed media artist, a second-generation surfboard shaper and a tattoo practitioner of traditional Polynesian patterns. He has exhibited at such venues as the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, Track 16 Gallery in Los Angeles and Franklin Parrasch Gallery in New York.

Rosalie Tatsuguchi (MEd ’74, PhD ’80 Mānoa), a Hawaii psychologist, has published her second book, *Why Smart People Do the Same Dumb Things*. The book blends eastern and western thinking to offer insights, help readers realize their mistakes, correct them and move on to become happier individuals.

Jennifer Toba-Davila (DArch ’07 Mānoa), has been promoted to associate at Shimokawa + Nakamura. Toba-Davila, AIA, DArch, LEED AP, has been with S+N since August 2009 and is the project architect for the UH Cancer Center LEED Program, Kīlauea Lighthouse Village and Hyatt Regency Waikiki–Model Guestroom and Colony Meeting Room Renovations.

Services were held March 28 for Lucius Albert Butler, professor at the College of Education from 1968-85, who died Jan. 31.
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Inspired by the union of Crown Prince Akihito to Princess Michiko in 1959, the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship was created to bolster understanding between the United States and Japan by funding students to and from the University of Hawai‘i. Here’s a report on two of the recipients, Dr. Christine Yano and Bishop Eric Matsumoto:

Dr. Christine Yano, a native of O‘ahu, received the Prince Akihito Scholarship in 1991 while working on her PhD in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. “I credit the Crown Akihito Scholarship as the starting point of my work,” she explains. “It started all the balls rolling for what became a subsequent career in Japanese anthropology.”

The scholarship enabled Yano to study enka, a Japanese music genre. “The result was not only my dissertation, but also a post-doc at Harvard, which then became my first book, Tears of Longing,” she explains.

A position at UH Mānoa would eventually bring her home to teach, among other topics, popular courses on Japanese pop culture. “We study a lot of topics that lead students to think about things they never thought they would,” says Yano.

Bishop Eric Matsumoto relates the pivotal points of his life trajectory. “I came from a rural country farm on the Big Island, and the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo was actually a big event for me,” he explains.

While attaining dual degrees in history and Japanese language and culture, Matsumoto studied under the late Dr. Tazuko Ajiro Monane, who encouraged him to apply for the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship, which Matsumoto received in 1984.

While in Japan, Matsumoto explored Buddhist traditions and, upon his return home, continued his studies with Hongwanji Hawai‘i, an ecclesiastical and educational organization that practices Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, where he eventually took his place as a clergy member.

Caring over many of the state’s temples, Matsumoto was eventually called to the office of bishop and currently oversees the Hawai‘i ministry, including 33 temples, one fellowship and the Buddhist Study Center, which is adjacent to the UH Mānoa campus.

“I didn’t know, at the time I was awarded, that the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship would transform my career,” says Matsumoto.

—By Tara Zirker
With almost half of the world’s 6,000 languages spoken in the Pacific and Asia, the University of Hawai‘i realized a need for the scientific study of language and, 50 years ago, launched a Department of Linguistics on the Mānoa campus.

“The department was founded at a time when the Pacific and Island Southeast Asia were virtually uncharted linguistically,” says Byron Bender, professor emeritus who has been at UH since 1964.

“The founders accepted this challenge, while recognizing that the area held the key to its own prehistory, and to many theoretical questions about the nature of language in general.

“The department was founded at a time when the Pacific and Island Southeast Asia were virtually uncharted linguistically.”

–Byron Bender

In the decades since, the faculty have worked to maintain a balance between theory and the tangible products expected of them as scholars and teachers. The rewards have been encouraging, most notably the quality of the students who today choose to labor with us as apprentices.”

To celebrate its founding in 1963, the department is planning an alumni reunion this fall.
Baseball games at the University of Hawai'i continue to be one of the hottest tickets in town. UH ranked No. 13 in attendance in 2012, averaging 3,340 spectators per game for 35 home games. The 2013 regular season winds down in May with only three home dates against UC Davis slated at Les Murakami Stadium.
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