



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

FALL 2016



# HOME GROWN TALENT

Does it have to leave Hawai'i? Hear what Ulalia Woodside and others who stayed home say about our "brain drain"...it may surprise you.

## DIAMOND SHINE

Kelly Majam (now Elms) and Howard Dashefsky go to bat big-time in sports and life

## KINI ZAMORA

On drive, determination and 'show em' in Hawai'i's fashion scene

## MENTORS

Larry Kimura, Sabrina McKenna and Barbra Pleadwell tell why they mentored others



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**ON THE COVER:** Ulalia Woodside, executive director of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i

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# 108

Number of Hawai‘i’s sole listing—MA‘O Farms—in TIME Magazine’s “240 Reasons to Celebrate America Now” cover story, submitted by North Shore singer-songwriter Jack Johnson, “for growing organic produce...and for) growing Hawai‘i’s future by putting youth from the Wai‘anae coast through college.” MA‘O Farms executive director and co-founder is Kukui Maunakea-Forth (BA Hawaiian-Pacific Studies ’99, UH West O‘ahu).

[TIME Magazine double issue, July 11/July 18, 2016, page 68]

## 1 COMMUNITY COLLEGES

*“Hawai‘i has the most affordable public two-year institutions in the nation.”*

2016 College Affordability Diagnosis, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, ranking #1 UH’s 7-campus community college system in a nationwide report that ranked states based on the percentage of annual family income—13 percent for UHCC—needed to cover educational expenses at public and private two- and four-year institutions. UH Community Colleges represent 54 percent (30,370) of the student body across UH’s 10-campus system.

[“UH Community Colleges: Report hails institutions’ affordability,” Honolulu Star-Advertiser 8/8/16]

## 2 MĀNOA WASTE NOT, FEED MORE

6  
Fall 2016

When 40 percent of all food produced is wasted and nearly 50 million people risk hunger every day nationwide, something needs to be done. Last December, a group of UH Mānoa students did just that as the driving force behind forming Hawai‘i’s first chapter of the national Food Recovery Network. By this summer, the group delivered 2,000 pounds (yes! a ton) of donated unsold food from Mānoa’s Gateway Café to the state’s largest homeless shelter, which provides five shelter sites serving about 900 meals a day.

As a certified chapter of the national non-profit network established at more than 180 colleges and universities, UHM Food Recovery Network is led by a

core of six nutrition and biology students. The group works with about 40 rotating student volunteers who sign up to help collect and deliver the donated food to the Institute for Human Services (IHS).

This Thanksgiving, UHM Food Recovery Network is adding to its food recovery and reducing hunger efforts with plans to prepare (yes! cook) a feast for 200 at IHS, says Mānoa Chapter President Heather Fucini, a senior majoring in dietetics. And it’s looking for fundraising donations.

*For more information on donating and volunteering:  
uhmfrn@gmail.com*

## 3 KAPI'OLANI GO COOK! LEARN HOW!

Hear that grill sizzle, the chop-chop of veggies, or the bell ding when plates of food magically appear from the kitchen at your favorite diner? Chances are likely that the line and prep cooks making your meal are recent certified graduates of Kapi'olani Community College's Go Cook! Hawai'i program. Responding to the industry's need for ready-to-work food prep workers, the fast-track, industry-level training program also reaches out to social service providers seeking workforce training for disabled vets, homeless and unemployed in need of retraining.

"We're breaking new ground by giving those in need of new skills a good chance of job success in a high-demand industry," says Grant Manager Stan Fichtman of the 10-12 week culinary training program, one of several supported by the federally funded Trade Adjustment Assistant Community College to Career Training (TAACCCT) program. Recognized for its outstanding high-end culinary program, with such graduates as Chefs Alan Wong and Ed Kenney, Kapi'olani also supports hospitality and health training programs through TAACCCT.

Recently adding a Go Bake! group for pastry training, Go Cook! also provides hands-on training in food safety, service and innovation by experienced food industry experts. Students also work with a career coach on "soft skills," such as interviewing and communicating effectively.

*For more information: <http://culinary.kapiolani.hawaii.edu/>*

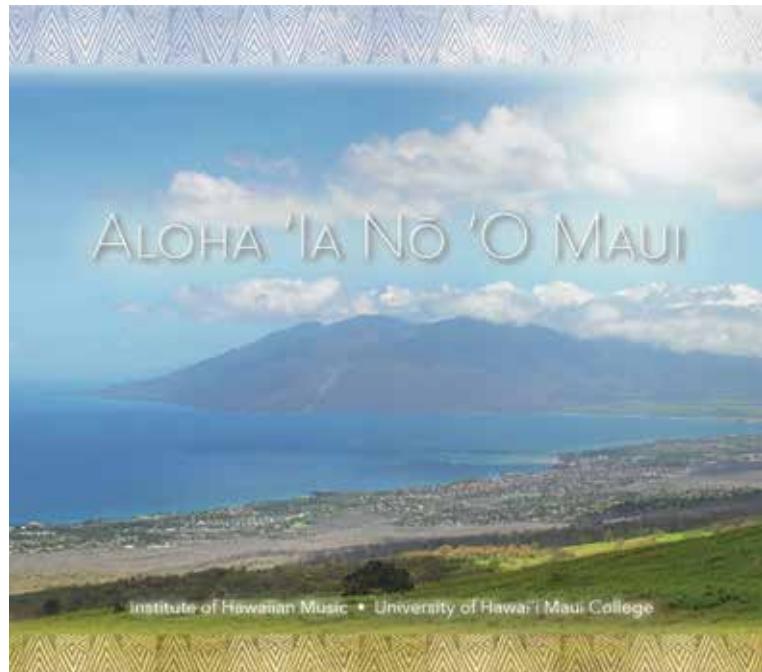


PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. KEOLA DONAGHY

**WINNERS!** A musical homage to Maui Nui, the islands of Maui county, by 16 students at UH Maui's Institute of Hawaiian Music, won the 2016 Nā Hōku Hanohano Award for "Compilation Album of the Year." Only the second CD produced by Maui's one-of-a-kind Hawaiian music mentorship program, "Aloha 'Ia Nō 'O Maui" features songs selected or composed, and recorded by students, some accompanied by their industry mentors. "The best part...was their work being accepted by members of the Hawai'i music industry," says Dr. Keola Donaghy, faculty coordinator for IHM, which recently received a \$2.5 million federal grant to expand its program.



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# \$20M

Value of National Science Foundation award to UH to combine Native Hawaiian knowledge with modern geological data to study

water sustainability statewide in the first ever charting of the flow of groundwater in Hawai'i. The five-year 'Ike Wai (knowledge of water) project aims to address issues of water quality and quantity as we face population increase, changing land use and climate change.

["\$20M grant to help UH study isles' fresh water," Honolulu Star-Advertiser 5/13/16; "UH leads \$20M research partnership to secure Hawai'i's water future," UH press release 5/05/16]

*"We wanted to respond to how the (tourist) industry is shifting and changing."*

Dave Evans, chairman and professor, Kapi'olani Community College's Hospitality and Tourism Education Department, on its new third-year advanced professional certificate program offering training in timely topics of tourism security, time share, and environmental and cultural sustainability, etc. The program also creates a more direct pathway, without loss of credits, for students to transfer to UH West O'ahu to earn a four-year bachelor's degree in tourism.

[ "KCC clears wide path for degrees in tourism," Honolulu Star-Advertiser 2/29/16]

# 97

Percent of formerly homeless still housed in Honolulu's first ever Housing First units provided to homeless clients one year ago, according to Jack Barile, UH assistant psychology professor who conducted the survey study. "It works," says Barile of the project's approach to provide housing first to homeless without requiring prior successful treatment for substance abuse, mental health or other similar issues to qualify.

[ "One year later, Housing First reports 97% success rate," Honolulu Star-Advertiser 7/7/16]

*"This is one crucial check in the list of qualities needed for a planet...like the Earth and (that) could possibly support life."*

Andrew Howard, UH assistant astronomer, of the 100 new planets identified in July, five similar to Earth, by an international team of 44 astronomers from seven countries, including six from UH who used four telescopes on Mauna Kea. The next step is to focus on the "most interesting of the newly discovered planets" to find out what they are made of.

[ "Earth-like planets among 100+ identified by UH, astronomers and NASA," [UH press release, 7/18/16]

# 44

Number of postsecondary institutions invited nationwide—including Leeward Community College, the only higher education school in Hawai'i—to allow high school students to take college-credit courses through the Dual

Enrollment Pell Experiment by accessing no-repay Federal Pell Grants in a national pilot project to expand college access for qualifying low-income individuals.

[Leeward Community College press release 5/19/16]

*"I was a little surprised...I know I won't be the last."*

Steven Wright, first UH baseball player on being selected for Major League Baseball's All-Star Game held on July 12, 2016. "A lot of ball players have come from UH that have been playing well," added the Boston Red Sox knuckleball pitcher who was drafted in the second round of the 2006 MLB draft and earned UH letters in baseball from 2004 to 2006.

[Interview, KHON Channel 2 10 o'clock News, July 11, 2016]

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# Q&A

Honolulu Community College alum **Kini Zamora** on drive, creativity and discipline, Hawai'i's fashion scene, and feeling privileged to 'show 'em' on Project Runway

**From a childhood in Liliha to Kapolei today, you describe your background as a "rags-to-riches" story and credit your Aunt Delilah Patoc with introducing you to sewing. How did fashion as a career come to you?**

I started sketching young. By age 8, I was drawing dresses. At 10, I joined my aunt's sewing classes for the family cousins. By the second class, I was the only one showing up. My mom and aunt were both supportive. I put two and two together: Fashion let me realize what was in my head. It wasn't easy. My aunt believed in discipline, making me spend painstaking hours redoing my work to perfection. It didn't stop me. By high school (McKinley '01), I knew fashion was going to be my career. My family wasn't rich, so I had to be successful on that career path. I made my first goal at Honolulu Community College (AAS '03, fashion technology) of being the first in my family to graduate from college that sent me on my way.

**How did you decide you were ready to compete on Project Runway, a big national stage against top aspiring fashion talent from all over the country?**

Growing up in Hawai'i as a Hawaiian-Asian, I knew we had a different point of view (from the Mainland). I wasn't afraid to bring that to a national audience. I was excited, privileged to 'show 'em' what I was made of, what Hawai'i had to offer. When you put your mind to doing something, you have to be willing to make the sacrifices to make it happen.

## Who do you design for?

I design for the local woman and the local man, and have three departments in my line: Ready-to-Wear, Hawaiian Collection and Bridal/Custom/Evening/Pageant. My Custom line is my high-end, one-of-a-kind. I started alone working out of my garage in 2015 after Project Runway (2014). In February, I opened my first studio in Halawa, after finishing second on Project Runway All-Stars (2016) and now have three employees, all family members. My family has always inspired and supported me. I also have an internship program and now have seven interns.

## What do you look for in an intern?

Drive, motivation. Creativity, of course. I'm selective. They become part of my 'ohana. They expect something from me, but I also expect something of them. They're not here to fool around. My interns also work in fashion retail, so they know what's trending. It's refreshing to see their creativity not yet held back by business or even client needs.



**You've presented at HONOLULU Fashion Week. You've mentored young fashion talent for Goodwill's GLAM! fundraiser. Where's the Hawai'i fashion scene going? Where will you be in it?**

It's growing slowly and rightly. It wasn't always the case to take risks, step outside the box. Now, we're trying. For fall, I'm working with wool! Who would have thought we would now have HONOLULU Fashion Week? Fashion has a huge buzz now in the local art scene. For me, part of going to All-Stars was to show what we have here, that we have creative people. It's not just mu'u mu'u, board shorts and tank tops. It's part of supporting our local-made products, our homegrown talent. In 10 years, I see myself opening my first shop on the West Coast. You have to have drive.

— GAIL MIYASAKI

**Editor's note:** *Kini'okahokuloa Zamora also earned Fashion Technology Certificates of Achievement, Completion and Competence ('03); and Certificates of FT Competence in Computerized Grading and Marking, Cutting Room Functions, and Flat Pattern Making ('03) at Honolulu CC.*



# HOME GROWN & STAYING HOME

THREE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ALUMNI DISCUSS THE VALUES OF STAYING IN THE ISLANDS FOR SCHOOL AND CAREER, AND WHY THERE'S JUST AS MANY OPPORTUNITIES HERE AS THERE ARE ON THE MAINLAND.

By Tiffany Hill | Photos by Aaron Yoshino

**H**awai'i's brain drain. It's an established, bemoaned and ongoing struggle in the Islands. Talented kama'āina grow, or start, their careers in more prosperous, often cheaper, Mainland cities, and some never return. High cost of living aside, there are simply more professional opportunities off-island. It doesn't help that Hawai'i ranks among the bottom five in the nation for number of jobs in the technology industry, venture capital funding for start-ups per capita and dead last for exports per capita, according to personal finance website, WalletHub.com.

But those who grew up and live in Hawai'i know there's no place else like it. Be it family roots, the pleasant weather, the vibrant culture, even the oft-marketed Aloha spirit, some locals never leave for a myriad of reasons. And for many, staying doesn't always mean sacrificing a top-notch education or a successful career. Here's how three University of Hawai'i alumni, from three different generations, have forged fulfilling lives and successful careers in Hawai'i—by choice.

## ROOTED IN HAWAII VALUES

Ulalia Woodside was born and raised along the Waimānalo coast, where she still lives today. She spent her childhood outdoors, fishing and hiking along the Koʻolau Mountains with her father. She began dancing hula at age 3 with her grandmother, mother, sisters and aunties. The 46-year-old says she didn't always know it, but her upbringing laid the foundation for her future career in land management. "My mother taught me about plants and their uses from a Hawaiian perspective. My father is a wildlife biologist, and I went to work with him and learned about birds and our role and relationship that we can have in caring for this place we call home."

As a high school student at Punahou School, many of Woodside's classmates planned to leave home for college. Woodside was considering it, too. "My mother wasn't ready for me to leave yet," she says with a smile. Woodside instead enrolled at the University of Hawai'i. Shortly into her freshman year her perspective shifted—going to school in Hawai'i wasn't a family compromise, but a long-term benefit. "I was going to be one of those that was going to take advantage of the opportunities of being from Hawai'i, going to school in Hawai'i and (connecting) with different leaders in different fields and industries here and make my career here," she says.

Today, Woodside is the executive director of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i, an actualization of her childhood connection with nature. Before that for nearly 14 years, she worked in Kamehameha Schools' cultural and natural resources, including as its director. Woodside has her bachelor's degrees in Hawaiian studies and political science.

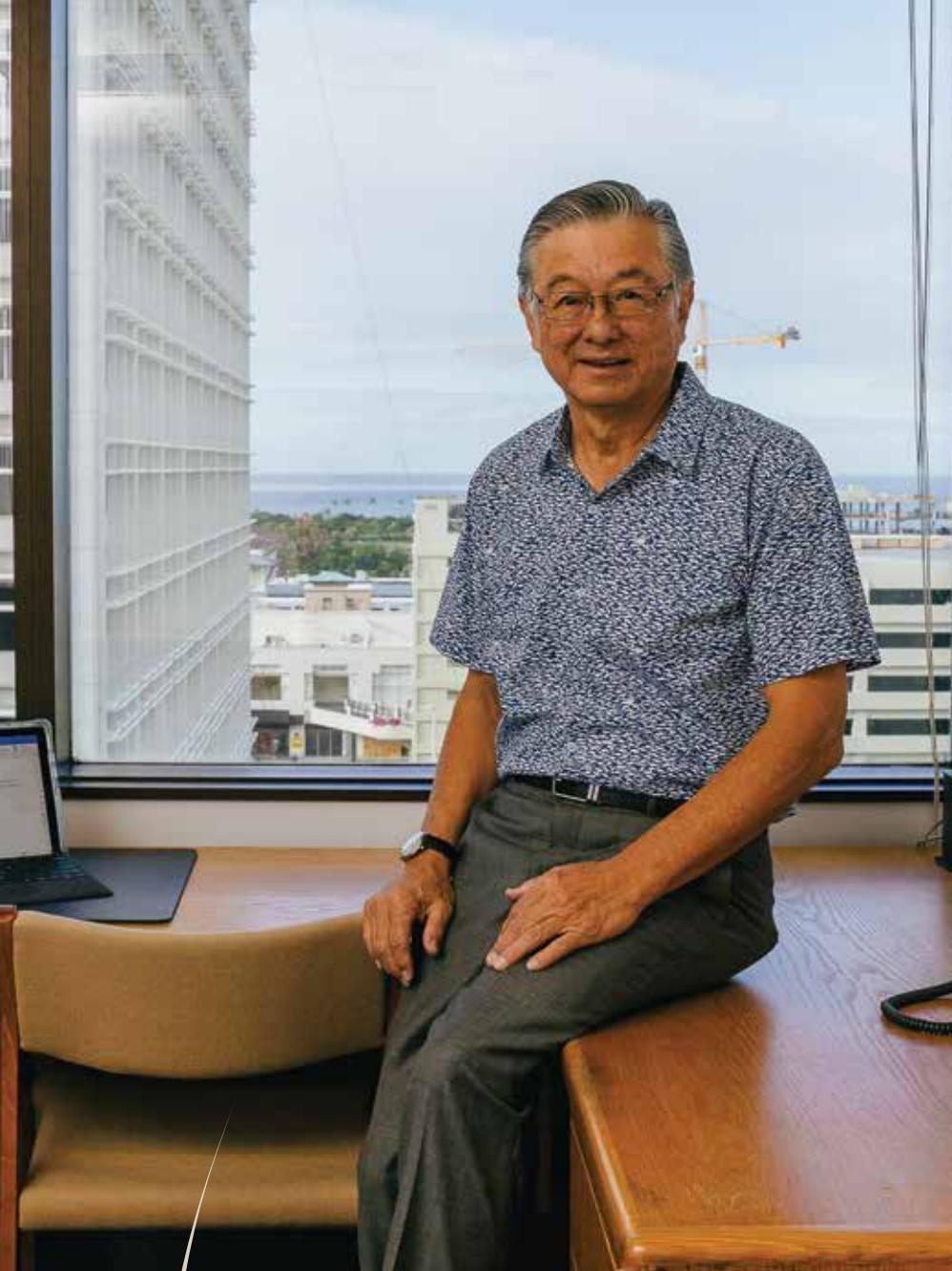
Woodside says choosing to stay benefited more than her own career; she felt a kuleana to the community,



**Ulalia Woodside** has always had a close connection to Hawai'i's outdoors. It's no wonder that today the Waimānalo native is the executive director of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i.

especially kūpuna. "We are so privileged to grow up and live in Hawai'i, and with that privilege comes a certain responsibility," she says. "For some of our kūpuna that are getting on in years, they're not going to be here in the four, five or eight years that it takes you to leave and get your degree. It's important that we have some of the younger generation that will stay and learn from them

**"We are so privileged to grow up and live in Hawai'i, and with that privilege comes a certain responsibility."**



**Dennis Teranishi** credits Hawai'i's values for the leader he's become during his 46-year career. In 2014, he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by the Japanese government for fostering friendly relations.

to pass on their knowledge."

Woodside wasn't the only one who formed a strong bond with Hawai'i's outdoors. Dennis Teranishi also grew up in the country, raised on a small farm in Kamo'oloa, near Hale'iwa. Hawai'i was still in the midst of its sugar and pineapple booms, says the 72-year-old. (His grandfather came to Hawai'i from Japan to work on a sugar plantation.)

Teranishi's favorite activity was participating in the 4-H agricultural youth program. By high school, he knew he wanted to work in agriculture.

After graduation Teranishi left Hawai'i—for the first time in his life—to attend California State Polytechnic University, and later to serve in the Army. "I loved Hawai'i but I wanted to see what was on the other side," he says, adding that he knew, someday, he'd return home.

Teranishi did indeed return, first in 1966 to get his

master's in soil chemistry and plant nutrition at UH, and again in 1970 after he was discharged from the Army. "I wanted to come back to Hawai'i, and I wanted to be in ag," he says. "In 1970 sugar was still a big part of Hawai'i, it was a good career."

For 19 years, Teranishi worked at one of Hawai'i's Big Five, Amfac, where he was an agronomist, eventually becoming president of the company's agribusiness division. As the sugar industry wound down, Teranishi shifted into executive roles, first at Hawaiian Host, where he

“Being in Hawai'i, it's so much easier to make a difference, because you can meet people who help make things happen”

left as the company's president after 14 years. Today, he's the president and CEO of research and applied-technology nonprofit, Pacific International Center for High Technology Research, after consulting with the company for years. Teranishi says one of the company's goals is to promote and develop tech-based start-ups in the Islands, particularly working with local graduates.

While the plantation-style community Teranishi grew up in no longer thrives in today's Hawai'i, its close-knit, community values are still relevant, he says. "Being in Hawai'i, it's so much easier to make a difference, because you can meet people who help make things happen." He's humble about it, but he's one of those people. In 2014, he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by the Japanese government for fostering friendly relations.

## THE POWER OF LOCAL NETWORKS

James Charisma knows the power of community, particularly the virtual ones. "Growing up in Hawai'i, it's a big small town," he says, "but with technology, the world is a small town, too." In 2010, Charisma helped bring communities a little closer together, when he founded Charisma Industries with two high school

friends. Today, the creative design agency does social media marketing, graphic and website design, public relations and more. Some clients include Bar 35, the Hawai'i Restaurant Association and the USS *Missouri* Memorial Association. Charisma is also the editor in chief of *Abstract Magazine*, a themed biannual publication about Honolulu city life and its diverse culture.

Charisma began building his now-impressively large and active social network in college while earning his bachelor's in psychology. James Charisma isn't his real name—it's what he goes by professionally—but it might as well be, since that's the only name by which most people know him. The 26-year-old founded Charisma Industries while he was still attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. His decision to attend school here was practical. "Being mobile, I can be a writer anywhere, so there wasn't as big of a push for me to leave," he says. "I never felt like I couldn't make it on my own here. I was doing what I wanted to here."

The new media entrepreneur says he's still able to put his psychology degree to good use. "Every job has people, every situation you have to deal with a human being. Having a baseline of knowing how people think was key to the development of (Charisma Industries)," he says. "It's also understanding where (clients) come from and what they're trying to achieve."

## THE NEXT GENERATION

Hawai'i's distinctive way of doing business, founded on Hawaiian values and influenced by Asian principles, has been instrumental for the three alumni. Each say their local upbringing instilled in them the values needed not only for a successful career, but a fulfilling life. And a college experience in Hawai'i reinforced their networks with the fruitful connections they needed in a town where relationships matter.

There's no right or wrong answer in staying or in leaving, they say. "I think it depends on what you want to study, and I think it also depends on your home-life situation," says Charisma.

A world-perspective beyond Hawai'i doesn't always have to be permanent. "I always tried to find a job where I could leave Hawai'i two or three times a year to get a



At age 26, **James Charisma** is his own boss. He founded Charisma Industries, a creative design agency that does social media marketing, graphic and website design, public relations and more for businesses across O'ahu.

better perspective of what's happening in other parts of the world," adds Teranishi. While at Amfac, Teranishi says he'd visit Japan and Central America. Today he does consulting work in Costa Rica every six weeks. Woodside says she encourages students and younger employees to consider international exchange and fellowship programs.

"We need students that are born and raised in Hawai'i that go to school on the Continent, or in other countries. I don't love the brain drain, but they also take the foundation of Hawai'i values and perspectives with them, and that becomes a part of another place in the world when they leave," she says. "We need (students who stay). For certain people, there is great value in staying in Hawai'i, going to school here and working here. It keeps the traditions alive."



# What I learned...

## DOES MENTORING MATTER?

*Compiled by Gail Miyasaki*

16  
Fall 2016

**K**ūpuna is the familiar Hawaiian word for grandparent or elder. But it has another meaning, according to Pukui and Elbert's Hawaiian Dictionary. It can mean "starting point, source, growing." Indeed, in our personal, academic and professional lives, mentors can be a source of learning—the starting point of connecting us to personal growth and development, and social and economic opportunity. Our private and public sectors support mentoring, formal and informal, as a way to help develop our state's future workplace talent pipeline and the quality ahead of our community's leadership. But mentoring is a two-way bond: Does it matter? Do those who give also receive?

Meet three special mentor-mentee relationships to tell you more.

### **LARRY KIMURA**

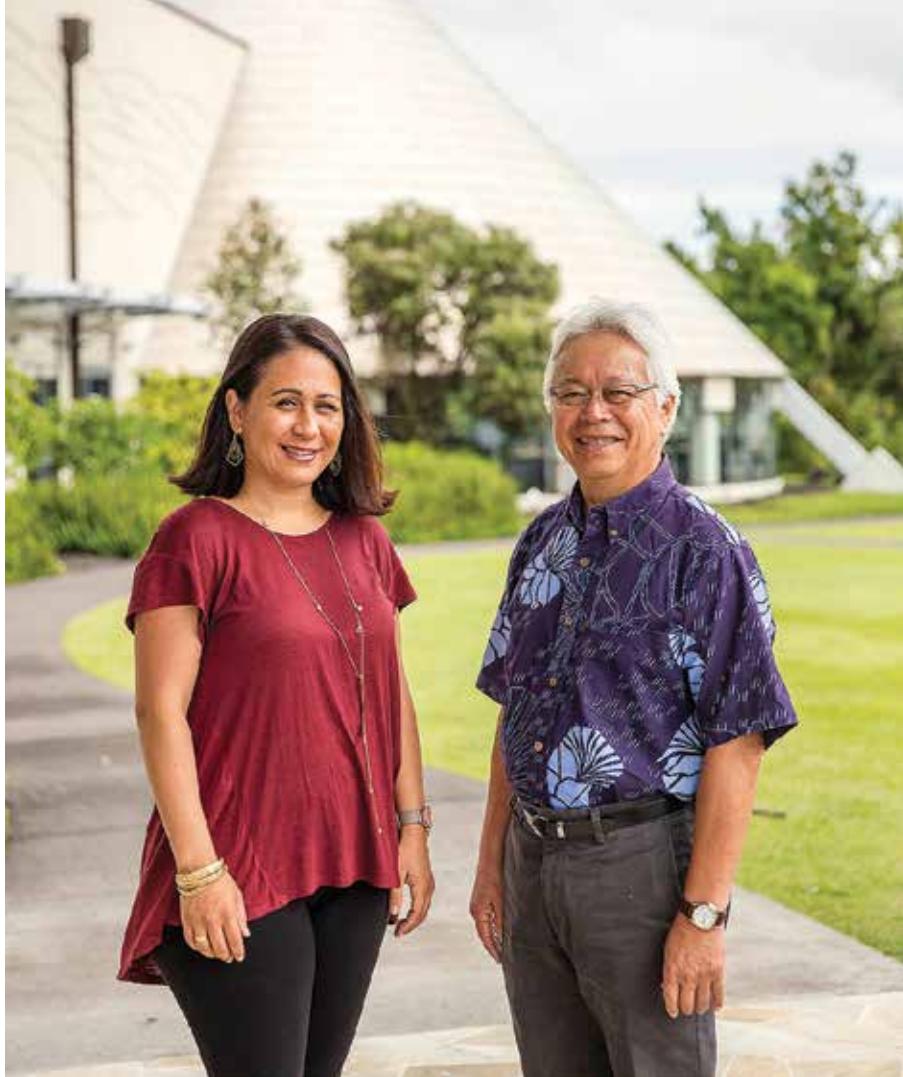
Associate professor, Hawaiian language and Hawaiian studies, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, UH Hilo

BA anthropology 1969, Mānoa; MA Hawaiian language and literature 2002, PhD Hawaiian and indigenous language and culture revitalization 2012, Hilo

### **KA'IU KIMURA**

Executive director, 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i  
BA Hawaiian studies 2000, MA Hawaiian language and literature 2009, Hilo

**Larry:** At first, I hardly noticed my young niece Ka'iū's interest in Hawaiian, while



critical milestones were reached to revive our endangered native language. I saw her commitment become evident in choosing UH Hilo and coming to live with me and our native Hawaiian speaking uncle, Joseph Maka'ai. Since then, Hawaiian has been our language and its survival has made our family bond very special.

I realized I knew people who could help, and I was aware of meaningful activities and my opinions mattered to Ka'iu as she furthered her Hawaiian language and culture experience by sailing with the Makali'i and Hōkūle'a voyaging canoes, volunteering with 'Aha Pūnana Leo immersion preschool program, and participating as one of Hilo's first two Maori/Hawaiian language exchange students with University of Waikato, New Zealand. With a degree in Hawaiian, she became my assistant for a special five-year collaborative project to interweave modern astronomy with the Hawaiian culture that now distinguishes 'Imiloa

Astronomy Education Center as unique among the world's science centers.

I learned when to be a teacher and when to be an admirer as Ka'iu grew into an inspiration for her generation with her understanding that Hawaiian embraces a whole way of life for a people—every encounter a test for survival and any advancement an initiation of new standards for well-being.

**Ka'iu:** Many qualities and attributes of my uncle Larry have made a profound impact on generations of people in Hawai'i and the world. As someone especially privileged and appreciative to be guided by his wisdom, I realize his greatest gift to me is his deep, abiding aloha for our homeland Hawai'i—our language, our race, our land, our traditions and our history. Pioneering Hawaiian language normalization, he has redefined the growth and vitality of our language and our people. I learned that being grounded

in traditional values of our kūpuna can paradoxically create the vision and courage to seek new ways to sustain our Hawaiian way of life.

More than a mentor, Uncle Larry is my major reason for doing the work I am doing at 'Imiloa where we are challenged to look to our origins, and engage fully in the present, while also innovating and creating new for our future. It is no accident it was he who selected the center's name to be 'Imiloa—a continual journey of exploration into the unknown to discover and create new knowledge for the health and vitality of the community. I feel his influence in my incredible sense of responsibility to continue his legacy of giving back to help strengthen and empower Hawai'i.

#### FOR INFORMATION:

**LARRY:** <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/keao-hou/2014/10/09/kimura-hawaiian-language/>

**KA'IU:** <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/news/stories/2016/04/25/uh-hilos-kaiu-kimura/>

#### ON A PERSONAL NOTE:

Inspired by his hometown of Waimea, Larry Kimura composed the lyrics to Eddie Kamae's music for *E Ku'u Morning Dew*.

Ka'iu Kimura was an Omidyar Fellow in the first ever cohort in 2012.

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-Dr. Royal & Aurora Fruehling



Retired Professor Royal Fruehling and his wife Aurora have called Manoa home for 42 years, “We’re happy here and still actively involved in the University community. So, living independently in our own home is important to us.”

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### **BARBRA AN PLEADWELL**

Partner, Hastings & Pleadwell: A Communication Company  
MA American studies '96, Mānoa

### **ALEXANDRA ROTH**

Director of Communications, Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association  
BA communications 2014, Mānoa

**Barbra:** "Interns are more trouble than they're worth." That's what folks say. We've found the opposite to be true. We made a commitment early on (20 years ago) to integrate students into our business. Interns have played key roles in our clients' success, our growth and the majority have transitioned into employees and gone on to do good things for Hawai'i and the communities they live in. Through formal mentoring, we've learned to be better employers, and provide tools to help young people succeed. It's fun, invigorating and a critical part of evolving as a business.

In 2013, our colleague Amy Hennessey was teaching a course at UH Mānoa. I chatted with her students about the communication field. Alexandra was a student in the audience, and we feel fortunate she responded to the mention of our internship program. She interned with us for a few months, quickly became an account coordinator, went on to work for a client and has continued to serve the community and make her mark in the business world.

There are stereotypes about older professionals, just as there are stereotypes about young people trying to break into any field. Alex and other young people we have had the benefit of working with have taught us as much as we hope to teach them.

**Alexandra:** Mentors not only help you professionally, but personally as well. While working for Barbra, I no doubt gained a plethora of knowledge about

communications and public relations, and grew as a young professional. Barbra introduced me to movers and shakers in Honolulu, showed me the ropes in working with clients and the media, and helped fine-tune my writing skills immensely. However, she wasn't just my boss.

To this day, Barbra also supports me in both my personal triumphs and troubles. When I moved out of my college dorm with nowhere to go, she arranged accommodations for me, and even went as far as letting me stay with her and her family for several nights. She was there to support me as I was crowned Miss Kahala in a scholarship pageant, and later at the 2015 Miss Hawaii pageant when I placed in the top five. She has offered me invaluable advice when I felt directionless in my career and recommended me for job positions after leaving Hastings & Pleadwell, including my current position at the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association. I'm proud to have started my young career under her wing, and look forward to our continued friendship in years to come.

### **FOR INFORMATION:**

**BARBRA AN:** [www.hastingsandpledwell.com/firm/team-members/](http://www.hastingsandpledwell.com/firm/team-members/)

**ALEXANDRA:** [www.linkedin.com/in/alexandraroth94](http://www.linkedin.com/in/alexandraroth94)

### **ON A PERSONAL NOTE:**

Barbra Pleadwell (Guam) and Alexandra Roth (Hilo) are both "small town girls."

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### SABRINA MCKENNA

Associate Justice, Hawai'i State Supreme Court  
BA Japanese '78; JD WSRSL '82, Mānoa

### SUNNY S. LEE

Partner, Bronster Fujichaku Robbins:  
A Law Firm  
BA political science '99, Mānoa

**Sabrina:** Sunny volunteered with me 20 years ago, when I was a young trial judge. He was a rising sophomore at UH Mānoa, thinking about law school. As he asked me questions, I realized it was now my turn to help guide the next generation, as my mentors had guided me. Sunny was then injured in a car accident by a negligent driver and I worried. I learned that mentoring means caring about the mentee's whole person, not just his professional life.

Sunny then went on to law school and law practice in Seattle. He would check

in with me during his breaks and vacations. He taught me the importance of remembering, caring about and expressing appreciation to my own mentors. I told Sunny that when he was ready to come back to Hawai'i, he could be my law clerk. He did come back as my law clerk and is now a successful partner in a local law firm. I've learned how satisfying it is to see someone you've mentored grow up, not just professionally, but personally, and how important the mentee/mentor cycle is to making the world a better place.

**Sunny:** As a summer volunteer at UH, I first met Justice Sabrina McKenna. She took the time to explain the judicial process and despite my inexperience, trusted me to assist her in an important project and help her clear the thousands of backlogged cases which, for various reasons, remained open. We remained in contact even after I graduated in 1999 from Mānoa. She has always been

a sounding board and encouraged my professional progress, even writing me letters of recommendations for law school. Our two-decade long mentor-mentee relationship has been a tremendous benefit to me both professionally and personally. Some of the most important things I learned from her were based on observations of her actions. She showed restraint and patience when it would have been easy to react with anger and emotion. A significant reason why I became a Big Brother in Big Brothers Big Sisters was due to the positive impact that she has had on my life as a mentor.

### FOR INFORMATION:

**SABRINA:** [courts.state.hi.us](http://courts.state.hi.us) > Hawaii State Supreme Court > Associate Justice Sabrina S. McKenna

**SUNNY:** [bfrhawaii.com/attorney/sunny-s-lee](http://bfrhawaii.com/attorney/sunny-s-lee)

### ON A PERSONAL NOTE:

Sabrina McKenna earned a scholarship to play on Mānoa's first ever Wahine basketball team in 1974.

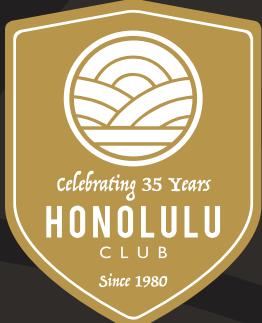
Sunny Lee currently serves as president of the Friends of the King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center.



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# DIAMONDS AREN'T FOREVER

TWO CHAMPIONSHIP UH BALLPLAYERS FIND CHALLENGES AND FULFILLMENT BEYOND THE PLAYING FIELD. By Dave Choo

**I**'ve always been a go-getter type of person. I like to have a plan," says Kelly Majam (now Elms), University of Hawai'i Wahine softball great. "But there's only so much you can plan for."

A lot has happened to Kelly (2008-'13) in the last several years. A month after graduating from UH Mānoa with a degree in physical education in 2013, she got married to Josh Elms, a former UH

baseball player himself, before starting a new job as an elementary school P.E. teacher. She also added providing color commentary for OC 16 broadcasts of local high school softball games, drawing on her college softball experience.

About two years ago, she gave birth to daughter Riley, and this fall she gave birth to her second child. Husband Josh, a graduate assistant at UH, currently works with student athletes in the weight room

and will be receiving his master's degree this fall. So depending on the job market, the young Elms family could be relocating in the near future.

For Kelly, things often don't go according to plan. Back in 2009, she suffered a devastating knee injury prior to her first season with the Rainbow Wahine. The rehab was hard but sitting on the sidelines was a far more difficult challenge. "I had never taken a break from sports before, so it was hard emotionally," says Kelly. "But the time off made me look inwardly and made me realize that I was more than just a softball player. I decided then that I was going to enjoy things as they came."

The following year, Kelly and the rest of the Rainbow Wahine had a dream season in which she hit 30 home runs, tops in the country that year. The Wahine also led the nation in scoring, home runs and slugging percentage. As a topper, Kelly was on base when Wahine teammate Jenna Rodriguez hit a walk off homer against Alabama in the NCAA Super Regionals, a blast that sent a UH team for the first time ever to the College Softball World Series. It remains one of the most exciting moments in UH sports history.

Then came another unplanned event for Kelly: shortly after returning home from the World Series, a diagnosis of thyroid cancer, cancer surgery a week later, and radiation treatments after a month of recovery. Amazingly, Kelly was back on the field the following season. She says that people still want to know about her challenges both on and off the field, and she is happy to share her story.

"There was a brief period when I asked myself, 'why is this happening to me,'" says Kelly. "But I quickly realized that [her battle with cancer] was

something I could turn into a positive, something that could help others. Today, I'm cancer free and grateful for everything that has happened to me. Now, my biggest complaints are not being able to eat dinner at a leisurely pace or not getting enough sleep."

"You might say that I've hit for the cycle," says Howard Dashefsky (1979-82), comparing his broadcasting career to an old baseball term, the rare feat of one batter hitting a single, double, triple and homerun in the same game. "I've been on all the local network news shows, as well as cable television and radio."

Tall and fit, with a full head of (mostly) red hair, Dashefsky is one of the most familiar faces and voices in town, appearing on Island television screens for more than 30 years. For the past two years, he has anchored the KHON2 newscasts at 5 and 9 p.m. It's his second time at bat at KHON. In 1992, he helped launch the Islands' first morning news program. Four days later, Hurricane Iniki hit Kauai and since KHON was the only station broadcasting morning news at the time, it became an important source of news that day. Today, morning news shows are an essential part of local and national television.

It's been a few years since he's played organized baseball, so it's easy to forget that Dashefsky was once a hard-hitting first baseman for the UH Rainbows. A prized recruit out of San Diego, he chose upstart Hawai'i over a University of Southern California program that was on a downward slide. "Why would I want to go to USC? Downtown Los Angeles or Honolulu?" says Dashefsky. "For me, it was a no-brainer."

Aside from some initial culture shock, Dashefsky says that he never second-guessed his choice in schools. In his freshman year, he joined a team led by pitching ace Derek Tatuno that went 69-15 and finished the year ranked eleventh in the nation. The following season, the greatest



in school history, the team went 60-18, earning a trip to the College World Series. The team eventually lost to the University of Arizona in the championship game but along the way won eight consecutive postseason games, knocking off seven ranked teams.

"We upset Texas in Austin to earn a spot in the World Series, and before that we came back from a 10-run deficit to win our first Western Athletic Conference championship," says Dashefsky. "It was a magical time."

Dashefsky credits his later success in broadcasting to his playing career, which taught him the importance of teamwork while also performing at high levels indi-

vidually. "No one puts on a news program by themselves. We all work hard, we all work together," says Dashefsky. "That's the vibe here. Instead of nine innings, we're performing for a half hour."

According to Dashefsky, many of his newsroom colleagues weren't even born when he played baseball. However, he says that not a week goes by that someone on the street tells him how much they enjoyed watching that magical season of baseball back in 1980. "Many of those people are in their 70s or 80s now," says Dashefsky. "But some are in their 40s, which means they were young kids and they still remember. That really makes my day."



# Live Well at Iwilei

by Kāhala Nui

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Kāhala Nui maintains its course to create fulfilling environments that provide a positive approach to aging, enriching the lives of seniors in Hawaii.

# Honored: Paul Breese

2016 Honpa Hongwanji Living Treasure

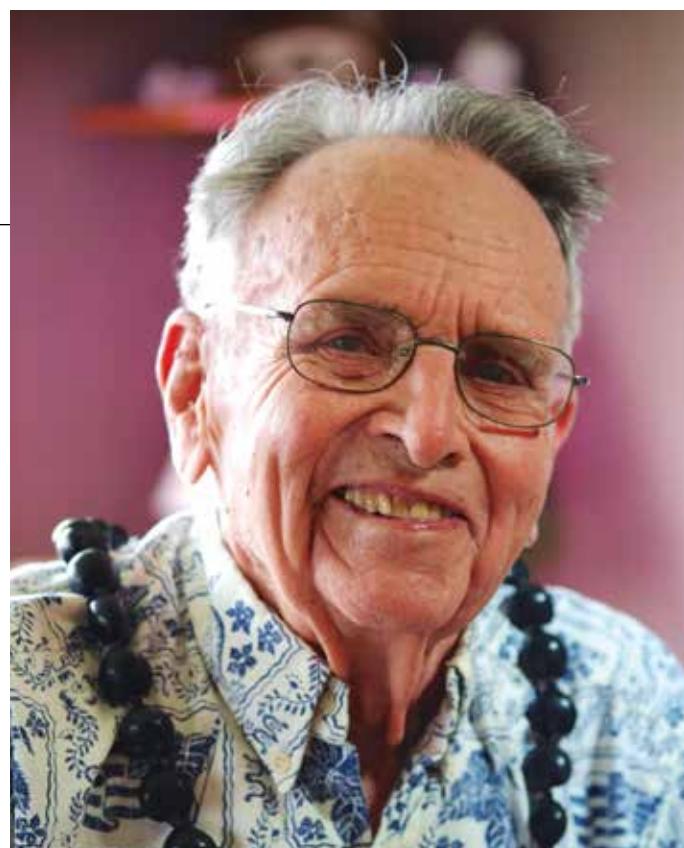
## The world of nature

**I**t was a harsh 10 acres covered with bare crushed coral, taken over by the Army during World War II and only a third of the original Waikiki site, when 24-year-old Paul Breese took over as Honolulu Zoo director in 1947. Armed with a bachelor's degree in zoology from Mānoa, Breese over the next 18 years transformed this remnant of a bird park into a modern American zoo. Today at age 94, the now Hawi resident is honored as one of six 2016 Living Treasures of Hawai'i by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission.

With an innate love of animals and experience at the world-renowned San Diego Zoo, Breese impressed, persuaded, cajoled, probably stepped on a few toes, but made friends in key places and drew on his contacts at San Diego for "this immense opportunity to rebuild a new Honolulu Zoo." He rolled up his shirtsleeves to figure out how to ship big elephants and giraffes across the Pacific Ocean, to plant the cool canopy of monkey pod and banyan trees that now line the zoo's bordering streets, and even to persuade the San Diego Zoo to lend their experienced zoo designer to create the Honolulu Zoo's first modern master plan.

"We are part of the world of nature. Zoos provide the opportunity to see this big world interacting around us to create an awareness and understanding, not just of conservation, but of the whole experience of life," says Breese.

The co-author, with wife Jean DeMercer-Breese, of "Honolulu Zoo: Waikiki's Wildlife Treasure 1915-2015," Breese is proudest of creating the physical structure of the



zoo and bringing in animals not from here to Hawai'i, and of "being an early voice of conservation way before the Mainland." As zoo director, he helped bring the Nēnē back from near extinction and served as chair of the Nēnē Advisory Committee. He established the Brown Tree Snake Control Group to prevent "this huge threat to our economic and environmental health."

Breese likens his life's work of helping children particularly to see animals as part of the world as similar to learning to dance or play music. "It's part of becoming a whole person."

— GAIL MIYASAKI

For information on Breese's book: [www.honoluluzoobooks.com](http://www.honoluluzoobooks.com)

### HONORED

#### **Lynne Johnson**

(MA '01, PhD '09 musicology, Mānoa), together with husband Randy Moore, the 2016 Kama'aina of the Year™ by the Historic Hawai'i Foundation for contributions to preserving Hawai'i's rich history. The lecturer in musicology at Mānoa supports art, culture, history and preservation as board trustee of Mānoa Heritage Center, Honolulu Museum of Art and Hawai'i Opera Theatre, among others.



### HONORED

#### **Ernest Libarios, Sr.**

(MED '72 educational psychology, Mānoa), Leeward CC counselor and professor (retired) for 47 years, developer of internationally recognized culturally based self-development course, and first Filipino counselor in UH's community college system, by the Honolulu City Council for "strong commitment to nurturing and educating Hawai'i's youth."



### HONORED

#### **Dennis M. Ogawa**, UH Mānoa

American studies professor, for contribution to developing Japanese studies in the United States and promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S., with Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, by the emperor of Japan.

### ALOHA 'OE

**K. Mark Takai** (1967-2016), Hawai'i U.S. Congressional Representative, 20-year state Legislator, Iraqi War veteran, member Hawaii Army



**C**arolina Lam (BA anthropology and economics '98, Hilo) championed the leading edge name (the only one in the UH System) and forward-thinking vision of UH Hilo's "global education" program to develop students who "understand how to interact and live with individuals from different cultures is essential for peace and developing relationships across

National Guard, alumnus UH Mānoa (BA '90 political science, MPH '93, Mānoa), was a 4-year letter swimmer and member of 4x100 WAC championship team, student editor of *Ka Leo* and president of the Associated Students of UH.

**ALOHA 'OE**  
**Steve Jones** (1954-2016), musician, arranger and record producer, considered one of Hawai'i's finest bass players and back-up musicians for Hawaii Pops, Honolulu Jazz Quartet, numerous Hawaiian music groups, among others, attended Mānoa 1978-'79 and 1998-'99, and taught music in O'ahu schools.

**ALOHA 'OE**  
**Richard Kekuni Blaisdell** (1925-2016), educator, healer and protector, pioneering advocate for improving Native Hawaiian health and securing sovereignty, JABSOM founding Chairman of Medicine, author of groundbreaking health report for 1983 U.S. Congress Native Hawaiians Study Commission, and instrumental in the passage of the 1988 Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act.

**ALOHA 'OE**  
**James Brandon** (1927-2015), trailblazing UH Mānoa drama

## Awarded: Carolina Lam

### 2016 Fulbright International Education Administrators Award

nations." Technological advancement and ease of travel today have created a more interconnected world where "we are all becoming global citizens," says Hilo's global education program director since 2005.

The Hilo-born daughter of immigrant parents caught the attention of the prestigious Fulbright Scholar Program and visited South Korea this summer as one of only 1,100 Fulbright IEA Award educator honorees nationwide. She discovered how advanced South Korea's higher education students are in learning to work collaboratively and creatively to incorporate their studies from a multi-disciplinary perspective.

"It's so exciting to see our own local kids grow," says Lam of the 50 or so global education students involved annually with international interaction. The program's 10-week study abroad pre-departure workshop, for example, challenges students to deal with "culture shock," avoid stereotypes and dress appropriately, as well as to help them assess their readiness to live outside their comfort zone.

"I'd like to see our students become entrepreneurs, not just to earn a living, but to make an impact, to give back because there is so much one can do as a citizen of the world."

For more information: [www.hilo.hawaii.edu/studyabroad](http://www.hilo.hawaii.edu/studyabroad)

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLINA LAM



professor-director and globally recognized authority on Japanese kabuki theatre, is credited with translating/introducing Japanese theatre to American and Western audiences. Among his landmark productions were "Sukeroku: Flower of Edo" and "Narukami the Thundergod" at Kennedy Theatre.

**ALOHA 'OE**  
**Joanna Sullivan** (1921-2015), prominent community leader and philanthropist, daughter of Chinese immigrants attended UH Mānoa, but left to help her mother run Lanikai Store, the basis for the Foodland Super Market chain she co-founded with husband Maurice Sullivan in 1948.



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**Amy Hennessey**



**Jordan Kurokawa**



**Hyela Lee**



**Amanda Stevens**



**Sione Thompson**



**Paul Young**

**Shahla Buchholz** (BBA '07, Mānoa) has been named operations director of Buchholz Financial Group. She is in charge of overall business operations and manages workflow systems, processes, policies and procedures. She has over nine years of experience in the financial services industry.

**Yuhi Fujinaga** (Certificates of Completion '00, Associate in Science '01, Kapi'olani CC) has been appointed executive chef overseeing the day-to-day culinary operations of Morimoto Asia at Disney Springs at Walt Disney World Resort, Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto's first-ever Pan-Asian restaurant. Fujinaga is the former executive chef at Sea Grill and has worked at Bar Basque in New York City.

**Amy Hennessey APR** (BA '96, Mānoa) was honored with the 2016 Public Relations Society of America Hawaii chapter President's Leadership Award. The director of communications for Ulupono Initiative, the social investment firm committed to Hawai'i's sustainability and self-sufficiency, oversees its branding, marketing and public relations. She is also a public relations strategies lecturer at UH Mānoa.

**Aaron "Kilohana" Hirano** (BA '99, Hilo) has been named Kamehameha Schools regional director for East Hawai'i Island, a new position with KS' recently formed Community Engagement and Resources Group to connect its educational services with its community

'āina (land) stewardship. He has served as Hawaiian language and culture kumu (teacher) at KS Hawai'i campus middle school.

**Jordan Kurokawa** (2011 - '16, Hilo), UH baseball's right-handed pitcher, was selected by Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies in the 28th round of the 2016 MLB First-Year Player Draft. A third-team all-PacWest selection in 2015, Kurokawa is the seventh Vulcan and fourth pitcher to be selected in a MLB draft.

**Hyela Lee** (Associate in Science '16, Kapi'olani CC) was awarded Student Gold for her CMYK Magazine in the website (desktop or mobile) category at the 2016 American Advertising Awards, a national awards program presented by the American Advertising Federation. The award honors contemporary appealing websites with high functionality design that demonstrates coding, copy, visual, technical and conceptual skills.

**Diane Sebastian Pestolesi** (BS '84, Mānoa), current Saddleback (Calif.) College dean of the school of nursing, member of the 1979 UH Wahine volleyball AIAW national championship team and UH Sports Circle of Honor inductee, was honored as one of 60 outstanding alumni at UH School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene's 60th Anniversary Gala in June 2016.

**Amanda Stevens** (1986-'89, Mānoa) has been appointed executive director at Susan G. Komen Hawaii where she will raise funds and

awareness for breast health, education and research. She previously managed major gifts and grants for The Queen's Medical Center's development department, including support for QMC-West O'ahu. She also serves as a lecturer at UH Mānoa.

**Sione Thompson** (BA '04, MEd '11, Mānoa), most recently early college coordinator at UH West O'ahu, has been named executive director of the state Public Charter School Commission. The former principal of Saint Louis School has also served as vice principal, dean of students and social science teacher at O'ahu's only all-boys school, his alma mater.

**Kenneth Uemura** (BBA '72, Mānoa), former vice president and chief financial officer, Hawai'i Pacific University, was appointed to the state Board of Education to fill the City and County of Honolulu seat until 2019 by Gov. David Ige. Uemura has also served in executive financial positions for RESCO/Prudential Locations, Pomare (Hilo Hattie) and C. Brewer & Co.

**Paul Young** (BEd '96, MBA '01, Mānoa) has been promoted to associate vice president for finance and public policy at Healthcare Association of Hawaii. At HAH since 2010, he has worked on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) reimbursement issues and helped advocate for Hawai'i legislature's adoption of the Hospital and Nursing Facility Sustainability programs with improved Medicaid reimbursements.

# ALUMNI GATHERINGS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALUMNI AND UH EVENTS  
go online at  
[UHalumni.org/events](http://UHalumni.org/events)  
[hawaii.edu/calendar/uh/2016](http://hawaii.edu/calendar/uh/2016)



## WINDWARD CC ALUMNI KO'OLAUPOKO TOUR AND LUNCH

It was a July 9th Hawaiian culture celebration for Windward Community College alumni who were treated to myths and legends of Windward O'ahu sights they toured by alumnus Ian Masterson. A Hawaiian lunch by Windward CC's 'Uala Leaf Café capped the homecoming day.

## PAINT NIGHT AT KAPI'OLANI CC'S KOA GALLERY

Art appreciation and participation attracted enthusiasts on April 28 for a demonstration by Kapi'olani CC alumnus and artist Blaine Hong, a tour of student art and the opportunity to create and display (pictured) their own masterpieces.



## NEW YORK UH ALUMNI WELCOME HŌKŪLE'A

Some 80 UHAA-East Chapter alumni and supporters gathered for a Pau Hana event to welcome Hōkūle'a and crew member UH President David Lassner to New York City on June 3 as part of its Mālama Honua worldwide tour.

30

Fall 2016

## KAPI'OLANI CC ALUMNI VOLUNTEER FOR KEIKI-FRIENDLY "DINOSAUR DAY"

Members of Kapi'olani Community College Alumni and Friends

Association played, laughed and cheered as sport-activity volunteers at the April 15 Pre-School Play Day at Mānoa Elementary School, one of 35 Honolulu school sites hosting a total of 500 preschoolers ages 3-5 years with physical and learning challenges.

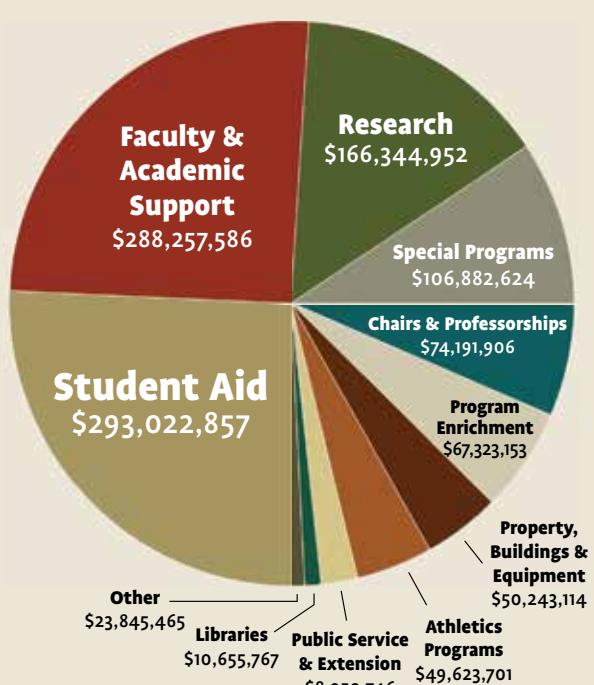




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Kolten Wong  
UH Rainbow Warriors Baseball  
2009-2011



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