

# UNIVERSITY of HAWAI‘I

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



## Q&A

Pūlama Lāna‘i’s Charlie Palumbo on finding aloha in places—historic and new—on Lāna‘i.

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## THE NEW STORYTELLERS

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## THE TIES THAT BIND

Why the Lau ‘ohana just might be Hawai‘i’s First Family of Sports.

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PHOTO: MARIE ERIEL HOBRGO

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## WOWING THE MAYORS

KAPI'OLANI

**G**ETTING 22 NEW FEDERALLY FUNDED APPRENTICESHIPS APPROVED by the state in record time is no small feat. That's why Kapi'olani was the only higher education campus invited to present a Best Practices session at the 87<sup>th</sup> U.S. Conference of Mayors held in Honolulu and attended by 220 mayors from cities nationwide in June.

The 22 apprenticeships were part of a \$4.4 million U.S. Department of Labor State Expansion grant added nationwide to states to expand the registered apprenticeship (RA) training model. As an experienced partner with local companies on successful apprenticeships, Kapi'olani was charged with working with the state to bring in the expanded RA model for high demand Hawai'i industries of healthcare and culinary arts. RA provides an employer with an "earn while you learn" employee who also receives classroom training eligible for the grant funding.

According to Sally Pestana, Kapi'olani's health apprenticeship director, the mayors were impressed by how the college "has been the bridge between employers and the Hawai'i

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations by providing administrative support around registering, monitoring and tracking apprentices. These tasks are onerous. Our work has been a game changer for many employers."

Two of Kapi'olani's partners, Queen's Health System and Duke's Waikiki, really engaged the mayors

about the staffing benefits they gained after adopting the RA model. With many cities facing massive workforce shortages, "happy employers make for happy mayors!" says Pestana.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND/OR TO PARTICIPATE: Sally Pestana (pestana@hawaii.edu)



# 3 BILLION

**SIZE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS** projected by 2030 (from 500 million in 2009) in Asia, home to 60 percent of the world's population. In fall 2019, a new master's degree in Asian international affairs begins for working professionals and organizations involved with Asia, emphasizing "contemporary issues and international connections...within Asia and beyond," says Mānoa School of Pacific and Asian Studies Dean R. Anderson Sutton.

["New advanced degree prepares for global affairs in Asia," UH News 6/10/19]

## WATERCRESS AND RESEARCHERS

MĀNOA

**I**N THE SHADOW OF PEARL-RIDGE CENTER and visible from busy Kamehameha Highway, Sumida Farm, one of the few remaining economically viable small farms in the state, provides 70 percent of watercress in Hawai'i. Recently UH researchers have been wading through its plants to assess water sustainability on the three-generation farm whose crops are fed naturally and entirely by Kalauao Spring. Forty years ago, its flow poured out 20 million gallons of fresh water daily, which is now down to as little as 5 million.

Why has the farm survived for more than 90 years? Researchers from diverse disciplines sought answers in a year-long study that examined disease pathogens, water quality and even translations of historic Hawaiian language newspaper stories, among other sources. "We

analyzed 25-year harvest trends and compared those to climate data, pests and groundwater pumping," says UH researcher Jennifer Engels.

The farm "is sort of a 'canary in the mine' for problems faced by small farmers throughout the state, and particularly in the Pearl Harbor aquifer. What sets the Sumidas apart is their resilience in the face of change," says Engels, a UH research affiliate who leads ASPIRE (Active Societal Participation in Research and Education). "Their farm has important economic and local food production value, particularly in the context of Hawai'i's sustainability goals around doubling local food production by 2020."

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2019/04/30/sumida-farm-researchers/>

“

## Ethnic differences remain when taking into account known risk factors of pancreatic cancer.”

► **LOIC LE MARCHAND**, UH Cancer Center epidemiologist and co-author of the 25-year study, the first to highlight ethnicity and involving 180,000+ participants, published in Cancer Medicine. It found that Native Hawaiians face a 60 percent and Japanese Americans, 33 percent, greater risk of pancreatic cancer than European Americans.

["Pancreatic cancer risks are greater for Hawaiians, Japanese Americans," Honolulu Star-Advertiser 6/4/19; "Native Hawaiians, Japanese Americans have higher risk of pancreatic cancer," UH news 6/6/19]

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ADAM PACK

HILO



**GOTCHA!** Professor Adam Pack videotapes a humpback whale's behavior and "flake print" to later match against his lab's 43-year historical archive of over 23,000 fluke (tail) images to discover the whale's life history. Pack's ground-breaking work, based on whale sightings in the Hawaiian Islands, will be featured in "Mystery of the Humpback Whale Song," an episode of *Changing Seas*, a PBS series available in November to public television stations nationwide. The episode is also available on YouTube and the PBS website.



**10** Milestone number of years Kaua'i Community College's Wai'ale'ale Project has enabled 786 non-college-bound Kaua'i residents, ages 18 to 66, to successfully complete their first year of college. Almost 300 have earned a degree (BA, AA or certificate) through scholarships, academic support, peer mentors and a supportive learning environment. ["UH Wai'ale'ale Project celebrates 10 years of success," KHON2 News 7/21/19; UH press release 7/21/19]

### "I really didn't want that"

► **KHRYSTYNA KANAHELE**, 18, Leeward Community College student and intern at MA'O Organic Farm's farm-to-college program, on her reaction, after learning last December that she was among the 60 percent of the 80 Wai'anae intern volunteers found to be pre-diabetic through the UH Maui Ola Study. By April, after diet changes, she was back in the healthy range. ["Changing Habits Yields Health Benefits at MA'O Farms in Waianae," Civil Beat 7/15/19]

**90** Record number of UH Hilo student-athletes (out of 189) who have earned Pacific West Conference Scholar Athlete honors (earning a 3.0+ cumulative grade point). This year's Academic All-PacWest team honored 1,555 student-athletes across 15 sports nationwide. ["Academic All-PacWest recognizes 1,555 Honorees," PacWest Conference press release online 7/9/19; UH Hilo press release 7/12/19]

# \$2.5M

► **VALUE OF A NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT** to UH West O'ahu to expand STEM capabilities, including increasing number of Native Hawaiian students enrolled; development of a five-year plan to enhance STEM degrees, concentrations and certificates offered; and strengthening summer bridge programs for high school students. ["\$2.5M to UH West O'ahu for Native Hawaiian and STEM," UH news release 5/17/19]

### "I think this is the future"



► **PABLO DE LEÓN**, director of the University of North Dakota's NASA-funded Inflatable Lunar-Mars Habitat, of Box Farm, a prototype automated hydroponic growing system that was successfully tested at the Lunar-Mars Habitat. Designed and developed by a team of Mānoa engineering students, it is "an example (of)...collaboration between robotic systems and human systems for the future exploration of space," says de León. ["UH students test award-winning growing system at NASA habitat," UH news release 6/2/19; "UH students successfully test Box Farm," Honolulu Star-Advertiser 6/3/19]

### "Look for a yearlong celebration...and perhaps a few surprises along the way!"

► **ERAN GANOT**, UH Rainbow basketball head coach, on the upcoming 100th season this fall. "It's been no secret that honoring the history of this great program has been a priority for us from Day 1. Our 2019-'20 season is the culmination of these efforts as it signifies our 100th season...Look for a yearlong celebration honoring players, coaches, and special moments in our program's history as well as interactive events with our fans, unveiling of a special 100th logo, some retro looks, and perhaps a few surprises along the way!" [Via email, 8/14/19]



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UNIVERSITY of HAWAII at MANOA  
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PHOTO: COURTESY OF BOX FARM



Charlie Palumbo at  
Hale Keaka, Lānaʻi  
City theater

# Charlie Palumbo

Interview by TIFFANY HILL

In 2013, **Charlie Palumbo** began working for Pūlama Lānaʻi, the company created in 2012 by Oracle Corp. co-founder Larry Ellison, who owns 97 percent of Lānaʻi, to manage the island's land, assets and operations. Palumbo is the head architect and project manager for the company. He says the position was not only a dream job—and he's worked on the East Coast and in Tokyo—it was a coming home. The 59-year-old spent much of his childhood on Lānaʻi, playing near pineapple fields. Today, the UH Mānoa School of Architecture alumnus is responsible for renovating existing businesses and homes and thoughtfully creating spaces for new ones.

#### WHAT WAS IT LIKE GROWING UP ON LĀNAʻI?

We actually grew up in the middle of a pineapple field with no electricity. We had a battery-operated TV and kerosene hot water heater, propane refrigerator from the '50s or early '60s and a propane stove. It was a very interesting life. We would watch "The Waltons" on our battery-operated black-and-white TV. We were actually like the Waltons watching the Waltons on TV. That's how we lived.

#### WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO JOIN PŪLAMA LĀNAʻI IN 2013 AND GO BACK TO LĀNAʻI?

From almost immediately after leaving Lānaʻi to start my continuing education, I've always tried to figure out a way I can get back to live here. It's just such an awesome environment. We have wonderful weather, people are super friendly; it's a great way of life ... Pūlama Lānaʻi was really the vehicle to allow me to get back here and use my talents as an architect. With all the places that I've lived, when people would ask me, where are you from? And my answer would always be, I'm from Lānaʻi, a small island in Hawaiʻi.

#### THE ISLAND HAS A VIBRANT, TIGHT-KNIT COMMUNITY. AS AN ARCHITECT, HOW ARE YOU ENSURING THE CHARACTER OF LĀNAʻI IS PERPETUATED?

A lot of what I do is restoring commercial buildings in town, repairing older houses and infilling vacant lots and putting in new homes for people to live. It's been my desire from day one here to really perpetuate the continuity of the feel of Lānaʻi City, the fabric of Lānaʻi City, to continue to try and provide, basically, the invisible mark from where we started in 2013 through to the future. So that what we've done, what we've built, blends in as perfectly as possible with what was originally built here starting in the 1920s.

#### IN THE PAST SIX YEARS WITH PŪLAMA LĀNAʻI YOU'VE DONE A LOT: COMMERCIAL AND RETAIL RENOVATIONS, MORE THAN 200 HOME RENOVATIONS. PLUS BUILDING NEW HOMES. IS THERE A PROJECT THAT'S BEEN MOST REWARDING?

We did Hale Keaka, which is the Lānaʻi City theater. It was built in the 1920s, underwent a renovation in the 1930s and again in the 1980s or '90s. Back in the '70s, when I was in high school, we used to see all the Bruce Lee movies there, all the surf movies, all the Mel Brooks comedy movies. I was given the opportunity to actually bring back and try to retain the exterior of this building. Using photographs and experiences that others in the community shared, we actually brought the exterior back to what it was looking like in the 1930s ... Another commercial building project was Richard's Market. That's another good example where we've kept the exterior as original as possible and the interior is fully modernized with new refrigeration, freezing, shelving, display, lighting, all of the accoutrements to make it just a nice healthy Whole Foods type of experience. I also renovated the Filipino Clubhouse a few years ago. In addition to sprucing up the exterior and interior, we made it accessible so people

in wheelchairs, elderly kūpuna could better access that building to enjoy parties and other events.

#### IN WHAT WAYS IS THE COMPANY MAKING LĀNAʻI A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK?

There's a real love for the island. Pūlama means "to cherish," and that is part of our mission, vision and values, to really care for the island and the people that live here. We've tried to prepare for the future to sensitively scale projects to be beneficial to both the people that live here and to guests.

#### WHAT FEEDBACK HAVE YOU RECEIVED FROM RESIDENTS?

I receive constant feedback 24/7, because of my involvement in the community. I'm an active member at the church. I've mentored kids in architecture and aquaponics for the past five summers over here. I am really tied into the goings on here and people are constantly discussing with me their feelings on this project or asking me, "What's the next step here?"

#### WHAT PROJECTS ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT NOW?

One of the things that I'm excited for the community is that we are planning a substantial increase in homes. There is a real housing crunch here and in order for us to relieve some of the pressure—the current experience of multi-generational families living in the same house—and giving younger folks the opportunity for home ownership. To me that's super exciting. One of the great things about it is the style of the home, the layout of the new blocks is going to blend in very nicely. The new development, the old development is just going to be a continuum of where we've come from and where we're going.



# Happy At Home: The Latest Option for Aging in Place

**M**any older adults know that they have at least two options for aging: move into a retirement community or stay at home. In the best of both worlds, kupuna would have access to a network of support while they age in the familiarity and comfort of their own homes. This third option does exist, and it's called Continuing Care Without Walls.

## “What is Continuing Care Without Walls?”

Picture a retirement community with an array of social activities, wellness amenities, and aging support that covers independent living, assisted living, and long-term (round the clock) care. Until recently, these benefits were only available to residents who moved in; however, certain Life Plan Communities (LPCs) now offer their benefits as a membership plan *sans* move-in. Members

remain independent at home, but they also gain a network of support at the parent community. They can participate in activities, make friends with the residents, and interact with staff who know them by name. The LPC may also offer members access to its amenities, such as event rooms and a fitness center.

The most important benefits of membership are care coordination and access to a skilled nursing bed (if or when it is needed). For adults aging at home, care coordination is critical during a health incident. In an emergency, or even for planned events like surgeries, a care coordinator supports members in ways that would be difficult for a member's spouse or family. Care coordination alleviates stress for all parties by advocating for the needs of the member and helping them navigate complex healthcare systems.

Furthermore, the member can rely on the Life Plan Community, which is standing by to provide short-term recovery or long-term care if needed.

## Who Should Join? How Much Does It Cost?

Continuing Care Without Walls appeals most to adults in their early to mid-70s. Members in this age group are typically independent, in good health, and able to take advantage of an active lifestyle that includes frequent visits to the parent LPC.

Members usually pay an entrance fee between \$67,000 - \$97,000, which guarantees them access to long-term care.



Arcadia At Home maintenance



Consuelo Rogers, Arcadia At Home Member and her IT Support Specialist from the Arcadia Family of Companies



Stephanie Sims, Arcadia At Home Member  
15 Craigside pool



Arcadia wellness center

They also pay a monthly membership fee averaging \$519 - \$727 per month, which provides access to the parent LPC's amenities, care coordination, and aging support services.

## Arcadia At Home

Arcadia At Home is the only program in Hawaii to offer Continuing Care Without Walls. Members receive guaranteed lifetime care and access to a skilled nursing bed at 15 Craigside or Arcadia (if or when this care is needed). They also have access to a menu of services that includes care coordination, home maintenance, fitness training, housekeeping, an emergency response system, and personal care.

As part of their benefits, members enjoy priority access to 15 Craigside and Arcadia. They may participate in free group activities like exercise classes, games, educational programs, and other activities that are normally exclusive to residents. Members can also take advantage of the amenities at 15 Craigside and Arcadia, including the dining rooms, gyms, pools, and event venues. Wheth-

er members choose to visit the communities regularly or occasionally, they always have the opportunity to develop friendships with residents and employees.

Arcadia At Home is available to adults 62 years and older who live from Aiea to Hawaii Kai. As part of the Arcadia Family of Companies, the program offers 52 years of experience in senior living excellence.

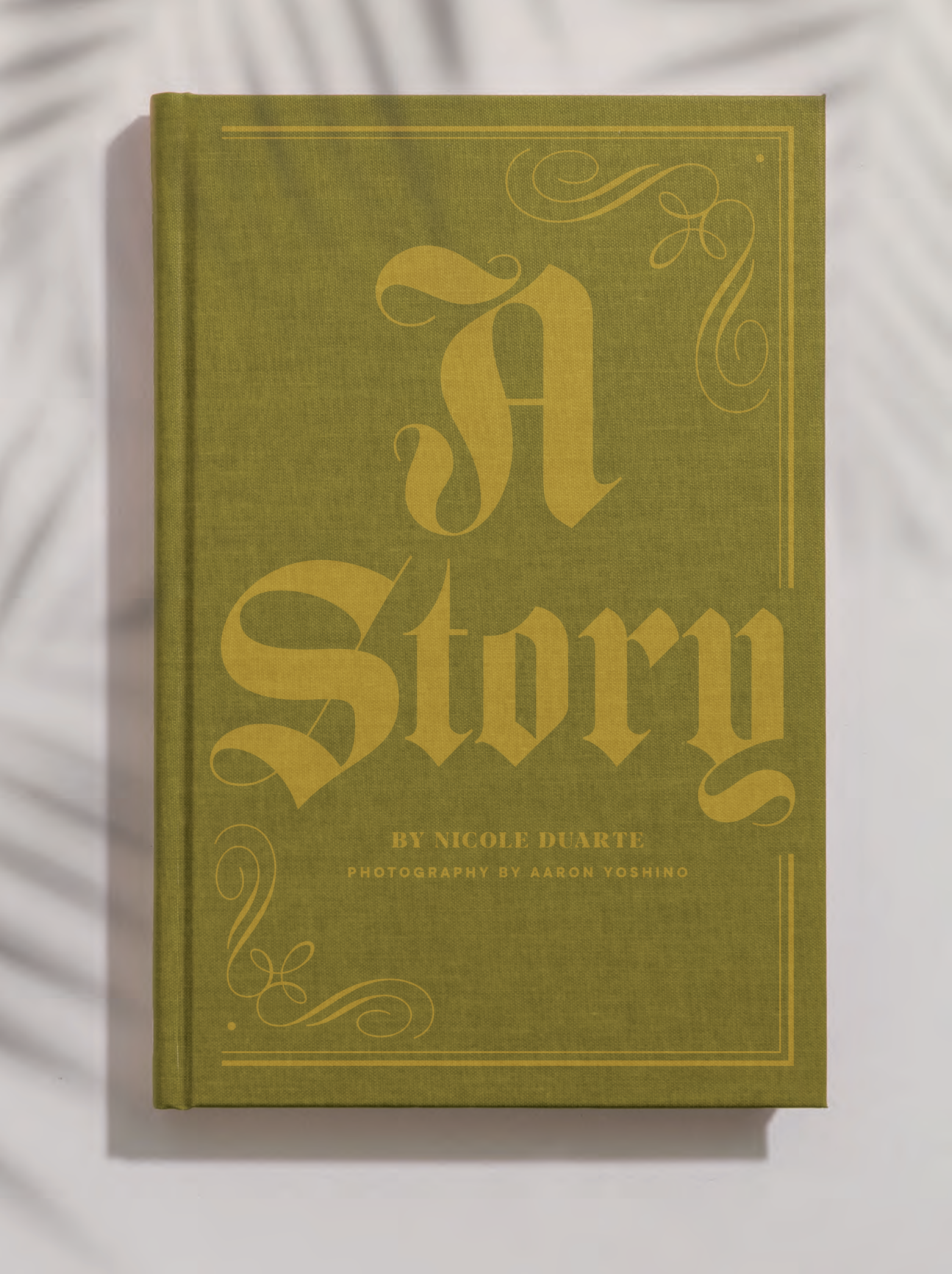
For more information, visit [arcadia.org/AtHome](http://arcadia.org/AtHome) or call 983-5915.



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Whether gathered together in a crowd for live theater or tuned in alone on a Smartphone for a podcast, we love to hear a good story. And science today can confirm: That eye-popping scare we all feel from a spine-tingling ghost story told around a campfire is truly a “mind-meld” of our brain waves in sync. The power of storytelling is nothing new; humans have known it for as long as we’ve been telling stories. In Hawai‘i, storytellers are harnessing that power to re-energize the art form and to tell stories in new ways. Here are three new-generation storytellers, using traditional forms as well as modern technology, to capture your imagination.



The cast of Honolulu Theatre for Youth's production *The Ballad of Mu Lan*

▼  
**ALVIN CHAN**  
ACTOR/PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR

**W**HEN THE KEIKI AUDIENCE at Honolulu Theatre for Youth (HTY) are engrossed in a story, their engagement is audible. “Kids are the most honest audience,” says Chan, an actor/playwright/director with HTY. “If they’re bored, they’ll shout ‘boring!’ But when they’re in it, they’ll try to warn the characters on stage, like ‘no, don’t do it!’ Hearing that,

as a writer, that’s the most rewarding, that’s real, that’s in the moment.”

Chan has been working with HTY since 2012, when artistic director Eric Johnson first approached the UH Mānoa theater graduate. To date, Chan has written eight plays, each drawing upon his upbringing in Hawai‘i, background as an actor, and studies of jingjü (Beijing Opera) in China and kyōgen (comedic Noh theater) in Japan.

“A lot of my work is a sort of cultural fusion, using traditional techniques that I’ve learned and pairing them with contemporary ideas,” says Chan of his plays

that bring classic, beloved stories to the stage but tells them in innovative ways that resonate with young audiences. He credits Johnson and the independence of HTY with giving him the freedom to experiment and take risks.

In his HTY production of *Anime Momotaro*, actors dressed in black (considered invisible in traditional Japanese theater) held up emoji signs next to the main characters to punctuate the story, which is based on the traditional Japanese children’s story of Peach Boy. Chan also staged a pivotal fight scene in the play. He then reversed the fight, “as if

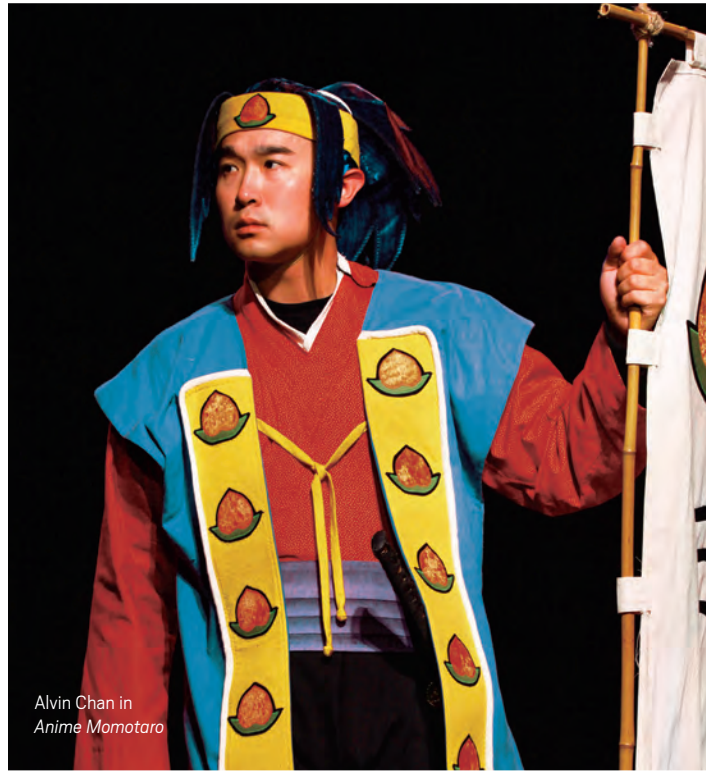
pressing rewind,” to un-do the violence as a contemporary statement against bullying, he says.

For *The Ballad of Mu Lan*, Chan wanted to offer an alternative to the well-known Disney version of the heroic Chinese woman warrior. “I wanted to present it in a way that was more culturally viable, which is why I wanted to root *Mu Lan* in Beijing Opera.” The entire play is set to percussion; however, instead of the traditional strained falsetto, the singing is contemporary.

Originally presented at HTY in 2017, *The Ballad of Mu Lan* was picked

PHOTO: BRAD GODA, COURTESY OF ALVIN CHAN





Alvin Chan in  
Anime Momotaro

up by Imagination Stage in Washington DC in summer 2019. Initially, the play's traditional Chinese percussion was met with some resistance, but Chan says that Mainland theaters are interested in presenting more diversity on stage.

"I think in Hawai'i, we've been ahead of the diversity game, which is only now catching up on the Mainland. People here are a lot more culturally open, so if I say I'm going to do a K-Pop Cinderella, people are just like GASP, that's amazing!" says Chan.

"When you go to the theater, you're learning cultures and new things, so why not push the envelope? And with kids, it's easy: I can say, this is how this world works on the stage and they accept it. They're like, 'Okay, tell me a story.'"

[Alvin Chan's *A Korean Cinderella* was re-staged by HTY in fall 2019. He is currently working on his MFA in directing at Northwestern University. He plans to return home to Hawai'i to teach theater to the next generation.]

#### KAMAKA PILI VIDEO STORYTELLER

**A** NATURAL STORYTELLER, Pili says his gift of gab is what got him on television. Discovered talking story at a craft fair, he was approached by 'Ōlelo Community Media, along with the Hawaii Culture and Retail Association, to develop and host *Aloha Authentic*, a TV show that highlights local artisans and allows them to share their stories.

"As the show progressed," Pili says, "my passion started to influence the direction, so we brought in more cultural practitioners and organizations in the community that had something to do with showcasing the lifestyle here in Hawai'i, our art or our culture."

Starting in 2014, Pili (BA 2010 political science, UH Hilo) videotaped 38 episodes of *Aloha Authentic*, which featured one-on-one talks with artists, musicians, performers, cultural practi-

tioners and community organizations. The series ended on 'Ōlelo Channel in November 2018, when Pili started as a weather anchor on KHON2.

This October, a reboot of *Aloha Authentic* will premiere on KHON2. With the new show comes a new format that features multiple segments, including demonstrations and a behind-the-scenes look at the guests' work. Important to Pili is keeping the talk story aspect of the show.

"When we're sitting down talking story, it's as if we're in the backyard Hibachi-ng and drinking beer," Pili says. "That's the whole feel and the kind of conversation I want on the show. I don't want it to seem like a polished, robotic interview. I think the rawness of talk story is what connects with viewers."

Pili hopes that viewers will walk away more informed about what Hawaiian culture really looks like, as opposed to what the visitor/tourism industry has marketed as being Hawai'i.

"When I was growing up, Hawai'i was spoken about by people who were not Hawaiian," says Pili. "I think we're now coming into an era, in which Native Hawaiians can be their own storytellers. I'd like *Aloha Authentic* to be a means for the world to comfortably, and without intimidation, learn about Hawai'i from Hawaiian people."

Whether it's correctly pronouncing Honolulu (not "hah-nolulu") or understanding the story and, thus, meaning behind street names in Hawai'i, Pili says he would like to share his conscientious brand of "educating with aloha" with a wide audience. He identifies his viewers as Native Hawaiian, Hawai'i-born, transplant residents and visitors.

"The last two [audience] groups are the most uncomfortable for me," Pili admits. "I still have that kŭ'ē, that anger, hurt, pain from our history that drives me to do what I do. The challenge for me is taking that and becoming a bridge that connects people to our history and to an understanding of where we come from."

[See new episodes of *Aloha Authentic* with Kamaka Pili on KHON2 and KHII one Sunday every month. Check local listings. Also check out archived episodes online at [alohaauthentic.org](http://alohaauthentic.org).]

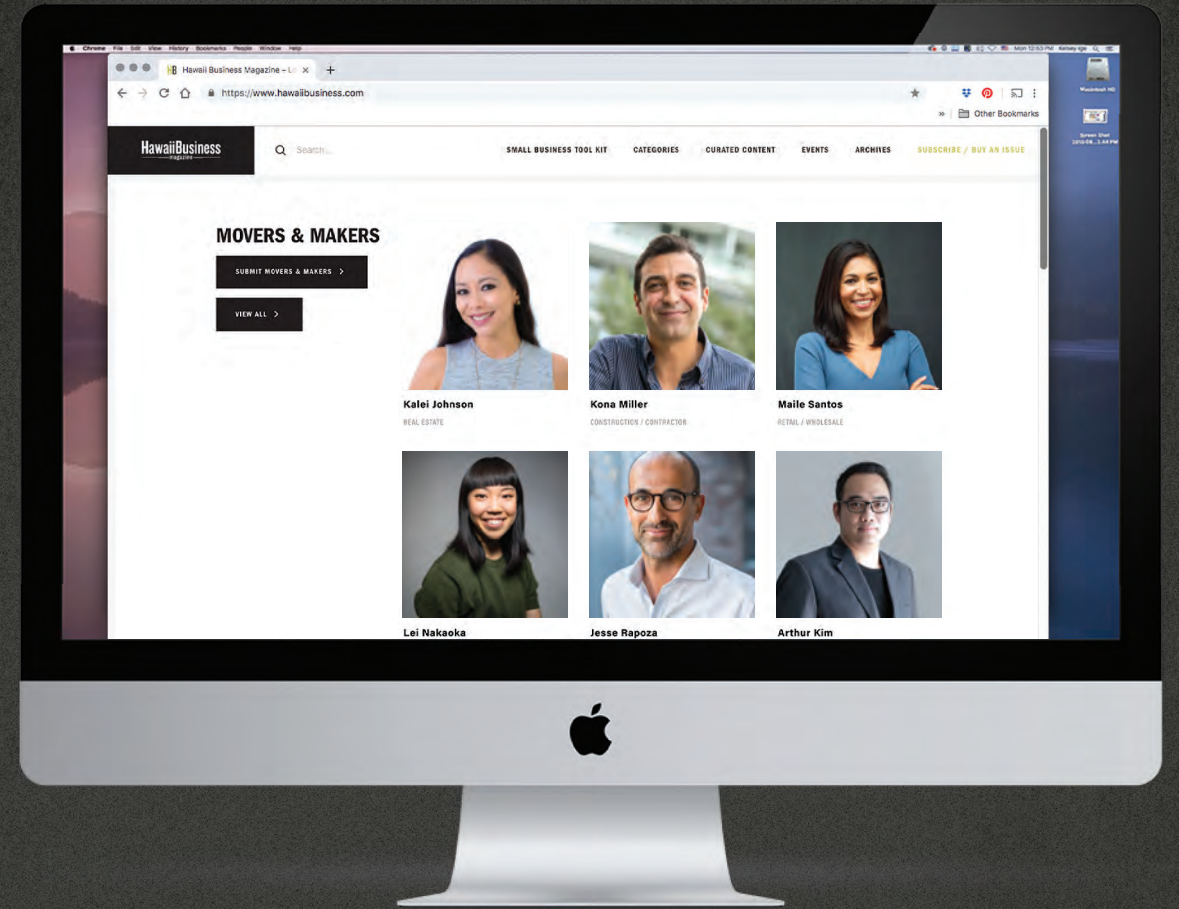


Kamaka Pili of  
Aloha Authentic

PHOTO: BRAD GODA, COURTESY OF ALVIN CHAN



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## ANJOLI ROY PODCASTER

**A** HEADY MIX of music, poetry, literature, conversation and reflection, *It's Lit* "celebrates the shine" of often-underrepresented authors of Hawai'i and the Pacific. Originally aired live on KTUH radio, the show migrated to a podcast format in August 2018, allowing for flexibility in programming.

"The podcast's roots in radio are the reason why we have this format of music and literature," explains host Anjoli Roy (aka PhDJ). "What's cool

about our show is, with the combination of music and literature, you get this breathing space after someone performs a piece."

Originally from Los Angeles, Roy (PhD English/creative writing 2017, UH Mānoa) worked in publishing in New York before attending UH. "Coming to Hawai'i, I was *stunned* by how incredible the writers are and their connectivity to ancestors and performance. Like when I saw No'u Revilla (featured in episodes 1, 25, 100) perform at a museum event, her embodiment of her work was this whole other dimension — it wasn't quite theater, but it felt like theater. She was amazing!"

*It's Lit* episodes have featured audio

performances of works by Bryan Kamaoli Kuwada, Serena Michel, Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, and Julia Katz. The accompanying music, often selected by the authors, provides the ideal backdrop for listeners to decompress, absorb and reflect upon the poetry or reading they just heard, says Roy.

Featured guests set the tone, which can run the gamut of fun and playful to serious and somber. With more than 100 episodes to date, the show offers a wide variety of voices, but Roy is personally drawn to work that is grounded in ethnic and cultural identity, indigeneity and sexuality. And the format is loose, which is how Roy picked up co-host Jocelyn Ng along the way.


"Anjoli had invited me to feature on Episode 19," says poet and artist Ng, "and then I just kept showing up." The two are good friends, and their chemistry creates a friendly and safe space in which authors can share their work.

The podcast's most popular show to date, episode 101, featured the words of three *kia'i* (guardians) of Mauna Kea: Emalani Case, Joy Lehuanani Enomoto, and Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio.

"It seems that listeners are hungry to hear directly from folks who have put their bodies on the line," Roy says. "Poetry and creative nonfiction are not window dressing — they're central to movements and central to the ways that activists, who are also artists, make sense of what's going on around them. And that's a very powerful tool to mobilize other people."

Roy, an English literature teacher at Punahou School, points out that literature — like all storytelling — is not only about written words, but also about the personal reflections and queries the reader brings to the exchange.

"The story isn't just made on the page, it's made between the reader and whatever artifact is on this page — it's some place in the middle. You have to ask, 'Who are you coming to this text?' Literature is only powerful insofar that it transforms you ... or how you *let it* transform you."

[Listen to *It's Lit* with Anjoli Roy and Jocelyn Ng online at [mixcloud.com/anjoli-roy](http://mixcloud.com/anjoli-roy).] 



Anjoli Roy,  
PhDJ



# The Ties that Bind

FROM FOOTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL TO SOCCER AND SURFING, THE LAU 'OHANA MAY BE HAWAI'I'S CURRENT FIRST FAMILY OF SPORTS.

By LANCE TOMINAGA

**A** FOOTBALL PLAYER, volleyball player and soccer player are gathered around the TV. So what sport are they watching? Surfing, of course.

"If Zeke went to UH, he probably would have ended up playing football," says the football player, pointing to the 25-year-old wave rider on the screen.

"Zeke" is professional surfer Ezekiel Lau, the Vans World Cup of Surfing defending champion. As accomplished as he is, however, Zeke is just one member of a remarkable sports-loving family that includes three former University of Hawai'i student-athletes.

The family patriarch, Leonard Lau, was a Rainbow Warrior wide receiver in the late 1980s. Mom Daina was a

member of one of Coach Dave Shoji's most talented Rainbow Wahine volleyball teams. And daughter Sarah was a four-year standout for the UH Wahine soccer team.

Each of them carries a special memory of their time in competitive college sports at Mānoa. For Leonard, it was being a part of Hawai'i's historic 56-14 win in 1989 over archrival, the BYU Cougars.

"It was the first time [since 1973] that we beat them," recalls Leonard, who graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. "After the game, we ran around the stadium with the UH flag, celebrating with the fans. It was one of the best feelings I ever had as an athlete."

For Daina, playing for coaching legend Shoji in 1989 was a reward in itself.

"He was an amazing coach," says Daina, a 1991 graduate with a degree in business administration. "His knowledge of volleyball was at such a high level, and so was his ability to recruit. We had so many talented players then: Tee Williams, Karrie Trieschman, Cheri Boyer, Jaime Paet..."

And then there's Sarah, who graduated this past May with a degree in communications. For the budding model and aspiring sports broadcaster, the last five conference games of 2018, her senior year, hold a collective memory she will always cherish.

Together with fellow senior co-captain Raisa Strom-Okimoto, "We really got the whole team on the same page, and we felt unstoppable. We trusted each other and weren't second-guessing ourselves. It was a great feeling."

The Rainbow Wahine fell one goal short of making their first Big West Conference Tournament in program history.

"That was the saddest part," Sarah recalls. "We were peaking and had this crazy momentum, then suddenly it just ended. I felt like we could have accomplished so much more."

The Laus say their experiences at UH were beneficial not just in athletics, but in life.

Leonard, now a teacher at Dole Middle School and associate head foot-



For the Lau 'ohana, sports has provided a hard-earned path to life successes. Clockwise, from top left: Ezekiel, Daina, Leonard, Jordan, Dalen and Sarah.

ball coach/offensive coordinator for the Punahou Buffanblu, was challenged to be independent and to make football practice. "I had to learn to be disciplined enough to go to class, complete my assignments and meet deadlines. I developed skills that helped me become successful later on."

For daughter Sarah, lessons learned from Dad were reinforced by college sports. "If you don't take care of your responsibilities, for example, it's not just you who will suffer; you'll let your teammates and coaches down. You can't just think about yourself."

There are two more athletes in the family. Daughters Jordan, 16, and Dalen, 14, are aspiring soccer players at Punahou.

"Now that I've graduated, I get to be more involved with their athletic endeavors," says Sarah. "I tried to set a good example for them, and as their older sister, it's going to be fun and rewarding to see them grow."

Is there a common trait that every member of the family share?

"I think we all share a high level of persistence and work ethic," says Daina, a realtor associate with Coldwell Banker. "We like to compete. And because we're always trying to play at the highest level we can, it's hard for us to play just for fun. You should see our card games. Oh my God, it gets bad!"

Leonard sums it up nicely: "We support each other in everything we do. Daina and I see sports as an opportunity to make our kids better, to give them a better future. It gives them a foundation to build on, and then they can take it as far as they want. If I had my way, all our kids would go to the University of Hawai'i." **UH**



## LIVING THE CULTURE

SELECTED

**MAHINA PAISHON-DUARTE:**  
2018- '19 OMIIDYAR FELLOWS

“GOING HOLO-HOLO as a child with grandfather to pick seaweed at O’ahu’s beaches,” says Mahina Paishon-Duarte, set the foundation for her becoming the founding executive director of Paepae O He’eia, established in 2001 to care for historic He’eia Fishpond. The Kamehameha School graduate also helped crew, at age 21, the voyaging canoe Makali’i from Hawai’i to Majuro; taught for more than four years at Hawaiian language immersion charter schools; and has danced with hula for 20 years to gain skills as a Hawaiian cultural practitioner and social entrepreneur.

“The skills I have in management, strategizing, public relations, leadership come from these cultural practices,” says Paishon-Duarte (BA ’01 Hawaiian Studies, Mānoa; teaching certificate ’02, Hilo).

Today she is managing partner and one of three co-founders of Waiwai Collective (Ka Waiwai), a unique contemporary Hawaiian co-working space established in 2017 and located on University Avenue. Ka Waiwai (meaning “the wealth”), based on “values-aligned relationships around aloha,” is the culmination

of a year-long process to a challenge posed to Paishon-Duarte and her two co-founders, Keoni Lee and Jamie Maka-sobe. At a First Nations (Native American) fellowship event, they were asked: Given seed funding, what urgent Native Hawaiian issue would you tackle?

“Research showed many issues, education, health, etc. What we didn’t see was the effort to bring people together, face-to-face, on the economy,” says Paishon-Duarte, noting the dearth of Native Hawaiian-owned businesses worth \$10+ million and employing more than 100 people.

Ka Waiwai’s diverse members include small businesses, nonprofits and freelancers representative of Hawai’i’s

growing gig economy. By design, “we gather around shared, collective values for all people who want to steward and take care of Hawai’i,” says Paishon-Duarte. Included are some familiar ones: zero tolerance for single-use plastics and an intentional food system using locally-sourced food. A co-working hub for members from 8am to 5pm, its 5 to 8pm seminar/meeting time has attracted Bank of Hawaii, HMSA and the East-West Center, among others. After 8pm near the weekend, come and take off your shoes to enjoy local music with ‘awa and local pūpū treats from its small café. For more information: <http://waiwaicollective.com>—Gail Miyasaki



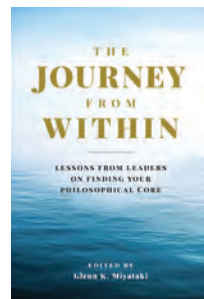
**AWARDED**  
**ROBERT HUEY**, Mānoa Japanese literature professor, the Order of the Rising Sun, one of the highest honors bestowed for a non-Japanese citizen by the Japanese government, for his contribution to developing Japanese studies in the United States. An expert in classical and medieval

Japanese poetry, Japanese culture in the Ryukyu Kingdom and Okinawan studies, Huey was also director of Mānoa’s Center for Japanese Studies.

**CONFIRMED**  
**DAVID R. STILWELL** (MA ’88 Asian studies and Chinese, Mānoa), by the U.S. Senate, as the new U.S. Assistant Secretary

of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. A retired Air Force Brigadier General and East-West Center grantee in the 1980s, he later served as an Adjunct Senior Fellow with the Center.

**PUBLISHED**  
*The Journey from Within: Leaders from Around the World Reveal How to Discover Your Philo-*



*sophical Core*, by **GLENN K. MIYATAKI** (BS ’64 mathematics, BA College of Arts & Sciences ’65, Mānoa), featuring essays by international leaders, including former UH president Dr. Fujio Matsuda, Hawaiian cultural expert Earl Kawa’a and leaders from China, Italy, Japan, the Philippines and more. (Watermark, 2018)



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FIRST TRANSLATOR

**KEAO NESMITH: HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE IN HAWAIIAN**

**"I** THOUGHT IT WOULD BE COOL to have a widely popular book, a global phenomenon like Harry Potter in Hawaiian," says

UH Mānoa Tahitian language instructor Keao Nesmith of his translation of the first Harry Potter book. "I wanted to help provide Hawaiian speakers today, especially kids, books that they want, material from today's pop culture."

Having learned 'ōlelo Hawai'i growing up from mānaleo (native speakers), his grandmother and his neighbors on Kaua'i originally from Ni'ihau, Nesmith (BA Hawaiian studies '94, Hilo; MA Pacific Island studies '02, Mānoa; PhD applied linguistics '12, University of Waikato, NZ) was uniquely qualified and personally interested. In the 1990s, he had translated many Hawaiian classics, in response to growing demand from emerging Hawaiian immersion schools for books on historical heroes such as Kamehameha the Great.

A turning point came when Nesmith translated *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* for the book's 150th anniversary in 2015. *The Little Prince*, *The Hobbit*, *Through the Looking Glass* and *What Alice Found There*, and *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* soon followed. His Hawaiian versions of *Chronicles of Narnia* (all seven books) are awaiting publication and he just finished translating the second of J.K. Rowling's books, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

Working on these translations, Nesmith says he "always hears my grandmother's voice in my ear. I hope she's smiling."

He says 'ōlelo Hawai'i has attained a level of "presence" today but more needs to be done to engage youngsters and young adults. "We need to pick up the pace so (they) don't lose interest...We are actually far behind in producing books, originals and translations, for our emerging generations today."

# Aloha 'Oe

**Ruth D. Gates**

(1962-2018), world-renowned coral researcher, innovator and advocate for coral reef conservation, was director of Mānoa's Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology. Her recent efforts focused on "super corals" to survive climate change and other environmental threats.

**Georgia Engel**

(1948-2019), (BA '69, Mānoa), breathy, squeaky-voiced TV and film actress best known and twice-nominated for an Emmy as Georgette (wife of TV anchor Ted Baxter) on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show."

**Dick Tomey**

(1938-2019), beloved and inspiring UH head football coach whose outstanding tenure (1977-'86) earned UH its first national ranking, first national TV appearance and record home game attendance. He is one of UH's winningest football coaches (63-46-3).

**Harriet M. Aoki**

(1937-2019), (BBA '59, Mānoa), pioneer financial industry executive, became Hawai'i's first woman commercial bank president (First Interstate Bank of Hawaii). She also served on boards of HMSA, Aloha United Way and UH Rainbow Advantage Program.

**Wesley T. Park**

(1937-2019), (BEd '59, MEd '63, Mānoa), astute organizational turnaround specialist called "the local boy's local boy," was dean of Mānoa's College of Continuing Education and Community Service (1976-'82), VP of the East-West Center, and president of Hawai'i Dental Service.

**Chuck Gee**

(1933-2019), influential co-founder and longest serving dean of Mānoa's School of Travel Industry Management, was a visionary contributor to Hawai'i tourism internationally, a 2014 inductee to Pacific Asia Travel Association's prestigious Gallery of Legends, and one of the 100 people who made a difference to Hawai'i in the 20th century by Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

**Domingo Los Banos, Jr.**

(1925-2019), World War II combat veteran and first Filipino principal (1956 at Anahola Elementary, Kaua'i), left Mānoa his freshman year for the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment in the Philippines, and later became a prominent educator and Filipino community leader.



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## 'GENTLEMAN AND A SCHOLAR' Avi Soifer

### HOMETOWN

My family moved often as I was growing up and I lived in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Iowa—which no doubt helped me get into a college on the East Coast through geographic distribution. Documentary filmmaker Marlene Booth and I got married many decades ago, and we raised our two children in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

### EDUCATION

- BA *cum laude*, American Studies '69, Yale College
- M. Urban Studies '72, Yale City Planning
- J.D. Law '72, Yale Law School

### WORK

Dean, William S. Richardson School of Law, UH Mānoa (2003 – present. In March 2019,

Soifer announced his retirement upon a successor being named, and plans to continue as professor in constitutional law)

*Soifer led the UH Law School through a period of major growth to become “a nationally recognized center of excellence in legal education,” says Associate Dean Denise Antolini who calls Soifer, “a gentleman and a scholar.” Among his tenure’s achievements: national recognition for student and faculty diversity; Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, the only one of its kind in the nation; a highly-ranked part-time evening program; an innovative January term taught by renowned scholars and judges; and a new clinical and trial advocacy building (September 2019) for community clinics in immigration, medical/legal issues, the Hawai’i Innocence Project, etc.*

I have loved being the dean of our unique Law School and have learned much more over the past 16+ years than in any comparable period. By also continuing to teach and write about constitutional law, I have benefitted immensely from discussion and engagement with people not only at the Law School, but throughout the UH community. And I am certain the William S. Richardson School of Law faculty, staff and alumni are more committed to the ongoing success of our students than at any other law school in the United States.

### PROUDEST MOMENT

It is a recurring moment: At every graduation, it is clear that our students have learned to celebrate other cultures without forgetting their own backgrounds. It is striking how much our students support one another and take pride in becoming Richardson lawyers and leaders.

LEARN MORE ABOUT AVI SOIFER:  
<https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2019/03/04/uh-law-school-dean-to-retire/>; <https://www.law.hawaii.edu/personnel/soifer/aviam>

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DANNY SEPKOWSKI



JEREMY SHIGEKANE



SAM SPANGLER

**PAULA AKANA** (BA '84, Mānoa), named executive director, 'Iolani Palace; former TV news anchor, KITV with 36 years of broadcast experience. Minored in Hawaiian anthropology and archaeology at UH, she is involved with MA'O Farms and Polynesian Voyaging Society.

**DAMIEN "KAIMANA" BARCARSE** (BA '95, MA '13, Hilo), Kamehameha Schools West Hawai'i director, appointed to Hawai'i State Board of Education by Gov. David Ige. Kona resident is first in his family to complete college, fluent in Hawaiian and a licensed and experienced captain in Pacific and international voyaging, including the Hōkūle'a.

**PHILIP (PHIL) HANDY**, new assistant coach, Los Angeles Lakers, played for UH Mānoa Rainbow Warriors 1993-'95 and was a member of the Warriors' 1994 WAC Championship team. Previously an assistant coach with the 2019 NBA champion Toronto Raptors, also the Cleveland Cavaliers (2013-'18) and Lakers (2011-'13).

**MICAH K. HIROKAWA** (BA '11, Mānoa), appointed po'o kula (head of school), Hakupu'u Learning Center charter school in Kane'ohe. His 22 years of experience in Hawai'i schools includes the last three at Hanahau'oli School.

**SYLVIA HUSSEY** (MEd '09, EdD '14, Mānoa), named interim CEO, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, was OHA's chief operating officer, and previously served as executive director, Native Hawaiian Education Council, and vice president of administration, Kamehameha Schools.

**LAURA KAAKUA** (JD '07, Mānoa), new president/CEO, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT), was recently Aloha 'Āina Project Manager for the Trust for Public Land. HILT oversees nearly 18,000 acres of conservation lands formerly held by four local land trusts.

**GRANT KUBOTA** (BBA '99, MBA '05, Mānoa), named Forbes Magazine's 2019 America's Best-in-State Wealth Advisors. The Punahou School graduate is senior VP and financial advisor, Morgan Stanley's Honolulu Wealth Management office.

**JOE KUHIOWE** (AA '10, HonCC, BA '15, West O'ahu), named CEO, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, a member-based nonprofit certified as a Native Community Development Financial Institution (U.S. Treasury) and as a Housing Counseling Agency (HUD).

**JANET MOCK** (BS '05, Mānoa), first black trans woman to land a three-year, multi-million deal with Netflix to executive produce/direct upcoming *Hollywood* series, and create new shows and films on historically unrepresented communities.

**CAMERON NEKOTA** (BA '97, JD '02, Mānoa), named president, First Hawaiian Bank Foundation, which donates about \$4.25 million to more than 400 nonprofits in Hawai'i, Guam and Saipan, focusing on education, health and human services, culture and the arts.

**ROY PFUND** (BBA '80, MBA '87, Mānoa), named president, Roberts Hawaii, succeeding 40-year company veteran Percy Higashi, to oversee Hawai'i's largest

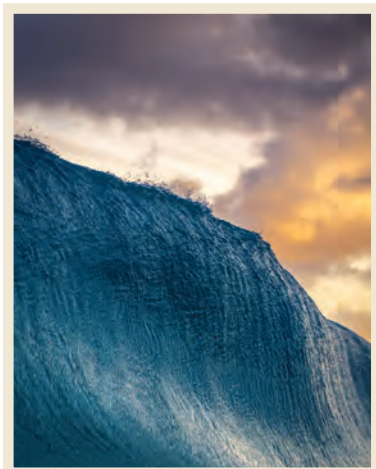
employee-owned tour and transportation company with 1,800 employees and 900 vehicles on four islands.

**DANNY SEPKOWSKI** (BA '08, MEd '11, Mānoa), second-place winner, National Geographic Society 2019 Travel Photo (nature category), for "Dreamcatcher," photo shot of a wave at Sandy Beach, O'ahu.

**JEREMY SHIGEKANE** (1996-'97, 1998, Leeward CC), new owner as of March 1, Chef Mavro restaurant founded by James Beard Award-winning chef George Mavrothalassitis in 1998, has been executive chef at Chef Mavro since 2016; formerly Hoku's chef de cuisine and executive sous-chef at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

**SAM SPANGLER** (BA '12, Mānoa), new weekend news anchor, KHON2, replacing Kathy Muneno, pitched for Rainbow Warrior baseball 2007-'10, later spent two years with the Minnesota Twins organization; also served as KHON sports producer 2012-'18.

**MARK YAMANAKA**, top winner, 2019 Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards, of four awards, including male vocalist of the year and top album ("Lei Lehua"), attended UH Hilo in Hawaiian Studies, 1998-'99.



▼ At left, Danny Sepkowski's award winning photo "Dreamcatcher"

LEEWARD

NATIVE HAWAIIAN GARDENS & SHADE HOUSE TOUR



**L**EEWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY celebration treated alumni and friends to a private walking tour of Hawai'i's largest and most extensive native plant collection at the college's Native Hawaiian Garden and Shade House. The event included a special hands-on native seedlings planting led by 'Ōhi'a Legacy Initiative President and UH alumnus, JC Watson.

WEST O'AHU

WELCOME TRANSFERS & ALUMNI RECEPTION

Celebrating their start at UH West O'ahu, transfer students from UH Community Colleges were invited by Chancellor Maenette Benham and UH West O'ahu Alumni 'Ohana to meet and chat with alumni, fellow students, faculty and staff.



MAUI

BITTERS & BITES

UH Maui College alumnus Chef Jon Pasion created a special evening of modern cuisine and contemporary cocktails for alumni, friends and donors in April. Also highlighted were exclusive collection previews by Maui alumni fashion designers, Anna Kahalekulu of *Kūlua*, and August Milan.



MĀNOA

CALIFORNIA SPRING PAU HANA EVENTS

UH alumni living in California reconnected with their alma mater and fellow graduates at springtime pau hana events in Southern California. UH President David Lassner and Provost Michael Bruno were on hand to meet, mingle and enjoy a special performance by folk pop band, Streetlight Cadence, featuring Mānoa alumnus, Jesse Shiroma (pictured with the accordion).





▼  
PARTING SHOT  
**IT IS  
ROCKET  
SCIENCE!**

Co-captains Mia Fong (left), Honolulu Community College natural science engineering student, and Katherine (Kat) Bronson (AA liberal arts '16, Windward; BS mathematics '18, Mānoa) are hands-on rocket experts, having led the 14-member Project Imua Mission 6 student team that won the Rookie Award as the top new team in the April 2019 NASA student launch competition in Huntsville, Alabama. Composed of students from three community colleges (Honolulu, Kapi'olani and Windward) and UH Mānoa, the team had to propose, design, build and test a reusable rocket with a payload that had to reach between 4,000 to 5,500 feet and return safely.

For more information on Project Imua: <http://imua.wcc.hawaii.edu>

PHOTO BY DAVID CROXFORD

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