

UNIVERSITY of HAWAI‘I

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



Q&A

Blue Startups' Chenoa Farnsworth on investing in women entrepreneurs

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OCEAN DISCOVERIES

Exploring the Pacific's mysteries, begun by UH, reaches new depths

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WHAT REALLY MATTERS

Hilo's Joey Estrella and Little League's Gerald Oda talk baseball

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ON THE COVER

Wave Glider, an unmanned and solar-powered ocean communications drone. Photo courtesy of Liquid Robotics



VALUE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH five-year grant to five UH bio-science researchers to create an Integrative Center for Environmental Microbiomes and Human Health to research how microorganisms, including bacteria, fungi and viruses, affect human health—from mosquitos to autism.

[“UH Mānoa gets \$10.4M grant for microbiome research,” Honolulu Star-Advertiser 1/21/19]

TAKE TO THE SKIES

HILO

Dream of becoming an airline pilot? How about a commercially licensed unmanned aviation technician operating small drones to gather crucial data and photos in remote areas, like active lava fields? A new bachelor’s degree in aeronautical sciences at Hilo—the first in the UH system—offering this opportunity starts this fall. The two different commercial aviation pathways will provide the same first three years of classroom and flight simulator learning background currently needed for commercial aviation by airline pilots and commercial UAS (unmanned aviation systems) pilots.

“We’re offering students affordable, state-of-the art instruction, such as hands-on training on renowned Redbird flight simulators, to better prepare them for success in flight school,” says Bruce Mathews, dean of Hilo’s College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Management. “Prospects for rewarding careers for both kinds of commercial pilots is high.” Demand for airline pilots has been increasing, especially with major airline-affiliated regional carriers and international airlines. For future highly skilled high-end commercial drone operators in the exploding UAS field, the sky’s the limit.

“

They can do it at night; they can do it in the morning around their work schedules, around their child care.”

► **DAVID LASSNER**, UH president, on UH’s first completely online degree program, beginning August 2019. Attention: full-time working parents, especially in remote or rural areas, this associate in arts degree program offers affordable, five-week online courses for selected degrees at seven community colleges.

[“UH online program caters to parents, full-time workers,” Honolulu Star-Advertiser 1/13/19; “UH to launch completely online AA degree program,” UH press release 1/13/19]

ILLUSTRATIONS: GETTY IMAGES

MĀNOA

EEWWW! Not all students from Iroquois Point Elementary had this reaction from the mouth-puckering sour Otaheite gooseberry, sampled at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) 2019 Agriculture and Environmental Awareness Day on February 7 at UH’s Urban Garden Center in Pearl City. “The kids had so much fun,” says CTAHR Master Gardener Program’s Kalani Matsu-mura of the nearly 400 students from four elementary schools attending. “Some kept coming back for more.”



BUILDING BLOCKS

KAPI’OLANI + MAUI



A STUDENT IN CYBERSECURITY can now take accounting and statistical analysis courses to learn the business side of how Internet threats affect the bottom line before taking a first job. Starting this fall, the first ever online business IT bachelor’s program, integrating curricula from two community colleges, will enable such an IT associate degree graduate from Kapi’olani Community College to seamlessly transfer to a BS degree program at UH Maui College in ABIT (applied business and information technology). While staying at home.

“It’s an exciting, non-traditional and affordable opportunity for our IT students, having gained the latest skills including data science and cybersecurity, to add workplace-ready business and entrepreneurial knowledge from Maui’s applied science bachelor’s program,” says Lori Sakaguchi, student counselor for Kapi’olani’s Business, Legal and Technology Department. “Rather than a traditional curriculum pathway, this offers a creative building-block approach where students can grab different sets of skills tailored to their aspirations that can make them highly marketable.”

Even former students with master’s degrees, such as in political science and marketing, have inquired with Sakaguchi about business IT programs, reflecting changing workplace realities.

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5TH Rank of UH Mānoa among the top 12 research institutions nationwide for producing the most 2018–2019 Fulbright US Scholars—six—and tying it with four other universities. Since 2010, Mānoa has produced 43 Fulbright Scholars. [“UH produces flock of Fulbrights,” Off the News editorial, Honolulu Star-Advertiser 3/05/19; UH press release 2/12/19]

“It just gave me a way to live...to not stress out so much about where my next meal was going to come from”

► **BERNADETTE ROSE GARRETT**, 2018 Windward Community College graduate and the first college graduate in her family, of HINET (Hawai'i Nutrition Employment and Training) workforce education and training program that helps fund food, transportation, books and other student expenses. HINET adds Maui and Honolulu campuses this fall. [“HINET helps community college students to make financial ends meet,” Honolulu Star-Advertiser 2/10/19; UH press release 2/10/19]

2,000 Number of participants, ages 60 to 77, in a UH Cancer Center study showing that Japanese-Americans, more than other races, tend to accrue excess liver and abdomen fat that may lead to heart disease, diabetes and many cancers. The three-year study was published in *Gastroenterology*. [“Japanese tend to accrue liver fat, new study finds,” Honolulu Star-Advertiser 12/19/18]



“

I never thought I would be part of giving a heavenly body a Hawaiian name that would be globally recognized”

► **KAUAKEA HELEKAHI-KAIWI**, a senior at Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u School, Hawai'i Island, of selecting Hawaiian names for two new asteroid discoveries through A Hua He Inoa, UH Hilo's 'Imiloa Astronomy Center's collaboration with Hawaiian-speaking students from Maui and Hawai'i Island, 'ōlelo Hawai'i experts, educators and research scientists from the state's astronomical observatories. Hawai'i is the first place worldwide to involve traditional indigenous practices in the naming of astronomical discoveries. [“Hawaiian students learn, name astronomical discovers through 'Imiloa program 1/08/19]

“You don't just see a spike in graduation rates; there's an overall spike in Native Hawaiian student enrollment...”

► **WILLY KAUAI**, Native Hawaiian Student Services director, of the record four-year graduation rate (from 10.3 to 32.3 percent) for Native Hawaiian students since 2010. At 37.7 percent (from 17.7 in 2010), Filipino students top the four-year overall rate of 35.2 percent for all students. [“Native Hawaiian graduation rate triples at UH Mānoa,” Honolulu Star-Advertiser 12/03/18]

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LANDMARK ANNIVERSARY of the UH sailing team, one of only two UH sports programs to win the top team national title (the other is Wahine volleyball). Sailing has produced 61 national championship appearances, 34 All-America citations and five Olympians. [“UH sailing team celebrates milestone,” Honolulu Star-Advertiser 1/20/19]

INKINEN POSITIONS ITSELF FOR GROWTH

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Left to right: Kathryn K. Inkinen, Founder/Advisor, Inkinen & Associates; Ben Ancheta, President, Inkinen & Associates; Kristi Inkinen Yanagihara, Owner, Remedy Intelligent Staffing



PHOTO: BETTY IMAGES

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Chenoa Farnsworth

Interview by NICOLE DUARTE

As co-founder and managing partner of Blue Startups, a Honolulu-based venture accelerator, **Chenoa Farnsworth** is a rare female venture capital investor in a field in which women are deeply underrepresented. In October 2018, Blue Startups pledged to invest \$1 million in women-founded companies, as part of The Billion Dollar Fund for Women, a worldwide initiative to mobilize \$1 billion for female entrepreneurs. Since earning an executive MBA in 2000 from UH Mānoa Shidler College of Business, she has endeavored to strengthen the start-up ecosystem in Hawai'i.

ACCORDING TO THE BILLION DOLLAR FUND, WOMEN-FOUNDED COMPANIES HAVE A GREATER ROI THAN MEN-FOUNDED COMPANIES. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

Female founders tend to be more competent and better prepared. They do their homework; they don't show up to meetings and wing it—which is something we see with our male founders. There's a stat that says in order for a woman to apply for a job, she needs to feel that she's 100 percent qualified, whereas a man will apply for the same job feeling 60 percent qualified. We have a similar phenomenon in the start-up world. Female founders are very competent but lack confidence. Whereas male founders tend to be overly confident but underprepared for what's really required to succeed. Men may gain immediate traction but, in the long run, female founders are better positioned. They tend to have a strong work ethic and, for start-ups, there's no substitute for hard work.

IN WHAT SECTORS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS?

Technology. It's still a male-dominated industry. We see women go into packaged goods and retail—things that, frankly, don't scale very well. We really want to see all of our entrepreneurs work on ideas that can scale globally. We love companies that can export with the push of a button. We're in the middle of the Pacific, so exporting goods from here is very costly and not going to create a third leg of the stool for our economy as we need it. As an

investor, I'd love to see more female founders take bigger risks and think globally.

BLUE STARTUPS HOSTS EAST MEETS WEST, A GATHERING OF INVESTORS AND ENTREPRENEURS FROM HAWAII, ASIA AND NORTH AMERICA. HOW ARE WOMEN RECEIVED INTERNATIONALLY?

It's really interesting, actually. I think that's changed over the years. Ten years ago, you might have heard that if you're a woman in the room, they're going to treat you differently or you might want to bring a male counterpart. You really don't hear that anymore. In almost every meeting we attend in Asia, there's a female executive or leader. I don't have any hard data on it, but I would say there's a lot of movement right now, especially for women in Asia. They're getting into higher positions and taking on decision-making roles.

WHAT'S THE FUTURE OF THE START-UP SPACE IN HAWAII?

We currently have a very robust, early-stage entrepreneurial scene. But we have to move those companies down the road to maturity. Hopefully, in the next five

years, we'll connect the dots, so that we have later-stage funding, professional service providers, and the right talent in Hawai'i to meet the needs of these companies. As remote work becomes more common, we'll start to see companies keep all or part of their operations in the state.

There's also a lot of cross-pollination between Asian and US markets. And that's not stopping anytime soon, as Asia is a rising economy in the world, both for consumers and for innovation and tech. If Hawai'i plays its cards right, it is well-positioned to capitalize on this trend. For Asian companies wanting to access the US market and for US companies wanting to access the Asian market, Hawai'i is the perfect gateway. Our geographical location is a real opportunity for Hawai'i to attract companies working in both economies.

HOW DOES HAWAII GO ABOUT "PLAYING ITS CARDS RIGHT?"

The Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation and the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation have been critical in getting things started. They're relatively small-dollar programs, but I think those dollars are being leveraged very well, delivering big bang for the buck. Beyond that, I think it's about achieving critical mass. We need to have enough activity in the industry so that we have labor mobility. Once that shift happens, then it starts to snowball. It's a slow process. I like to say: miracles will not occur, but all indications are up and to the right.

Editor's note: Blue Startups recently became the first US company to join Across Asia Alliance, which aims to connect Asian startups with investors through cross-border networking.

Happy At Home: The Latest Option for Aging in Place

Many 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.

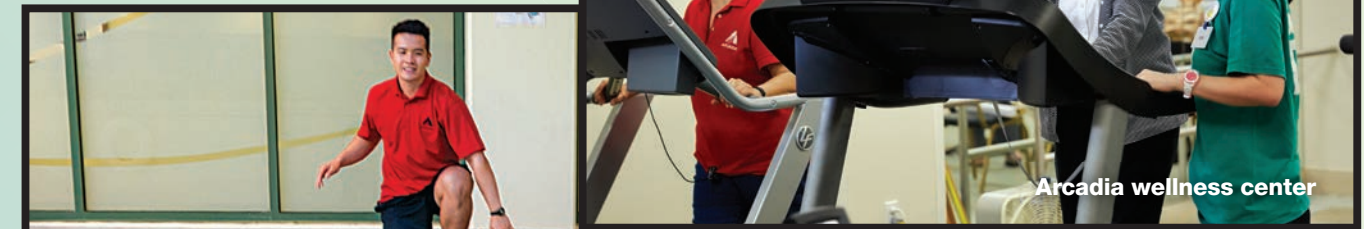
The most important benefits of membership are care coordination and access to a skilled nursing bed (if or when it is needed). For adults aging at home, care coordination is critical during a health incident. In an emergency, or even for planned events like surgeries, a care coordinator supports members 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.



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 in Honolulu, from Salt Lake 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 or call 983-5915.



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Liquid Robotics'
Wave Gliders taking
measurements of last
year's Kilauea eruption.



PACIFIC DISCOVERIES

**HOW PIONEERING
OCEAN RESEARCH,
BEGUN BY UH,
CONTINUES TODAY.**

BY JASON UBAY

PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIQUID ROBOTICS

ON THE MOST

REMOTE LAND MASS IN THE WORLD,

oceanographers and scientists in Hawai'i have access to deep ocean waters unlike anywhere else. As the world's largest and deepest ocean, covering one-third of the Earth with more than 63 million square miles of water, the Pacific Ocean offers opportunities that have made the University of Hawai'i a great research lab for internationally known discoveries and innovations affecting the health of the ocean and how we understand the world.

PRIOR TO THE 1980S, there were no large scale studies on the ocean. Knowledge about the global ocean, from its increasing temperature to the microorganisms present in it, has been advanced exponentially by Mānoa's pioneering HOT (Hawaii Ocean Time series) and Ocean Station ALOHA (A Long-term Oligotrophic Habitat Assessment). Data collected from the program has been used in more than 700 scientific publications.

Joining UH in 1978, David Karl, who had never seen the ocean until age 17, has led HOT and its many spinoff programs, beginning at a critical time when interest had grown by governments and the science community about how climate change affected the global ocean. "At the time, we didn't know much about the ocean carbon cycle," recalls Karl, today an internationally renowned ocean researcher.

Seeking long-term funding to create a quality ocean time series, Karl and colleague Roger Lukas sent funding proposals to do the research for HOT and received grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), which has

continued HOT funding for more than 30 years. (BATS [Bermuda Atlantic Time Series], an identical time series operated by the nonprofit Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences, is a sister program to HOT launched at the same time.) UH provides additional funding in the form of faculty, students and research equipment.

Located 100km/62 miles north of O'ahu, Ocean Station ALOHA launched its first cruise in October 1988 and the 312th was scheduled this April. With roughly 10 trips a year to station ALOHA, using the US Navy ship Moana Wave, and taking up to 50 measurements each time, Ocean Station ALOHA has made several important discoveries over three decades, including collecting unprecedented long-term data on the ocean's rising temperature. HOT researchers first identified the three most abundant microorganisms found all over the world's oceans. They also discovered new metabolic pathways and how methane was being produced in the ocean—both of which had been unknown.

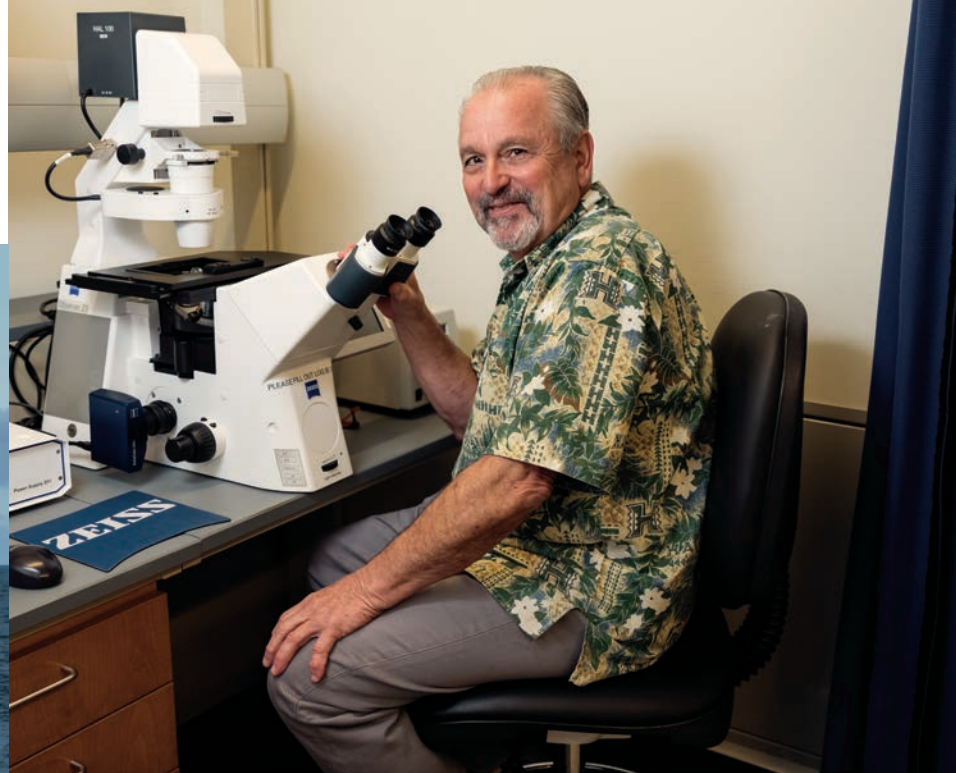
Looking to dive deeper into HOT's



Above, Scientists working with the Hawaii Ocean Time-series (HOT) deploy oceanographic instrumentation to look at the hydrography, chemistry and biology of the water column at Station ALOHA, a field site representative of the North Pacific Gyre.

breakthrough data, Karl parlayed HOT's success in 2006 into C-MORE (Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education), an NSF-sponsored science and technology center, and partnered with top national institutions, including Massachusetts

Institute of Technology, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, University of California, Santa Cruz, Oregon State University and Columbia University. For a decade at C-MORE Hale, UH Mānoa has coordinated the



Top, David Karl; and, left, Angelicque White, UH Mānoa, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, department of oceanography.

partnership research to further understanding of the global ocean. Although C-MORE ended in 2016, an \$80 million grant from the Simons Foundation for SCOPE (Simons Collaboration on Ocean Processes and Ecology) continues to explore HOT research.

With his retirement as head of HOT this year, Karl will be succeeded in August by Angelicque White, who has had myriad experiences with HOT, including trips to Station ALOHA, using HOT data for her dissertation and working with C-MORE. Her biggest challenge—“other than filling Dave’s shoes,” she laughs—is maintaining access to the sea, which requires dedicated marine operations and personnel.

“Sustaining these high quality climate-ready models at the level they’ve been maintained over the past 30-plus years is really the goal for the future,” White said. A second goal is to incorporate, logistically and financially, new technologies, such as additional autonomous vehicles and machine-learning approaches.

“The expense is a drop in the bucket toward a better understanding of how our oceans are actually functioning and it’s fundamentally required to have a time series to do that.”

With HOT funded through 2023

JOIN ALOHA

Station ALOHA cruises welcome anyone, from a variety of disciplines, with an interest in the ocean. For more information and to request a seat on an upcoming cruise, visit hahana.soest.hawaii.edu/hot.

and SCOPE through 2024, White hopes continuing to showcase the research to the community will raise awareness of its global importance. All data collected is publicly available.

The most recent National Climate Assessment in November 2018 predicted a future of increasing ocean temperatures and acidification threatening fisheries, coral reefs and the livelihoods

PHOTO: COURTESY OF TARA CLEMENTE

they support to result in lower fishery yields. Ocean research has expanded into our island community through UH-educated researchers—inspired by a shared love of the ocean.

DANIEL MERRITT, LIQUID ROBOTICS

ONE OF THE NEW AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGIES used by HOT is the Wave Glider, manufactured by Liquid Robotics, a Boeing company. It is essentially an unmanned drone that can rove the ocean and collect data for months at a time. Equipped with a solar panel and communications equipment, it can transmit data continuously, enabling researchers to know the exact locations of data sources at all times. A Wave Glider can be an autonomous system, or it can take commands.

“Wave Gliders put us in a niche market. We can operate for a long time in a unique part of the ocean,” said Daniel Merritt, senior field support engineer for Liquid Robotics.

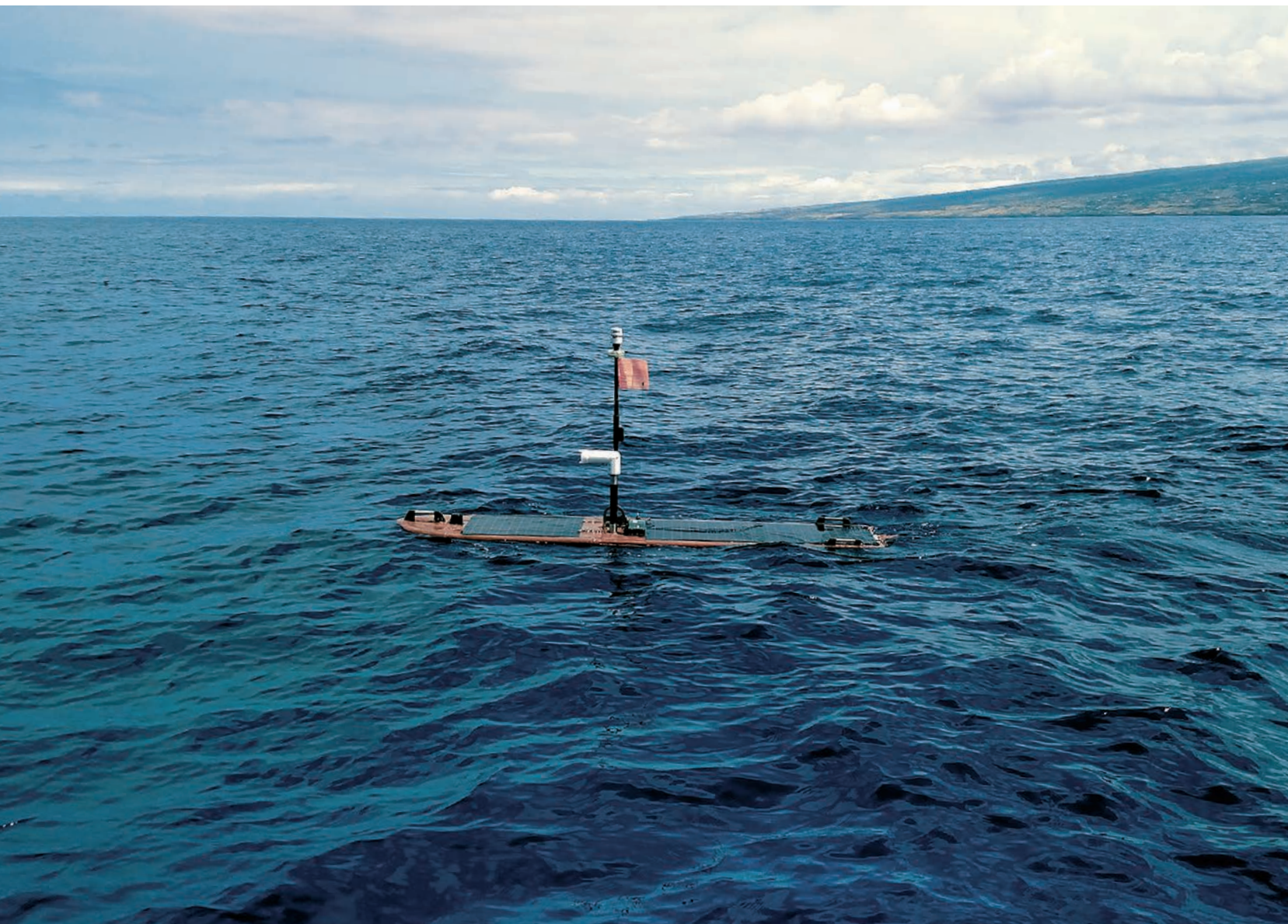
He grew up on the West Coast and says he was a “Jacques Cousteau kid,” endlessly fascinated by the ocean, and has never strayed from it. He went to undergrad and played baseball at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He played professionally and when he retired, he enrolled at UH in the department of ocean engineering. After earning his master’s degree in 2005, he worked at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center as an ocean engineer. He stayed in Hawai‘i and in 2012, made the move to Liquid Robotics.

The company was created in Hawai‘i from a desire to listen to humpback whales. In California’s Bay area, research equipment back then would become untethered during rough weather, making sound research on whales sporadic. Today, Wave Gliders can do that and have applications for research as well as defense uses.

“We can support those who need to monitor the ocean using Wave Glider’s

PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIQUID ROBOTICS





capabilities,” says Merritt, explaining that the technology’s images and data collected provide higher resolution that could not be collected with a satellite.

Latest iterations have increased the device’s power, speed and survivability. “It’s been out in the worst seas that exist,” says Merritt, including hurricanes at the higher latitudes.

“Surface ocean really drives hurricanes. (And) because Wave Gliders sit right on that top section of water, we can take some interesting measurements. It’s the kind of thing you

wouldn’t send a boat out to, but you’d send out a Wave Glider. A big push now is to create a platform that can survive in those conditions.”

Unlike a crewed ship, Wave Glider can go into dangerous situations without putting lives at risk. In 2018, the company worked with UH Hilo to take, for the first time, measurements of the Kilauea lava eruption as it flowed into the ocean.

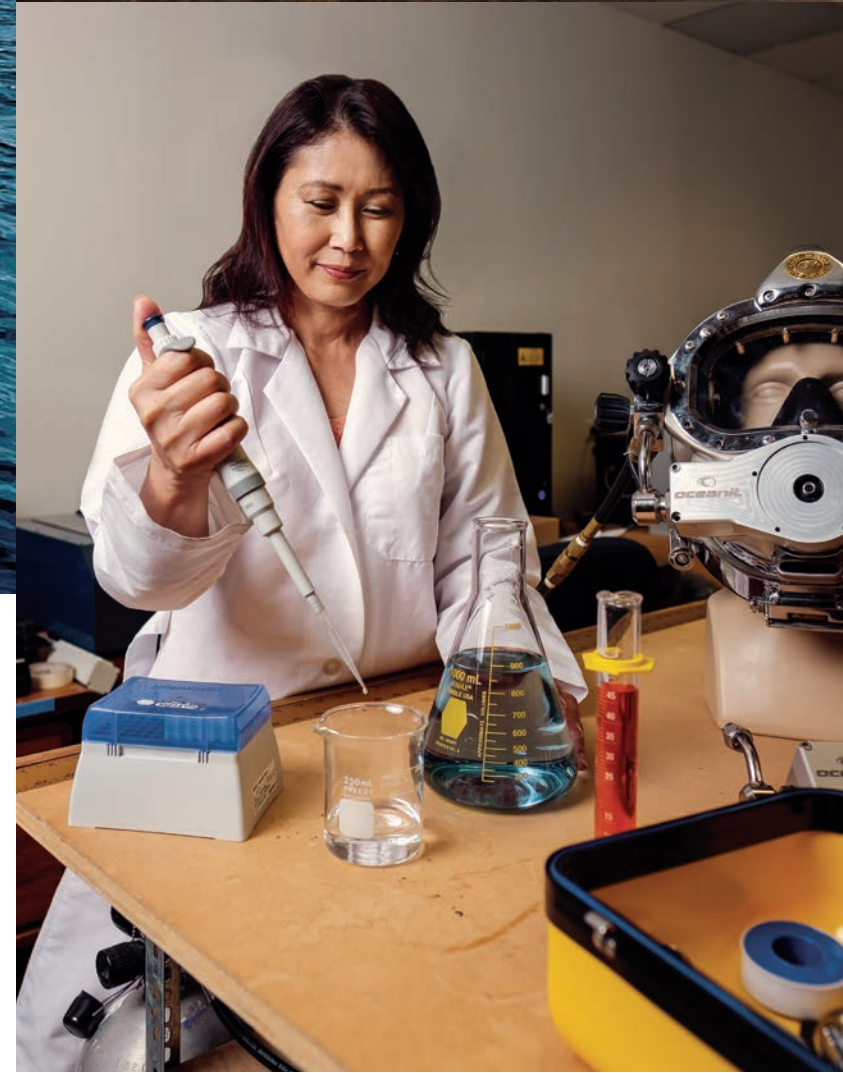
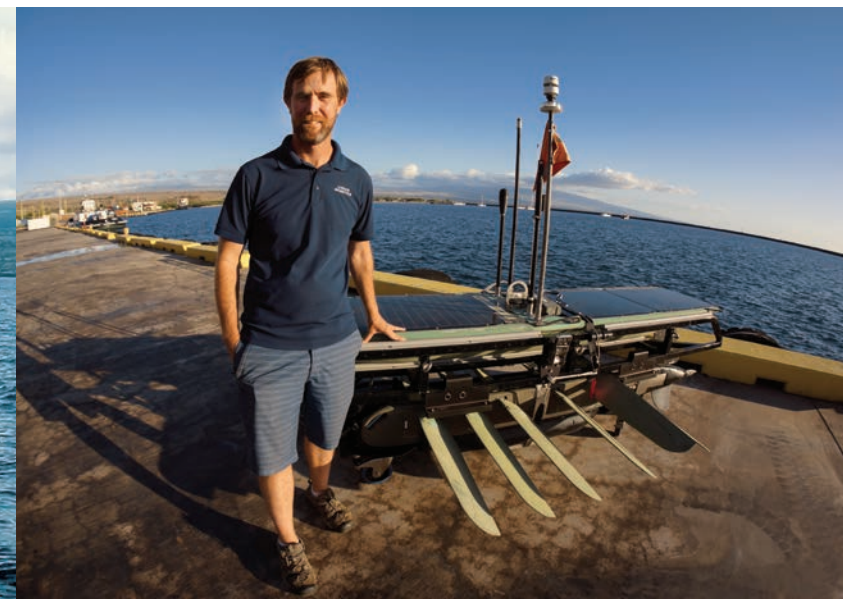
Merritt and the research team do testing at sea at Kawaihae on Hawai’i Island. Governments, nonprofits and

companies also use Wave Gliders to do constant monitoring and to detect vessels and other objects in the ocean. Essentially a communications gateway, it offers much more ocean research opportunities still to be explored.

JOANNE EBESU,
OCEANIT

OCEAN RESEARCH CAN TAKE MANY FORMS. Perhaps you’ve eaten seafood and gotten

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LIQUID ROBOTICS



Opposite, left, Liquid Robotics Wave Glider; this page, top Daniel Merritt; bottom, Joanne Ebesu

food poisoning but it turned out much more severe than you would expect. It may have been from ciguatera, an algae-based seafood poi-

soning often caused by eating fish that have ingested the toxin. More than 50,000 people worldwide annually suffer from ciguatera.

The idea for a toxin test began with Joanne Ebesu, who grew up fishing every day during summers visiting her grandparents in Kona. “I grew to love the ocean,” says the Moanalua High School graduate.

There had been no way to test for the toxin until Ebesu (MS ‘03, PhD ‘08), a senior biomedical scientist at Oceanit, worked on developing the test while still attending UH. Earning her MS in zoology in fish endocrinology, Ebesu did her research on ciguatera toxins with Yoshitsugu Hokama of UH John A. Burns School of Medicine’s pathology department. Hokama encouraged Ebesu to pursue a doctorate in biosciences to do her own research on the toxin and help launch the product at Oceanit. The test proved successful but the company stopped manufacturing after 10 years.

Ebesu’s skills, initiated in ocean research, have led her to more than 15 years managing and participating in diverse multidisciplinary research projects at Oceanit. She is a founding member and now heads NanoPoint Technologies, the nano technology division at Oceanit and one of its commercial spin-out companies. Ebesu’s projects include a cooling vest to decrease fatigue in humans and canines, and DERT (Dispersible Emergency Response Treatment), a solution to help clot blood that was funded by the US Department of Defense. In tests, DERT stopped blood loss by a third, which would reduce the chance of infection and even death.

As the first woman and only the third person hired at Oceanit, she is proud that her department now has more than 30 people and more women. Her research experience at UH helped her write grant applications, a skill she still uses at Oceanit. **UH**

What Matters Most

FOR LOCAL COACHING ICONS JOEY ESTRELLA AND GERALD ODA, SUCCESS IS MEASURED BY MORE THAN WINS AND LOSSES.

By LANCE TOMINAGA



THERE YOU HAVE IT! Hawai'i wins it! No ka oi, Hawai'i!" The moment pitcher Ka'olu Holt recorded the game's final out—Hawai'i 3, South Korea 0—his teammates jubilantly rushed the mound. Tossing their caps and gloves toward the sky, the boys formed a tangled mass of hugs, handshakes and high-fives.

Hawai'i was the 2018 Little League Baseball World Series champion.

A few feet away, Gerald Oda embraced his assistants, bowed his head and then gazed reflectively at the celebration in front of him.

"I just felt appreciation," Oda says today, recalling the moment. "I'd been coaching for such a long time—27

years—and right at that moment, I was thankful for the opportunity to coach all the kids that I've been able to coach over those years."

Joey Estrella knows the feeling. His 37 seasons as the head coach of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's baseball program included five NAIA district championships and three World Series appearances.

"I watched [the Little League] games, and you could see how sincere the coaches and players were in spreading aloha and representing Hawai'i," says Estrella. "They were humble and played together. That doesn't come overnight. They had to work at it. The kids bought into what the coaches were selling, and just look at the results."

Estrella and Oda share more than

a love for coaching baseball. Both are also proud alumni of the University of Hawai'i. Oda graduated in 1997 with a BA in political science. Estrella has both a bachelor's (1974) and master's degree ('76) in education.

Estrella grew up in Kaumana near Hilo's Gilbert Carvalho Park. He played basketball for the Vulcans during his freshman year but in the spring of 1972, he transferred to UH Mānoa to play shortstop for Les Murakami, one of college baseball's winningest coaches.

"Baseball at UH was just starting out," Estrella recalls. "We actually built our own field, where the softball stadium is now. We also played some of our games at the old Honolulu Stadium. We only played a few NCAA Division 1 games at the time. We had our growing

pains, but you could see what Coach Les was trying to do."

"I have so much aloha for him for giving me the opportunity," he says of being kept on the team as a graduate assistant after graduation. "I never dreamed of coaching baseball. But after that, everything kind of fell into place."

In 1976, Estrella returned to Hilo to accept the challenge of building the Vulcan baseball program from the ground up. Even then, however, he was paying his dues: Besides coaching baseball, Estrella served as an assistant basketball coach, P.E. teacher and even worked in the school's Sports Information Department.

"My salary was less than \$10,000 a year," he says, smiling.

Estrella also served as Hilo's Athletic Director from 1980 until the summer of 1989.

By the time Estrella stepped down as head coach in 2013, Vulcan baseball was on par with Hilo's similarly successful women's volleyball and men's basketball programs. In one stretch, Estrella guided his team to 12 consecutive postseason appearances, including the 1986, '87 and '89 NAIA World Series.

Today, the 68-year-old Estrella is back at UH Hilo, serving as an assistant on the softball team.

Like Estrella, Oda is a baseball lifer. He grew up with the game, playing it first on the streets in Kalihi, and then in the Kailua Little League.

"We didn't grow up very wealthy,"



Left, Gerald Oda; below, Joey Estrella.

Oda recalls. "For us, baseball was an escape. It was a way we could enjoy ourselves and just be kids."

"I wasn't the kind of student you'd want your child to be," admits the Kailua High School graduate. But today, he uses his experiences to instill important life lessons in his players.

"Sometimes a kid needs a little more direction," he adds. "I can understand what they're going through. I can connect with them. We always stress the importance of discipline and being a good student."

Discipline played a key role in Honolulu's run to the 2018 Little League championship. While the team was competing in Williamsport, Pennsylvania last August, some 4,700 miles away, Hurricane Lane was threatening their families and friends back home.


"[Lane] was a Category 5 at one point, and everyone back home was bracing for impact," recalls Oda, 51. "Everybody on the team was getting messages from home: 'Do your best.' 'We're all cheering for you.' Everyone told me to focus on the team and forget about the hurricane. I thought, 'This is pretty amazing.'"

"We talked about it. I said, 'This is our moment, guys. This is our chance to give back to the people in Hawai'i who are supporting us. For the next few hours, we can take their minds off the hurricane and give them a sense of pride and joy.'"

Mission accomplished. Oda was named GEICO's 2018 Volunteer of the Year from among its 38,000 employees nationwide.

Both Oda and Estrella agree that, in the end, the joys of coaching baseball go beyond wins and losses.

"We coach the game, but we also coach life," says Estrella. "When I see people who played for me becoming successful husbands, fathers, youth coaches and community leaders, for me, that's the *real* highlight."

Oda agrees, "That's the greatest reward. I'm grateful for the opportunity to play a small part in their lives." 



INFLUENCING CHANGE

HONORED

EARL KAWA'A: 2019 LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAI'I

TAKE A LOOK AT EARL KAWA'A'S schedule to see what matters to him: instructing 100 people on how to prep and plant kalo (taro); working with high school dropouts at Kailua's Kinai 'Eha Program; building a Hawaiian hale (house) in Waimānalo; and teaching a class he founded, Board & Stone, to strengthen families. The son of taro farmers in Moloka'i's Hālawā Valley, Kawa'a discovered his own talents and future in the roots of his family's livelihood.

"Farmers have a picture of their outcome: how to bring an idea to fruition to feed their families, to nourish a community," says Kawa'a, framing his own life-changing experiences, including as a VISTA volunteer in New Mexico's Acoma Indian Reservation. Working with Native American youth and the Acoma Tribal Council, he helped nurture a tribal dream and muster the funding to build a baseball field and organize the first ever all-Indian Little League tournament. Coming home, he honed his skills at Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center and Waimānalo Health Center, among others, and expanded his knowledge with a master's degree in social work at Mānoa.

"I walk comfortably in both worlds," says Kawa'a, of being schooled professionally and in the Hawaiian culture. Currently a Hawaiian Resource Specialist at Kamehameha Schools, he is a teacher, social worker, community organizer and peacemaker (in ho'oponopono, or conflict resolution). Through his Board & Stone classes, now in their 11th year, he has taught thousands of family members to make traditional hand-carved poi boards and stone poi pounders. In doing the work together, many re-discover and strengthen family well-being through Hawaiian values. Next year, he hopes to add the making of the usu, the Japanese mochi-pounding vessel, and the wooden kine mallet.

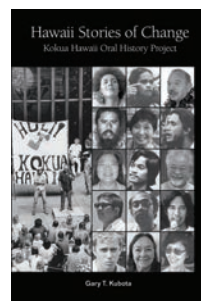
"I teach through stories and see eyes light up; so I know I can influence change in children, youth and parents for a better tomorrow."—Gail Miyasaki

RECOGNIZED
LEHUA KAMALU (BS '13 mechanical engineering, Mānoa), as the first woman to serve as a Polynesian Voyaging Society captain and lead navigator of a long-distance ocean crossing. She successfully led Hikianalia's 13-person crew, using traditional Polynesian wayfinding, in September 2018 over

2,800 miles from Honolulu to Half Moon Bay, Calif.
INDUCTED
BETH MCLACHLIN (BE '81 secondary education/physical education, Mānoa), three-time All-American with the UH Rainbow Wāhine Volleyball team and co-captain of the 1976 US Women's Olympic Volleyball team, into

the USA Volleyball Hall of Fame. The retired La Pietra - Hawaii School for Girls athletic director played on the 1974 inaugural UH Wāhine Volleyball team for Coach Dave Shoji.

PUBLISHED
Hawai'i Stories of Change: A Kōkua Hawai'i Oral History Project, by **GARY T. KUBOTA** (BA '76 journal-



ism, Mānoa), featuring 34 oral history interviews of those involved in a landmark 1971 protest against the eviction of farmers and Native Hawaiians in Kālāma Valley. Marking the beginning of the Hawaiian Renaissance, it challenged local land use ownership and policies. (Kōkua Hawai'i Oral History Project, 2018)



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HONORED

**KATHRYN INKINEN:
2019 YWCA OF O'AHU LEADER LUNCHEON**

DURING HER 12 YEARS AT KAHALA HILTON, including as a student intern from UH Mānoa's then fledgling TIM (travel industry management) program, Kathryn Inkinen gained skills firsthand, as she rose from pantry worker to head of personnel by age 24. When she traded the luxury resort hotel environment for City Bank's corporate boardroom, it was to create its first human resources department as the bank's first and only woman senior vice president. Her task: Go beyond recruiting women to promoting them into management.

"Companies grow with fresh, new ideas. Employees grow with new skills, new jobs," Inkinen says of her decision in 1992 to start her own firm. Choosing executive

search, rather than HR staffing, she sought to help Hawai'i businesses grow by matching them with the most qualified candidates.

Inkinen became that rare catalyst: a local-born, locally experienced head-hunter. She saw that the business landscape of her youth where people spent their lifetime working at a big company had been transformed by many smaller businesses needing a matchmaker for new talent. After 27 years, in 2018, she sold her firm but remains as founder/advisor to Inkinen and Associates.

"Executive search is about growing leaders," says Inkinen of her more than 1,000 successful placements. "It's about developing leaders for the future: women leaders, non-profit leaders who can influence change to improve our community."

Aloha 'Oe

Vince Manuwai

(1980-2018), considered one of UH football's best offensive linemen, was a first-team All-American as a senior in 2002. Attending UH from 1999-2003, the Farrington High School graduate went on to play eight NFL seasons with the Jacksonville Jaguars and the Atlanta Falcons.

Marjorie Ziegler

(1956-2018). (BA '86 geography, Mānoa), lifelong advocate for native species, biodiversity and conservation, was considered "the matriarch" of Hawai'i's environmental movement, serving as executive director of the Conservation Council for Hawai'i since 2003. The Castle High graduate attended Windward Community College, also worked for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now Earthjustice) and served as mentor to many conservationists in Hawai'i.

Jackie E.H. Young

(1934-2019), (BS '69 speech pathology and audiology, Mānoa), trailblazing feminist and former Hawai'i legislator, was a third-generation Korean American and an early advocate for abortion rights and marriage equality. Her work encompassed Title IX education equality for girls, domestic violence shelters, and the Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus, among others.

Victor Kobayashi

(1925-2018), UH professor emeritus of educational foundations and former dean of summer session, was devoted to the field of education. The Maui native, who led the restoration of Mānoa's historic Krauss Hall that houses the John Young Museum of Art, was also one of the founders of the Hawai'i International Film Festival and a dedicated artist in ceramics and collages. (BEd '54, MEd '60, Mānoa).

Herbert "Monty" Richards, Jr.

(1929-2018), fifth generation missionary descendant of the Cooke family, led Kahua Ranch's pioneering and innovative efforts (including wind farming) to modernize ranching in Hawai'i. Dedicated to a broad range of civic and community service, he served 16 years on UH's Board of Regents under three governors (Burns, Ariyoshi and Cayetano).

Paul Leland Breese

(1922-2018) (BS '47 biology, Mānoa), Honolulu Zoo director emeritus, developed the zoo's first master plan, defined its physical space and created a modern educational and recreational institution during his tenure as director (1947-1964). An early conservationist, he initiated the Nēnē Restoration Project and is credited with reviving and ensuring the survival of Hawai'i's State Bird.



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GRAND NANI LOA RESORT
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CAREGIVER: BELOVED PLACES
Mehana Vaughan

HOMETOWN

I come from the rural Halele'a district on Kaua'i, a community of farmers, fishermen and women—people who, whether or not they feed their families from the land, understand its rich nourishment and the need to live guided by its lessons. (It is) a community that cares for one another and our home.

EDUCATION

- BA sociology/secondary social studies teaching certificate '98, Harvard
- MEd education/curriculum studies '03, Mānoa
- PhD environment/research '12, Stanford

After 10 years as a teacher, I pursued a doctorate at Stanford's Emmett Interdisciplinary Program. Frustrated with land use decisions and science that did not engage local knowledge, I felt I needed more skills to make a difference. I've always loved school. Having been given opportunities and scholarships, I felt a kuleana to study and put that learning to work. I'm still in school!

WORK

Asst. Professor, department of natural resources and environmental management, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; coastal resilience sustainability faculty, Sea Grant College Program, UH Mānoa

I am a mother, teacher, and supporter of communities caring for beloved places. I believe that communities across Hawai'i, and Hawai'i herself, will thrive with autonomy to make pono decisions for places that sustain us so that they may flourish for our children, those generations yet unborn and all who love Hawai'i.

PROUDEST MOMENT

Watching fish come back to the shallowest waters and reefs of Hā'ena, Kaua'i through community stewardship and letting the place rest and restore itself after being unmanaged and overvisited. And when people in my book, *Kaiāulu: Gathering Tides*, want to share it with their children!

LEARN MORE ABOUT MEHANA AND HER WORK: seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/directory-detail/?smid=33489. Also mehanavaughan.huiainamomona.org/bio/

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AARON AKAU



JOE FERRARO



TRINI KAOPUIKI



JENNIFER LA'A



MARIKO MIHO

AARON AKAU (BA '93, Mānoa), promoted to president and CEO of Belt Collins Hawai'i, a Honolulu-based planning, engineering and landscape architecture firm. In 2012, Akau and three other Belt Collins partners bought the Honolulu office, whose work encompasses Hawai'i, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

LEO R. ASUNCION, JR. (BA '88, MA '91, Mānoa), appointed to the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission by Gov. David Ige, to replace Randy Iwase. A planning program administrator in the state Office of Planning, Asuncion has also worked for Hawaiian Electric Co., SSFM International Inc., Hawai'i State Judiciary and the State Land Use Commission.

JOE FERRARO (BA, MA '83, Mānoa), named 2019 president of the 850-member AIA (American Institute of Architects) Honolulu Board of Directors, is co-founder of Ferraro Choi and Associates, Ltd., a leading Honolulu-based sustainable design architectural, interior design and research firm. A member of the AIA's College of Fellows, he is a recipient of the US Green Building Council's Pioneer award for his sustainable design practice. The 2019 AIA Board's focus is on sustainability.

LILLIAN GOO RODOLFICH (BA '87, Exec. MBA '05, Mānoa), named vice president and CFO for Hawai'i Foodbank. With more than 20 years' experience in finance and accounting, she has worked at Catholic Charities Hawai'i, Alexander & Baldwin, Queen Lili'uokalani Trust, Kamehameha Schools, Aloha Air Cargo and Associa Hawai'i.

TRINI KAOPUIKI (BA '03, Mānoa), named president and CEO of Make-A-Wish Hawai'i. Familiar to TV viewers as a reporter, weather anchor and host at KHON2 for 19 years, the former Miss Hawai'i USA has also volunteered at Honolulu Theatre for Youth and the Lailima Giving Program.

K. SEAN KEKINA (BA '12, Mānoa), named chief operating officer, or Luna Ho'okō, at 'Aha

Pūnana Leo, a Native Hawaiian nonprofit committed to normalizing 'ōlelo Hawai'i through education in the Hawaiian language, including its immersion preschools. His past work experiences include Howard Hughes, Ward Village and Velocity Honolulu.

SARA KING (BEEd '08, MEd '12, Mānoa), honored as Hawai'i's sole recipient of a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award, is among 33 honorees nationwide for 2018-2019. The coordinator at Ala Wai Elementary for low-income Title I students promotes project-based learning, student leadership, collaboration with her peers and serves as a teacher mentor.

DEREK KOBAYASHI (BA '86, JD '90, Mānoa), named president of the Hawai'i State Bar Association. A litigation attorney with Schlack Ito in Honolulu, he is also active in pro bono work throughout the state and serves as vice chair of the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission.

JENNIFER LA'A (BA '99, MA '03, Mānoa), promoted to CEO of Easterseals Hawai'i and was previously the nonprofit's director of youth and adult programs. She has also worked at Legal Aid Hawai'i and at the Hawai'i State Department of Health.

COLETTE MACHADO (BEEd '73, Mānoa), re-elected chair of the board of trustees for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and has served as OHA chair since 2017. First elected in 1996, the Moloka'i native previously served as OHA chair 2010-2014.

MARIKO MIHO (BA '80, Mānoa), named executive director Lanakila Pacific Foundation and vice president of Lanakila Pacific, the non-profit organization dedicated to building independence for people living challenged lives with disabilities, including cognitive, physical and age-related challenges. With more than 35 years of experience, she leads its fundraising efforts. She previously coordinated fundraising campaigns for UH Foundation.

JACCE MIKULANEC (MA '04, Mānoa), selected president and executive director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, is also a board member of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Honolulu, serving as its president 2014-2016. He has worked at the Hawai'i Medical Service Association and the Good Beginnings Alliance (now Hawai'i Children's Action Network).

ZACHARY MORITA (BA '07, Mānoa), awarded \$100,000 grant from the Dream Big Teacher Challenge, sponsored by Farmers Insurance, and one of five winners nationwide. A Niu Valley Middle School music teacher, he plans to create a music Olympics with his grant funds and to purchase music instruments for schools unable to afford good ones.

SHAN TSUTSUI (BA '94, Mānoa), named senior VP of operations for Mahi Pono LLC, which purchased 41,000 acres of former Maui sugar cane lands from Alexander & Baldwin in December 2018. The former Hawai'i Lt. Governor and Maui native will be responsible for business strategy, management operations, community leadership and government relations for the farming venture of Pomona Farming (California) and the Public Sector Investment Board of Canada.

LIA WOO (MEd '16, Mānoa), selected as the head of school for Hanahau'oli School, is the first graduate of the private grade school to head the school. Returning as a teacher to Hanahau'oli in 2012, she was its first director of curriculum and innovative technology. Since 2016, she has served as the school's interim head of school.

MICHAEL YADAO (BA '09, Mānoa), appointed director of government relations at General Contractors Association of Hawai'i, formed in 1932 by general contractors on four major islands. He will represent GCA on governmental issues and serve as its lobbyist.

HONOLULU

HONOLULU CC CELEBRATES MELE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY



MARKING 10 YEARS OF PROVIDING STUDENTS aspiring for careers in Hawai'i's ever evolving music and entertainment industries, MELE's 10th Anniversary celebration last fall featured the music of 2018 Kani Ka Pila talent search winners Ke'olu (Hiilani Asing, Krystal Mokuahi and Cory Mau). MELE (Music & Entertainment Learning Experience), also participating as judges, offers Kani Ka Pila winners a demo recording package.

MĀNOA

FUTURE ALUMNI "TALK STORY" WITH UH MĀNOA ALUMNI

Washington state was the site for newly-admitted students to Mānoa to learn firsthand from alumni who shared their experiences and memories (and a few tips on do's and don'ts) at UH Mānoa's Accepted Student event on March 17.



WEST O'AHU

CELEBRATING PUEO PRIDE & PROMISE AT UH WEST O'AHU

Graduates of UH West O'ahu—whose mascot is the pueo, the Hawaiian owl—gathered on March 7 at its Kapolei campus to celebrate new and renewed friendships, shared pride in their still growing campus and a look at its future. The event included a tour of West O'ahu's new Administration & Science Building.



MAUI

UH MAUI'S 22ND ANNUAL NOBLE CHEF GALA DAZZLES

With celebrity chefs (including three alumni), delicious food, music and a Moulin Rouge theme, UH Maui College Culinary Arts Program's largest annual fundraiser made November 10, 2018 a night to remember—and all in support of culinary education and career advancement opportunities for students.



PARTING SHOT

INTO THE WILD

(From front:) Hikers Jerry Rauckhorst, Nanette Otani, Cheri Rauckhorst and Janice Nako-Piburn expertly descend a ridge in the Wai'anae range as part of "Adventures in Hiking for the Fit Senior," offered through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) for adults 50+ years. Led by John B. Hall, Mānoa professor emeritus in microbiology and a 40-year veteran of Hawai'i's trails, the hiking class is one of more than 50 OLLI classes and events at Mānoa, which joins more than 120 university and college campuses offering lifelong learning programs funded by the Bernard Osher Foundation in all 50 states.

For more information: www.osher.socialsciences.hawaii.edu

PHOTO BY JUNE IBARA

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How private philanthropy is helping UH to build HAWAI'I'S INNOVATION ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

The **University of Hawai'i** is making great strides with its *Building Hawai'i's Innovation Economy & Workforce* initiative, thanks to investments from **Strada Education Network** and **Harold K. L. Castle Foundation**. The effort advances two of UH's key strategic priorities:



GRADUATING
HAWAI'I'S FUTURE



INNOVATING FOR A NEW
HAWAI'I ECONOMY

The goal is to expand the state's economy beyond tourism and military spending to create high-quality, living-wage career opportunities for Hawai'i residents. And because most of these new jobs will require some postsecondary education, UH wants to ensure that its graduates have the skills employers need.

Photo: Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship, Shidler College of Business, UH Mānoa

To do this, the university has partnered with the **Chamber of Commerce Hawaii** to launch industry-led partnerships in the banking/finance, IT, engineering, food manufacturing, healthcare and agriculture sectors. Employers are working directly with UH leaders to address Hawai'i's changing workforce needs and advance economic development.

A stronger UH means a brighter future for Hawai'i.

These critical partnerships are made possible by private philanthropic support. Together, we can move Hawai'i and its people toward a remarkable future. Together, we can *Journey Beyond*.

To learn more about supporting UH's priorities, visit www.uhfoundation.org/journeybeyond.



Journey Beyond

