KUPONO

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Largest-ever private gift will support critical ocean research at UH

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FOR OUR UNIVERSITY, OUR HAWAI'I, OUR FUTURE

Q&A with UHF Trustee Jim Lally

Jim Lally is the powerhouse behind a number of highly impactful UH initiatives. Thanks to his generosity and tenacity, people of all ages on Kaua'i who were not college-bound are now experiencing the benefits of a 13th year of education through the Wai'ale'ale Project. Lally was also instrumental in seeing the Hawai'i CC-Pālamanui campus become a reality. As a high level thinker, he has also been key to the UH strategic hiring effort that brings top researchers from around the world to UH as part of the Hawai'i Innovation Initiative, which aims to create a $1-billion research enterprise in Hawai'i.

Q: What is the 13th year statistic?

A: The 13th year statistic was uncovered by Earl Bakken and Sharon Vitousek. They learned that if you have one year of formal school beyond high school, you earn 35 percent more money over your lifetime and you are 28 percent less likely to be unemployed during any part of the economic

cycle. But the thing that was shocking to me was that you live seven years longer. That is an incredible statistic! It's also incontrovertible because it's been in the census for the last 50 years. Because of that it's completely unacceptable for anybody to be denied access to a 13th year of school (and seven more years in their lives) because they have a financial problem.

Q: Can you tell us about the Wai'ale'ale Project you helped start at Kaua'i CC?

A: The program, led by Kimo Perry, started in 2010. Designed to remove barriers to entering and succeeding in college, the program provides financial aid and ongoing student support to people of all ages who were not planning on attending college. We work with social service agencies and high school counselors to help us reach our participants. Today we have almost 400 students who have gone through the program.

The academic and personal successes of our cohorts have surprised even us! Our goal is to expand the program statewide.

Q: Why do you care so much about this group of disadvantaged people?

A: Because I was a disadvantaged kid. All I needed was a little help, just a little help and a little encouragement and it went a long, long way. That's the same thing here. Here are all these resources, all this talent, all these amazing people. All they need is to understand that people believe in them and they will give them a chance. And that's all they need. They don't need hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of tutoring and babying. They just need to know that somebody believes in them. Give them a little push, and boom – they're off and running.

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Simons Foundation:
$40 million private gift is UH's largest

The Simons Foundation award will support microbial oceanography research at UH's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology. Scientists shown above are collecting ocean water samples for testing.

On June 16, UH Foundation had the honor of announcing the largest private gift to UH: a $40 million award from the New York-based Simons Foundation to Drs. David Karl and Edward DeLong, both National Academy of Sciences members and UH Mānoa professors in the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST).

For decades, UH Mānoa has been at the forefront of microbial oceanography. This historic award will establish the Simons Collaboration on Ocean Processes and Ecology (SCOPE) project, which builds on this expertise, to further our understanding of the microscopic organisms that inhabit every drop of seawater.

"Microorganisms are the most important living beings on this planet," said Dr. Karl. "They're mostly invisible to the naked eye, but they're responsible for the habitability of this planet."

Microorganisms in the sea are responsible for producing oxygen that we breathe. They form the base of the food web for all of the fisheries of the world, and they are the organisms that can degrade human-produced pollutants.

Dr. Ed DeLong said, "In SCOPE, we're going to be using a range of technologies – from in situ autonomous sensing to the advanced genomic analyses – to more deeply understand how the ecosystem really works in the ocean waters around Hawai'i, and how that relates to ecosystem function on the rest of the planet."

"SCOPE is the foundation's first project in microbial oceanography. We are confident that collaborative efforts by this terrific team of scientists will lead to new discoveries and deeper understanding of the microbial ecosystem," said Marian Carlson, director of life sciences at Simons Foundation.

"The Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education (C-MORE) and the Hawai'i Ocean Time-series (HOT) program have been studying Station ALOHA, which is 100 km north of O'ahu, for more than 25 years. So we have a good understanding of its physical variability and how that's structured.

"And now we want to build upon that information to better understand the blueprint of life in the open ocean setting, how everything is connected, and how all of these independent phenomena work together to make the ecosystem whole," said Karl.

While the leadership and program locus will be at UHM with DeLong and Karl as co-directors, SCOPE will be a multi-institutional collaboration with inaugural partners at University of California – Santa Cruz, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University of Washington.

Private support like this historical commitment from the Simons Foundation catapults our innovations and research to new heights.

Keeping good students in-state

Regents Scholarship program encourages Hawai'i's brightest students to attend UH

Another wave of our state's best and brightest began attending the University of Hawai'i this fall. Twenty local high school graduates who excelled in the classroom and on college entrance exams were awarded UH Board of Regents Scholarships, and 10 incoming UH juniors were named Presidential Scholars for their academic achievements.

These outstanding students and their families were honored at a special dinner at Hālau O Haumea at the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge at UH Mānoa.

"These are students of great achievement, great potential and great promise," said UH Board of Regents Chair Randy Moore.

Expanding Regents Scholarship Program to honor Sen. Akaka

Friends of Sen. Daniel Akaka are commemorating his outstanding accomplishments by establishing the Senator Daniel K. Akaka Regents Scholarship Endowment. This prestigious scholarship will support outstanding students selected as UH Regents Scholars. Co-chairing the scholarship's committee are Walter A. Dods, Jr., Bert A. Kobayashi, Sr., Lawrence S. Okinaga and Joan M. Ohashi.

"We are all proud to support and honor the senator with this effort and legacy, and look forward to garnering additional support for this important scholarship endowment," said Kobayashi, Sr.

2014 University of Hawai'i Regents Scholars. The Regents Scholarship Program, established by the Board of Regents in 1986, was created to help keep Hawai'i's most promising students closer to home. Recipients receive a full tuition scholarship for four years of undergraduate study, $4,000 per year and a one-time $2,000 travel grant.

Ohashi added, "Sen. Akaka did so much for so many people during his career. Wherever he went, and in all his capacities, he was a true educator and ambassador of aloha for Hawai'i."

Okinaga said, "The scholarship honors the senator's passionate commitment to developing Native Hawaiian scholars and leaders. Throughout his career from public school teacher and administrator to public office, Sen. Akaka was intent on finding solutions and strengthening the futures of America's native peoples through education, access to opportunity and financial literacy."

Thanks to generous lead gifts of $300,000 from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and $250,000 from Kamehameha Schools, along with individual gifts and pledges from other donors, more than $1,142,000 has been raised to date.

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I one day hope to become a doctor so I am majoring in biology to go to medical school. I am just really looking forward to learning as much as I possibly can.

— Malia Andrade Stout, Regent Scholar and Honoka'a High graduate

Kamehameha Schools & UH:
Making Hawaiian learning thrive

Thanks to a dynamic and innovative partnership between Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawai‘i, students in communities throughout Hawai‘i are receiving the culturally-relevant academic and personal support they need to access and succeed in college.

To date Kamehameha Schools has invested almost $6.5 million in UH programs, including the Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education, UH Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, and the Wai‘ale‘ale project at Kaua‘i CC.

“As the largest higher education system in the state, UH serves a significant number of Native Hawaiians. So KS views UH as a very important partner in our goal of seeing Native Hawaiian students enroll in, persist through and complete post-secondary education,” said Livingston “Jack” Wong, interim Kamehameha Schools CEO. “We also know that it will take innovative ways to create the kinds of support that mitigate barriers and leverage the motivation of our students toward their aspirations.”

Livingston concluded, “With more than 60 percent of the jobs in Hawai‘i requiring a post-secondary degree, amidst many of the daunting and worsening challenges that we face, it behooves all who live here to care about and invest in the educated citizenry and leadership potential of our state.”

KS recently awarded two grants to fund new programs:

Study of Hawaiian medicinal plants sparks students’ interest in STEM careers

Project Olonā at Kapi‘olani CC is engaging 12 Native Hawaiian students in the comparison of plant growth rates using traditional soil and hydroponic systems. First-year students apply

Andrew Chang, second-year student at Kapi‘olani CC, cultivates Hawaiian medicinal plants in various traditional ways to study their potency.

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Regents Scholarship program expands to honor Sen. Akaka

L-R: Donna Vuchinich, Bert A. Kobayashi Sr., Senator Daniel K. Akaka, Walter A. Dods, Jr., Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Kama Hopkins, Peter Apo, Joan M. Ohashi, Lawrence S. Okinaga

Continued from previous page

“Since the 1930s when members of my family first started attending UH, it has played a pivotal role in our lives,” said Akaka. “This scholarship will help many of Hawai‘i’s most promising students access the transformational opportunities UH provides, and empower them to be leaders rooted in the spirit of aloha. These are the leaders our world needs.”

Kamehameha Schools grants fund two new projects at UH

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hands-on research to identify the active ingredients of Hawaiian medicinal plants and compare the difference in the chemical potency of these plants when grown using different methods.

Keolani Noa, outreach and Native Hawaiian coordinator of the STEM program said, "Project Olonā will help students enhance their knowledge about Hawaiian culture and science and help them link traditional Hawaiian practices to contemporary science. This program is poised to increase interest and preparedness of Native Hawaiians for STEM related professions."

"Experiences like these are critical to linking students learning in the classroom to relevant and real world applications," said Stacy Clayton, director of extension education services at Kamehameha Schools.

"What makes Project Olonā special is the Hawaiian world view in which these undergraduate students will conduct their scientific work and inquiry. Their findings will greatly contribute to the scientific Hawaiian body of knowledge," she said.

> As the largest higher education system in the state, UH serves a significant number of Native Hawaiians. So KS views UH as a very important partner in our goal of seeing Native Hawaiian students enroll in, persist through and complete post-secondary education.
>
> *— Jack Wong, Interim CEO, Kamehameha Schools*

L-R: Dean Cevallos, Kea'au High School; Carrie Larger, Kamehameha Schools; Brandon Ledward, Kamehameha Schools; Matt Platz, UH Hilo; Althea Magno, Kea'au High School; Don Straney, UH Hilo

"I have no doubt that as a result of Project Olonā, students will inspire new ideas and innovations, develop essential workforce readiness skills, and maybe create future industries and jobs that may not even exist yet," said Clayton.

Kupa-'Āina residential program brings Kea'au High School students to UH Hilo

Twenty-five Hawai'i Island Kea'au High School students experienced first-hand what studying and living on the UH Hilo campus is like, as a result of a partnership between Kamehameha Schools Extension Educational Services Division, UH Hilo, and the DOE Complex covering Kea'au, Ka'ū and Pahoa.

'Āina-based applied learning activities were incorporated for students to apply their academic learning outside of the classroom at Kamehameha learning sites around Hawai'i Island. The students learned about the historical, cultural and geographical significance of the sites and interacted with cultural practitioners with cultural connections to the sites.

Clayton said, "The Kupa-'Āina summer bridge program is more than a college readiness program, it is a cultural transformation experience of the head, heart and hands of our haumana (students). The bridge program is rooted in the 'ike (knowledge) and practices of our kupuna (ancestors), and it will be through their kahiko (ancient) wisdom we will cultivate our future generation of leaders."

Barbara Hilyer & Heléne Hale:
Creating opportunities for world citizens

Barbara Hilyer is building on her aunt Heléne Hale's generosity. By gifting real estate and creating a charitable remainder trust,* she is helping to grow the Heléne Hilyer Hale "Citizen of the World" Scholarship Endowment, established by Hale in 2013 to benefit UH Hilo students pursuing teaching careers.

Barbara Hilyer and Heléne Hale

Hale's wishes were to keep the resources on the Big Island. "My aunt was a public servant in Hawai'i for more than 60 years. She believed that education was the most basic foundation. Heléne wished to be remembered for her work to improve the quality of life for all people, protect our environment, preserve the Hawaiian heritage, and to bring peace to the world," said Barbara.

Hale served four terms on the County of Hawai'i Board of Supervisors, including serving as CEO. She was a member of the Hawai'i County Council from 1980-1994, and a delegate to the 1978 Constitutional Convention. In 2000, when she was 82, she became the oldest person elected to the Hawai'i State Legislature for the first time. Numerous achievements marked her career, including her contributions to the development of astronomy atop Mauna Kea and the establishment of the Merrie Monarch Festival, and many public infrastructure projects.

"Heléne Hale proved to be a role model for leaders and educators for generations to follow," said UH Hilo College of Arts and Sciences Dean Randy Hirokawa. "She also challenged barriers of race, gender and age. She was civic-minded, courageous and outspoken, and Hawai'i Island benefited from her leadership in many lasting ways."

Hale earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's in English from the University of Minnesota. Her parents, who were both of mixed African-American and Caucasian heritage, instilled in her the importance of education.

Unable to find work in the U.S. in the 1940s because of their race, Hale and her first husband, William Hale, moved to Hawai'i in 1947 to raise their two children in what she called a "racially receptive culture." In the 1980s, she married Richard Kiyota and continued to reside in Hilo until her death in 2013 at the age of 94.

"We found the UH Foundation to be very helpful in planning how to best honor Heléne's wishes," said Hilyer. "The charitable remainder trust made sense to my husband, John Daggett, and me. We could receive interest off the trust for a fixed period and know that in the end, the remainder would go to the university.

"Our donations have worked well: Heléne's legacy lives on in Hawai'i. We are able to use her assets to enjoy Hawai'i during our lifetimes, reduce our taxes, and provide educational opportunities for future leaders."

The Heléne Hilyer Hale "Citizen of the World" scholarship comes with the expectation that the recipients will follow in her footsteps to make a difference in their communities, bring an international perspective, work for peace and justice, and spread the spirit of aloha.

**A charitable remainder trust is a philanthropic vehicle that generates a multitude of financial and tax benefits to a donor, such as substantial cash flow, tax savings and tax avoidance.*

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Corporate Corner

Johnson Controls' gift promotes green learning at UH CCs

Johnson Controls, a global multi-industrial company, recently awarded a $57,895 grant to the University of Hawai'i. The gift supports student scholarships for the UH and Johnson Controls Fellows Program and scholarships, and equipment for Honolulu CC's Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technology (RAC) program.

In 2011, UH and Johnson Controls launched the Fellows Program to prepare students for jobs in the growing green sector while identifying and cultivating students to lead sustainability efforts on their respective campuses. To date there have been more than 47 Fellows educated by Johnson Controls employees, who have coordinated activities such as renewable energy training summits, Earth Day celebrations and peer-to-peer sustainability education.

"We're training students to become critical thinkers and problem solvers, making them career-ready for jobs in sustainability and energy-efficiency industries," said Judith Mouton, program director, higher education at Johnson Controls.

Kapi'olani CC Chancellor Leon Richards, Honolulu CC student Skye Rhoden, Johnson Controls' Judith Mouton and Honolulu CC Chancellor Erica Lacro

"While learning about sustainability, they're gaining valuable business leadership skills."

Johnson Controls' gift also benefits Honolulu CC's RAC program by funding scholarships and the purchase of new equipment to better prepare students for jobs in refrigeration and A/C installation, repair and sales. We are grateful to Johnson Controls for its commitment to creating a pipeline for a qualified and job-ready technical workforce.