



KŪPONO

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DR. RICARDO TRIMILLOS

Music professor leaves a legacy
of enriching ethnomusicology
studies at UH Mānoa [Page 7](#)

FOR OUR UNIVERSITY, OUR HAWAI'I, OUR FUTURE

Q&A with UHF Trustee Bill Grayson

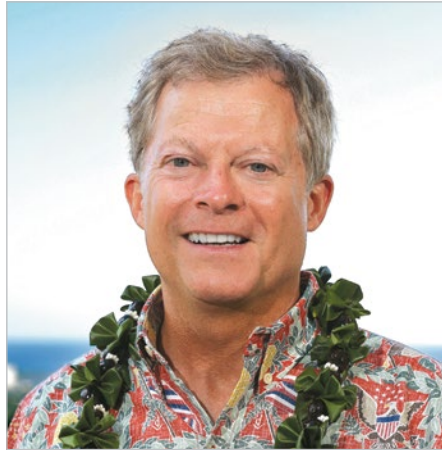
William E. Grayson is a principal of Bernstein Private Wealth Management and chairs the UH Foundation Board of Trustees Estate & Gift Planning Committee.

Q: What is your history with UH?

A: My unofficial history with UH goes back to the age of 14. I was on my first trip to Hawai'i and as an avid surfer and huge Hawai'i 5-0 fan, I vowed to attend UH.

I've had a long connection here. My mom was a United flight attendant who had the SFO to HNL route when there were only three hotels in Waikiki! My dad, a naval officer, did regular tours through Pearl Harbor. They honeymooned at the Coco Palms on Kaua'i. When I was in high school they bought a little place on the North Shore.

Although I ultimately attended college (and law school) in California, I've remained close to Hawai'i personally and



Bill Grayson

professionally with my active practice here.

When I was introduced to Donna Vuchinich through mutual friends several years ago, I knew UHF was the place I wanted to assist in any way that I could. As a trustee, it's an honor to give back to an institution I've long held in high regard.

Q: Why do you participate on the UH Foundation Board?

A: UHF is the fourth university board I've had the pleasure of

serving on – and it's the most interesting. The breadth of UH's mission, people and history is always inspiring. It's a pleasure to know that the work we do as trustees has a real impact on the future of the university.

Q: What do you do with the Board's Estate and Gift Planning Committee?

A: I have fabulous members on the Estate and Gift Planning Committee. They regularly share with their friends and colleagues the good work that UH is doing and invite them to learn more about gifting opportunities. My committee members aren't required to be experts on charitable remainder trusts or sophisticated estate planning techniques. They are most valuable identifying those who may have a real interest in UH and furthering its mission with some type of gift. We then turn to our excellent OEGP team to follow up with our friends and assist with the technical estate planning work.

Phase 1 complete at Culinary Institute of the Pacific

Donors and special partners enjoyed an exclusive celebration on March 28, marking the completion of phase 1 of the highly-anticipated Culinary Institute of the Pacific at Diamond Head. Thanks to support from donors, state and federal partners, this vision became a reality. Guests were treated to tours, culinary delights, and learned more about the impact this state-of-the-art facility will make in the lives of culinary students and the Hawai'i economy.



L-R: Chef Roy Yamaguchi, Kelvin Ro, Conrad Nonaka, Dr. John Morton, Gov. David Ige, Dr. David Lassner, Dr. Louise Pagotto and Chef Alan Wong

UH helps Big Island neighbors fight fire ants

It takes a village to raise a child ... and to get rid of little fire ants. The invasive species is so fearsome that Hawai'i Island residents have abandoned yards, gardens and sometimes entire rooms in their houses to avoid the nasty sting.

An abundance of misinformation about dealing with the LFA, combined with overworked experts and frustrated residents, has created a larger problem than the island community should have to endure.

Overcoming obstacles

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC), a project of the UH Mānoa Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, is working to overcome these obstacles. It is putting effective, proven treatments into the hands of Hawai'i residents.

Residents are trained to combat the LFA together with neighbors on adjacent properties. This increases the treatments' efficacy while decreasing the cost per residence, without demanding constant, direct involvement by experts.

Neighbors attend information sessions, then consult with each other to determine their neighborhoods' best strategies and goals. Once they've committed to regular treatments of their properties, the BIISC gives them hands-on workshops, teaching them how to prepare baits and treatments for their residences.



The Big Island Invasive Species Committee teaches communities how to work together to combat little fire ants – and it is helping.

Bringing neighbors together

Not only has the program proved effective in combating ants, with reductions up to 80 percent in LFA counts, but it has brought neighbors together in surprising ways, according to the BIISC.

Many neighbors meet for the first time at the information sessions. At one session, a resident complained that her neighbor would never commit to the project, but that neighbor was in the room. She shared that she was already involved in her third month of treatment. At another session, two neighbors with restraining orders against each other agreed to work together on their common enemy: little fire ants.

As residents commit to the program, they also identify elderly or disabled neighbors and coordinate volunteer schedules for treating their properties.

Once residents are working together, the BIISC coordinates further goal-setting, treatment schedules, meeting dates and bulk purchases of supplies in order to reduce costs, divide work, and minimize effort and time.

Change happens

In its first year, the program has conducted information sessions in five Big Island districts, with 13 groups of neighbors completing the training. Twelve of the 13 groups have continued to treat for LFA each month, for a total of 215 separate properties on 222 acres.

In 2017, thanks in part to a grant from the Change Happens Foundation, the BIISC will continue to work with the 12 active neighborhood teams and add up to 12 more. It will also introduce training programs for landscapers and yard service providers.

Empowering communities to cooperate against a shared threat, the BIISC hopes to continue its training program, uniting neighbors and ridding Hawai'i of this invasive non-native pest.



UH Hilo: Scholarship Celebration

‘IMILOA ASTRONOMY CENTER • APRIL 4

Scholarship recipients, donors and members of the UH community came together to celebrate the power of giving. Students were excited to personally thank the generous people who are helping to fund their education. Donors enjoyed hearing how their gifts are making a profound difference for UH Hilo students and their families. Mahalo to everyone who supports our students and makes dreams come true!



Hawai‘i CC: 50 Years of Model Homes

UH HILO CAMPUS CENTER • APRIL 28

Hawai‘i CC Alumni & Friends enjoyed a sold-out reunion at a fun-filled event that brought together Model Home alumni, current students, faculty, retired faculty and community supporters. The reunion featured several speakers, ‘ono buffet dinner and a lively auction. Thanks to the efforts of the Hawai‘i CC Alumni & Friends and volunteer support, the event raised nearly \$40,000 to establish the Model Home Program Endowment Fund at Hawai‘i CC, as well as an additional \$1,400 to support the Hawai‘i CC Alumni & Friends endowment fund.



UH Maui College: Celebrating Scholarships • MAY 2

Donors and members of the UH Maui College community came together to celebrate the 2017 student scholarship recipients. After the awards presentations, students and guests enjoyed a special reception. Students shared their stories with the generous donors who are investing in their futures. Thanks to donors, \$213,000 was awarded to 154 Maui College students this year.



See more photos from these and other events at www.uhfoundation.org/news/photos

Leeward CC: L'ulu Culinary Arts Gala THE PEARL RESTAURANT • MAY 6

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, this year's L'ulu gala featured 10 proud Leeward Community College Culinary Arts program alumni who now work in some of Hawai'i's top restaurants. The event, themed "Feast for the Senses," also highlighted the partnerships between local chefs and farmers.



Guests indulged in the delectable cuisines and enjoyed the sounds of Sonya Mendez & Chica Tropicana, and Noel Okimoto & Dean Taba. A special trunk show by ProjectRunway finalist Ari South completed the evening. Event proceeds will help support culinary arts students.





Jimmy Borges Scholarship: PASSING THE TORCH to a new generation



A few months before his death in May 2016, legendary Hawai'i entertainer Jimmy Borges told the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* that his 60 years of success on stages around the world wasn't the product of a good voice.

"It's not just making sounds," he explained. "Many, many singers nowadays think it's about making beautiful sounds, but it's like chewing gum. The taste is there, then the taste is gone. When I sing a song that tells a good story, they'll remember it 30 years from now."

When Borges had a recurrence of the cancer he'd beaten years before, he chose not to pursue treatment. He opted instead to exit life's stage as gracefully as he'd entertained audiences in concert halls and jazz clubs through most of his life.

His friends and family established the Jimmy Borges Scholarship in his honor to support UH Mānoa students pursuing degrees in vocal music performance. The first-ever recipient is Charles Mukaida, who was awarded the scholarship for the 2016-2017 school year. Mukaida shares Borges' attitude about excellent performance.

Studying the backstories and contexts of the music Mukaida sings adds layers to the story, he said, citing Giuseppe Verdi's "Rigoletto" as an example. Verdi's two children each died before reaching the age of two, and his wife succumbed to illness when she was 26, lending depth to an opera whose title character also loses a daughter.

"It's this kind of depth of understanding we must have of the music in order to perform it well," said Mukaida. "At first, I said this was a lot more than I meant to get myself into, but as I learned more about the music, I fell in love with music all over again. It's like slicing into a chocolate cake and discovering there's chocolate mousse inside!"

"Sharing these stories with audiences makes me happy," he said, "and when people tell me after a performance that the story was like therapy for them, helping them think about their own lives, that's the best feeling."

The 2010 graduate of Roosevelt High School always meant to study music, but he took some time away from school to work as a flight attendant, a job he maintains in order to pay for his schooling. The



Jimmy Borges Scholarship recipient Charles Mukaida sings a duet in Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus' 2017 premiere of "Ka'ililauokekoa."

Borges Scholarship has had a great impact, helping to cover his tuition and allowing him to focus more on his development as a singer, but to say it's helped him financially doesn't suffice.

"I spoke with Jimmy before he died, and he let me know what this scholarship meant to him," Mukaida said. "It pushed me even more to respect and honor someone as great, generous and compassionate as Jimmy Borges.

"I would love to be a professional operatic performer, but even if I don't become famous or sing in the biggest opera houses, I can be happy sharing music with others. That's all I really need."

RICARDO TRIMILLOS:

Music professor retires on a good note

Unexpected opportunities

Dr. Ricardo Trimillos didn't plan to focus his research on the music of a Muslim community in the southern Philippines. He played the koto, a stringed instrument from Japan. But a research trip to the Philippines with friends sparked a career devoted to studying Filipino culture and music.

Neither did he plan to earn a master's degree at UH Mānoa. When he graduated with a bachelor's in piano from San Jose State College, the East-West Center had just been established and was recruiting graduate students. He interviewed for a fellowship and was accepted.

After earning an ethnomusicology doctorate at UCLA, he hadn't expected to join the UH Mānoa faculty. "I was passing through on my way to the Philippines and they offered me a job," he said. "I knew this is where I wanted to be. It was clear to me, because of Hawai'i's culture and lifestyle, I was going to stay."

Different perspectives from afar

Trimillos served for 43 years in leadership positions including as East-West Center Association president and Society of Ethnomusicology vice president. At UH Mānoa he chaired the



Ricardo Trimillos plays a bandurria, used in Philippine folkloric songs.

Music Department and Asian studies program at the School of Pacific & Asian Studies. Now in his retirement, he doesn't want to leave things to serendipity. He spoke to his financial adviser, who suggested a gift to UH.

"You have to give back," he said. "I knew I wanted to do something for the Ethnomusicology program, but wasn't sure what."

He recalled having limited funds to bring visiting colleagues to UH for short residencies. He thought an endowment might help bring scholars in for longer.

"In Hawai'i, it's hard for our students to come into contact with international scholars in the field because of the expense.

When these experts come here, they bring a different perspective for our students."

Fostering cultural diplomacy

Trimillos talked with Michael Coppes, UHF director of estate and gift planning, about ways to establish a fund that could bring an international scholar every two years to spend a whole semester. He said, "This would enrich the study of world music at UH and encourage the study of Asian and Pacific music and expressive culture."

He established the Trimillos Visiting Distinguished Professorship in Ethnomusicology and will add a second gift with life insurance after his death. He liked this plan because he didn't need all the money up front.

"All of Southeast Asia is about performance, where music is an integral part of the political landscape," Trimillos said.

"In America, we think of the performing arts as extra and ephemeral, but in other parts of the world, music is part of the critique from the ground level toward the state."

Thanks to Trimillos, now UH Mānoa students will have more opportunities to hear these voices from global scholars.



University of Hawai'i Foundation

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Queen's supports Native Hawaiians in nursing

In an effort to address the shortage of Native Hawaiian healthcare workers, The Queen's Health Systems pledged \$50,000 to fund scholarships for students enrolled in UH West O'ahu's 'Ike Maui Ola pre-nursing pathway program.

'Ike Maui Ola promotes a holistic approach to healthcare that integrates Native Hawaiian knowledge and values into coursework to support student success and community engagement. With support from Queen's, 15 aspiring nurses were awarded scholarships this spring that allowed them to learn and train on the Leeward coast of O'ahu.

"We are grateful for the support The Queen's

Health System has provided to UH West O'ahu," said project director Melissa Saul.

"Their generous gift helps us build capacity to serve the needs of Native Hawaiians in the state and helps UH West O'ahu promote a comprehensive strategy to support, retain and graduate Native Hawaiian students in healthcare careers."

Diane Paloma, PhD, director of the Native Hawaiian Health Program at The Queen's Health Systems said, "Programs like 'Ike Maui Ola provide necessary pathways for local youth to remain competitive as they prepare for biomedical professions to improve the health of Hawai'i's people, and hopefully one day work in healthcare sites like ours."



UH West O'ahu student scholarship recipients joined Dr. Diane Paloma (center, in green) at King Kamehameha IV's birthday celebration at The Queen's Medical Center.