Winter 2021 Alumni Newsletter

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS MAUI 1996-2021

celebrating 25 Years

In May 2006, 138 seniors walked off the commencement stage on Maui and stepped into Kamehameha Schools history. Some members of the first graduating class on Maui were in third grade when the school opened in 1996. Fast forward 25 years later and we're now celebrating the 1s and 6s, class of 2006, 15 years; class of 2011, 10 years; and class of 2016, 5 years. Update: the class of 2006 plans to gather this July and the classes of 2011 and 2016 are contemplating ways to connect with classmates.

As a new office on campus we are here to support classes' efforts to stay connected. "Traditional alumni engagement is really shifting because of technology," and we realize that the traditional alumni events of gathering are not currently possible. Engage now by joining us at Hoʻākoakoa – virtual gathering, to learn what's happening at your campus today, hear "remember when" stories from your kumu, and to see other classmates. Save-the-date: March 31, 2021, 6 pm HST.

We are also seeking Class Correspondents that will collect and share updates on your classmates. Stories and photos can be submitted at any time. Deadlines for Class Correspondents are: January 1 (spring issue), July 1 (fall issue). You may reach us at: KSMalumnni@ksbe.edu. And, check out the website: https://www.ksbe.edu/alumni/maui/ Stay safe, do good work, and stay in touch because we love hearing from you.



ALUMNI STAFF

KAWIKA BORO '09 KS Maui Chorus/Ukulele/Piano Kumu

After graduating, I moved to Forest Grove, Oregon to attend Pacific University. I was a member of the Chamber Singers and Splendid Audacity as well as the head musician for our Lū'au for all four years of undergraduate school. I also played football during Pacific's inaugural season (2010). I earned my BA in Music Education in 2013 and my MAT in Secondary Music Education in 2014. I accepted a music education position in Toledo, Oregon after completing graduate school. I taught K-12 music and coached football, basketball, and baseball for four years in Toledo. The people and that town hold a very special place in my heart. I then moved to Richmond, California and taught 6th grade and HS general music for two years at Cal Prep. In my second year, I accepted the Head Coach position for the Men's Varsity Basketball Team. Shortly after the completion of our season, I was offered the HS Choral Director position at KSM and graciously accepted the opportunity.

My dream since the 10th grade has been to return to Maui and become the next HS Choral Director at KSM. On Wednesday, March 4, 2020, my dream came true. I am beyond humbled to be provided this opportunity. It's everything I've dreamed of, hoped, prayed, and worked for. My experience at KSM so far has literally been a dream come true. Working alongside my Kumu as a colleague has been extremely surreal; full circle to say the least. Our haumāna here are the absolute best. So kind, respectful, eager to learn, just so much aloha. My kids have been nothing but welcoming. I'm extremely blessed to be their Kumu.

My fondest memories at KSM have to do with music, naturally. Being a part of Mr. Nitta's choirs, 'Aha Mele, participating in Nā Mele and All-State Honor Choir for all four years, joining Kumu Kalei's Hawaiian Ensemble my junior year, jamming with the Camarillo 'Ohana at Maui Coast; all of these things helped to develop my love and passion for music and take it to another level. I wouldn't be the man and musician I am today if it weren't for these people and experiences and for that I will always be grateful.





KAYLEE RAZO '09

KS Maui Dean of Students (Class of 2024)

After I graduated, I moved to Oʻahu to pursue my degree in Behavioral Sciences in a concentration on Sociology. After three years I finished my bachelor program and headed straight into the world of work. I worked at Chaminade University of Honolulu as an Admission Counselor and then ultimately became the Assistant Director of Admissions. Some of my territories were: Hawaiʻi Island, Maui County, Oʻahu, American Samoa, Oregon, Washington and California. I worked with students and traveled to these areas to walk students and their families through the college admissions process.

While I loved working with adults moving into the university system what I really enjoyed was working with the high school students. As I finished up my Master program at Chaminade, I began looking for other employment opportunities. My intention was to always make my way into secondary education to work in a support role. I have worked at Kamehameha Maui since 2017 and it has truly kept me on my toes. I ran the internship program for two years and this year I was blessed with the opportunity to be the Dean of Students for the Class of 2024.

As a new invitee to KS Maui many years ago for my Hōʻike Nui, I set up a student lead orientation program for new invitees. This year I was able to do the same for my freshmen. In addition to that I have had the opportunity to go to Kalaupapa as a student and as a staff member. All this shows me how things have truly come full circle and can't wait to see what God has in store for me next.

KSM NURSING GRADS



Tianna Yonemura '14 with husband BJ Wilhelm-Ioane and children: Nanea (18 months) & Talia (8 months)



Taylor Awai '14 & Kiyozo "Bojo" Vaituulala '14 welcomed Kalula Kahikoa Andrew Vaituulala in Dec '20

University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC) has a great nursing program that will appeal to anyone who dreams of becoming a nurse. UHMC's Nursing Program will allow students to earn a LPN or RN license. This will place students on the path toward becoming successful nurses. The curriculum involves both classroom experiences and clinical experiences.

Two years ago, four KSM alumni enrolled in this program in a cohort of 40 students. For two years, the cohort took classes at UHMC and had clinical experience at various health organizations on Maui: Hale Makua, Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente Clinic, Aloha House, Mental Health Kōkua, Grace Bible Preschool, and Kamali'i Elementary.

All four students graduated from the program in May 2019 and are employed as RN's: **Taylor Awai '14**, **Rachel Patrick '08**, and **Alaka'i Kealoha '06**, at Maui Memorial Medical Center's Intensive Care Unit; and **Tianna Yonemura '14** at Maui Lani Physicians. Eight months into their RN employment they became "essential workers" dealing with COVID-19.

When asked what advice they would pass on to others interested in the nursing program, alumni highlighted the value of experience in choosing a post-high path.

"My advice would be to volunteer any way you can, as often as you can. Volunteering will help you learn more about the field and will also help you build a strong network." **Taylor Awai** '14.

"Shadow someone in the career you're interested in and/or get some work experience. Society tends to romanticize the role of health care providers and the realities of our day-today duties don't always match up with what's portrayed in movies and TV. Gaining handson experience is invaluable. In no time, you'll find out if the health care field is right for you!" **Rachel Patrick '08**.



Alaka'i Kealoha '06 & **Naea Kalehuawehe '09** welcomed Paoakalani Kawika Alaka'i Kalehuawehe in Oct '20



Rachel Patrick '08 with her children 'Imiloa '28 & Kana'i '31, and her sister, Hannah Patrick '16

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Asia Harman '08 married Nick Francisco (KSK '00), 23 Ianuali 2021 **Kylee Kato '16** has recently graduated in Fall '20 from University of Texas at San Antonio as a four-year Division I tennis player with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. She will be attending Barry University Schools of Podiatric Medicine in Fall '21 where she will later pursue a career in Podiatry.





Mahonri Aiwohi '16, Kaikane Beam '06 were among the 36th Recruit Class who graduated from the Maui Fire Department's 25 week Recruit Training Program on December 18, 2020. They will be joining the ranks with the Maui Fire Department and will be assigned to Maui County fire stations on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.



Ua hānau 'ia mai 'o Wehenakaiaoapunikahonua Sebastian Brosio i Ianuali, i ka pō mahina 'o Hua. 7 paona, 11 'auneki. He 20.5 'īniha. 'O **'Iolani Antonio '08** a me Prem Brosio kona mau mākua.

Beka Revelle '16 earned a bachelor's degree in accounting at Biola University (Dec 2019) and also graduated from Biola's Torrey Honors Institute, a four-year undergraduate honors program. Rebeka continued on at Biola University to earn her master of professional accountancy degree in December 2020. She wil work at SK Enterprises accounting firm in So. California.





Roxy Ragsdale '06 has returned to campus as a new art teacher in Māhele Luna (Upper Division). Roxy earned her bachelor's degree in Art Studio (with a focus in drawing and painting) from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. After graduating, she went on to earn her teaching certification in Secondary Education with an art focus. Prior to joining our kula as a kumu, Roxy taught art at Lokelani Intermediate School.

KUMU UPDATE

MR. ROB LAXSON KS Maui High School Chemistry, Retired



My wife Roseann and I moved from Bend, OR to Mt. Shasta, CA. in May of 2019. Bend was just getting too crowded with tourists and the congestion on the forest trails was just more than we could stand. Mt. Shasta is a small village (population about 3500) with many outdoor activities to keep us in shape and healthy. There is snow in the winter, a lake close by, and hiking trails both up on Mt. Shasta (14,175 ft) and in the Trinity Alps just west of us which we use during summer and winter (snow shoeing). We have a two acre lot and it is filled with beautiful pines, firs, and cedars and not so beautiful manzanita bushes which I am in the process of cutting out.

We dearly miss our friends in Maui and think of you folks often. Being part of the faculty at KS Maui was a great way to end my teaching career and I often tell people that my last eleven years of teaching on Maui, was like I "had died and gone to teacher heaven". Please extend aloha to all those who may remember me and if ever you, your family or any of the KS ohana are close by to please stop in and say hello. All are welcome!

Mr. Rob Laxson, rrlaxson@earthlink.net

MRS. DIANE BULAY KS Maui Middle School Kumu, Retired

My husband Ike and I were both born and raised on Maui. It was not an easy decision to make but we decided we wanted an "after-retirement life" so we chose a fifty-five plus active living community to begin our new life experiences in Trilogy at Power Ranch in Tempe, AZ.

We immediately got involved in so many fun clubs. We were bowling, playing Bunco, joining line dancing and formal dance groups, joining game parties, etc. We had a ball and spent nine glorious years enjoying ourselves. We also had a backyard pool so there were many pool parties with the neighborhood gals. Of course, when people know you are from Hawai'i you become an almost celebrity...and so it went. Ike and I never ever thought of ever gigging together but we were also involved in the Theater club's cabaret, and when they asked if we would do a hula number for the program, it became the beginning of many more gigs to come. We did friends 50th weddings, friend's children's weddings, neighborhood lū'au, and I even did a solo for my granddaughter's wedding in Tennessee a few years ago.

About 5 years ago, we decided to leave our fun community and move to an area that reminded us of upcountry Maui: horses, sheep, cows and corn and cotton fields surrounding us, called the San Tan Valley. The mountains reminded us so much of the West Maui's and so here we remain.

Mrs. Diane Bulay, hippiemauigrl@gmail.com



Mrs. Bulay's 'Ohana, 5 children, 18 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and one due in Feb '21.

Nā Lei Koa Newsletter provided by Kamehameha Schools Maui Parents and Alumni Relations. To contact us or share story ideas, email at KSMalumni@ksbe.edu

