

imua

PUBLISHED FOR THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS 'OHANA

ISSUE 2 • 2024

LŪ I NĀ HUA O KA HOLOMUA

SEEDS OF CHANGE



“Times will come when you will feel you
are being pushed into the background.

Never allow this to happen —
stand always on your own foundation.
But you will have to make that
foundation.

There will come a time when to make
this stand will be difficult, especially
to you of Hawaiian birth, but conquer
you can — if you will.”

Ke Ali‘i Bernice Pauahi Pākī Bishop

A journey of hope and healing

by **Livingston “Jack” Wong**
Chief Executive Officer

The start of a new year often symbolizes a fresh beginning. However, for those whose lives were forever changed in Lahaina, moving forward isn’t as simple as leaving behind a painful past. As they navigate profound grief and loss, they persevere, drawing strength from their resilience, the unwavering support of those standing with them – including our Kamehameha Schools community – and the abiding grace of Ke Akua.

Our connections in Lahaina have deepened, with dedicated Kamehameha Schools alumni, staff and ‘ohana offering heartfelt pule, support and leadership through the healing and restoration. Seeds of change, planted with purpose, are taking root in the community, on ‘Āina Pauahi and in the hearts of our haumāna.

Looking back at Lahaina’s vibrant history is essential as we envision its future. Stories woven throughout this edition of I Mua explore using ‘ike kūpuna to face modern-day problems. You’ll read about KS Kapālama kumu and haumāna who poured their energy and talent into creating a powerful performance to reclaim Lahaina’s past, moving a Maui audience to tears and fostering hope.

Also featured in this issue are our community-driven efforts to mālama Lahaina. Some of our Ku‘ia lands are being transformed with native trees and food crops as a first step toward bringing back the famed malu to this special place. For the forest restoration on our vast ma uka site, KS Maui students are taking on a crucial role while engaged in hands-on, ‘āina-based learning. We recognize that this challenging journey will stretch into the years ahead, requiring patience and a resolute commitment. At Kamehameha Schools, we are steadfast in our commitment to this generational journey – humbly supporting our communities while striving to enhance our cultural stewardship and ‘āina management practices.

Throughout these pages, we highlight ‘ōiwi leaders empowering ea — the life and sovereignty that come from a deep connection to the ‘āina and its people. From a KS Hawai‘i graduate uplifting her community through education to bonds forged across Moananuiākea, you’ll discover inspiring stories of innovation and exploration.

During this time of healing and renewal, we ask for your continued prayers and kōkua for Maui. As stewards of Ke Ali‘i Pauahi’s legacy, we embrace our kuleana, knowing there is still much to be done to see Lahaina flourish again as a place of abundance.

Mahalo nui for your steadfast support as we work together to cultivate growth for our lāhui, as reflected in our spiritual theme scripture for this school year.

Ho‘okala kahi mea hao i kekahi mea hao, ho‘okala ho‘i ke kanaka i ka maka o kona hoalauna. *Nā ‘Ōielo Akamai A Solomona 27:17*

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Jack Wong



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I Mua

Published for the
Kamehameha Schools
‘ohana.

2024, Issue 2

I Mua is published by the
Kamehameha Schools
Communications
department, 567 S. King St.,
4th floor, Honolulu,
HI 96813.

I Mua magazine connects,
informs and inspires
through storytelling that
engages alumni and other
important members of
the donor community by
framing the breadth and
impact of Kamehameha
Schools and its mission
of strengthening the
capability and well-being
of Ke Ali‘i Pauahi’s people
through education. I Mua
is committed to being a
catalyst in establishing the
thriving lāhui envisioned by
the KS Board of Trustees.

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Youth leadership takes center stage at FestPAC

The 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture, the world's largest celebration of Indigenous Pacific Islanders, proved to be a massive success — both in attendance (over 500,000) and in the strengthening of bonds among island peoples across the Pacific Ocean. Held on O'ahu in June 2024 and led by director **Aaron J. Salā KSK'94**, the event was themed “Ho'oulu Lāhui: Regenerating Oceania.”

Kamehameha Schools' wide-ranging support of FestPAC included hosting “Moananuiākea: Pacific Conversations and Cultural Exchange,” a 3-day conference series showcasing Pacific lifestyles, arts and discourse. Over 150 high schoolers from Kamehameha Schools, Hawai'i charter schools, private schools and Guam were part of the Kula Hawai'i delegation.

It was the first time FestPAC featured formalized knowledge-sharing seminars and entrusted school-age youth with integral roles. From offering oli at opening protocols to monitoring breakout sessions, the students facilitated the cultural exchange, demonstrated Indigenous dance and engaged in profound dialogues, celebrating their heritage and demonstrating youth-driven activism.

KS Kapālama haumāna Ayceton Aona said being part of the youth delegation was a huge honor.

“Not only do I get to represent my own identity and culture through the

“Not only do I get to represent my own identity and culture through the symposiums, but I also get to immerse myself in other cultures and take inspiration from other youth leaders from across the Pacific.”

Ayceton Aona
KSK haumāna



KS Kapālama Hawaiian Ensemble perform for the crowds at the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture.



KS Kapālama and Maui haumāna hosted the Moananuiākea: Pacific Conversations and Cultural Exchange series at FestPAC 2024.

Retired kumu Joel Truesdell inducted into National Teachers Hall of Fame

Joel Truesdell, a retired chemistry teacher who taught at Kamehameha Schools, both at the Kapālama and Hawai'i campuses for 34 years, was inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame in June 2024.

Truesdell learned of the honor during a surprise reveal in spring 2024 at Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i. He was one of only five teachers to be inducted in the class of 2024.

The National Teachers Hall of Fame recognized Truesdell's use of Hawaiian culture as a basis for teaching and learning. They also noted his skill in a traditional classroom as well as outdoors, where growing seedlings and even reforestation was part of his ha'awina papa.

The honor caps a stellar list of accolades for Truesdell, including the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, the Shell National Teaching Association Award and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Truesdell is only the second Hawai'i kumu ever to be inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame.



Jamaica Osorio KSK'08

symposiums, but I also get to immerse myself in other cultures and take inspiration from other youth leaders from across the Pacific,” Aona said.

As a cultural consultant at Kamehameha Schools, **H. Kilinahe Coleman KSK'02** affirmed the importance of student involvement in this conference series as a unique educational opportunity.

“Our lāhui in Hawai'i is not alone — we are part of Moananuiākea,” Coleman said. “For our students to understand that their identity and relationships go beyond the reef is the most important thing we can provide them through these educational experiences.”

The pupils engaged with a diverse range of topics, from Māori musical instruments to the Samoan Creation Myth. Hundreds of festivalgoers attended the symposium keynote speech, delivered by **Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio, Ph.D., KSK'08**, examining sovereignty, ea and liberation. She urged the crowd to reimagine the definition of sovereignty from an Indigenous perspective — one that provides refuge and humanity with an eye toward teaching and including others.

“Those in power want us to believe that the world cannot change, but the world changes every day,” Osorio said. “The nature and direction of that change is up to us all. Make it count. Make it transformative. Make sovereignty mean ea — mean life — again,” Osorio said.



Joel Truesdell (center) was inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame in June 2024. Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i Po'o Kula Lehua Veincent (left) and National Teachers Hall of Fame Acting Executive Director Maddie Fennell (right) were among those present at the Kea'au campus for the surprise announcement in spring 2024.



Recent KS Maui grads earn honors for native plant project aimed at aiding Lahaina cleanup

With an eye on helping clean up toxic debris in Lahaina and elsewhere, **Bennett Takahama KSM’24** and **Kadence Merritt KSM’24** developed a promising innovation during their senior year that earned accolades on the state and international level.

Merritt and Takahama created a biofiltration sock using pili grass, the all-purpose lā‘au kama‘āina. Also known as a biosock, these large, malleable sausage-looking contraptions are typically stuffed with woodchips, soil and biochar, an organic charcoal-like substance. Inexpensive and effective, biosocks can help soak up and dissolve pollutants from runoff before they reach storm drains that empty into the ocean.

The pair conducted tests on their pili grass prototype in comparison to a traditional biosock and found the pili prototype absorbed more water than a traditional one. This result is significant because soaking up more water suggests their modified biosocks could absorb and naturally break down more pollutants, too.

“We found it very significant to use these Native Hawaiian plants because we know our ancestors found a wide variety of uses for these plants. So we wanted to also use these plants in innovative ways just like our kūpuna,” said Merritt.

Their prototype earned top honors at the Maui County Regional Science and Engineering Fair and earned them an automatic berth into the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, dubbed the ‘Olympics of science fairs.’ The two earned a Third Award and a \$1,000 prize at the international competition.

Their hard work and incredible results once again proved true the ‘ōlelo no‘eau: “Ua lehulehu a manomano ka ‘ikenā a ka Hawai‘i” — Great and numerous is the knowledge of the Hawaiians. ❤️



Kadence Merritt KSM’24 and Bennett Takahama KSM’24, tend to the pili grass inserted into their award-winning prototype biofiltration sock.



KS Maui AP Biology kumu Malia Panglao (far left) and science lab kumu David Takahama (far right), provided counsel and support as haumāna Kadence Merritt and Bennett Takahama developed their prototype and readied for science fair competitions.



Sovereign Data, Resilient Futures

by Brandon Ledward

*Principal Strategist
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In today’s world, data is everywhere, influencing everything from how we shop to how decisions are made about our communities. As data increasingly shapes beliefs, policies and economic opportunities, the control over data — and the stories it tells — becomes essential.

Indigenous data sovereignty refers to the right of Indigenous peoples to govern the collection, ownership and application of data about our people, communities and lands. By taking charge of our data, Native Hawaiians can protect our stories, ensure our knowledge isn’t misused and make better choices for our future.

So, what does Indigenous data sovereignty mean for Ke Kula ‘o Kamehameha? Ultimately it comes down to ea — life, agency, autonomy. If we control our data, we can tell our own stories. By supporting Native Hawaiian data sovereignty, Kamehameha strengthens self-determination and protects our communities from potential harm.

In 2004, the Havasupai Tribe sued Arizona State University for using their blood samples in unauthorized genetic research. While the tribe consented to a study of diabetes, researchers used the samples to investigate schizophrenia, inbreeding and the tribe’s ancestral origins. Results concerning the tribe’s origins were especially distressing because they contradicted the Havasupai’s oral tradition and spiritual beliefs, which reinforced generations of cultural trauma.

The Havasupai case added fuel to a growing Indigenous data sovereignty movement. A major milestone was the establishment of Te Mana Rauanga (the Māori Data Sovereignty Network) in 2015, which seeded and inspired similar organizations around the world.

The following year saw the first International Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit held in Aotearoa and publication of “Indigenous Data Sovereignty: Toward an Agenda” by John Taylor and Tahu Kukutai. Also in 2016, Desi Rodriguez-Lonebear and Stephanie Russo Carroll founded the United States Indigenous

As Native Hawaiians, we have the sovereign right to govern the collection, ownership, and application of data from and about us and to use these data to honor and activate our self-determination.

Data Sovereignty Network to advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in data governance policies and practices.

In 2019, the Global Indigenous Data Alliance introduced the CARE Principles (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility and Ethics) as a framework for Indigenous data governance. These principles complement the widely adopted FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) but are specifically designed to reflect Indigenous priorities.

Returning to Hawai‘i nei, the Native Hawaiian Data Sovereignty Statement was endorsed by the Lili‘uokalani Trust, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Papa Ola Lōkahi and Kamehameha Schools in 2023. The statement reads:

As Native Hawaiians, we have the sovereign right to govern the collection, ownership, and application of data from and about us and to use these data to honor and activate our self-determination. In exercising data sovereignty, our kuleana or responsibility is the well-being of our lāhui or nation and the perpetuation of our culture, knowledge, ways of doing, being, and knowing. To the highest extent possible, those interpreting and applying the data must ensure individuals, ‘ohana, and kaiāulu or community from whom the data are collected are provided an opportunity to participate in the process (e.g., analyses, review of findings, or editing) and to benefit from it.

This past July, the Hawai‘i Sea Grant Ulana ‘Ike Center of Excellence and Conservation International Hawai‘i hosted “No Kākou, Na Kākou: Collective Conversations on Our Obligations to ‘Ōiwi Knowledge Stewardship.” Participants

from across the pae ‘āina gathered to share experiences and affirm our commitment to strengthening Native Hawaiian data sovereignty.

The Indigenous data sovereignty movement aligns with Kamehameha’s charge to develop ‘ōiwi leaders through E Ola! to advance ea. As much as our work in education and ‘āina stewardship draws from ‘ike Hawai‘i, we must also replenish and safeguard it. Indigenous data sovereignty is vital for uplifting Native Hawaiians, ensuring that data are used in ways that reflect our values and contribute to futures we wish to create. ❤️

Two Decades of Progress

2004

Havasupai Tribe vs. Arizona State Board of Regents (settled in 2010).

2007

United Nations Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2015

Te Mana Rauanga (Māori Data Sovereignty Network) established.

2016

International Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit held in Aotearoa.

“Indigenous Data Sovereignty: Toward an Agenda” published by Taylor and Kukutai.

United States Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network created.

2019

CARE Principles introduced by the Global Indigenous Data Alliance.

2023

Native Hawaiian Data Sovereignty Statement created.

2024

No Kākou, Na Kākou gathering at Ka Waiwai.

Haumāna Lehiwa Lindsey and Dylan Rae Puhi spot a Hawaiian honeycreeper during a hike on the Kaulana Manu trail on Hawai'i Island. They were guided by manu conservationist and social media influencer Bret Mossman, and also by Heidi Waiamau from KS Kealaiwikuamo'o, who shared mana'o about how avian malaria spread by mosquitoes is having a devastating impact on native forest birds.

EMPOWERING

THROUGH

EA

STORY BY KU'UALOHA KAUANOE-LUDA

PHOTOS BY JACOB CHINN

EDUCATION

Haylee Makana Kushi KSH'14 has never been afraid to go against the grain. While many of her peers found passion in sports or performing arts, her heart was set on academia. "I was kind of a nerd," she said with a laugh, recalling her high school days participating in the Academic Decathlon. Her crowning moment was placing at a national competition during her senior year.

"It was really exciting to bring home this big banner, and they put it up in the library," Kushi said.

Kamehameha Schools provided Kushi with the resources and opportunities to be an Ivy League scholar. Her journey from the halls of the Kea'au campus to those of Yale and Brown universities was fueled by a deeper purpose: using education to empower her community.

From her early days at a Hawaiian immersion school to her doctoral work on public lands, Kushi has woven her Hawaiian identity and culture into every step of her academic career. Before entering KS, she attended Ke Kula 'o 'Ehunuikaimalino, sparking her love for the language and culture of her kūpuna. Her favorite class was 'ōlelo Hawai'i, taught by current KS Hawai'i kumu Hālani Boshard.



“As a kumu, you plant these seeds and just hope it will take hold and grow,” Boshard said. “Makana really embraced it.”

When she attended Kamehameha, Kushi excelled academically, taking multiple AP classes and striving to become valedictorian. But for all her scholastic success, Kushi didn’t always see education as her calling.

“I really liked school and I felt like I was pretty good at it, but I didn’t know if that was my ‘thing,’” Kushi said.

Retired KS Hawai‘i English teacher Elizabeth Truesdell remembers Kushi as the whole package, both brainy and bighearted.

“Makana *did* school — hard classes, lots of home-work, the nerdiest club of all with Academic Decathlon,” Truesdell said. “She had very high expectations for herself and was always all-in on what she committed to do.”

‘IKE HAWAI‘I NEAR AND FAR

It wasn’t until she was in college that Kushi realized that education was her path. Her solid foundation in language and culture, paired with traditional academic rigor and focus, remained with Kushi during her undergraduate studies at Yale and her doctorate program at Brown. Her research consistently returned to her Hawaiian identity, culminating in her dissertation, “Sharing ‘Āina in the Occupied Territory: Public Land and Environmental Intimacies in Windward Hawai‘i.” To do this, she used nūpepa, mo‘olelo, family records and more to understand how public land was used on windward Hawai‘i Island from the late 1800s to the early 1900s.

But Kushi didn’t just excel in her own studies; she shared ‘ike Hawai‘i with others. As a facilitator of an independent study at Brown, she emboldened Indigenous students to champion their natal tongues on campus. In the course Learning Our Native Languages, the cohort learned their native language but also taught each other in the class — all 20 of them learning languages not usually offered at the institution.

Kushi says it was fun to see the students bond over the challenges and triumphs of language learning. For them, it was more than just sharing a dialect — it is their culture and who they are. Boshard feels an overwhelming pride in her former haumāna.

“She is sharing her mother tongue while they are learning theirs,” Boshard said. “By holding that space, she’s being a lāhui-lifter for others as well as her own.”

It all comes back to Kushi’s foundational belief that was instilled in her from her days in Hawaiian immersion to her undergraduate in ethnic studies: the importance of ‘ohana and community in education.

“IT’S NOT LIKE A MAGICAL FAIRY WORLD”

Now, as a professor at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, she co-teaches a place-based course, Kuleana and Community. The class upends the traditional academic model by combining conventional learning with service-learning activities at varying wahi pana across Hawai‘i Island, immersing students in history, culture and environment.

Kushi describes it as learning through application, engaging all the senses.



According to her, incoming students take the class because they realize how special Hawai‘i is but do not fully understand it, dismissing the experience as only spiritual. However, as they go through the subject, the pupils bridge that disconnect. On trips to Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, she sees that “Aha!” moment for students, as they feel the heat on their faces in the presence of Pele.

“It is mind-blowing when they realize that the boundary between science and culture is nonexistent,” Kushi said. “These mo‘olelo aren’t just myths — they carry traditional ecological knowledge.”

For Kushi, the role of an educator is to bring out the best in students, not rank them from best to worst. Sometimes, haumāna share that they aren’t exceptionally good at school in the bookish sense that Kushi is. Redefining academic rigor in her class means assigning self-reflections, conducting oli evaluations and letting students lead mālama ‘āina workdays — a validating experience for both kumu and haumāna.

“For that kind of student to be empowered in their place-based knowledge when something in their journey made them feel like they’re not smart is really cool,” Kushi said.

Though the course is currently grant-funded, the KS alumna dreams of expanding and innovating her curricula to further connect students to their kaiāulu because, for her, education isn’t about individual achievement but about uplifting the collective. In doing so, she carries forward the banner she once hung in the high school library — this time, not as an individual trophy but as a symbol of a brighter future for her communities through learning.

“Being a teacher is a way to turn the competitive nature of academia on its head,” Kushi said. “Because education has to help students find their place in contributing to our lāhui.” ♥

In this edition of I Ola Nā Keiki we introduce Michael Shibata, program manager for Enterprise Safety and Risk.

Based out of Kawaiaha‘o Plaza, Mike has kuleana over programs that enhance safety and reduce risk for the entire Kamehameha Schools organization, including haumāna, kumu and staff.

A graduate of Moanalua High School, Mike received his Bachelor of Science in business administration from Oregon State University, a Master Business Continuity Professional certification from Disaster Recovery Institute International (one of only two people in the State of Hawai‘i to earn this certification). He has spent nearly six years with Kamehameha Schools driven by its mission and dedication to the health and well-being of haumāna and staff across the pae ‘āina.

I Mua: How did you begin your career in safety and risk mitigation?

Michael: My career in business continuity management started in 1999, when at the time I was working for a bank. I was a project analyst helping department managers create their business recovery plans to prepare for the dreaded Y2K bug. After the bank emerged from Y2K unscathed, I was present in the bank’s Emergency Operation Center on the day of the 9/11 tragedy, helping to gather vital information from a subsidiary office in downtown Manhattan. I knew early in my career that my calling was to help people be prepared for an emergency, crisis or disaster.

I Mua: What drew you to work for Kamehameha Schools, and what makes you stay?

Michael: I came to KS to make a difference. However, I have also become a student, acquiring skills and training I never could have gotten elsewhere. Every day brings a new opportunity to hone my expertise in safety and risk management.

I Mua: Why is the work you do so important to you and your staff?

Michael: Business continuity management is all about being prepared for the



unexpected. Our team provides guidance and mana‘o to campuses and other Kamehameha Schools departments to ensure their emergency operations, crisis management and disaster recovery plans are running at the same world-class level as our classrooms. Our business continuity management team works behind-the-scenes 24/7, doing essential work to keep our keiki, staff and ‘ohana mākaukau and safe when unexpected situations occur.

I Mua: How does Hawaiian culture inform the work you and your staff do?

Michael: Being an employee of KS, I am grateful to be a contributor to the mission and vision of Ke Ali‘i Pauahi. I believe we are all contributing to the mission in our own ways. I also feel a deep kuleana to transfer knowledge to the next generation of haumāna and staff. In the same way we stand on the shoulders of our kūpuna, I aspire to pass along what I’ve learned to help empower our future ‘ōiwi leaders to tackle threats head-on, to ensure the lāhui thrives.

“Being an employee of KS, I am grateful to be a contributor to the mission and vision of Ke Ali‘i Pauahi.”

I Mua: What do you do in your spare time?

Michael: My spare time is spent playing golf or practicing at the driving range. If I am not at the range, I’m likely binge-watching old television series like “NCIS,” “The Closer” or whatever high school sport is playing that week.

I Mua: What is one safety tip you can offer to our readers, appropriate for all ages?

Michael: Our world is changing and evolving at a rapid pace. As new threats and challenges emerge, we all have a responsibility to be more vigilant and alert. Preparedness and situational awareness are keys in keeping your ‘ohana, co-workers and friends safe. ♥

LŪ I NĀ HUA O KA HOLOMUA

SEEDS OF CHANGE



Ola ke kaiaola, ola ke kaiāulu — If the ecosystem is healthy, the community is healthy. Our kuana‘ike informs both the “why” and the “how” when it comes to restoring Lahaina mai uka a i kai. Flourishing ‘āina and community are one and the same.

Since the devastating Lahaina wildfire, the kānaka ‘ōiwi of that place, still in mourning, have embraced the kuleana to be alaka‘i in this restoration effort.

As individual limahana and as an organization, Kamehameha Schools is uniquely poised to stand shoulder to shoulder with community to plant seeds of change today that will be transformational for generations to come.

“We have a great number of people in our organization that are contributing in ways big and small. For me personally, that meant working to meet the community where they are and to understand the depth and breadth of their needs,” said **Nālani Blane** Kealaiki **KSK’94**, a community strategist with Kamehameha Schools Hi‘ialo.

A Lahaina native, Kealaiki has worn many hats since the fire. Like so many, she pitched in to deliver supplies where needed during those desperate days and weeks that followed. Later, she would take on the role of facilitator and

community connector. “Let Lahaina lead” has and continues to be her mantra.

“If I’m doing my job right, I am helping to ensure the voices of Lahaina are heard.”

Kealaiki is proud of this community-focused effort to reshape Lahaina, which includes a plan to transform nearly 1,100 acres of Kamehameha Schools’ ‘Āina Pauahi ma Ku‘ia in Lahaina.

Fellow community advocate and Lahaina native Carolyn Auwelo has been handling outreach for one of the early phases of the Ku‘ia plan. Located just above the Lahaina Bypass, Kamehameha Schools is planting native trees and food crops on a one-acre parcel, with plans to add more food trees on an adjoining one-acre parcel in 2025.

‘Ulu, kou, kamani, hao and milo will soon be flourishing here. Non-native grass will be removed and replaced with native shrubs and ground cover plants. The vision here is for the ‘āina to be a community gathering space, with the kaiāulu eventually taking the lead to mālama it.

Auwelo says the response to this effort has been overwhelmingly positive.

“It’s good for the community to see life coming back, to see this type of intention and this type of serving the

Story

Justin Barfield
and
Crystal Kua-Bikle KSK’81

Photos

Jacob Chinn
and
Chelsie Machado



**“In order to
restore
the forest,
in order
to restore our
streams and
water resources ...,
we need to
plant native
plants.”**

Hökūao Pellegrino
‘Āina and Sustainability
Facility and
Learning Designer
KS Maui



Top left: R. Mililani Browning KSK’02 from KS’ ‘Āina Pauahi Division discusses plans for Ku’ia at a community meeting. Top middle: Carolyn Auwelo. Top right: Nālani Blane Kealaiki KSK’94. Middle left: ‘A’ali’i, an incredibly hearty native plant, growing in the KS Maui greenhouse. Middle right: Hökūao Pellegrino works with KS Maui haumāna in the campus greenhouse. Bottom: A worker plants a drought-resistant native hao tree on KS ‘āina in Ku’ia just above the Lahaina Bypass on Nov. 8, 2024.



land. I think it will give people hope and influence how people look at ‘āina. I think as it grows and matures, it will become more and more a place of refuge – a place of peace, healing and respite.”

Auwelo could barely hold back tears when describing the generational trauma from sugar cane and how restoration can foster healing.

“I’m really excited for the next chapter here at Ku’ia. I grew up and these fields were sugar cane. But as I got older, I understood more and more the cost of that type of agriculture, what we were paying in the environment and in our different ecosystems. It’s a big part of our history. But to see and know that we’re entering a new era, one where food production would be coming back, but in a more community-focused way is exciting. And to be able to be a part of and witness agriculture making a comeback in West Maui is a dream I never thought that I would see happen.”

These plantings are happening right next to KS Kaiāulu partner Ku’ia Agricultural Education Center, run by mahi‘ai extraordinaire Kaipō Kekona. More food crops are being planted there and KAEC’s greenhouse includes not only native plants but citrus trees.

“Today, we have a diversified palate.

Everybody doesn’t want to just eat ‘ulu or kalo. We like our papayas, we like to add some different bananas,” Kekona said with a smile. “I like my pumpkins and my peppers...I like my Filipino food too.”

Increasing food production could translate to economic vibrancy as well.

“We could employ a lot of people who are displaced right now to help us build that food system in place as they build their house,” Kekona said.

The restoration of the dryland forest ma uka is a different kind of challenge in large part due to the sheer scale of the 1,000-acre-plus site.

“No one has ever done anything to the scale we’re trying to do there,” said Keola Lindsey, a cultural resources director for Kamehameha Schools’ ‘Āina Pauahi.

“Lahaina is, and for the last 100 years has become, a dry, arid space with very minimal rainfall and a decimated native forest. In order to restore the forest, in order to restore our streams and water resources in those areas, we need to plant native plants,” said Hökūao Pellegrino, the ‘āina and sustainability facility and learning designer at Kamehameha Schools Maui.

The effort to fully restore the uka lands will take years and hundreds of

thousands of native plants and seeds. While plans to scale up replanting are being developed, KS ‘āina stewards are working to nurture and protect the native species that have grown back on their own since the Aug. 8, 2023, wildfires.

“The invasive grass is very pervasive but in these small pockets, we see keiki of many native plants like ‘a’ali’i, pili and ‘ūlei, popping up voluntarily. We’re working to mālama these places so we will have more natural regeneration,” Kamehameha Schools’ natural resources manager **R. Mililani Browning KSK’02** said.

“In similar spots, we even see our native sandalwood, ‘iliahialo’e, that were burned in previous fires resprouting from its base, showing us just how resilient our native plant communities are. And our people are no different.”

But threats abound for these native species. Voracious ungulates such as invasive deer, wild pigs and goats could destroy existing native plants and future plantings. To address that issue, a fence will stretch across most of the perimeter of the ahupua’a. Encircling the area will require 25,000 linear feet of fencing, which equates to nearly five miles of fencing.

A steady water supply is also crucial,



Anstin Rodrigues and
R. Mililani Browning KSK'O2
from Kamehameha Schools'
'Āina Pauahi Division, go
over plans in upper Ku'ia.

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Top left: Monica Loui KSK'77 (pictured right) plants 'iliahi at her Kula Sandalwoods property. Middle left: KS Maui kahu R. Kanani Kepani Franco KSK'91 offers pule. Middle right: Joshua Worth KSM'21 at planting event on his 'ohana property. Bottom: Community planting event in Kula on Aug. 8, 2024.

and KS is in talks with Maui County and state officials to bring an R-1 water line to Ku'ia. R-1 is recycled water that's not drinkable but has been highly filtered. The golf courses and landscaping at resorts in nearby Kā'anapali rely on R-1 water to stay lush and green, a stark contrast to the water-starved landscape of Ku'ia just a few miles away.

The first plants to go into the ground ma uka may very well be ones nurtured by haumāna at the hale uliuli mau (greenhouse) on the KS Maui campus. In September 2024, some 3,000 'a'ali'i seeds from West Maui were germinated there. 'A'ali'i are a great foundation for restoring the dryland forest because they are considered among the most resilient native plants in Hawai'i.

Hōkūao Pellegrino is overseeing this effort, which provides haumāna from māhele lalo and māhele luna the chance to learn and connect with 'āina and culture outside the traditional classroom.

"It's important for the students to see and really work with their hands throughout the entire process," Pellegrino said. "You can't teach Hawaiian culture-based education and learn about E Ola! if 'āina is not at the forefront. Everything in our language, everything

in our cultural practices, everything around us, is tied to 'āina. We're teaching haumāna that you can't segregate out certain portions of 'āina-based practices like food systems and conservation. They truly are part of a collective effort and integrated approach."

KS Maui haumāna are also raising a separate batch of 'a'ali'i and wiliwili that will help restoration efforts near campus, and also in Kula, where another wildfire in August 2023 destroyed 25 homes and scorched over 200 acres.

Restoration in Upcountry took an important step forward on Aug. 8, 2024, the anniversary of the devastating Maui fires. Dozens of community members gathered at the Kula Sandalwoods property owned by **Monica Loui KSK'77** for a ceremonial planting event. KS Maui kahu **R. Kanani Kepani Franco KSK'91** offered pule and a blessing.

The project, spearheaded by the Kula Community Watershed Alliance, initially targets 25 acres of fire-ravaged hillside. Loui's and a neighboring property are being prioritized because they pose the highest risk for triggering mudslides and runoff that could harm ma kai areas like Keālia Pond and even Kīhei. Loui's nephew, **Joshua Worth KSM'21**, grew

up on the Kula Sandalwoods property and says he's proud of the tight-knit Upcountry community.

"I think this restoration project is a testament to how strong community-based management is, just seeing how neighbors can...band together because everything is connected," Worth said.

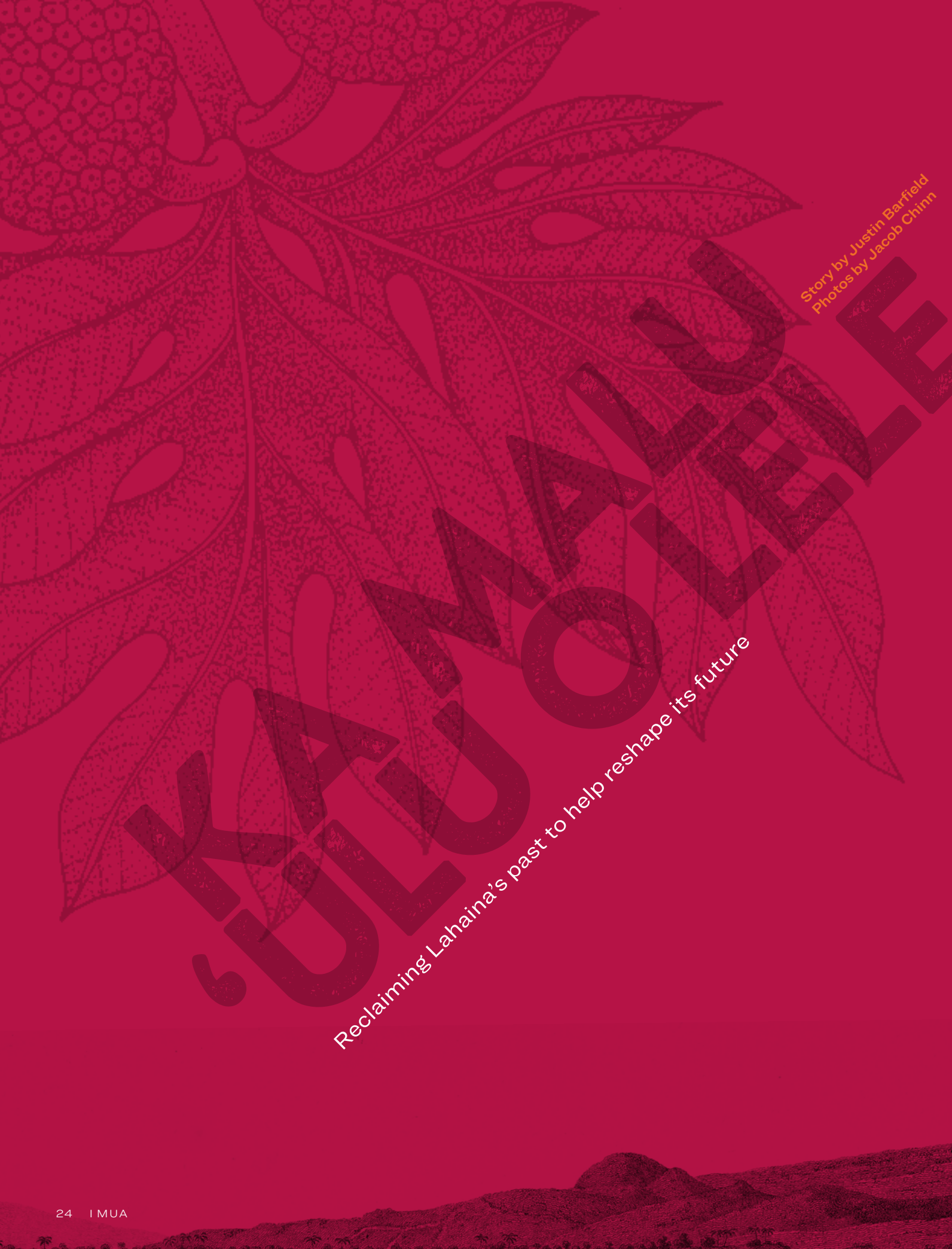
The renewal effort in Kula mirrors the plans for Ku'ia; replace non-native plants and trees with native species to help bring nature back into balance.

Nālani Kealaiki offers this vision of how seeds planted today — both literal and metaphorical — will help connect Lahaina's future to its past.

"I often wonder about my kūpuna. What was their Lahaina like? In this current day and time, how can Kamehameha Schools, and how can I, be a part of bringing some of that back? And if not for me or my generation, but the next generation to take all the lessons learned and get a little closer to what my kūpuna might have seen. This is a generational commitment that Kamehameha Schools is making alongside the community to see it through." 🌱

"I often wonder about my kūpuna. What was their Lahaina like? ... how can Kamehameha Schools, and how can I, be a part of bringing some of that back?"

Nālani Blane Kealaiki KSK'94



Reclaiming Lahaina's past to help reshape its future

Story by Justin Barfield
Photos by Jacob Chinn





I ka wā ma mua, ka wā ma hope — In the past, the future is found. This ‘ōlelo no‘eau is a thread that runs through many crucial conversations happening right now — rebuilding Lahaina, restoring ‘āina and wai, and reclaiming Hawaiian history, language and culture suppressed for far too long.

Unlikely as it may seem, a group of KS Kapālama sixth graders managed to encapsulate all these weighty issues — and solutions too — as they delivered a rousing final performance of the play “Ka Malu ‘Ulu o Lele” at Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Aug. 10, 2024.

Spontaneous shouts of “Eō!” and thunderous applause filled the auditorium, and a good many tears were shed as the crowd of nearly 1,000 took in the mana‘o and mele delivered so masterfully by nearly 150 haumāna ‘ōpio.

Pā‘ele Kiakona KSH’13, who is a lāhui advocate and alaka‘i in the Lahaina Strong movement, offered this take after the show: “All of our people need to see this. There are so many things that were shared here that a lot of our people don’t even know about. And I think having keiki say it to you, it kind of gives you that fire within you, like, damn, I need to go and start learning more of this and get deeper embedded into our culture and our people and our history.”

To understand how this performance ended up becoming one of Maui County’s official remembrance events to mark one year since the devastating wildfires, it’s important to go back to the play’s origins on the Kapālama kula ha‘aha‘a campus back in August 2023. The kumu who spearheaded the annual fifth grade play were in the early stages of mapping out a production focused on ho‘okele when the devastating fires happened. As the pae ‘āina grieved, nā kumu **K. Ke‘ala Tamashiro Sharrer KSK’95** and **Mara Bacon-Chang KSK’87** and the entire performing arts hui pivoted to the concept of creating a “love letter to Lahaina.”



“Music heals, the performing arts heals,” Bacon-Chang said. Sharrer added: “We are all the same, and we’re one lāhui. We wanted to make sure they know that we are in it with them.”

Over the following months, kumu and haumāna alike took a deep dive into Lahaina’s history and the issues that turned it from a lush breadbasket to ‘āina wela in less than two centuries. They consulted community leaders and did research while writing scripts and catchy lyrics.

Sixth grader Waihiowaioha Alo explains the meaning behind the play’s inoa: “Ka Malu ‘Ulu o Lele means the shaded breadfruit grove of Lele. Lahaina was originally called Lele, which used to have a bunch of ‘ulu trees which created its own microclimate, keeping it cool. Much different than the hot, dry West Maui we have today.”

For those not ma‘a to Kapālama’s fifth grade play, it’s become quite the rite of passage. Like Song Contest, all haumāna take part. The level of production and sophistication is extraordinary, especially when you realize the performers are between the tender ages of 9 and 11!

“When people hear fifth grade play, they often think of a production that is in the cafeteria. This is something that could easily be at the Blaisdell Concert Hall and maybe on an even bigger stage,” said Kamuela Binkie, a Maui native and the elementary school’s campus student support services director.

Originating in 1992, the play has undergone a significant transformation since its early days. Long gone are performances about Lewis and Clark, “Home of the Brave” or “Schoolhouse Rock.” For Bacon-Chang and Sharrer, the huliau started around 2007, but

reached another level in 2016 after completing the Aloha ‘Āina Master’s Cohort through the University of Hawai‘i. One of their kumu? **J. Noelani Goodyear-Ka‘ōpua KSK’92**, who now serves on Kamehameha Schools’ Board of Trustees.

“After taking that aloha ‘āina master’s class, for Mara and I ... it was like we’re not afraid to talk about those things that are important or that might be edgy, because it’s our kuleana. If we don’t teach our haumāna about it, we are really doing a disservice to them,” Sharrer said.

Bacon-Chang also added: “HCBE (Hawaiian Culture-Based Education) and the E Ola! graduate has really opened the doors for us to explore topics that we wouldn’t have in the past.”

In the years since, fifth grade kumu and haumāna have delved deeply into lāhui-focused issues such as wai and Kapūkakī (Red Hill), the Moananuiākea worldwide voyage and Pu‘uloa (Pearl Harbor).

Their latest creation, “Ka Malu ‘Ulu o Lele” is clever, sophisticated and downright catchy. Haumāna plead for



restoration of wai and ‘āina singing “Hulihia” to the tune of “Believer” by Imagine Dragons. They bemoan the influence of bawdy whale boat sailors to the tune of Miley Cyrus’ “Party in the U.S.A.” (“No Party in Lahaina Bay”), and celebrate the kānaka behind the first print house west of the Mississippi at Lahainaluna to the tune of the Commodores “Brick House” (“oh it’s a print ... house”).

When it came time to perform the play in front of mākua and ‘ohana in spring 2024, it was clear something extraordinary had been created. Successful performances on the Kapālama campus led to a pair of special performances on Maui. The play touched so many on Maui during those performances, the community members worked behind the scenes to have them come back to the Valley Isle to be part of the anniversary commemoration events in August 2024.

Now sixth graders, haumāna who worked through the summer re-doing props and reacquainting themselves with their lines and dance moves made the huaka‘i back to Maui on Aug. 10, most aboard a chartered flight due to the group’s size.

The performance itself was magical.



Behind the scenes, haumāna and kumu made adjustments on the fly whenever something unexpected came up (with the audience none the wiser). On stage, they delivered an energetic two-hour performance that riveted the crowd.

Possibly the most memorable moment occurred when haumāna sang Lahainaluna High School’s alma mater. The crowd stood up, many singing in unison with the haumāna. A true chicken skin moment.

When it’s all said and done, the fifth grade play means many things to many people. **Monica Loui KSK’77**, whose ‘ohana’s property sustained damage in the Kula wildfire on Aug. 8, 2023, says these haumāna exemplify the ideals Ke Ali‘i Pauahi fought for.

“I think she would be extremely proud that her pua are very empathetic, sympathetic and are demonstrating a lot of kindness to the wider community.”

Community leader Pā‘ele Kiakona lauded the mana behind the heavy use of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i throughout the play. His mana‘o echoes a question posed during the play: “If we don’t share our own mo‘olelo, who will?”

“You know the people who came to Hawai‘i tried to snuff that out, because there was power in that. Because once you make people forget their language ... they forget their culture. They forget their culture, they forget their history. They forget their history, they forget who they are. They forget who they are, they forget what they’re even fighting for. So why fight? Now we are able to slowly reclaim all of that, especially our language,” Kiakona said.

Kumu see the play’s impact in how it shapes the future of haumāna.

“There are significant points which mark time. The fifth grade play is one of those. When you talk to them as upperclassmen in high school and you ask them how did they form their Native Hawaiian identity?, a lot of them go back to these very formative experiences that they had in the younger grades,” Binkie said.

Kumu Sharrer brings it back to where it all started: I ka wā ma mua, ka wā ma hope — In the past, the future is found.

“We hope that by them learning about these things that are important to our lāhui, it’s planting that seed within them to be kia‘i later. As they leave us and become ‘ōiwi leaders out there in the world, that in some small way, we planted this little seed within them.” 🌱

Kamehameha Schools Kapālama
Kūpuna Pā‘ina

Thursday, June 6, 2024
Kōnia Field, Kapālama Campus

For the seventh year, Kamehameha Schools leadership honored our kūpuna with a luncheon service under the big tent on Kōnia Field. This event has become the second marquee event during Alumni Reunion (next to Lū‘au), and celebrates our alumni who have celebrated their 50th reunion and older. This year we were honored to have in attendance members of the “Great ‘48,” **May Parker Au**, **Betty Kahalewai** Kon, **Grace Thoene** Murphy, and **Dolly Manley** Phillips (see photo of classes of 1948 and 1968 below). Kūpuna were delighted by the performance of members of the award-winning Kamehameha Schools Children’s Chorus.



Kamehameha Schools Kapālama Reunion Lū'au

Saturday, June 8, 2024
Kōnia Field, Kapālama Campus

This year's Lū'au was hosted by the class of 1995 (photo opposite page, middle), under the big tent on Kōnia Field. Celebrating eight decades of alumni there was a special arrival of an alumna, **Juanita Light** Rothrock **KSK'49**, who came all the way from Florida with her family to attend the lū'au.



KSAA East Hawaiʻi

Golf Tournament

Friday, May 31, 2024
Volcano Golf Course,
Hawaiʻi



Kamehameha Schools
Kapālama

1887 Golf Tournament

Monday, June 3, 2024
Mid-Pacific Country Club,
Kailua



KSAA East Hawaiʻi

Lūʻau

Saturday, June 1, 2024
Hāʻaeamahi Dining Hall,
Hawaiʻi Campus



Kamehameha
Schools
Kapālama

Maunaʻala

Wednesday,
June 5, 2024
Maunaʻala,
Royal Mausoleum



Kamehameha Schools
Kapālama

North Shore Huakaʻi

Wednesday, June 5,
2024
Macadamia Nut Farm,
Puaʻena Beach, Haleʻiwa
Store Lots



Kamehameha Schools Kapālama

Warrior Run

Saturday, June 1, 2024
Kekūhaupiʻo Gym, Kapālama Campus



Kamehameha Schools
Kapālama

Warrior Networking

Wednesday, June 5,
2024
Ka Lewa Lānai, Helumoa
(Royal Hawaiian Center)



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS MAUI

Native Hawaiian students visit oldest and largest ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree on Maui for first time in generations

Story and photos by Chris Sugidono

For possibly the first time in generations, haumāna kānaka ‘ōiwi Hawai‘i had a special opportunity to witness and speak to the oldest and largest known ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree on Maui during the summer 2024 Hālau ‘o Kapikohānaiāmālama at Kamehameha Schools Maui.

A group of six high school students and two teachers were guided on a three-mile hike through Waikamoi Preserve near Haleakalā National Park. The group was in awe as they reached the more than 80-foot-tall tree and 108-foot canopy.

“It was very cold, but it was worth it,” said Ka‘anohiulakala “Kimokeo” Puaa, a junior at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kekaulike ma Maui. “I’m grateful I got to see Māmā ‘Ōhi‘a. I didn’t know I was gonna get to go on such rare hikes. Seeing that made me really proud to be Hawaiian, and I’m really happy I took this class.”

G. Keoki Kanakaokai, Jr. KSK’00, The Nature Conservancy natural resource manager on Maui, and field technician Marie Andres guided the class through the forest to reach the tree that could be up to 600 years old. Kanakaokai said he had tried to bring students down the hike in previous summers, but was only able to reach it this year.

The ‘ōhi‘a lehua is one of the few recognized Exceptional Trees in the County of Maui, a designation by the State of Hawai‘i meant to foster preservation. Once the class reached the tree, students led an oli and conversed ma ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i.

“Our Māmā ‘Ōhi‘a is so special because we haven’t had any Hawaiian speaking groups at that tree,” Kanakaokai said. “That kumulā‘au has not heard the leo of our Hawaiian people in generations. I feel like the ‘āina relies on us and our relationship



Kamehameha Schools Maui’s Hālau ‘o Kapikohānaiāmālama (Summer and Extended Learning Program) students visit “Māmā ‘Ōhi‘a” – the oldest and largest known ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree on Maui – with staff from The Nature Conservancy in Waikamoi Preserve.

with it, and I think it misses us when we’re not here.”

The excursion was part of the program’s lā‘au Hawai‘i course, which utilized the Honolulu ahupua‘a as a living laboratory, in coordination with The Nature Conservancy and Pu‘u Kukui Watershed Preserve. Students acquainted themselves with plants and their influence on Hawaiian culture and history, plant biogeography and human migration, as well as the design and procedures of plant use in religious, medical and lifestyle traditions.

Peyton Cabudol, a junior at KS Maui, said she was surprised to learn more about native and invasive species on Maui and the impacts they have on the environment.

“Seeing that ‘ōhi‘a tree I was like, ‘Wow she’s big.’ If we didn’t have so many invasives, we could see our natives grow more.”

Joseph Bracerros, a sophomore at KS Maui, expressed gratitude for the experience but also concern for the current state of the forest there.

“I don’t get to see this much of our island, so it’s almost like a once-in-a-lifetime chance,” Bracerros said. “Seeing all the invasives, it’s really bad for our native ecosystem. I would like to try and help out as much as possible to see our natives thrive way more. Getting this ‘ike from kumu will help me see what I can do.”

Kanakaokai said his goal was to help students better understand the course curriculum, including ethnobotany, but there’s also another kind of learning that happens in the nahele. “The main thing I want to see is for these haumāna and kumu to build pilina with this place,” Kanakaokai said. “Meet our species, our kumulā‘au and and kumu wai, and recognize them as relatives and sources. I wanted to have something for them to build a foundation on.” ❤️



Students Joseph Bracerros (left) and Kaies DeMello place their hand on Māmā ‘Ōhi‘a, which is estimated to be up to 600 years old.

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS HAWAII

Entrepreneur haumāna’s butter sells out at 30,000 feet

Story by Ku‘ualoha Kauanoe-Luda

At just 11 years old, Kamehameha Schools Hawai‘i haumāna Sadie Yu has achieved what many entrepreneurs only dream of. Her Sweetheart Farm liliko‘i butter debuted as an in-flight exclusive on Hawaiian Airlines in August 2024, selling out on its first leg.

“There were so many people on the plane and they let me make an announcement,” Sadie said. “It was cool to see people buying and enjoying it.”

Sadie’s story is a testament to the values instilled in Kamehameha Schools haumāna, who are equipped to be ‘ōiwi leaders in and outside the classroom. From athletic standouts to theater mavens, students are guided by the E Ola! learner outcomes that encourage them to strive for excellence in every aspect of their lives.

Sadie’s love for animals began when she was just four years old, raising chickens on her family’s Hilo acreage. Over the years, her menagerie grew to include goats, pigs, cows, cats, dogs and more chickens. Her nurturing affinity for these animals was evident early on, as she often took time to sing to and hug them as she did her chores.

“We used to wonder why she’s taking so long to clean up after them but it’s because she is talking to and spending time with every one of them,” Sadie’s mother, **Jodi Yu KSK’06**, said. “She really loves her animals.”

A typical day in Sadie’s life is packed with activity. After attending school at the Kea‘au campus, where her favorite class involves working in the māla, she heads to cheerleading practice. At home, she cares for her animals, completes her homework, spends time with her ‘ohana and helps care for her brother, Ka‘ohe.

Her younger sibling is the inspiration behind Sweetheart Farm. Ka‘ohe has a genetic mutation that requires extensive care, at one point taking the family to California several times in one semester. Sadie started the business to help her hardworking parents with his needs.

“I wanted to help out with medical bills because I know that it’s expensive, so we started to sell our extra eggs and then we made liliko‘i butter and pepper jelly,” Sadie said. “People started liking it and wanting more.”

Originally made by her grandmother for her parents’ wedding favors, she updated the recipe to be smoother, using fruits from her aunty’s tree. The name “Sweetheart” comes from her grandmother, a term of endearment that Sadie now uses for her beloved pets, threading her family’s love through every part of her business.

“It’s a proud parent moment,” her father, Gary Yu, said. “To see her grow from when she first started this business as a shy 7-year-old to now being outgoing and not afraid to put herself out there and speaking on the flight, it’s amazing how much she’s grown!”

As Sweetheart Farm expands its product line to include microgreens, baked goods and more, Sadie dreams of reaching even greater heights. Though her butter is already available at an ABC store on Hawai‘i Island, she hopes to eventually share her family’s story and food with the world. Her parents are committed to helping her develop these life skills so she can have a financially independent future grounded in giving back to her community.

“To me, being an ‘ōiwi leader means leading the way, being pono and showing aloha to everybody,” Sadie said. “That’s what I do through my business.”

As Sadie’s ambitious spirit continues to take flight, this achievement is only the beginning of a remarkable journey ahead, rooted in ‘ohana, community and aloha. ❤️



Top left: Sadie Yu holds a jar of her Sweetheart Farm liliko‘i butter. Top right: from left, Jodi Yu KSK’06 (mom), Sadie Yu, Gary Yu (father) and Ka‘ohe (brother) aboard a Hawaiian Airlines flight. Bottom: KSH haumāna Sadie Yu on her ‘ohana farm in Hilo.



Left: Haumāna who earned an associate degree through the KS Kapālama/Hawai‘i Pacific University dual credit program pose with Sharky, the HPU mascot, at a reception at Ka‘iwakīloumoku Hawaiian Cultural Center. Right: Sophie Alameda-Wilcox hugs KS Kapālama student success counselor Gina Karas at an AA degree celebration event held at Ka‘iwakīloumoku.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS KAPĀLAMA

Dual credit college program at KS Kapālama creates generational change

Story by Justin Barfield. Photos by Jacob Chinn

Student loan debt can be crippling. According to federal data, the average Hawai‘i student has a loan balance of more than \$37,000. Paying off these loans can take 20 years or more. For many kanaka maoli, college debt can be the breaking point, forcing them to leave Hawai‘i pae ‘āina – some never to return. The dual credit program at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama is helping to break this cycle and creating generational change, by giving haumāna agency over their future.

When 400+ Kamehameha Schools Kapālama seniors received their high school diplomas in May 2024, an impressive 9 out of 10 had already earned college credits. Sixty-eight haumāna went a big step further, having earned an associate degree from Hawai‘i Pacific University. These achievements are proof-positive of the success of the campus’s dual credit program.

Sophie Alameda-Wilcox KSK’24 is one of the 68 haumāna who make up the second KS Kapālama cohort to earn associate of arts degrees from Hawai‘i Pacific University through a partnership that allows haumāna to earn college and high school credits simultaneously.

Wilcox’s journey to graduation from HPU and Kapālama is the embodiment of ho‘omau. During her seventh-grade year, her father passed away unexpectedly. Then in her junior year, tragedy struck again when her mother passed away. In the face of heartbreak, she found a way to holomua.

“I had a lot of support. I was given the option to take fewer dual credit classes, but my mom...she was the one who actually started my journey with the dual credit program. So, in doing that, I just wanted to make her proud, and make my dad proud,” said Wilcox, who is now attending Oregon State University.

Kathryn Kekaulike, who serves as dean of KS Kapālama’s College and Career department, marvels at Wilcox’s grit and determination.

“For her, as a young person to draw that strength from her mom’s encouragement and her culture, to continue to look forward beyond the pain of her loss is huge.”

Kekaulike spearheaded the unique dual credit partnership with HPU which first began in 2021. Instead of making the trek downtown to take college courses, KS Kapālama students can earn credits without leaving campus, which leaves intact invaluable support systems and world-class campus experiences.

“There is nowhere else like here. The view, the stairs, the lunch, the kumu, the rain, Founder’s Day, Mauna‘ala. We don’t want kids to miss out on these experiences,” Kekaulike said.

Haumāna are grateful for the dual credit offerings, too. After graduating, **Ocean Bustamante KSK’24** went directly into HPU’s physician’s assistant program. A standout in soccer, she lined up athletic, merit and other scholarships, and is on a two-year track to earn her bachelor’s degree – unburdened by debt.

“I don’t have to do any more general education requirements. Everything lined up for me and I feel really blessed and excited,” Bustamante said.

Another haumāna to earn their AA degree is **Logan Ledesma KSK’24**. As a multi-year award-winning Song Contest director, he’s proof that with campus supports, it’s possible to balance extracurriculars and the extra kuleana that comes with the dual-credit program.

“I really got to practice my time management and my organization skills. It was pretty challenging, but I feel like this is helping me build myself for the future,” Ledesma said.

There’s a huge value in the dual-credit partnership with HPU, even for those who don’t go so far as earning an AA degree. First off, there’s the fact that college credits earned never expire, meaning haumāna who enter the workforce or return to HPU later in life don’t have to start from scratch. And there are other positives too: “The increased academic confidence, the ability to save money, and the aspiration. Maybe they never saw themselves as a college student,” Kekaulike said.

The dual-credit program is creating generational change. In the inaugural cohort in the ‘22-’23 school year, a whopping 30% who earned their AA degree were the first in their family to earn a post-high school degree of any kind.

And Kekaulike aptly notes that great things await those haumāna who are willing to push even harder.

“Three years from high school graduation, when most of your friends are finishing their junior year, you can have your master’s degree. Talk about changing people’s lives and their socioeconomic trajectory!”

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS PRESCHOOLS

Kamehameha Schools celebrates its newest preschool in Kapa‘a, Kaua‘i

Story and photos by Alice Silbanuz

On a bright and beautiful July morning, Kamehameha Schools staff and partners came together to celebrate the blessing of the newest Kamehameha Schools preschool site. Located in Kapa‘a, Kaua‘i, the event marked the latest milestone to embody Ke Ali‘i Pauahi’s vision to provide quality education for Native Hawaiian keiki. The Kapa‘a site is named after the ahupua‘a in which it is located.

In May 2024, the much beloved KS preschool in Anahola graduated its final class as kumu and their haumāna prepared to move to their new, updated facility in Kapa‘a.

The blessing ceremony began with welcoming remarks by Anna Peters, the hope po‘o kumu for KS preschools on Kaua‘i. Her heartfelt message set the tone for a day filled with joy and gratitude.

“While we cherish the memories made in Anahola, we welcome the opportunities this move presents for our keiki and kumu,” Peters said. “I want to thank our kumu for their diligence, commitment and hard work to move and prepare their classrooms in our new facility before the new school year begins.”

Wai‘ale‘ale Arroyo, Kamehameha Schools vice president of Hi‘ialo, spoke about the importance of nurturing haumāna.

“This new preschool is more than just a building; it is a space where futures will be molded, memories will be cherished and the next generation of ‘ōiwi leaders will be nurtured,” Arroyo said. “Here, enduring and positive relationships between kumu, keiki and ‘ohana will blossom.”

KS Preschools Po‘o Kula Shelli Kim expressed her mahalo



About 30 KS staff and community partners gathered for the blessing of Kamehameha Schools’ newest preschool in Kapa‘a, Kaua‘i, on July 26, 2024.



Left: Kahu Sean Chun leads the blessing ceremonies at KS Preschool – Kapa‘a. Right: KS Hi‘ialo leader Wai‘ale‘ale Arroyo and Hope Po‘o Kumu Anna Peters untie the maile lei. The beautiful and fragrant maile was gathered from Kaua‘i forests.

to the exceptional team of kumu who will guide the keiki on their educational journeys.

“We extend our deepest mahalo to our kumu whose dedication and passion for nurturing our keiki inspire us daily,” Kim said. “Your unwavering commitment to providing a rich educational environment steeped in E Ola! ensures that each child learns and celebrates their cultural heritage and embarks on a journey of growth and discovery with confidence and joy. It is truly a privilege to work alongside such talented and caring educators.”

The ceremony also featured a blessing performed by Kahu Sean Chun.

In his remarks, Kahu recalled the famous battle cry of Kamehameha the Great: “Imua e nā pōki‘i a inu i ka wai ‘awa‘awa, ‘a‘ohe hope e ho‘i mai ai.” This can be translated to “Forward my young brothers (and sisters) and drink of the bitter waters (of battle), there is no turning back (until victory is secured).”

“In today’s application, as Kānaka ‘Ōiwi, we move forward to preserve our ‘āina, our culture, our ‘ōlelo,” Chun said. “We uphold our rights and prepare to take on the challenges ahead; we unite and strengthen our lāhui as Kānaka ‘Ōiwi.”

It was a powerful, spiritual moment, as kahu dipped a lāī in an ‘umeke of salt water and sprinkled the wai in every room of the new facility symbolizing the cleansing of the new space. This blessing, called pī kai, brought a sense of peace and readiness for the important work in the school year ahead.

The modern and well-equipped facility is designed to provide a nurturing and engaging environment for up to 40 preschoolers. The event was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a new beginning and envision the bright future that lies ahead for the keiki of Kapa‘a. 🌱



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Ruby Hasegawa Lowe KSK'61



Ruby Hasegawa Lowe KSK'61 is reminded of the importance of giving back every July while attending the Koʻolua Scholarship Reception as donors and their scholarship recipients come together to build pilina and share manaʻo.

Lowe founded the Hisashi and Helen Hasegawa Scholarship in 2023 to honor and remember her parents and their belief in the importance of a college education.

"My father was an elementary school principal and six of us became teachers. My sister and I received financial support from Kamehameha Schools, so it became important to give back and help others," she said.

The \$25,000 endowed scholarship fund provides an annual award to a college student from Lānaʻi, Maui or Molokaʻi (in honor of her family roots) pursuing a degree in education, with a preference for those focusing on elementary education.

Lowe shares that having access to excellent elementary education is crucial for laying the foundation of lifelong learning, and its impact extends beyond academics, shaping social skills, emotional intelligence and character that are essential for success in future educational pursuits and life.

Lowe entered Kamehameha Schools Kapālama as a boarding student in seventh grade and recalls gaining a new sense of independence, while missing her family from Molokaʻi.

"Kamehameha really taught us to be independent," Lowe said. "I told my mother in sixth grade that I wanted to stay home and help her. But she told me to go, and I was fortunate that I had sisters here when I came to school, so I always had family around. I learned to live away from my parents and I was so amazed with all the things KS was doing like music and art appreciation. All those things made us well-rounded in the Western world, because in those days, that was the focus."

While in college, Lowe treated the experience "like my job" and earned her bachelor's degree in three years by taking summer school courses at Denver University and the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa, while studying full time at Greeley State Teachers College (now known as the University of Northern Colorado). Lowe began her teaching

pursuits at age 20 in West Covina and Long Beach, California, where she worked for a few years before moving to Vietnam with her husband, James Lowe. They eventually made their way back to California before returning home to Hawaiʻi.

"I said to my husband, 'They're offering me a job at Kamehameha,' and he said, 'I leave it to you!' So I took the job and my husband got a job as an engineer and it all worked out. I love Hawaiʻi, and so did he, so it wasn't a problem."

Lowe retired from KS after 33 years as kumu at multiple grades.

"My favorite students were my third graders," Lowe recalled. "They're young, they listen to their teacher, and it's also like you can do no wrong. As the years went by, I went to fourth grade, then extension education for a reading program where I taught seventh graders at King David Kalākaua Middle School. The kids there sometimes would come with no supplies. They were good kids, and I would take it upon myself to have them apply to Kamehameha Schools. I was quite happy because they were so capable. They all had good hearts, I loved my time there and my director, Julie Williams, was so supportive."

Lowe moved back to KS Kapālama to teach as part of the reading program with no more than eight students at a time, so the classes were small and intimate. Lowe eventually transitioned to the English department, where she taught seventh and eighth graders before eventually retiring for the first time

in 2004. She returned to work at KS part time at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Heritage Center from 2010 to 2017 and retired for good after completing four decades of serving the KS ʻohana.

"I've been enjoying life," Lowe said when reflecting on being retired. "I loved teaching so much that I spent my week-ends getting ready for the next week because I was so excited!"

Lowe hopes that others will follow her example and give to the Pauahi Foundation with the collective goal of helping more Native Hawaiian haumāna achieve their educational aspirations.

"Pauahi was a teacher and she's the one who gave us all we have here to this day," Lowe said. "When I see the next generation of kids, I'm so thankful and blessed to be Hawaiian, and it's important to give because you're following Pauahi's example — there's no better example, what a wonderful person she was."

"This is our homeland. There's no greater gift than what she left us. I'm not sure she realized the magnitude of the gift she was leaving, and I give credit to Charles Reed Bishop as well for helping her leave such a legacy." 🌺

"When I see the next generation of kids, I'm so thankful and blessed to be Hawaiian, and it's important to give because you're following Pauahi's example."

By including the Pauahi Foundation in your will or trust and making a planned gift, you establish a legacy that benefits generations to come.

Contact Natalie Arrell at naarrell@ksbe.edu or (808) 534-3966 for information about collaborating with the



Pauahi Foundation. Use your digital device to follow the QR code and give to the Pauahi Foundation!



Keeping it Pono

by **Pono Ma'a KSK'82**
*Director of Advancement and
Executive Director of the Pauahi Foundation*

Aloha mai e nā koa o Kamehameha,

We've all been waiting patiently, and it is finally time to share with you the great news that Pearl at Kalauao – formerly known as Pearl Country Club – is ready for you to enjoy a round of golf, an 'ono meal or special event after nearly a year of renovations.

The golf course has been upgraded with a new irrigation system designed to manage our wai more sustainably while providing a more consistent playing surface for golfers of all ages and skill levels — from aspiring professionals to the occasional hacker. Pearl at Kalauao's dining and entertainment facilities have also been totally revamped, including the brand-new, high-capacity kitchen, refreshed meeting and special event spaces and an updated look and feel to the restaurant and bar.

I can't wait to welcome you, your friends and 'ohana to the new Pearl at Kalauao. As we took part in the course's blessing in October that included those who played key roles in the renovation effort, I was reminded of the honor and kuleana we carry as stewards of 'Āina Pauahi, and look forward to sharing the updated facilities and amenities that are now available for you.

As we reflect upon the past year and look ahead to what 2025 has to offer, I'm looking forward to sharing more exciting news about events that our team is planning. For KS Alumni, we're gearing up for the upcoming Alumni Reunion celebration for classes ending in Os and 5s. We continue to build on the momentum from last summer's successful reunion by creating opportunities to engage with and recognize our alumni across the pae 'āina through reunion celebrations and special gatherings.

We also aim to serve even more scholarship applicants in the upcoming award cycle and support early learning, K-12 education, college and 'āina community programming. Help us kick off 2025 on a high note by making a gift at Pauahi.org, or simply follow the QR code below with your digital device.

Please stay tuned to our monthly Kahiau e-newsletter as well as our KS Alumni (@kamehamehaalumni) and Pauahi Foundation (@pauahifoundation) social media channels for opportunities to engage with us through your time, talent, and treasure. Please stay safe and take good care of yourselves and one another, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Pono Ma'a



Use your digital device to follow this QR code and support the Pauahi Foundation!

1940s

■ The classes of 1948 and 1968 held a Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 14, 2023, at Aunt Grace Murphy's home. For the past several years, the class of 1968 has helped mālama the remaining members of the "Great '48". This includes organizing luncheons, providing transportation, purchasing event tickets and checking in on individual members.

1950s

■ The class of 1957 gathered Feb. 23, 2024, at Zippy's on Vineyard Boulevard to talk story face to face and to laugh, reminisce and smile over good times and food. Classmates in attendance were **Kuulei Apo** Reyes, **Lyle DuPont** and Brenda, **John Flores**, **Chester Kahapea** and Sybil, **Frances Kang** Wong and Henry, **Lynette Kaopuiki** Paglinawan, **Maetan Kaula**, **Arthur Loeb** and Rhoda, **Frank Medrano**, **B. Aloha Perez** Sanborn, **Patti Igawa** Shibuya, **Melsa Wong** Takamatsu and daughter, and **Victoria Young** Keith.

■ As a community service opportunity, the class of 1959 chose to kōkua Lunalilo Home. Celebrating their 65th reunion, papa 1959 collected donations during Alumni Reunion and presented them to Lunalilo Home on July 1, 2024.



Class representative **Antoinette "Toni" Gomes Lee KSK'59** and Lunalilo Home administrator Iwalani Ah Quin.

■ **Melvin Kekuewa KSK'59** and 'ohana Kekuewa attended the King Kamehameha I lei-draping ceremony at the U.S. Capitol, where Melvin's grandson Kaleo Kekuewa-Kwon performed with Hālau O 'Aulani. Kaleo was recently accepted into Mensa society at just

5 years old. He scored in the top 0.01% on the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence-Fourth Edition intelligence test, making him one of the youngest members among the world's elite intellectuals.

1960s

■ **Kekoa Catherine Kekoa** Enomoto **KSK'64** received the Namahana Award of Excellence at the Ritz-Carlton Kapalua resort March 29, 2024. The distinction salutes "kūpuna who have served the culture with a zest for life." The Waiohuli Native Hawaiian homesteader is a kahuna kakalaleo, or chanter of prayer. She serves as a charter director of two Valley Isle nonprofits: Pa'upena Community Development, Inc. that works for Hawaiian homesteaders, and the disaster-relief organization, Nā Kia'i O Maui, founded in the wake of the Aug. 8, 2023, Maui wildfires. A career journalist, she retired as a staff writer, copy editor and columnist for two daily newspapers: the Honolulu Star-Bulletin and The Maui News. The cultural practitioner of hula and outrigger-canoe paddler has medaled at outrigger World Sprints in Australia in 2016 and England in 2022.

1970s

■ **Glenn Teves KSK'70** was appointed to serve on a new Tribal Advisory Committee with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in late 2023. Authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, the TAC will provide advice and guidance to the Secretary of Agriculture on Native equities in USDA programs and policies and develop an annual report to Congress. Teves is a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a B.S. in horticulture technology. He currently serves as a county extension agent for the university's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources — a position he has held for over 40 years. Together with his wife, he owns and operates Puakala Farms on Hawaiian homelands in Ho'olehua, Moloka'i.

■ The class of 1971 enjoyed a huaka'i to Hawai'i Island on March 9, 2024, part of their "class of '71 is turning 71" year-long celebration, stopping by the Hilo Yacht Club for a luncheon. Classmates in attendance were: **Janis Chun** Kalua, **Janice Branigan** and **Roy Spencer**, **Roberta "Bobbie" Von Arnswaldt** Kikuchi, **Maria Elia**, **Duncan Seto** and



The class of '48 and '68 held a Christmas luncheon at Aunt Grace Murphy's home. Seated: **Grace Thoe**ne Murphy **KSK'48**, **Janet Aleong** Holokai **KSK'48**, **Betty Kahalewai** Kon **KSK'48**. Back: **Robin Williams** Makapagal **KSK'68**, **Carol Camara** Brown **KSK'68**, **May Parker** Au **KSK'48**, **Amelia Lai-Hipp** Hew Sang **KSK'68**, **Mary Ann McDougall** Cayetano **KSK'68**, **Noela Bishaw** **KSK'68**, **Mary Ann Nobori** Dorsey **KSK'68** and **Constance "Connie" Uale** Warrington **KSK'68**.



The class of 1957 gathered at Zippy's on Vineyard Boulevard for some good times and food.



Above: Namahana Award of Excellence recipient **Kekoa Enomoto KSK'64** (center) receives congratulations from Kamehameha Kapālāma fellow alumni: **Robin Leihuanani Keali'inohomoku KSK'85**; **Wayne Wong KSK'69**; **Linda Lanihuli Brandl** Freidenburg **KSK'64**; and **Malia Davidson KSK'87**.

Left: 'Ohana Kekuewa at lei draping ceremony, Melvin is seated in wheelchair, Kaleo is seated in his lap.



The class of 1971 enjoyed a huaka'i to Hawai'i Island on March 9, 2024.



Venus Rosete-Medeiros KSK'81 and Lori Kahikina KSK'89 earned honors from Pacific Business News.



Joshua K. Martin KSK'00



Nicholas Chang KSH'07

Lei, **George Gomes**, **Michael Johnston**, **Leona Wong** Seto-Mook, **G. Sui Sin Poy** Coloma, **Sarah Beamer** Glendon, **Denise Rosehill** Mahi, **Claire Duvauchelle**, **Jan Gunderson** Espere, **Mike Bishop**, **B. Mikiala Brand**, **Gary Puniwai** and Judy, **George Dochin**, **Guy Bello**, **C. Pokii Seto** KSK'00, **Kalani Chock** and Lei, **Lonna Kam** and **Rod Maile**, **Clinton Chee**, **Wanda Machado**, **Mark Crawford**, N. "Tubby" Teves, Budgie Souki.

■ **Robyn Au KSK'72** retired in December 2023, as Honolulu District Counsel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, after 37 years

of federal government service. At her retirement ceremony, Au received the Presidential Letter of Appreciation; Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition (from Congressman Ed Case); Bronze Order of the de Fleury Award (from the Army Engineer Association); Meritorious Civilian Service Medal and her retirement pin.



Robyn Au KSK'72

■ The Kamehameha Kapālana Athletic Hall of Honor celebrated the remarkable achievements of **Blane Gaison KSK'76** and **Reydan "Tita" Ahuna KSK'84** at the prestigious Dinner of Champions on May 19, 2024. Recognized for their remarkable contributions to athletics as players, coaches and administrators, Gaison and Ahuna stand out as exemplars of excellence and leadership in the sporting arena.

1980s

■ **Venus Rosete-Medeiros KSK'81** and **Lori Kahikina KSK'89** were honored this year by Pacific Business News, earning spots on the publication's "Women Who Mean Business" list.

1990s

The Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau has selected business entrepreneur, educator and tourism consultant **Aaron J. Salā KSK'94** as its president and CEO starting Sept. 1, 2024. Salā is the former chairperson of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. He founded Gravitas Pasifika and established the Foundation for an Engaged Pacific, a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to engaging, educating and elevating Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities through leadership and professional development. In summer 2024, Salā served as festival director for the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture. Touted as the world's largest celebration of Indigenous Pacific Islanders, FestPAC was launched in 1972 to use cultural exchange to halt the erosion of traditional practices. This year's event, held June 6-16, brought some 2,200 delegates and their entourages from 26 of the 28 Pacific Island nations to Hawai'i, where there were more than 50 events, including the opening and closing ceremonies, heritage dance and contemporary music performances, festival village, heritage arts demonstrations and visual arts exhibits.

■ **C. Makanani Ah Sing Salā KSK'99** will step into the role of president and CEO of Gravitas Pasifika, LLC founded by spouse **Aaron J. Salā KSK'94** as a boutique firm dedicated to advancing Native Hawaiian, local Hawai'i, and Pasifika talent through innovative and creative production.

2000s

■ **Joshua "Bubba" K. Martin KSK'00** was recognized as the National High School Strength Coaches Association Hawai'i

State Coach of the year 2024. Bubba is the owner of MVP Academy in Kapa'a, Kaua'i and strength and conditioning coach for Kaua'i High School. He trains a wide range of athletes in different sports and ages, with some excelling at the national level as well as receiving NCAA Division 1 offers.

■ **Nicholas Chang KSH'07** is employed with Amazon as a software engineer in Seattle. His broadcasting team received the prestigious 2022-23 Sports Emmy Award for Outstanding Interactive Experience (Thursday Night Football) on Amazon Prime.

■ **Alexis Charpentier KSK'07** has been appointed the CEO of Waikiki Health starting March 1, 2024. She previously worked for the Hawaii State Department of Health as an HIV public health supervisor, epidemiological specialist. Prior to that, she worked at Waikiki Health as an HIV quality improvement specialist. Most recently she worked as the director, Prevention at National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, a leading national non-partisan non-profit association based in Washington, D.C., that represents public health officials who administer HIV and hepatitis programs.

Alexis has served on the Waikiki Health Board of Directors for many years, most recently as the Vice President. She also serves on the Hawai'i Public Health Association Board as the president-elect and on the Hawai'i Primary Care Association Board as an at-large member. She was awarded a Bloomberg American Health Initiative Fellowship in 2020, named one of the de Beaumont Foundation's 40 Under 40 public health leaders in 2021, and selected as an Association of State and Territorial Health Officials' Diverse Executives Leading in Public Health scholar in 2022. She received a B.A. from the University of Portland and is completing her M.P.H. at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

■ **Wayland Hinds KSK'07** was selected as the director of development for the College of Dentistry at The Ohio State University. In this role, he will work to secure major gifts that support scholarships, programs and facilities for DDS and dental hygiene students at the university.

■ Ho'omaika'i to **Alissa Bautista KSH'09** on being named to Building Industry Hawaii Magazine 2024 Power Movers in its March issue. Power Movers highlights

standout employees who embrace company culture, work passionately and are all-in when called to participate in company activities. We congratulate Alissa, currently Pacific Region operations project manager for Rosendin, on this recognition and continued success in her field.

2010s

■ Congratulations to **Tori Hiro KSH'12** honored with the Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Service at Hawai'i Community College. Ho'omaika'i on being recognized for going "above and beyond," and helping to educate our next generation of haumāna.

■ Ho'omaika'i to **Akoakoa Palea-Kennedy KSH'12** on completing his fire training. Akoakoa will be serving as a firefighter in Dallas.

■ **Sai "Kamakani" Furukawa KSM'13** has won the top prize in the public health

journal Leaders Igniting Generational Healing and Transformation in the story category for his work "The Realm of Pō: A Mo'olelo of Spiritual Healing with Cancer," to creatively address healing and transformation with cancer. Graduating this year with a Master of Public Health from UH Mānoa, he has plans to advocate for integrating traditional healing practices into mainstream medicine. His goals include pursuing a Ph.D. in public health, further solidifying his commitment to advancing research in Native Hawaiian and Indigenous populations.

■ Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i class of 2014, Ke Ala'ula, celebrated their 10 year reunion over the June 1 weekend. Starting with a dinner at Keawe Dining Hall on campus Friday night, they also had a family beach day on Sunday. Class representatives brought yearbooks, photos from their time back to elementary school, and a class project, a quilt made of panels that each student decorated.



Alissa Bautista KSH'09



Akoakoa Palea-Kennedy KSH'12 with his mom, wife and daughter.



Tori Hiro KSH'12 (center) with classmates at the UH Culinary Institute of the Pacific.

■ **Davis Kūikaika Ka‘ahanui KSK’14** is training as a triathlete. He was the first-place winner for the 2024 Great Aloha Run and has been competing internationally as a triathlete in Aotearoa and Finland, finishing ahead of thousands of competitors. Kū is also a house manager at Wallyhouse (an outreach center on the grounds of St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church in Kalihi, focused on meeting immediate needs of at-risk populations in the area). Along with the other house manager, and a group of volunteers, they hand out thousands of bags of food each month to houseless, kūpuna, keiki and ‘ohana from different communities. They also serve hot lunches to those in need. The managers give hygiene products, clothing, mail and other items that people may need. And, they do this all with absolute kindness in all their interactions. Submitted by: **Darsha Lee KSK’07**, board member, St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church.

■ Ho‘omaika‘i to Puna patrol officer **Chyann Gabriel KSH’15**, who was recently honored with the Haweo Award. This prestigious award acknowledges county police and fire department personnel who demonstrate exceptional dedication beyond their regular duties. Officer Gabriel received this honor for her proactive efforts during an October 2023



KSH class of 2014, Ke Ala‘ula

theft investigation. Her commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the community is truly commendable.

■ Ho‘omaika‘i to **Alana Maureen Ka‘ano‘anookalani Paiva KSH’15** on her graduation from Hawai‘i Community College with an Associate in Science degree in nursing, which allowed her to become a registered nurse. Alana, who previously earned her BA in Hawaiian studies from the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo in 2020, plans to finish her BSN

and MSN in nursing at Grand Canyon University.

■ **Breeze “Kaua” Parker KSK’15** recently received her J.D. from J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University and has a new position at the U.S. Department of Justice as an associate attorney at the Board of Immigration Appeals Court in Washington, D.C. She shared that she was the first applicant from BYU Law School (many have applied) to get hired there in 25 years, as the application and interview process was very difficult.

■ Classmates **Megan Amanda Risso KSK’15** and **N. “Keao” Sproat-Hum KSK’15** graduated from the University of Hawai‘i William S. Richardson School of Law on May 12, 2024.

■ Ho‘omaika‘i to **Rianne Masuda KSH’16**, on graduating from Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Rianne, a member of Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society (top 20% of graduating class), received the student award in Excellence in Patient Care/Outreach in 2023 while in pharmacy school. She also volunteered in leading numerous vaccine clinics in the Spokane, Washington, area. Rianne previously graduated from Seattle Pacific University with her B.A. in chemistry in 2020. Her passion for pharmacy began with a job shadow at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo College of Pharmacy during her junior year at Kamehameha Schools Hawai‘i, and after taking AP Chemistry with kumu Joel Truesdell.

Rianne extends her gratitude to Ke Ali‘i Pauahi for the continued support of her education over the past eight years. She also thanks her family, including sibling **Daysen Masuda KSH’10** and significant other **Ryan Chun KSH’14**, for all of their love and support.

■ **Christian Tamashiro KSK’16**

graduated summa cum laude from the University of Oregon in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science with a major in biochemistry and minors in business administration and biology. He graduated in June 2023 with a Doctor of Dental Surgery. He has opened his own practice, ‘Ekahi Dental Solutions Inc., at the Kuakini Medical Plaza in central Honolulu and is accepting new patients.



Christian Tamashiro KSK’16

■ **Kūlia Fernandez KSM’17**, **Kylee Yamashita KSM’17** and **Terina DeFries KSK’17** received their white coats from the Pacific University School of Optometry on May 3, 2024, two years into their four-year program. The white coat celebrates their transition into the

clinical portion of the program, symbolizes their entrance into the medical profession and conveys the role of healers upon health care professionals.

■ Ho‘omaika‘i to **Saydee Aganus KSH’18** on her graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point on May 24, 2024, with a major in management and a minor in engineering. While attending West Point, Saydee competed in track and field. She holds the school record for both the 60-meter indoor hurdles and the 100-meter outdoor hurdles. She was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army and will be stationed at Fort Cavazos, Texas, as part of the 1st Cavalry Division, Armor.

■ Congratulations to **Israel Bowden KSH’18** for successfully completing Military Aviation School with honors. The graduation ceremony, held at Ft. Novosel on April 4, 2024, recognized Israel as the recipient of the “Distinguished Honor Graduate” award given to officers who achieve the highest scholastic average throughout the entire course of instruction. This designation signifies excellence and outstanding achievement in both academic studies and flight endeavors. Additionally, Israel was presented with a specially engraved sterling silver wing as a token of recognition.

■ Ho‘omaika‘i to **Ku‘uhiapo Jeong KSH’18** on his recent graduation from Biola University with his Master of Arts in public relations and reputation management. Congratulations also to the Jeong ‘ohana



Ku‘uhiapo Jeong KSH’18

as Ku‘uhiapo’s sister, **Ka‘ōiwi**, graduated from Kamehameha Schools Hawai‘i Campus papa 2024.

■ Ho‘omaika‘i to artist **K. “Kawehi” Mahi-Roberts KSH’18** on her Keaukaha Street murals from the 2022 Keaukaha Quick Build Project done in partnership with Hawai‘i County, Hawai‘i State Department of Health, Keaukaha Elementary and other community collaborators. The project created spaces for safer walkways and biking areas in Keaukaha. Kawehi also collaborated with the Keaukaha Community Association to plan for community engagement in July 2024 for the retouching process to prepare for the Keaukaha Homestead’s 100 Year Anniversary Celebration. For updates on the project, follow @_wehiii and @napaheonaawehi on Instagram.



Chyann Gabriel KSH’15 was recently honored with the Haweo Award.



Alana Maureen Ka‘ano‘anookalani Paiva KSH’15



Breeze “Kaua” Parker KSK’15



Classmates Megan Amanda Risso KSK’15 (left) and N. “Keao” Sproat-Hum KSK’15



Rianne Masuda KSH’16 (center) with brother Daysen Masuda KSH’10 (left) and mom (right).



Left to right: Bailey Hoshino, Kūlia Fernandez, Kylee Yamashita, and Terina DeFries.



Israel Bowden KSH’18



Saydee Aganus KSH’18 (center) with Kumu Phil Aganus (left) and mom Desiree (right).



Artist K. “Kawehi” Mahi-Roberts KSH’18 and one of her Keaukaha Street murals from the 2022 Keaukaha Quick Build Project.



Sienna De Sa KSH'19



Chase Fevella KSM'19 (center) with 'ohana.



Dyson-John Arakaki KSH'20



Classmates Cheylan Zimmermann KSH'20 and Paige Pacheco Chaves KSH'20



Kayla Enanoria KSH'20



Joanne Farias KSH'20



Jake Nishimoto KSH'20 (left) and Zayden Hora KSH'20 (right)

■ Ho'omaika'i to **Sienna De Sa KSH'19** on graduating with honors from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Sienna earned the Hawai'i Nurses Association Award for Academic Excellence, Leadership, Professional Growth and Integration of Evidence Based Practice, and was also inducted as a member of international nursing honor society Sigma Theta Tau.

■ **Chase Fevella KSM'19** graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa on Dec. 16, 2023, with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering.

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■ **Dyson-John Arakaki KSH'20** graduated with his Bachelor of Science in business administration, marketing with a minor in management from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

■ Congratulations to classmates **Cheyln Zimmermann KSH'20** and **Paige Pacheco Chaves KSH'20**, on graduating with their bachelor's degrees from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Cheylan graduated with honors and earned her BA

in English, supported by partner **Jared Walker KSH'19**. Paige also graduated with honors and achieved her BA in communications with a minor in Hawaiian studies.

■ Ho'omaika'i to **Kayla Enanoria KSH'20** who graduated from the University of Washington Foster School of Business with a Bachelor of Arts in business administration and accounting on June 8, 2024. She will be continuing her education at UW in the Foster School of Business master's program.

■ Congratulations to **Joanne Farias KSH'20**, who graduated summa cum laude from Springfield College in Massachusetts on May 12, 2024, with a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science. She plans to continue her studies at Springfield and is expected to complete her master's degree in athletic training in 2025.

■ **Wilde Germano KSH'20** is passionate about football and giving back to and serving his community. Through his Ho'omau Football Camp, held in June 2024, he got to answer the call and do both. Currently at Colorado State University Pueblo, where he was recently

given the Student Athlete Award in their 2024 Spring Ball Awards, he will complete his master's degree in business administration this fall. The Ho'omau Football Camp is an extension of a senior legacy project he started there with his lineman camp. All ages were welcome to attend the camp, offered free of charge, though each athlete was asked to bring a canned good for donation when checking in. The camp featured coaches who were Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i alumni who played collegiate football.

■ Congratulations to **Jake Nishimoto KSH'20** and **Zayden Hora KSH'20**, who graduated from Colorado School of Mines. Jake graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering, and Zayden graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering.

■ **Kanani Araki KSH'21** graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and a minor in counseling from Grand Canyon University in Arizona on April 26, 2024. Kanani will continue her education journey to receive a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling.

■ Ho'omaika'i to **Raynn Dangaran KSH'21** for producing the Hānau Hou Arts and Fashion Show in April 2024. As the executive director, Raynn collaborated with CEO/Founder Dr. **Hannah Preston-Pita KSK'90**, to spearhead the second annual show featuring eight Hawai'i-based designers. Raynn also worked alongside fellow alum **Hayden Konanui-Tucker KSH'22**, who served as the director of operations for the show. Raynn is attending Oregon State University, while Hayden pursues studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

■ **Kaiana Kawelu KSH'21**, has reached the two-year mark in the United States Army. Deployed twice in 2023, Kaiana graduated from one of the army's hardest schools (EIB - Expert Infantry Badge). He is currently going through air assault training, which involves rappelling out of helicopters. He will be eligible for promotion to sergeant in late 2024, and has also been recommended to West Point.

■ **Kamakalehua Yoshida KSH'21** was chosen for this year's Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics for Continuing Students Award through UH Hilo's College of Natural and Health Sciences. This award recognizes student academic achievements and potential to be a successful graduate in mathematics at UH Hilo.

■ **Lehia Coloma KSH'22** graduated from Grand Canyon University with her bachelor's in communications. Ho'omaika'i to 'ohana Coloma as Lehia's sister, Leahi, also graduated from Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i papa 2024.

■ Ho'omaika'i to **Luke Klask KSH'23** and his 'ohana. Airman Klask graduated in December 2023 from U.S. Air Force basic training.

■ Ho'omaika'i to **Sara Santos KSH'23** on her graduation from Army boot camp in Oklahoma. She was also in Advanced Individual Training in Virginia. She plans to return home to be stationed in Hawai'i as a mortuary affairs specialist.

■ Congratulations to **Micah Wana KSH'23** on his graduation from the U.S. Navy's basic training. He will go to his specialty training in Florida and then receive his duty station assignment.



Kanani Araki KSH'21



L-R: Hayden Konanui-Tucker KSH'22, Hannah Preston-Pita KSK'90, Raynn Dangaran KSH'21



Kaiana Kawelu KSH'21 (right).



Kamakalehua Yoshida KSH'21



Lehia Coloma KSH'22 (center) with her parents.



Sara Santos KSH'23



Luke Klask KSH'23 (center) with 'ohana.



Micah Wana KSH'23 (right).

Levi Kainalu Almeida KSM’11

and Amber Burrows were married

April 2022 on Maui’s beautiful south shore.

The couple resides in Gold Coast, Australia, where both are in the fitness industry.



Bailey Emiko ‘Alohilani Kaiawe

Bailey Emiko ‘Alohilani Kaiawe was born June 27, 2023, to **Summer Fergerstrom Kaiawe KSK’03** and Daniel Kaiawe.

~ ~ ~

Leinani Anderson Laigo KSK’06 and Rio Kalani Laigo welcomed their second child, Adalyn Kamealani Laigo, on Nov. 21, 2023.

Proud family members include late great grandparent **Wilfred Yoshida KSK’53**, aunty **Teri-Ann Yoshida Chow KSK’85**, uncle **Ricky Anderson KSK’08**, and cousin **Landon Giammalvo KSK’22**.

~ ~ ~

Blake Astrid Kaleo’onālani Risso-Torres was born on Feb. 28, 2024, to **Megan Amanda Risso KSK’15** and **Jalen Torres KSK’13**.



Adalyn Kamealani Laigo



Blake Astrid Kaleo’onālani Risso-Torres

■ **Muriel Kanahele Tice KSK’44**, 96, died peacefully on Oct. 6, 2023, almost five years to the day after the passing of her beloved husband, Richard C. Tice. First born of Annie and Francis Kanahele, Muriel was born in Honolulu and grew up in Nu‘uanu on Bates Street along with her younger siblings, Patsy Anne Kinolu, Beadie Leinā‘ala and baby brother Francis Lono. Muriel attended Lincoln Elementary School with her sisters and moved on to Kamehameha Schools, where she was a boarder and was elected class president her senior year. Muriel watched the bombing of Pearl Harbor from her dormitory on that fateful Sunday in 1941, as her father, Francis, a lieutenant colonel and engineer in the Army, was rushed to the base to assist in the emergency. Muriel was pressed into action herself and helped distribute the Honolulu Star-Bulletin’s most famous special edition, shouting “Extra! Extra!” throughout the streets of Honolulu. It was the world’s first newspaper with news of the attack. Muriel attended Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, with her sister Beadie, and they were proud members of the Tri Delta sorority. Muriel graduated with a degree in biology from Whitman and went on to earn a master’s in education from UCLA. Muriel married Wallace M. Harding in Portland, Oregon, where he was based. They had two sons, Wally and Ralph, but the marriage did not last. Muriel returned to Honolulu as a single mother. It was there she met the love of her life, Richard “Dick” Tice, a young Marine from Columbus, Ohio, stationed in Hawai‘i who was smitten with her from the start. Dick was always proud to say he proposed to her “out back of the BOQ” (“Bachelor Officer Quarters”) shortly after they met on a blind date in November. They were married the following year on Feb. 28, 1957. They returned to Ohio to follow Dick’s career in the family insurance business. It was there that Muriel and Dick completed their family, adding three more children: Herman, Hillary and Phyllis. While raising five children, Muriel became a strong community advocate and volunteer. She was a founding member of the Buckeye Boys’ Ranch Service Board in 1960. She went on to serve as president of the boards of Rosemont Center and the Harding-Evans Foundation. Other boards and countless hours were devoted to Action for Children, Childhood League, Directions for Youth, Buckeye Boys’ Ranch, Northwest Counseling Services, Columbus Public Schools, the

Columbus Symphony Women’s Association and the Women’s Board of the Columbus Museum of Art. Her dedicated service culminated in recognition as an outstanding community leader with a YWCA Woman of Achievement honor in 2001. Muriel was interred with her veteran husband Richard Tice at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Pūowaina (Punchbowl) in April 2024.

■ **Melvin Clarence Murakami KSK’45** passed away on Sept. 2, 2023, in Honolulu. He was born on May 24, 1926. “Mike,” as he was known to his friends, retired from the United States Post Office in 1991, after 41 years as a director of human resources. He was also assistant postmaster for Honolulu. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and attended the University of Hawai‘i. During his free time, he loved to play cards and traveled with his wife, Frances, of 63 years, throughout Europe, Asia and the continent, which always ended in Las Vegas. He was diagnosed with cancer in 2021 and remained optimistic, never giving up hope that he could beat it. He passed away peacefully at The Villas at the wonderful age of 97.

■ **Elaine K. Doo Noa KSK’47** passed on March 1, 2024. She was born Jan. 15, 1929.

■ **Thelma “Tebby” Elaine Beers Black KSK’48**, a beloved hula dancer, passed away peacefully at her home in Pearl City, Hawai‘i, surrounded by her loving family on May 7, 2024. Born in Honolulu, Thelma dedicated her life to the art of hula, sharing its beauty and grace with countless others. Thelma’s passion for hula was infectious. She graced stages across the islands, captivating audiences with her fluid movements and radiant smile. Her commitment to preserving Hawaiian culture through dance touched the hearts of many. Thelma’s legacy extends to her nine children, 21 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren, all of whom carry forward her love for dance and her zest for life. As the sun sets over the Pacific, we celebrate Thelma’s life — a life filled with love, laughter and the rhythmic sway of hula. May her spirit continue to dance among the stars, forever etched in our memories.

■ **Janet Ann Leilani Aleong Holokai KSK’48**, of Mililani, passed away on Jan. 1, 2024, in Mililani surrounded by her



‘ohana. She was born on Feb. 3, 1930, in Honolulu to Arthur and Minnie Aleong. Janet was a retired reservations agent for Hawaiian Airlines. She is survived by her son, Norman (Lisa Kimura) Aleong.

■ **Gertrude Kihapiilani Cobb-Adams Kam KSK’49**, of Kāne‘ohe, died in Kāne‘ohe on July 29, 2023. She was born in Honolulu.

■ **Mary Ann Akana Bender KSK’50**, 91, passed away peacefully on May 22, 2024, at home in Keapana, Kaua‘i. She was a boarder at Kamehameha Schools for six years, a parent of four boarders and the first “KS island representative” on Kaua‘i, working quarter-time from home. This position evolved from the late ‘70s into what is now part of the KS Resource Center. She and her family hosted KS deputation teams and glee clubs, and later, papa 1950 classmates and spouses. Alumni Reunion every five years was a must. The last event she attended and thoroughly enjoyed was the Kūpuna Pā‘ina in June 2023. Mary Ann loved Ke Akua, prayed for many and was loved by many. She embodied the aloha spirit and was truly a *good and industrious woman*. She is survived by her son **Mark Bender KSK’70** (TJ Love), daughter **D. Kuulei Bender Ho KSK’72** (Roy); grandsons **Guy Ho KSK’98** (Jona), James Bender (Monique), Kekoa Bender, **Ryan Ho KSK’01** (Tina), **Sean Ho KSK’05** (Anne); and 12 great grandchildren, including oldest Gabrielle Kūliaikau‘i Ho, class of 2028. She is reunited with beloved husband James “Jimmy” Bender, sons **Kimo**

K. Bender KSK’73 and **Shane Bender KSK’78**, parents Nicholas and Tillie (Perreira) Akana, siblings Adam Akana, **James Akana KSK’37**, and Katherine Akana (Chu) Costar.

■ **Ku‘ulei Birdie Sequeira** Stender **KSK’50**, age 91, of Kailua, passed away on Feb. 29, 2024. Ku‘ulei was born in Lahaina, Maui. She was preceded in death by her sister **Kekealani Emmaline Sequeira** Delatori **KSK’54**, brothers **Eldredge Kaiana Sequeira KSK’53** and **Le Van Keola Sequeira KSK’63**; and husband **Oswald Stender KSK’50**. She is survived by her daughter **LeiAnn Stender** Durant **KSK’73**, niece **D. Ku‘ulei Bender** Ho **KSK’72**, and nephew **Leo Delatori KSK’86**.

■ **Alexander John Kema Apo KSK’51**, of Hilo, passed away on Sept. 10, 2023, at Hilo Medical Center. Born on July 10, 1931, in Miloli‘i, he was a self-employed professional beach boy in Waikīkī for 44 years. He was a veteran in the U.S. Marine Corps. After retiring from the beach, he moved to Hilo and became a flower farmer.

■ **Riley Tomeichi Fujikawa KSK’53**, of Ka‘ū, died in Honolulu on Nov. 29, 2023.

■ **Diane “Lovey” Lavena Kukahiko KSK’53** passed on March 17, 2024. A native of Hawai‘i, she joined the U.S. Air Force after high school and served six years. She was an airman first class stationed in Germany as a teletype operator. It was an adventurous time, and while she was learning discipline and responsibility,

she was also just having a blast competing in athletic events all over Europe. Always athletic, she had an opportunity to play sports on the weekends. She excelled as a forward on the basketball court and a setter on the volleyball team. She played badminton and softball, and was an exceptional competitor on the tennis court, winning a 1958 European tournament involving all of the military branches. She even beat her own commanding officer, who was also her doubles partner, and got to fly from Germany to Biloxi, Mississippi, to compete. After the service, Kukahiko worked for Pacific Bell until she retired in 1987. She came to California and heard about the College of Marin job opening from her cousin, Lonnie Wernstrom, who was working on campus at the time. She thought then-athletic director Pete Limm would want a younger candidate, but he hired her on the spot and gave her free rein to develop the job. Part of the joy was getting to be part of the vibrant athletic community.

■ **Neil Saffery Eldredge KSK’54**, of Waipahu, Hawai‘i, died in Honolulu on Dec. 9, 2023. He was born on Maui.

■ **Ernest “Ernie” Gere Chan KSK’54**, passed away peacefully in the loving presence of his ‘ohana on Sept. 27, 2023, in Honolulu, at age 87. He was a 54-year Hawai‘i Kai resident and retired HFD captain. Ernie is survived by his daughter **Julie Chan Nurré KSK’76**, son **Guy Chan KSK’79**, sister **Gay Chan** Lorch **KSK’50**, brother **Kenney Chan KSK’58**, grandson **Jason “Ikaika” Nurré KSK’97**, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

■ **Carol Nalani Ragonton** Johnson **KSK’55**, passed on Feb. 20, 2024. She was most recently the Pelekikena of Nā Lei Makalapua (Mainland Council) of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. Carol was a vibrant leader who kept up the same wa‘a paddling toward the same goals. She will be missed for her aloha spirit and the love she had for our ‘āina and our people. Her voice to do the best for the Hawaiians no matter where we live will inspire and motivate us to continue her vision to work in lōkahi with all our clubs, councils and the Association on perpetuating our culture and traditions.

■ **Daniel Kapukini Kahawai KSK’56**, of Kailua-Kona, died in Honolulu on Oct. 23, 2023. He was born in Hilo.

■ **Aloha Melvia Marlene Ahlo** Cummings **KSK’57** of Kailua, died January 2024. She was born in Honolulu.

■ **Melvin James Kahalelaumamane Lindsey KSK’57**, died peacefully at home on Oct. 24, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. Mel, as he was known to all of us, was born on Sept. 22, 1939, in Laupāhoehoe. After graduation he attended the University of Hawai‘i. While working at Hawaiian Electric, Mel learned to fly airplanes, and turned his passion into a successful 30-plus year career as a pilot with Hawaiian Airlines, retiring as a captain in 1999. After retiring, Mel enjoyed traveling, especially to Las Vegas, spending time with his family, including, more recently, his two grandchildren. An avid Indy Car and Formula One Racing fan, Mel also enjoyed driving racecars with his good friend Richard.

■ **Rossiter Ronald Kamealoha Oana KSK’57** passed away in January 2024.

■ Beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother **Danielle Kala Wise Zenz KSK’57** was called to heaven on Jan. 15, 2024. Her spirit is now in the presence of the Lord. She was born on Feb. 12, 1939, in Honolulu. She grew up on Konia Street with her Nana and Papa and loved playing and climbing trees with her cousin Stanley Wise. She loved working in the yard and had a green thumb. She spent a lot of time in the yard weeding or taking care of her plants. She would add lots of quirky items in between her plants to liven up these areas. She would set up a schedule for her husband, David, to include the date and time of day for him to mow the lawn and trim the mock orange hedges. She had a love for animals, bringing home stray or lost dogs and cats. The first dog she brought home was Poki, who was found in the Gibsons Store parking lot. When Danielle arrived home after work, Poki would be waiting at the gate that led to the garage and she would get out of the car and let him in the car and then drive into the garage. She loved cats too, and at one time, she had 15 cats in her home. Luckily her husband liked cats too. She was vivacious, full of fun and very kind-hearted. We will miss her very much.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband of 42 years, Louis David Zenz, whom she met and married in 1980. They traveled a lot and often visited his family in Pennsylvania. Her parents Daniel and Maydell Wise, her brothers **Donald Wise KSK’50**, Bernard Wise and Melvin Wise and her sister **Beverly Chee KSK’51**. She is survived by her sister Lois Wise

James Puupai Kauahikaua KSK’69

(1951-2023)



James Puupai Kauahikaua KSK’69 was born on Aug. 1, 1951, in Honolulu, eight years before Hawai‘i became the 50th state. Jim died at home, in Hilo, on Oct. 8, 2023. He was known by many other names: “Jim K,” “Dr. Jim,”

“Rock Doctor.” One colleague at Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, somehow got away with calling him “Pootie Pie.” Only his maternal grandmother was allowed to call him “Jimmy.” He preferred to keep it simple — just the one syllable, “Jim.”

During the 72 years of his life, Jim lived on O‘ahu and Hawai‘i Island, but he maintained a deep connection to the entire island chain. He was a stalwart steward of these volcanic lands.

Jim loved poke, dark beer, rice with gravy — anything with gravy — and single-serve pints of coffee ice cream. He feasted on New England “lobstah”, Dunkin Donuts coffee, and a weekend breakfast of homemade waffles with real maple syrup.

Before chemo and radiation robbed him of his hearing, and his rich baritone voice, he loved singing and listening to music. Jim played piano and guitar. He loved a wide range of music, from Dave Brubeck to the Beach Boys, Yo-Yo Ma, James Taylor, Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein, Glenn Gould and Emmylou Harris, Dougie Maclean, the Manhattan Transfer, and Harmony On Tap. Jim was absolutely awed and proud of the music that his brother David Kauahikaua composed, arranged and performed. Jim and Dave were an incredible pair, “the Brothers K.” He also had a great fondness for other notable brothers of Hawaiian music: Cazimero, Beamer and Kamakawiwo‘ole.

Jim was always happiest when he was outside, on an active lava flow, on a walk up to Boiling Pots, or in the rainforest. Jim even used to like mowing the lawn, and we blasted special music for yardwork days: Handel’s Messiah (“and we shall rake forever and ever!”). Jim had a Spock-like reverence for

logic, but he was also one of the most tender, kind and humble men who have ever walked the planet.

In his 40-plus years as a geophysicist, Jim contributed immensely to the understanding of how volcanoes work. And he was able to convey clear information to his colleagues at national and international conferences, as well as the less scientifically oriented public. Even in a crisis, Jim could remain calm and clear-headed. This ability made him a trusted source of information from a grateful island community living on active volcanoes. He was respected and beloved by fellow scientists, family and friends. When Jim was beset by illness, he endured, persevered through unimaginably harsh treatment and side effects of treatment. If you look in the dictionary under the word “resilience,” you will see his picture. Jim simply lived how he knew how to live — leading with his amazing intelligence, with constant honesty, integrity, and as the giver of the world’s warmest smiles, and best hugs.

As his wife of 35 years, and the lucky recipient of many hundreds of thousands of those smiles and hugs, Jeri will forever miss the physical poetry of Jim’s presence, and will love him always.

According to his USGS bio, he started working with the United States Geological Survey as a non-seismic geophysicist who focused on studying Hawaiian volcanoes and the flows of lava by using electrical geophysics and magnetic field and gravity variation. He went on to further his education at both Pomona College, and the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, where he earned his MS and Ph.D. in geophysics. As a long-time Hawai‘i Island resident, Kauahikaua went on to become the first Native Hawaiian to be named scientist-in-charge at the Hawai‘i Volcano Observatory, a position he held from 2004 to 2015. Even after his step down, he remained at HVO and helped the observatory throughout Kīlauea’s 2018 eruption in lower Puna.

Hewlett, her children Luana Villanueva, **Linda O’Reilly KSK’77** and Leslie Hutchins Jr., nine grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

■ **Paul Charles Akeo KSK’58**, was born in Kaimukī, on Sept. 5, 1940, to Philip and Josephine Akeo. He was the fourth of five children: Philip “Junior,” **Lester “Sam” Akeo KSK’52**, Jacqueline “Jackie” and **Wallace Jennings “Wally” Akeo KSK’61**. At the Kamehameha Schools for Boys in 1958, he lettered in riflery and football. Paul’s life was one of service. He proudly served in the U.S. Army and later as a law enforcement officer. His commitment to duty and protecting others left a lasting impact on those around him. Paul was a devout Catholic and parishioner of St. John Vianney Catholic Church. He took pride in reading for Masses, reading his Bible to learn more about the passage, and ensuring that the reading delivery encouraged thought and understanding. Paul was a devoted fan of University of Hawai’i Rainbow sports. He and Barbara were season ticket holders for Rainbow Warrior football for almost 20 years and often attended UH men’s and women’s volleyball, basketball and baseball games. Paul cheered passionately for the ‘Bows (especially the first time that UH beat BYU!). He enjoyed making many UH football players feel at home in Hawai’i by welcoming them into the Akeo family. Paul was an experienced woodworker. He lovingly crafted many picture frames, trivets and other crafts as gifts for others. He took a special interest in crafting urns for family and friends in need. Paul was a frequent customer at Kalapawai Market in Kailua. He’d drive down early in the morning to help the staff put out benches and regularly took puakenikenī from his home tree to place on the counter for patrons to smell. Everyone knew Paul at Kalapawai. Paul loved bicycling and swimming. He would cycle down to Kailua beach, where he would swim, walk the beach, talk to tourists, or just sit and eat a sandwich. He would help in community service efforts and embodied the aloha spirit. Paul loved cooking and baking for his family. Whether it was a lemon meringue pie, scones, meatloaf or a tuna sandwich, tummies were always satisfied when Papa was in the kitchen. He had the special privilege of introducing his grandchildren and great-grandchild to Oreo cookies — yum! In exchange, the grandchildren introduced their Papa to the world of texting and emojis. Text threads were never the same after Papa learned

how to insert emojis — he inserted emojis on everything. Most of all, Paul loved living life with his sweetheart, Barbara. They loved attending UH games, ballroom dancing, domestic and international travel, and helping others. Paul loved his family and was a devout husband, father and papa. Paul was a cherished resident of The Plaza in Kāne’ohe starting in 2019, where he was quickly nicknamed “the mayor” because he knew so many people and always made people feel welcome. Paul passed away in Kāne’ohe on Feb. 25, 2024, at 83. Preceded in death by his beloved wife and high school sweetheart, Barbara. Paul’s legacy lives on through his surviving children: Paul “Chuck” Jr. (Pamela), Dale (Lynn), and **Rhonda “Miki” Akeo Nelson KSK’89** (Tim), seven grandchildren and one great-grandson.

■ **Reginald Joseph Wailana Chong KSK’58**, of Hilo died Jan. 1, 2024. Born in Honolulu, he was a retired director of support services for the Boy Scouts of America Aloha Council and member of Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association. Survived by wife **Evelyn Apo Chong KSK’58**; sons **Vaughn Chong KSK’83** (Tanya) of Kailua, Miles (Ardis) Chong and **Ryan Chong KSK’93** (Gabrielle) of Hilo; brother Henry (Brenda) Chong of Honolulu; sister-in-law **Cynthia Luana Tong Chong KSK’60** of Lā‘ie, O‘ahu; grandchildren including **Evan Chong KSK’05**, **Lacey Chong KSK’07**, **Jaron Chong KSK’11**; great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

■ **Ruby Etta K. Kaupu Hirata KSK’58**, passed away on Jan. 3, 2024, on Moloka‘i.

■ **Winston Kalaniakea Kupau KSK’59**, passed away at his new home in ‘Ewa Beach, on Jan. 27, 2024. He joins his wife, Jackie, who passed two months earlier. Winston was the youngest child in a large family, born to parents, **Col. Oliver Homealani Kupau KSK 1918** and Jessie Robb Kupau on Oct. 2, 1940. Winston grew up on O‘ahu and lived in Alaska for a short period. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He married Jacquelyn Gay on June 2, 1959, in Honolulu. Winston worked at HECO’s Waiau power plant for many years before retiring. He enjoyed reading, helping others and cheering for the 49ers. He was an instructor with Obedience Training Club of Hawai’i, worked with dog owners to modify their pet’s difficult behavior, competed and judged obedience dog

shows and, most importantly, raised his own dogs. His life and memory continue within his family: sisters Maile (Jim) Kirk and Pauahi Anae; daughters **Terri Kupau Hyden KSK’77** and **Jennifer Kupau Loo KSK’79**; son Marc (Shari) Kupau; grandsons Travis (Shelly) Kupau, Austin Hyden; granddaughters **Brandi-Lynn Hyden KSK’00**, Amber-Lynn (Joseph) Pakele, and Heather Kruse; and great-grandchildren. Winston will be deeply missed and embedded in our hearts forever.

■ **Clifford Puiki Wong KSK’59** of Anahola, Kaua‘i, passed away on April 7, 2024, in Līhu‘e at the age of 83. He was born in Honolulu, on Feb. 24, 1941. He served in the Army National Guard and worked as a cook. He was preceded in passing by his parents, Michael Loy Wong and Ruth Ewaliko Texeira; son Randy Michael Wong; brother Solomon Wong and sister Ruth (Albert) Felipe. Clifford is survived by his wife, Margaret Lani Kahakua Wong; daughter Holly T. Zahn; brother Joseph (Janet) Wong; sister Annie (Ronald) Kim; grandchildren Roslyn (Preston) Carvalho and Daniel Kekoa Zahn; great-grandchild Charis Carvalho; daughter-in-law Deborah Tada; sister-in-law Verna Wong, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

■ **William Ainsley Chandler Jr. KSK’60**, of Kāne’ohe, passed away on Dec. 19, 2023. William was born on Kaua‘i.

■ **William Wallace Blaisdell KSK’62**, 79, was born June 8, 1944, and passed away at home on Feb. 27, 2024. He graduated from Illinois Institute of Tech in 1968. He worked at Community Planning, Hawaiian Home Lands, Herbert Horita Development and Ko Olina Resort. He loved life and people and enjoyed traveling to all parts of the world with friends. Throughout his life he was professional in every way, treating everyone equally and with respect. Survived by wife Rowena, son Timothy Kimokeo (Nora), daughter Tracy Kaleolani (Chris) and grandchildren Kahakulani, Kamakoa, Kaoi and Ka‘alaneo.

■ **Mearl LaVerne “Vernie” Lopes Cooper KSK’62**, 79, most recently of Waikoloa and then Arlington, Washington, passed away on Sept. 16, 2023. She was born in Honolulu, to Roger James Jr. and Gladys Chang of Honolulu. Mearl enjoyed being outside, loved music and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. She is survived by son John McKeon (Heidi); daughter E. Lehua Terry (Ed); grandchildren J. Vance McKeon, Drew Terry, Chase

Terry and Kelly Terry; sisters **Darlene Lopes** Stansell **KSK’68** (Charles), **Janice Lopes Akua KSK’69** (Dan), Masie Tetreault (Joe) and Naomi Damon; her faithful dog, Hoku; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

■ **Gary Lee Heiligman KSK’62** was born to George L. and Elizabeth Ernst Heiligman in Honolulu, Territory of Hawai’i, on Aug. 9, 1944, and passed from natural causes on Feb. 23, 2024, in Newport Beach, Calif. He was a sports enthusiast, and received a golf scholarship to the University of Houston. Gary served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was stationed in Korea. After the Army, Gary went back to O‘ahu, when Hawai’i was launching its tourism industry. Gary was a tour director his entire career, running tours from New York to Hawai’i. He specialized in small group VIP golf tours.

■ **Winona Lanakila Kamakana Kaawa KSK’63**, 78, passed away on Nov. 23, 2023, on O‘ahu, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born on Aug. 15, 1945, in Honolulu. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Edwin R. Kaawa; their four daughters, Edwina Ku‘ulei Kaawa, Noela Lanakila (Roger) Apuna, Lyla Hau‘oli (Steven) Nawahine and Jay Kaawa; and hānai daughters Melani (Hale) Domingo and Mahealani Rawlins; along with 15 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and many beloved nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her siblings, Shirley Rawlins, Albert Buddy (Teri) Kamakana and Dennis (Haunani) Kamakana.

■ **Darryle Lee Santiago Phillips KSK’63**, age 78, passed away on the evening of April 17, 2024, in Dallas. She was born in Pāhala, Hawai’i to Josephine (Louis) and Edward Santiago on Nov. 27, 1945. Her education continued when she attended nursing school and became a nurse, working at various hospitals, including Grady Memorial in Chickasha, Oklahoma, where she would eventually settle for a number of years. Later she became a truck driver and worked in the trucking industry with her husband at the time, before retiring due to health issues. Darryle enjoyed watching movies, playing mahjong, and going on little adventures. She was also a crocheter and cross-stitcher in her younger years. She was an avid reader, not often seen without a book nearby. She loved her family, including the various pets that blessed her life.

■ **Lydia Leilani Cox Sato KSK’63**, of Waialua, passed away on Nov. 19, 2023. She was born on Jan. 6, 1945, in Honolulu. She is survived by sons Ransen Sato and Ryan Sato (Candace); daughter Lovenā Calio (Christopher); mother Marian Cox; brother **George Mehewaole Cox III KSK’65**; sister **Aileen Cox-Araujo KSK’72** (David); and 10 grandchildren.

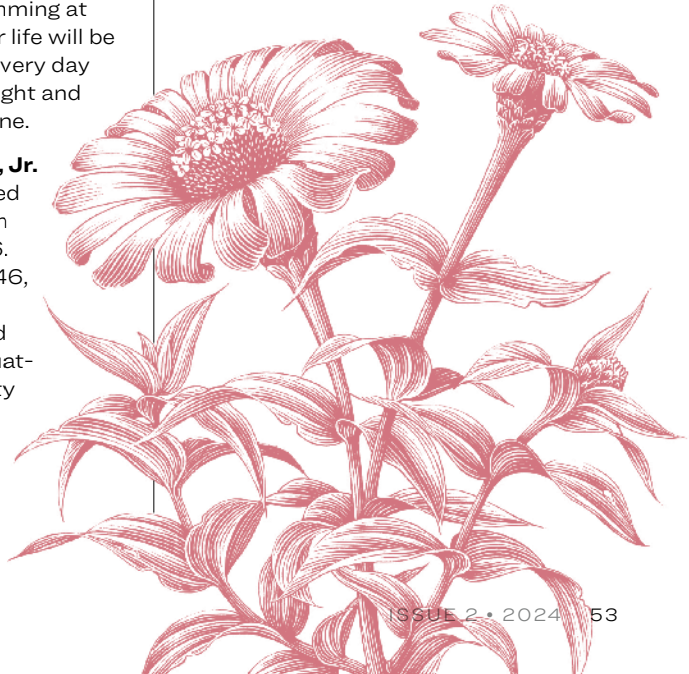
■ **Leinaala Ann Teruya Drummond KSK’64**, 77, a Maui native, passed away on Sept. 18, 2023, at Hilo Medical Center. She was born in Pu‘unēnē on May 28, 1946. Leinaala is survived by her son, Kawika Drummond; daughter, **Christina Drummond KSK’99**; brother, Asa Teruya; sisters Leona Asako (John) Medeiros, Iwalani (Benjamin) Bosque, Doreen (Lee) Yamashita, **Darlyn Teruya Atay KSK’75**, Cindy Saffery; sister-in-law Gina Teruya and granddaughter Hawk Drummond Smith. Leinaala was Miss Hawai’i 1964. The face in the iconic Hawaiian Airlines logo was based off her striking visage. She was one of Danny Kaleikini’s famous three hula dancers (1967 Kāhala Hilton) and then became co-owner of Ian’s Restaurant and Deli in Pukalani, Maui (~1989-91) with husband and chef John Robert Ian Drummond. She later would become a Maui County council member (1990-92), founding program director at Hawai’i Family Forum (1998-2001), realtor, ordained Pastor, active in church ministry and volunteer work, devoted mother and friend of Jesus. Leinaala spent the last three years of her life living with her daughter in the beautiful, misty, green forest of Volcano on the Big Island. She enjoyed a quiet, simple life sitting in the sunshine, taking walks in the neighborhood, shopping at her favorite weekly farmers markets, eating as much Waipī’o poi as she could get and swimming at Richardson Beach in Hilo. Her life will be cherished and remembered every day by spreading the same love, light and aloha she shared with everyone.

■ **Raymond Bung Sum Pang, Jr. KSK’64**, of Pearl City, returned to Ke Akua and our kūpuna on July 7, 2023, at the age of 76. Ray was born on Nov. 30, 1946, to Minerva Kalauhiwaokalani Malakaua Pang and Raymond Bung Sum Pang, Sr. He graduated from Chaminade University in 1979 and served in both the Army and the Honolulu Police Department, retiring from HPD in 1994 and as

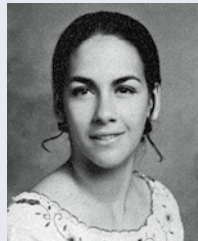
an MP with the Army Reserve. He is survived by his mother, Minerva Pang; siblings **Vernon Pang KSK’68**, **Myrna Pang Woolery KSK’67**, Norman, Winona, Douglas and Lorene; his eldest child **Tiffany Pang KSK’94** and her son, Ethan, and his sons Nicolas Pang and **Zachary Pang KSK’12**. His legacy will continue to live on through us as we carry his good humor and wisdom into the future and grow our families. We will always cherish the memories of a simple and honorable man who loved us all.

■ **Judy Donette Burge Enszer KSK’65**, age 76, of Frisco, Texas, passed away on Feb. 26, 2024, in Plano, Texas. She was born on July 8, 1947, to Thelma Jane Sumiye (Mabara) and Homer David Kahili Burge in Honolulu. On Aug. 15, 1969, Judy married William Lowell Enszer in Honolulu. Judy was a kind, thoughtful, loving and strong Christian woman who relied heavily on her faith during her battle with cancer. She often called her cancer a “great inconvenience” as it kept her from doing many things that she loved: teaching ESL, traveling home to Hawai’i, and attending church and small groups in person.

As a teacher, mother and friend, Judy brought joy and encouragement to many people. She was a great and vibrant storyteller and also genuinely loved to listen. Judy sought the inner hearts of those she knew and was a wonderful encourager, and she was always able to find the perfect Bible verse or hymn to lift them up. In return, she was fiercely blessed and loved by those she had known and she received an outpouring of love and support until her passing.



Mervlyn Keapo Swain Kitashima KSK’73 (1955-2023)



Mervlyn Keapo Swain Kitashima KSK’73 was born to William Edwin Swain and Dora Keapo Kahaunaele Swain on Apr. 3, 1955. Merv was raised on the east side of Kaua‘i, on the Hawaiian Homelands of Anahola. Merv attended Kapa’a Elementary School. When she completed the sixth grade, her father and mother decided to enroll her as a boarder at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama on O‘ahu.

In high school, Merv was involved as a member of Concert Glee, student leadership, and the dorm residence activities council. Merv and Dan Kitashima were sealed in the Lā‘ie Hawai‘i Temple on Jan. 31, 1973. Merv was a vital supporter to her children’s sports teams and to the many teams coached by her husband. She also volunteered to serve as a Commissioner for AYSO and USAVB. Merv worked for the DOE as a PCNC parent facilitator for many years before working and becoming an administrator in the Parents and Alumni Relations Department at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama.

After receiving a degree from Leeward Community College, Merv graduated with an online bachelor’s degree in organizational management from Ashford University in 2008 and a master’s degree in educational leadership and management from the University of Hawai‘i in 2014. She was given the Hawai‘i and National Mother of the Year Award in 2003.

Merv believed in, loved, and followed God, giving much of her life and time to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She passed away in service as a senior missionary for the Church. Merv suffered a stroke in the early morning of Aug. 22, 2023. She took her last breaths, with her husband and family at her side, in the afternoon of Sept. 6, 2023.

She is survived by her husband, **Daniel Kitashima KSK’71**; her children, **Heidi Kitashima Aceret KSK’90** (Edwin), **Heather “Kela” Kitashima Park KSK’92** (Larry), **Shon Kitashima KSK’93** (Suzanne), **Summer Kitashima Bloomfield KSK’94**, **Jarom Kitashima KSK’97** (Kelly), **Kaui Kitashima KSK’98** (Abby) and **Pili Kitashima KSK’02** (Keoho); her 20 grandchildren; her two great-grandchildren; her brothers, Captain Lani (Debbie) Swain, **William “Billy” Swain KSK’74**, **Phillip Swain KSK’75** (Diane) and Raymond (Lahea) Salazar; and her sisters, Enola Kawelo and **Anna Marie Swain Velasco KSK’77** (Ron).

■ **Barbara Kanealaiakamanu Cox KSK’67** passed away on Nov. 10, 2023, in Wahiawā, following a battle with end stage dementia. She was born on Feb. 1, 1949, in Honolulu to George Mehewaole Cox Jr. and Marian Masayo Nakai. Barbara is survived by her son, Kalanikehaohaleiwa, sister **Aileen Cox-Araujo KSK’72**, brother **George Cox III KSK’65**, and mother Marian, as well as many nieces and nephews.

■ **Ronald “Butch” Richard Silva KSK’68**, 73, of Hilo, died Sept. 28, 2023. He was born in Honolulu.

■ **Richard Tai Fat Soo II KSK’69**, of Honolulu, passed away on Jan. 23, 2024. He was born on Dec. 17, 1951, in Honolulu, one of five sons. After graduation he took a job as a city bus driver. He took a pay cut to join the Honolulu Fire Department in January 1976 because it afforded him potential career advancement, leading him to a 27-year career with HFD. He received a fire science degree in 1984 from Honolulu Community College. Before becoming HFD’s public information officer, he headed the Fire Prevention Bureau’s plans review section. In 1999, he answered the call, stepping into the 24/7 role as the Honolulu Fire Department’s first public information officer. He learned by shadowing two experienced PIOs with the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue and the Portland, Oregon, Fire Department. He is credited with starting the Papakōlea Fire Academy in 2006 after retiring in 2003 from HFD. It grew from five students in his Papakōlea garage to hundreds of graduates. In 2022, he estimated that 900 people had gone through the program and nearly 125 had gone on to careers in firefighting and related fields. Although **Barbara Sabado Soo KSK’69** was his Kamehameha Schools classmate, they didn’t meet until decades later on Facebook. They married in 2014. Soo was so popular with the media that one year the Hawai‘i chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists’ Gridiron show featured a sketch with lyrics, “Captain Soo, we love you.” Soo was characterized by his compassion, which he displayed when he donated his bone marrow in 1995 to a 28-year-old Oklahoma woman, helping to extend her life.

■ **Ginger “Ginny” Keaupuni Helepololei Hayes KSK’70**, of Seminole, Florida, went home to her husband and The Heavenly Father on Oct. 9, 2023. Born in Hawai‘i, but with a soul that longed

for adventure the Mother Land could not provide, she ultimately settled in Florida. She is survived by her sons, David and Duke; “kids” Michal Adamosky and Lori; mo‘opuna Keikilani, Kai, Kirra and Kona; and great-grandbaby, Leilani; as well as several extended ‘ohana and friends. She was fierce, unapologetic, wise, compassionate and a fighter until the end. If you met her, you would never forget her. The sunshine, aloha mākou iā ‘oe.

■ **‘Iolani McDonald Ikehara KSK’71**, loving wife and dedicated mother, passed away at home in Monument, Colorado, surrounded by family on Sept. 2, 2023. Born Jan. 5, 1953, to Robert McDonald and Helen Wai‘ale on Kaua‘i, ‘Iolani was the second of three daughters. After graduating from Kamehameha Schools, she attended college in Oregon, where she met future husband Adrian. Following graduation in 1975, she returned to Hawai‘i and quickly rose through the ranks at Bank of Hawai‘i. Adrian and ‘Iolani got married in 1987. She homeschooled four children between 1994 and 2009, after which she took a job as the NAF budget director on Schofield Barracks in Wahiawā. She later took a job at Fort Carson, Colorado, and worked tirelessly as the chief financial officer. She retired in 2020 to spend more time with her grandkids Ikaia and Malulani, especially enjoying their academic prowess and athletic endeavors.

■ **Peter Kahinuonalani Gonsalves KSK’72**, a Kamehameha “lifer,” retired Honolulu Firefighter, father and husband, passed on Oct. 16, 2023, surrounded by the love of friends and family. He was an amazing person who had a profound effect on so many lives. Peter is survived by wife **Terry Bell Gonsalves KSK’72**; sons **Nainoa Gonsalves KSK’96** (Ilima) and Keaka (Laurie); sisters Haunani Kamakana and Aulani McNeil; brother Henry Kamakana, nieces Mahi Wing and Hoku McNeil; nephews Alike Bell, Tim and Keoni AhYat and Henry Spruiell; four beautiful granddaughters, Macy, Kapukini, Avery and Elza; and our girly Kika. Aloha ‘oe and of course IMUA ‘72.

■ **Yvonne Pi‘ilani Daniels Cox KSK’72**, passed on Jan. 9, 2024. Yvonne was born on July 23, 1954, to David Samson Daniels, Sr. and Audrey Roselani Kekahuna in Wailuku, Maui. She grew up in Kula, Maui, and attended Kealahou School and later, Kula Elementary School. In seventh grade, she continued her educational journey at Kamehameha Schools as a boarder. Upon graduating

in 1972, she pursued a career in nursing, graduating from Kapi‘olani Community College as an L.P.N. For an admirable 50 years, she devoted herself to her craft, working seamlessly under the practices of Dr. Daniel Palmer and later, Dr. Stella Matsuda. In 1978, Yvonne married **George Mehewaole Cox III KSK’65**, and their union blessed them with three children: Pōmaialoha, Keoki and Līhau. Celebrating 45 years of marriage in 2023, their love was a testament to commitment and enduring partnership. Yvonne faced the challenge of brain cancer in 2018, displaying unparalleled bravery through her remission and subsequent return of the illness in September 2023. Undeterred, she underwent treatment with resilience and grace. Preceded in death by her parents, David and Audrey Daniels; her uncle and aunt, Peruvia “Blue” and Liliana Medeiros; and her brother, David S. Daniels Jr. Yvonne is survived by her loving husband, George M. Cox III; daughters Pōmaialoha Apana and Līhau (Kekoa) Peltier; son George “Keoki” (Bryn) Cox IV; and cherished grandchildren: Skaizen, Skailacy, Kamaka‘ala, Skailey-Rose, Skaimana, Swayde, and Denim. She is also survived by her sisters: **Edyne Haunani Daniels Valente KSK’75** (**David Valente KSK’75**) and Lone (David) Nobriga, and sister-in-law, Jovena Daniels.

■ **Gardner Alapa‘i Kealoha KSK’72**, of Kula, Maui, passed away on Jan. 17, 2024, at home, surrounded by his family. He was born on May 2, 1954, in Honolulu. Gardner is survived by his beloved wife, Pamela Kealoha, sisters **Ellen Kealoha Ramos KSK’59** (Frank) and **Jennifer Kealoha Kapur KSK’65** (Krishan), and brother George (Kanani) Kealoha.

■ **Lance Kaunamano Kahuanui KSK’72**, 69, of Honolulu, passed away peacefully on Feb. 6, 2024. Born in Honolulu, he grew up in Kahuku, attended Kahuku Elementary, Kamehameha Schools and UH Mānoa. He worked as a teacher and football coach at Wai‘anae High School, prison guard at Hālawā Correctional Facility, and as a security guard. He was a good friend and well known as an athlete, excelling in football and basketball, receiving a full scholarship to attend and play football for the UH Rainbow Warriors, where he earned a Bachelor of Education degree. He is survived by son Fatutalie “Fatu” (Melissa); sisters **Shelley Kahuanui Fey KSK’74** (Kyle) and **Charlene Kahuanui Christenson KSK’78** (Bob), grandchildren Isaiah “Tupu” Kahuanui,



Pohakumakamae “Pe’a” Kahuanui, Bas Kahuanui and Fatutalie “Buddy” Kahuanui Jr.

■ **Kimo K. Bender KSK’73**, of Ocean View, Hawai‘i, died peacefully on Dec. 24, 2023. He was born in Līhu‘e, Kaua‘i. Survived by son Kekoa; brother **Mark Bender KSK’70** (TJ Love); sister **Donna Ku‘ulei Bender Ho KSK’72** (Roy); nephews **Guy Ho KSK’98**, **Sean Ho KSK’05** and Ryan Ho; and cousins and their families.

■ **Charles M. Machado KSK’74**, 66, of Gaylord and formerly of Honolulu, passed away at home on Sept. 30, 2023, with his family by his side. Born Oct. 7, 1956, in Honolulu, he was the son of Frank and Eva (Paris) Machado. Charles was an avid wild boar hunter and enjoyed spending time with family. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, **Sherry Kelso Machado KSK’74**; sons Adam Machado and Daniel Machado; stepson Kekoaikaika (Cam) Cambra; mother Eva Brub; grandson Sebastian Cambra; brothers Henry (Cindy) Machado, Clayton (Ailsa) Machado and Matthew (Cindy) Machado; many nieces, nephews and special kids.

■ **Zel Josephine Ann Kuahine Allen KSK’75**, age 66 of Honolulu, passed away on March 28, 2024. She was a retired Honolulu police dispatcher with 27 years of service. Zel was a strong woman of faith whose life was a testament to the power of kindness. Her faith was the guiding light that inspired her every action, and her love for God radiated in all that she did. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing her. Though she may no longer walk among us, her spirit will

forever shine bright like a beacon of love and hope as she rests in our hearts and memories.

Zel is survived by her husband, Melvin Kalani Allen; daughter Regina Ramos (Alexander); and siblings Claire Serrao, KeithAnn Lum, Mele Hamai-Anderson, Suzanne Yamamoto, Fern Ham and Chris Kuahine.

■ **Pili aloha C.L. Curnan Wang KSK’75**, of Kāne’ohe, passed away in Kailua, on Dec. 19, 2023. She was born in Miles City, Montana, and is survived by her husband, Jerry; her daughter, **Leah Wang** Dowsett **KSK’03** (Jesse); and two grandchildren.

■ On Aug. 16, 2023, **Dorinda Puanani Keola** Burnet **KSK’76** lost her battle with Stage 4 colon cancer. She passed at Nathan Adelson Hospice Tenaya in Las Vegas. Dorinda was a pillar in the Hawaiian community in Las Vegas. She brought her family from California to Las Vegas in the spring of 1993 and immediately assimilated herself with the local people she met. She joined the Hawaiian Civic Club and many other Hawaiian organizations in the city with a mission to teach the language, culture and spirit of her beloved Hawai’i. Known for her expertise in sewing, crafting, playing music, dancing hula, and ‘ōlelo Hawai’i, she could often be seen at local festivals and gatherings talking story and laughing. She always had a smile on her face that she shared with all those around her. Her love for flowers came when she worked for Smith’s. She enjoyed being surrounded by plants and blooming flora and was often called upon to make lei for graduations, weddings and other special occasions. Dorinda will always be remembered as a

generous, loving, vibrant, hard-working and passionate woman. Her absence is a tremendous loss to all who had the pleasure to know her.

■ **Laurie Ann Shiets** Apiki **KSK’77**, 64, of Kāne’ohe passed away on Sept. 3, 2023 surrounded by her family. She was a proud graduate of Kamehameha Schools and earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. She retired from Kamehameha Schools as a post-high scholarship counselor. She is survived by her husband **Richard M. Apiki KSK’75**; children **Richard K. “Kai” Apiki KSK’95** (Kerri), **Malia Apiki** Kahawaii **KSK’97**, Daniel and Shaun; and her grandchildren.

■ **Joseph Kamanu Kaai KSK’79** passed away on Jan. 1, 2024.

■ **Mary M.P. Martinez KSK’79** passed on April 2, 2024.

■ **Larry Lee Kalani Cadiz KSK’80**, passed away on May 11, 2024, at home. Larry was a painter by trade. He was a master of all trades, and what he didn’t know he taught himself by reading or watching YouTube videos to gain the skills. He found his niche in sales and worked 23 years for Frito-Lay. He was an avid collector of “vintage” items that ranged from clothes to video games. His deepest passion was collecting toys. He had an extensive collection of model cars, action figures and Hot Wheels. He would make sure to let those he gave toys know that they could not open or damage the package and all they could do was admire the toy from afar and not play with it. “This will keep the value of the toy intact.” This created a family of collectors and instilled a sense of value in many things. Larry had not only a “green thumb,” he had “green hands” that cultivated many types of plants. He grew award-winning orchids, cacti and succulents. His yard was his domain, as well as his peaceful place. He is survived by: wife Jacquelyn Cadiz (Wofford); children Ayisha (Anthony), Dani, Ron (Christina), Micah (Lena) and Lyndsey (Kaniela); grandchildren Zaysha, Landis, Makoa, Kupono, Cameron, Peyton and Hailey; siblings Debbie (David), Mark (Brendie) and Sheila (Roy); mother Valeria Cadiz; and numerous nieces and nephews and great grandnieces and great grandnephews. Larry was preceded in death by his father, Leolario Cadiz, and sister Jolene (Gina) Cadiz.

■ **Beau Springer KSK’80** passed away unexpectedly on Sept. 17, 2023, in Arizona.

■ **Edward King Yap, Jr. KSK’80**, 61, of Waikoloa, returned to Ke Akua and our kūpuna amongst the stars on March 6, 2024. He was born in Honolulu, on Jun. 19, 1962, to Bernice Naheana Naukana and Edward King Yap Sr. Edward had a diverse range of talents and accomplishments that reflected the pride he had for his culture. He was an entertainer, musician, writer, music composer, teacher, mentor and sifu. He was also the founder of Yau Gong Lion Dance, formally known as Big Island Shaolin Arts, and held the title of Mamo with the Royal Order of Kamehameha, Moku O Kohala. Edward was a proud graduate of Kamehameha Schools, Class of 1980, and was a member of the King’s Royal Guard. Alongside his wife, he was best known for his work in producing numerous concerts and community events such as The Waiki’i Music Festival and the Kona Chinese New Year block party. Edward’s contributions to the arts and community reflected his passion for his cultural heritage. He is survived by his beloved wife, Nanette (Nani) Lim Yap, and their children, Carrington Edward M. Yap and Asialynn Genoa K. Kama-Yap. Edward also leaves behind his siblings: brother Michael Yap, sisters Regina Laura Gipaya and Betty Jane Lau. His extended family and friends, who held a special place in his heart, will forever cherish his memory. Edward will be fondly remembered for his kind and gentle nature, his deep love for his family, and his unwavering generosity. He had a remarkable ability to see the greatness in all people and always made everyone around him feel valued and loved. His legacy lives on through the countless lives he has touched.

■ **Robert John Kalani Reed KSK’81** passed away on his 60th birthday, Nov. 30, 2023.

■ **Darcine “Mapuana” Kamaka Jarrett KSK’81** passed away peacefully at home on Oct. 17, 2023, surrounded by her loved ones. Mapuana was born on March 6, 1963, to Robert Alfred Kamaka and Emily Leina’ala Kauwe in Honolulu. Soon after graduation she met and married the love of her life, Kurt Walter Jarrett. Together they raised six children, starting on O’ahu and later moving to the Big Island, where they lived for many years. With the encouragement of their daughters, **Emily Jarrett** Stockseth **KSH’07**, **Jacqueline**

Tre’ Pu’uwaila’aoelopakaamelehuanani Evans-Dumaran KSH’16

(1998-2023)



Tre’ Pu’uwaila’aoelopakaamelehuanani Evans-Dumaran KSH’16 passed away on Feb. 4, 2023.

Tre’ was remembered at the 2024 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Maryland in May 2024, and at the IAFF Fallen Firefighters Memorial in September 2024 in Colorado Springs.

Born smiling on April Fools’ Day, 1998, Tre’ was destined to bring laughter and warmth to those around him. Tre’ was raised from birth by his mother, Chelsie Evans, on Maui, and his early years at Kahului School and Waiākea Waena School were marked by his tenacity and passion for basketball. Tre’ also participated in student government, gaming and, later, race car driving — a perfect illustration of his diverse interests and boundless energy. Tre’ began attending Kamehameha Schools’ Kea’au campus in the sixth grade, and he was a standout athlete in football and track and field. As a senior, he won the state championship in the 110-meter hurdles in 14.75 seconds, a testament to his perseverance and grit. Tre’ still holds KS Kea’au campus records for top five of 110m hurdles, 300m hurdles, 4x100 relay, 100m dash, 300m dash and triple jump.

Throughout high school, Tre’ balanced his athletic pursuits with family responsibilities. When his mother battled cancer, Tre’ remained steadfast for both his mother and his sisters, Lhaia and Violet, managing his academics and sports while taking care of his own responsibilities at home. His hugs were a source of comfort, his jokes brought laughter, and his love for his family was evident in everything he did.

Tre’s warmth and selflessness continued to shine through in his career as a firefighter. He graduated from the Maui Fire Department recruit class in December 2019, where his fellow firefighters echoed the same sentiments as his KS classmates and family members. His first-year roommate and fellow firefighter, Tanner Mosher, shared, “I don’t feel like I would have made the choices I made if it wasn’t for

my friend and coworker Tre’ Evans-Dumaran.” Mosher said these words when the Maui County Council honored Mosher’s brave acts that saved the lives of eight other firefighters during the Lahaina wildfires.

Tre’ lived his life to the fullest, and his family established the Live Like Tre’ Foundation to keep his story alive and ensure his impact continues. The foundation’s mission “amplifies small acts of kindness, loves with a passion, dreams of the possibilities, and creates big impacts, all to honor the life and sacrifice of Tre’ Evans-Dumaran.” Since its inception in late 2023, the Live Like Tre’ Foundation has made impacts on the community in several different ways. As of summer 2024, 611 individuals have donated blood to the Blood Bank of Hawai’i. The foundation has also delivered over 250 thank-you cards to first responders, showing gratitude for their service and sacrifice, and over 500 families participated in Live Like Tre’ events across Maui, Moloka’i, and Hawai’i Island. Moreover, the foundation has facilitated over 175 acts of kindness, echoing Tre’s habit of helping others without seeking anything in return. Through partnerships, it has provided Christmas gifts to over 200 keiki who lost their homes in the catastrophic Maui fires. Additionally, 12 firefighter families received financial assistance after losing their homes in the fires. “As we remember Tre’, we honor his service, his love for his family and friends, and his unwavering commitment to helping others,” says his mother, Chelsie Evans-Enos. “May the memory of his smile bring you joy, his giving heart fill yours, and his free spirit inspire you.”

Tre’s family invites the Kamehameha Schools community to be a part of his legacy by supporting the foundation at www.liveliketre.org. A campaign to help Tre’s legacy continue through the KS ‘ohana commences in fall 2025, with a goal to have at least 2,016 KS alumni contribute \$10 monthly to the Live Like Tre’ Foundation.

Note: In a previous edition, I Mua magazine listed the incorrect campus that Tre’ graduated from. E kala mai.

Noelani Jarrett KSH’13, and **Brittany Jarrett KSK’12**, who were already living here, they moved to Utah in 2018. Mapuana was a woman who loved life, experiencing new things and meeting new people. She had a strong faith in the gospel and had a strong testimony of her savior Jesus Christ. Above all else she loved her family — family was everything to her. Every moment spent with her loved ones was a moment and memory she cherished.

■ **James “Kimo” Parr KSK’82** passed away on Sept. 29, 2023. He is survived by his sons, Aryn Parr and Nathan Parr; his brothers Daniel Viloria and Michael Guzman; nieces and nephews Jay Viloria, Candace Viloria, Andrew Llanos and Riley Llanos.

■ **April Puanani S. Akui** Goodwin **KSK’82**, 59, of Mililani, died on Nov. 21, 2023. She was born in Tucson, Arizona.

■ **George Kaleohone Kazuo “Kazu” Fukuoka KSK’83**, 58, passed away on Feb. 22, 2024, in Kaunakakai. Kazu was the son of Harriet Keaonaona “Nona” Fukuoka (Purdy), and George Daniel Fukuoka, born March 13, 1965, in Kaunakakai. He entered the U.S. Air Force shortly after graduation. His eight years of service started in Indian Springs, Nevada, then took him to Travis AFB, California, and lastly to Clark AFB in the Philippines, where he served during Desert Storm. After the military he took a position as a heavy machine operator doing chemical agent disposal on Johnston Island. In 2004, he moved to Maui, where he worked for the Department of Water Supply. In 2008, Kazu moved back home to Moloka‘i, where he worked as a diesel operator for Maui Electric Company.

■ **Ivalee Lilinoe Puaalii Kamalu KSK’84**, passed on Oct. 26, 2023.

■ **Denise Joann Leihulu Kaaa KSK’84**, of Waimānalo, passed away peacefully at home on Nov. 30, 2022. She bled blue and white as a graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama and Willamette University Class of 1988. She received her Master of Arts in education in 1995. Denise was born in Honolulu and is survived by her mother, Karlotta Ann Kuuiini Kaaa and fur babies Pili, Kiai and Puuloa. She was a beloved aunty to Haliimaile, Kanoe, Kehau, Pono and Josiah, and grand-aunt to Lilia, Logan, Kulia, Brooke, Colton, Brixen, Mehana, Holden and Kalikolehua. She is also survived by her

aunt and uncle **Roy Swift Kaaa KSK’54** (Heinne) and cousins Liko, Leanne and Stephen (Lani). Denise was a class representative for the class of 1984 and strong supporter of KS Kapālama Alumni. She was also a member of the National Pacific American Leadership Institute and vice president of the Waimānalo Hawaiian Homestead Association. Denise was loved by so many family and friends, and we will miss her love and light every day.

■ **David Kaulana Furtado KSK’85**, 56, of Wai‘anae, died in Honolulu on Nov. 5, 2023. He was born in Honolulu on Jun. 15, 1967.

■ **Michelle Eugenia Lokelani Lew Makalua-Yee KSK’91** passed away peacefully on Apr. 5, 2024, after a courageous three-year battle with cholangiocarcinoma cancer. Michelle was at home in the loving arms of her ‘ohana, where she wanted to be. Michelle was born on Dec. 4, 1972. She was the eldest of four siblings. Before graduating from high school, she met the love of her life **Timothy Yee KSK’91**. Michelle and Tim were married in 1993. They were blessed with four kids: Jonah, Ma‘ili, Brooke and Kaleohano. Michelle had many hobbies and roles in her life. Not only was she a mother, but the owner and real estate broker of Kainalu Realty. She also became the owner of Maunalua Farms raising sheep, chickens, and bees. She also grew kalo and other native plants on the farm. While tending to her farm, Michelle started a podcast with Tim called the KapahuKapu Podcast. Michelle was also an avid supporter of the Hawaiian Church of Hawai‘i Nei. Her proudest work came with Hui Iwikuamo‘o in the repatriation and mālama of our ‘iwi kūpuna, along with her work as a lineal descendant at Hakipu‘u.

■ **Daniel Kawika Bennett KSK’93**, of ‘Aiea, passed away peacefully on Nov. 8, 2023, surrounded by family and many friends. Kawika was born in Honolulu, on Nov. 6, 1974. He attended St. Anthony School, Kamehameha Schools, and Honolulu Community College. He was an Eagle Scout. He was a federal employee beginning in 1997. He received a fire science degree in 1999 and entered the Federal Fire Department of Hawai‘i the same year, working at multiple federal fire stations across O‘ahu. He was stationed for the last seven years as fire engineer at Mānana Station Five in Pearl City. Kawika always challenged himself. He had

a special calling studying various martial arts from a young age, including judo, stick fighting and jiu-jitsu. But his greatest passion was training alongside his son, who follows in his judo footsteps. Kawika will be deeply missed by his family and friends. The Federal Fire Department held a beautiful memorial service on the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in December 2023.

■ **Ryan Kailiehu Kim KSK’96**, of Nānākuli, passed away on Nov. 30, 2023. He was born on Nov. 21, 1978, in Honolulu. He is survived by mother Joanne Leinaala Kim; brother **Kaipo Kim KSK’99** (Starlet “Hoku”); nephew Kaleo Kim; and niece Kailani Kim.

■ **Jennifer Malulani Punohu KSK’97**, age 44, of Kāne‘ohe, passed away on April 18, 2024. Jennifer was born in Honolulu.

■ **Collins Whitley Kekoa Kaholo KSK’97** of Volcano passed away on April 25, 2024.

■ **Micheal-Paul Kapi‘ioho‘ookalani Lee KSK’01** passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on March 10, 2024. Mike, Uncle Boy, Mikey, Mouf... he was known by many and met so many throughout his walks in life. Whether back home in Ka‘ū, during his high school years at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama campus, or throwing back a few with his boys on O‘ahu, one thing is for sure — the Micheal-Paul we all know is the same genuine, head-strong, and reliable soul we can all call upon when we needed someone. He was THAT guy.

■ **Greg “Maka” Maka‘ala Hiroshi Branco KSH’10**, of Mountain View, died Dec. 17, 2023, at Hilo Medical Center. Born in Hilo, he was a landscaper, driller and beekeeper. He is survived by son Zavery Ha‘ali‘i Branco; daughter Zailey Anale‘a Branco; father Greg Branco; mother Vickie Murata; companion Sandylynn Akiona; sisters Seasons Branco, **Jasmine Branco KSK’99** (Alan Soistman, Jr.) and Asa (John) Harvest; hānai sisters Cheyanne Rapoza and Lisa Ebesugawa; maternal grandparents Herbert and Tazuko Murata; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

■ **Kamana Nopuuhapakoluokanealii Eugenio KSM’17** passed away on Aug. 9, 2023.

Learning by leaning on those Ke Akua puts in our lives

by Kahu **Kanani Franco KSK’91**
Kamehameha Schools Maui

Many of our great ali‘i were guided and influenced by those they held in their close community. Their leadership qualities were not developed in isolation but shaped by many. Kamehameha Pa‘iea had Kekūhaupi‘o, Liholiho had both his mothers, Ka‘ahumanu and Keōpūolani, to guide him as a young chief, and Ke Ali‘i Pauahi was blessed with many mentors to help shape her into the woman she became.

We see the same for great Biblical leaders who put their faith and trust in God. Moses had his father-in-law, Jethro to give him advice. God used Jonathan as a confidant to David and young Timothy had the apostle Paul to mentor his ministry.

During our first Kamehameha Maui papa 9-12 chapel, freshman Keilana Maldonado shared the following mana‘o: “Jesus says in Revelation 3:19, ‘Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.’ Jesus expresses His love by explaining that He corrects and disciplines those He cares about, much like a loving parent guides a child. This reminds us that love isn’t just about making someone feel good; it’s also about guiding them in the right direction, even when it’s difficult.”

Our chosen verse for this year’s spiritual theme comes from **Proverbs 27:17, “As Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”**

Ke Akua has placed various people and communities in our lives to help us develop to our fullest potential. Each relationship and experience is vital in shaping who we are as ‘ōiwi leaders. Look at who or what continues to sharpen you and remember that you are also an instrument to sharpen your lāhui and hoa kānaka.



“As Iron sharpens iron,
so one man sharpens another.”

Proverbs 27:17



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Casting into the future

KS Kaiāulu brings community together with our larger 'ohana of partners, whose rich Hawaiian culture, 'ōlelo and 'āina-focused opportunities can nurture 'ōiwi leaders — and empower them to use their knowledge, skills and passion to strengthen Hawai'i, its people and our global community.



Explore our collection of resources, educational offerings, volunteer opportunities and activities at ksbe.edu/kaiaulu

