

KSK Po‘o Kula Search Updates

Jan. 23, 2026

Aloha mai kākou,

Mahalo nui for the many ways you have continued to uplift the Kapālama po‘o kula search with your mana‘o, your time, and the care you bring to shaping the future of Ke Kula ‘o Kamehameha ma Kapālama. The conversations and support offered across our community have been generative and heartfelt, reminding us that this work is not just about filling a role but about stewarding a kahua of kuleana for our haumāna and kula.

Since our last update, the search has advanced through several key steps. With the guidance of the KSK Po‘o Kula Review Committee and the support of our search partners at Educators Collaborative, each application was carefully reviewed using a rubric aligned to the strengths, needs, and aspirations that surfaced through our KSK community engagement. From there, we moved through interviews and additional assessments, including reference checks as appropriate.

Finalist candidates

Today, we are pleased to share the names of three final candidates for the next po‘o kula of Ke Kula ‘o Kamehameha ma Kapālama.

Dr. Kalehua Krug

Dr. Kaiwipunikauikawēkiu Punihei Lipe

Dr. Katrina Kapā Oliveira

For more information about the candidates, visit our [KSK po‘o kula search website](#).

Campus visit and community candidate forum

The finalists will be on campus for a three-day visit from February 2-4, 2026, to spend time with haumāna, faculty, staff, and leaders. These visits are an important part of the process and are designed to give opportunities for our community to meet the finalists, learn more about their leadership, and share feedback that will help inform the final decision. Finalists will also participate in a community candidate forum that will be open to KS faculty, staff, haumāna, ‘ohana, and alumni.

Event: Community candidate forum

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. HST

Location: Kalama Dining Hall

Invited In-Person Participants: Due to limited seating, only current Kapālama faculty, staff, haumāna, and parents/guardians are invited to register to attend the event in person (or may choose to register to participate online). For those attending in person, please note that there will not be staff available to mālama your keiki. We ask that you please not leave them unsupervised outside of Kalama Dining Hall.

Invited Online Participants: Alumni and non-KSK faculty and staff are invited to register to participate in the online livestream of the candidate forum.

Registration: Both in-person and online participants are asked to register by 12:00 p.m. HST on Friday, January 30, 2026.

Sharing feedback

Your feedback on candidates is vital to this process. A link to the online feedback form will be provided during the candidate forum. Feedback will be compiled and shared with CEO Jack Wong to offer him additional information to guide his decision. These responses will complement other assessments gathered throughout the process, including feedback arising from an array of engagements with the KSK campus community during the three-day visit.

Welcoming our finalists with aloha

As we enter this final, public phase, we ask for your kōkua to ensure that each finalist is treated with respect and aloha in all their interactions throughout Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha.

- Please engage with respect, curiosity, and care, even when asking hard questions.
- Model for our haumāna what it means to host visitors with pono and aloha.
- Rooted in our aloha and appreciation for our candidates, and recognizing the significant kuleana they carry, we urge everyone to use the official feedback process to offer mana'o rather than share mana'o in social media.
- Follow on-site guidance regarding recording, photos, and sharing.

We encourage you to stay engaged and continue checking the [po'o kula search webpage](#) for updates. If you have additional mana'o or questions, please connect with your Review Committee representative(s) or email ksksearch@ksbe.edu.

Ke aloha nui,

Kēhau Abad, PhD
Vice President, Uluhia Strategy and Experience
Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha



Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha