

KAI ULU

HPU Alumni Currents

Mahalo from Maureen Silva



Maureen Silva Ph.D.
Vice President of University
Advancement at Hawai'i Pacific
University

Aloha HPU 'Ohana,

During this season of gratitude and reflection, we're reminded of the incredible community that makes HPU what it is today. Your support and dedication help us to flourish and prosper, and we're ever so grateful for you!

No matter where you are in the world, we want you to stay connected. With that in mind, next month we will launch HPU Career Connections, which offers a chance to tap into a global network. Career Connections extends beyond the classroom, offering opportunities through career panels, networking events, and online resources. Whether you're engaging in-person or virtually, Career Connections is designed to support and empower the next generation.

Mahalo for being part of this amazing journey. We couldn't do it without you.

Stay tuned for more!

Oceanic Institute (OI) of HPU Releases Aquacultured Yellow Tang into the Wild

Written by: Gregory Fischbach



Hawai'i aimed specifically at ecosystem restoration rather than food production—a significant step toward preserving Hawai'i's coral reefs.

OI staff with juvenile yellow tang on the shores of Makapu'u.

In preparation for the release, a biologist from the Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) inspected the juvenile yellow tang shortly before the release to ensure they were free of any pathogens, safeguarding the local reef ecosystem. The project's focus on ecosystem health showcased a novel model for reef restoration efforts in Hawai'i, highlighting the potential for aquaculture to play a vital role in marine conservation.

The Oceanic Institute (OI) of HPU marked a historic milestone last week by releasing over 300 aquacultured juvenile yellow tang (lau'ipala) into the waters of Oahu. This initiative, carried out in collaboration with Georgia Aquarium and Disney's Aulani Resort, represented the first documented release of fish in

THE CURRENTS

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In Memoriam

Trustee Emeritus James Romig

With deep sadness, we share the passing of James "Jim" Romig, Trustee Emeritus of Hawai'i Pacific University. Jim's legacy as a visionary entrepreneur began in 1963 when he founded Pomare, Ltd. — which he later transformed into Hilo Hattie, a globally recognized Hawaiian fashion brand. His unwavering support of island communities and nearly 25 years of service to HPU helped empower countless students and advance educational access. A passionate advocate for Hawai'i's future, Jim's leadership extended beyond HPU, impacting many local organizations and leaving a lasting mark.



THE CURRENTS



HPU Alumnus and US Air Force Veteran Is Brewing Success

Joe Real (BSBA '20) owns and founded Drive Thru Joe, operating at seven different locations on military bases on Oahu with plans to expand to more. He and his 100% military-affiliated staff commit to quality service and providing delicious and affordable coffee.

[Learn More](#)



'Women', HPU's Theatre Production Draws Enthusiastic Audiences

Featuring a talented cast and crew of 35 HPU students supported by two dedicated alumni and Theatre Director Emily Stapleton, 'Women' wrapped up its four-night run on November 10 in the new Experiential Arts Space and Theatre at Aloha Tower Marketplace.

[More Here](#)



HPU Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Education (CEE) Leads Statewide Efforts to Expand Economic Education

Over the past three years, the CEE has increased economic education through its Economics for Hawai'i Teachers Course. CEE has engaged with more than 800 K-12 teachers on incorporating grade-appropriate economic content into all subject areas.

[More Info](#)



Hangin' at the Reef Exploring Religious Pluralism

Professor of Philosophy and Humanities Matthew LoPresti, Ph.D., (*left*) covers religious pluralism, the focus of his latest book, in this insightful discussion with podcast host HPU VP Jeffrey Rich. LoPresti makes the compelling case that multiple religious traditions can coexist as true.

[Listen Here](#)

Clinical Director of the HPU Graduate Nursing Program Presents His Research

Associate Professor David Smith, Ph.D., presented at the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nursing Annual Convention in Toronto. His research addresses the role of structured hourly rounding protocols in enhancing patient safety and reducing fall incidents in medical-surgical units.

[Full Article](#)

History of Hawai'i Course Leads Update of Historical Displays at Aloha Tower

The students of Professor of History Douglas Askman, Ph.D., launched the effort to refresh the historical displays at Aloha Tower with updated content and personal stories. Hawai'i residents and visitors are encouraged to share their memories and experiences.

[More Info](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

HPU ALUMNI STEVEN SASAKI '14



HPU alumnus Steven Sasaki, a recent partner at New York Life in Honolulu, returned to campus this fall for an inspiring conversation

Alumni Involvement

The HPU alumni 'ohana spans the globe, and all opportunities are available in-person or virtually. We invite you to explore how you can make a meaningful difference by sharing your time and talents to support our students. Your involvement will create lasting, transformative impacts on their personal and professional growth.

HPU Connect

HPU Connect makes it easy to get in touch with fellow alumni and support current students. Every HPU member adds value and prestige to our community.

[Sign Up Today!](#)

Career Connections

Networking, mentorship opportunities, and continued involvement with the HPU campus.

Upcoming Events:

Two HPU Visual Arts faculty, Paul Levitt

with members of **Delta Mu Delta**, the University's business honor society. Sasaki, who graduated from HPU with a double major in criminal justice and sociology, detailed his professional journey, shared insights on the finance industry, and emphasized the importance of adaptability in shaping one's career.

Sasaki explained that his decision to attend HPU stemmed from the university's smaller, more personalized educational experience. "For me, coming from a smaller high school at Damien Memorial, HPU's small class sizes were key," Sasaki said. "I really got to know my professors, many of whom had real-world experience in law enforcement. I appreciated the supportive, close-knit environment, which helped in building a solid foundation early in my career."

Sasaki's career began with an ambition to work in law enforcement. "The goal when attending HPU was to join the FBI," he recalled, highlighting his initial interest in becoming a canine officer. However, life took a different turn after the birth of his first son. Realizing that staying in Hawai'i while pursuing his law enforcement dreams would be difficult, Sasaki made a pivotal decision. "Business always interested me. I wanted flexibility in my career and an income that was performance driven."

[Full Article](#)

Two visual artists, Paul Lohr and Alla Parsons, had their art pieces accepted into the prestigious and juried **Artists of Hawai'i show** and on view at the **Downtown Art Center (1041 Nu'uuanu Ave, 2nd floor)** until December 21, 2024.

[More Info Here](#)

Unlearning Silence: How to Speak Your Mind, Unleash Talent, and Live More Fully with Elaine Lin Hering
Wednesday, December 4th
9AM PDT

[More Info Here](#)

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