

KAI ULU

HPU Alumni Currents

A Message from Jennifer Walsh



Jennifer Walsh Ph.D.
Senior Vice President of Strategic
Initiatives and Chief Strategy Officer
at Hawai'i Pacific University

As Hawai'i Pacific University's first Chief Strategy Officer, I am responsible for leading the development, execution, and continuous evaluation of the University's strategic position, ensuring alignment with HPU's mission, vision, and values, and long-term goals. With our new strategic planning period just beginning, I am delighted to share HPU's vision for the future and highlight how we are crafting our strategic position to meet the evolving needs of our traditional and modern learners.

First, we are greatly expanding our **academic portfolio** to meet current and future workforce needs. In recent years, we have added graduate degrees in applied healthcare, business, and cybersecurity, and this fall, we are pleased to add new graduate degrees in construction management and data science, too. In the response to market demands, we are also exploring new graduate programs in computer science, education, engineering, medical sciences, property management, psychology, and speech language pathology. Undergraduate coursework in allied health, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, are also in development.

[Full Message](#)

HPU Occupational Therapy Program Hosts 'Go Baby Go' Event to Support Local Keiki

Written by: Gregory Fischbach

HPU Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Honolulu program hosted a series of events in early October, culminating with the locally focused "Go Baby Go" event. This program, part of a national movement, provides modified, ride-on cars for Hawai'i

THE CURRENTS

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keiki with disabilities, offering them increased mobility and a chance to engage in play and socialization with other children. The event, taking place on Friday, October 4, 2024, from 12:30 to 3:00 PM at HPU's Graduate College of Health Sciences lab, brings together local families and children with HPU students from occupational therapy, physical

therapy, and engineering who plan to customize up to five cars for five children, keeping each child's unique needs in mind.

[Learn More](#)

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THE CURRENTS



Alum Shue-Jane Thompson Named to HPU Board of Trustees

Dr. Shue-Jane L. Thompson is the newest member of HPU's Board of Trustees. With over 30 years of experience and as IBM's global Managing Partner and cybersecurity strategist specializing in mega deal capture across 170-plus countries, Thompson brings a



Sharks Weekly Featuring Men's Basketball

In this episode of *Shark's Weekly*, Men's Basketball Head Coach Jesse Nakanishi and student-athletes are the featured guests interviewed by host Jeffrey Rich, VP of Marketing and Communications, and co-host Assistant Director Gregory Fischbach

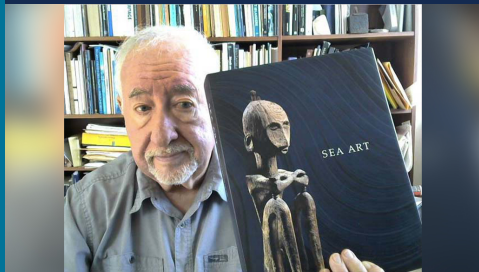


Sharks United: Connecting HPU with the Oahu Community

Sharks United is a new HPU Registered Student Organization, and its mission is to provide essential resources to HPU students while fostering meaningful connections with the greater Oahu community through outreach and events

countries, Thompson brings a wealth of expertise to the HPU board.

[Learn More](#)



Professor Emeritus Jerome Feldman Publishes Research

HPU Emeritus Professor of Art History Jerome Feldman, Ph.D., is the author of the chapter “Patterns that Connect” in a new book, “Sea Art Southeast Asian Art,” published by Ana Gaspar & Antonio Casanovas OAA Singapore 2024.

[Click Here](#)

[Listen Here](#)

Experiential Learning in English Language Education



Access Pakistan Teacher Training and Cultural Exchange Program



HPU TESOL Program Awarded Department of State Grant

The Access Pakistan Teacher Training and Cultural Exchange Program, funded by the English Access Microscholarship Program Pakistan, will run from October 30 to November 12, 2024, focusing on experiential learning in language education. HPU will host 25 teachers of English from Pakistan.

[Full Article](#)

[More Info](#)



National Science Foundation (NSF) Awards HPU Paradise Initiative Grant

The \$350,000 NSF grant award is part of the PARADISE initiative—Partnering to Advance Research And Drive Innovation on Sustainability and the Environment. The grant will enhance research capacity and foster partnerships within islanded communities.

[More Info](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

HPU ALUMNA SAYDEE POJAS

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



Saydee Pojas (MA '13), Chief Operating Officer at INPEACE, Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture, first learned of the nonprofit organization when her first child was a toddler in 2009. Her son enrolled in the INPEACE Keiki Steps Program. Seeing her son benefit from Keiki Steps, Pojas soon took a staff position in the program, working as an 'ohana advocate responsible for developing and delivering a parent curriculum for the parent participation preschool program.

"I could take my keiki to work and could be involved in his early years of education, and I could also have a job, an income to support my 'ohana," Pojas said.

From 'ohana advocate, she moved into the community recruiter position with a brand new program called Ho'āla at INPEACE. Pojas passionately worked with families of children up to 5 years old on the Waianae Coast to inform them of early childhood education programs, including available tuition assistance and help completing applications and registration paperwork.

"Through my own son's participation in Keiki Steps, I could share firsthand the opportunities of participation in early childhood programs, benefiting my keiki and also our family," Pojas said. "I want to see other keiki and families benefit from early childhood programming and education."

[Full Article](#)

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:

[The Art and Science of Connection: Why Social Health is the Missing Key to Living Longer, Healthier, and Happier](#) with Kasley Killam
Thursday, October 31st
9AM PDT
[More Info Here](#)

[How to Get People to Choose What You're Selling Using the Power of Instinct](#) with Leslie Zane
Thursday, November 7th
9AM PDT
[More Info Here](#)

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