

# Soaring Eagle

SPRING 2024 NEWS FROM HAWAI'I BAPTIST ACADEMY



## INSIDE:

The La'amia Tree • Campaign for Transformation • First 100 Days of School • Sports Highlights  
Age of AI • Family Fun Day • MAC Week • Alumni Spotlight

## HAWAI'I BAPTIST ACADEMY

Hawai'i Baptist Academy (HBA) is a top Christian school serving students from preschool through high school. HBA's elementary, middle, and high school campuses are located in Nu'uuanu Valley on the island of O'ahu. HBA's first satellite preschool is located in Mililani Mauka in Central O'ahu. Established in 1949 by missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention, the school is affiliated with the Hawai'i Pacific Baptist Convention.

HBA is a member of the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools and the Association of Christian Schools International, and accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. HBA is licensed by the Hawai'i Council of Private Schools.

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Director of Strategic Planning

### MISSION STATEMENT

Hawai'i Baptist Academy is a Christian college preparatory school that equips students spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally, so that they bring honor to God.

**Soaring Eagle** is a publication for alumni, parents, friends, and supporters of Hawai'i Baptist Academy. It is produced with aloha by the Communications Department and Office of Institutional Advancement.

An online version of this newsletter is available at [www.hba.net](http://www.hba.net).

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# A Message from the President



## Aloha HBA Family,

As we approach Hawai'i Baptist Academy's 75th anniversary, I thank God for His many provisions and the way He has used our school to transform lives and hearts for His glory. I also come humbled and hopeful for all He has planned ahead for HBA.

This year, we are embarking on a journey to reimagine our learning environment, transforming the ways our students learn and inspiring them to identify how their

passions intersect with God's calling for their life. In the pages to follow, you can read more about our Campaign for Transformation.

While this campaign focuses on ways we can continue to cultivate faith, innovation, and leadership, I want to highlight a few examples below of how faith, innovation, and leadership are weaved into the very fabric of our school.

## FAITH

Our school was founded with the desire to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. For almost 75 years, we have taught our students about faith in Jesus Christ and Biblical values. We hope these truths will be shared with their families and friends to impact communities, the state, the nation, and the world in a positive manner. As our motto states: Christ for Every Nation.

We nurture our students as unique creations of God. We provide a place for them to grow, opportunities to learn, and guidance from caring & qualified Christian teachers. Although we are a Christian community, not every student who attends HBA is a Christian or becomes one. In fact, less than 50 percent of our students come from Christian families. But one of our school's primary goals is to give every student the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to experience His life-changing message.

Over the past decade, HBA has been intentionally improving faith integration in our curriculum. In 2016, we created a Director of Faith Integration position and the Christian Ministries team was restructured to provide more support for each campus. These changes have made a significant impact on the Gospel programming throughout our school.

## INNOVATION

In 2022, Amy Vorderbruegge and Dr. Emmett Winters helped launch an innovation cohort composed of faculty and staff from our elementary, middle, and high school campuses. This cohort is helping to intentionally equip our students with a set of skills that they can use in all jobs and situations in this ever changing world. We are promoting activities and curriculum that encourage creativity, problem solving, team work, risk-taking, and adaptability. Innovation is already evident on all of our campuses whether it is the aquaponics lining the hallway at our elementary campus or the cardboard houses on our middle school that students practiced using electricity to light up. On our high school campus, we see innovation happening with the creativity in our animation classes and our AP Physics classes doing hands-on experiments to understand concepts.

## LEADERSHIP

Over the past several years, there has also been a focus on “leading to serve”. This is the type of leadership that is not self-serving or self-promoting, but leadership that contributes to the improvement of our school and greater community. Our student council programs on each of our campuses focus on intentional growth of student leadership and engagement to encourage student voice.

Outside of the student council, we also see students gaining leadership experience at the elementary campus in opportunities provided by after school clubs as well as the annual speech festival. Our eighth graders now participate in a capstone project, and our high schoolers are leading clubs, service projects, and events in and outside of school.

We would like to highlight and celebrate all that is happening at HBA today and also the faith, innovation, and leadership we have seen over our nearly 75-year history! Thank you for being a part of HBA's story—and a part of God's story.

In Christ,

Ron Shiira '75  
PRESIDENT

## Impacting the World ONE GRADUATE AT A TIME



Join us from  
Preschool through High School  
#FaithInnovationLeadership  
Visit [HBA.net](https://HBA.net)



# Soaring Eagle

SPRING 2024



NEWS FROM  
HAWAI'I BAPTIST ACADEMY

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**On the front cover:**  
Elementary school  
students near the old  
la'amia tree.

*Photo: Craig Chang*



## BOLD PRAYER:

# The La'amia Tree

BY LISA (KAKIMOTO) LICHTENBERG '84



HBA elementary students standing in front of the la'amia tree. This tree has been growing at HBA's Richard Bento Elementary campus before HBA purchased this property. It has been fruitful while growing and withstanding storms here longer than any of us have been here.

**I'D LIKE TO START THIS STORY** with a few questions. Do you know what the fruit of the La'amia tree is used for? Do you know the name of the school that was here before HBA purchased the Richard Bento Elementary campus? Do you know the name of the HBA president who grew a special friendship with our Catholic friends?

You are correct if you said: the fruit is used to make the Hawaiian hula instrument called the 'uli'uli; the name of the previous school that was on this campus was Sacred Hearts Convent; and the president who had special ties with the sisters of Sacred Hearts and was instrumental in attaining this campus was Dick Bento.

I love trees! I live in Launani Valley where I have beautiful trees surrounding my neighborhood, but none are like the la'amia. This La'amia tree is extra special. There are only six of its kind on our island.



The la'amia tree fruit produces the gourd used at the base of the 'uli 'uli.

I know some of you are *Lord of the Rings* fans, like myself, and loved the scene in *The Two Towers* where the Ents (old trees) came to life and helped fight battles. If trees could eavesdrop, instead of "leaves drop," and if trees could talk like the Ents did in *Lord of the Rings*, this la'amia tree might have said:

"I heard the Sacred Heart sisters praying for the children of Hawai'i to receive a God-centered education. I heard the leadership team of HBA praying humble, yet bold, prayers asking God to lead and provide in the purchase of this 14 million dollar campus.

I heard seven MAC members praying under my branches for God's creativity of how to raise funds on the mainland to purchase this campus. I saw when God's people of various denominations came together to celebrate the 14 million dollar, interest-free debt paid off! That was a miracle!"

“I have seen other miraculous works of God’s physical healing of cancer in HBA’s teachers and individuals on this campus. I have heard the conversations and the prayers for relationships to be healed, and for the transformation of families that only God had the power to orchestrate. Not everyone will remember my name, the la’amia tree, or the name of the school that was here before HBA.”

But our wise, old la’amia tree would go onto say: “It doesn’t matter if you don’t remember my name. When you see me, let me be a reminder to you of God’s steadfastness and compassion in doing the miraculous. Let me be a reminder that God’s work gets activated as He hears and remembers your humble, bold prayers spoken today, just as He did in the past.

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit (Jeremiah 17:7-8).”

Let us continue praying humble, bold prayers in 2024 and join God in His Miraculous work!



Elementary students pose near the la’amia tree.



Elementary students shared what they love about their school experiences.



The Elementary campus gathered with the Mainland Advisory Council during their recent visit.

# The Campaign for Transformation

Hawai'i Baptist Academy is shaping the leaders of tomorrow, starting today.

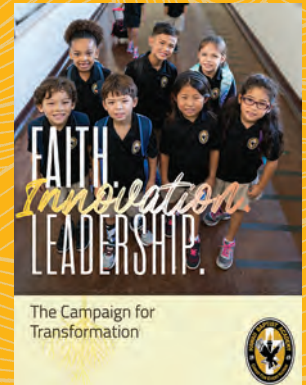


**AS WE ENTER OUR 75TH YEAR,** we are embarking on a journey to reimagine our learning environment, transforming the ways our students learn and inspiring them to identify how their passions intersect with God's calling for their life.

The Campaign for Transformation integrates two of our greatest opportunities—an expansion on the Richard Bento Elementary campus to prepare for a 22nd century learning environment, and the



This section extracted from  
The Campaign for Transformation.  
[hba.net/transformation](http://hba.net/transformation)



# FAITH. *Innovation.* LEADERSHIP.



establishment of the Institute of Hope Endowment that will support specialized programs and professional development in addition to scholarship support to shepherd future generations to become leaders of our island community and beyond.

Join us in building a foundational learning experience, grounded in faith and sparked by innovation, to raise up leaders who serve.

# The Need: A Design for 22nd Century Learning

As the world rapidly changes, education must also change. Technology is pushing the bounds of human knowledge at a pace never-before-seen in history.

ARCHITECTURAL RENDERINGS: GROUP 70



**T**he volume of human knowledge doubles every 12 hours and the jobs of tomorrow haven't even been invented yet. In a society that continues to accelerate and evolve, it is more important than ever for our students to have a solid foundation grounded in the unchanging truth of God's Word.

Today's learning environments require diverse spaces, flexibility, and experiential learning opportunities. Learning can no longer be bound by the four walls of a classroom. Modern pedagogy incorporates hands-on experiences to allow students to discover new perspectives and innovative solutions as they interact with the world around them. These opportunities develop the grit and critical thinking skills necessary to maximize student potential, starting with our youngest learners at the elementary campus.

Our outdated facilities limit our elementary teachers' ability to help students realize their capabilities. Built in the 1930s as a convent and boarding school for girls, Hawai'i Baptist Academy

acquired the property in 1987. While the school has done well to repurpose the property through renovations, it has been clear for several years that the facilities need to be modernized to support the needs of a 21st century learning environment.

We envision a transformation of the Richard Bento Elementary campus into a place where our students will build upon their God-given purpose and take the initial steps of fulfilling that potential to become the leaders of tomorrow. The 21st Century skills of today—Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Collaboration—will catapult us into the 22nd Century where we believe that Care, Connection, Culture, and Community will be paramount to the success of generations to come.

# Innovation and Discovery Center: Where Curiosity Begins



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Designed to include an innovation station, collaboration lab, learning commons, and outdoor learning environments, this 7,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility will provide a collaborative environment where our students can engage in joyful learning that allows them to dream big and explore their God-given talents. The Center will be a free-flowing space, integrating the indoors and outdoors, where students learn to appreciate the interdependence of their natural and built environments.



## Innovation Station

This experiential environment will encourage students to imagine and design solutions for real-world challenges. In this creative space, students could use 3D printers to design useful tools to assist the elderly or build classroom supplies for their peers. These projects offer students the freedom to take risks and embrace failures. By doing so, they develop resilience and discover that the possibilities are only limited by their imagination and determination.

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## Collab Lab

The Collab Lab will be a vibrant hub where open, flexible spaces will encourage collaboration and community-building among students. Here, older students are empowered to mentor their younger peers, nurturing leadership qualities. The versatile setting will additionally accommodate club meetings, presentations, and conferences.



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## Learning Commons

Libraries are centers for learning that support and extend the work that goes on in the classroom. With a collection of more than 10,000 books, up-to-date technology, and flexible meeting spaces, the learning commons space provides an environment that encourages dialogue and the exchange of ideas. Multifunctional spaces facilitate studying, researching, and collaborating. This provides needed flexibility for a variety of learning experiences that spark student curiosity and engagement. These spaces will enhance opportunities for student-led discussions and presentations, which will foster leadership skills and challenge them to develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

## Rooftop Deck

This open area for movement and brain breaks provides students with the freedom to stretch their legs and refresh their minds, promoting focus and productivity. It also serves as an ideal space for collaborative projects and group activities. The Rooftop Deck is equipped with tables, perfect for experimenting and writing, allowing students to engage in interactive learning and experiment-based education.



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A sustainable campus will empower students to actively promote a resilient future, both within and beyond the classroom.



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## The Plaza

The learning experience of the Innovation Station, Collab Lab and Learning Commons extends outside into The Plaza. Students are free to explore their physical environment where free play and socialization is encouraged. Worm bins incorporated into the garden provide hands-on environmental and composting learning opportunities.

## Amphitheater

What better place to develop an understanding of our place in God's creation than the outdoors? Outdoor learning spaces provide a sense of freedom and inspiration that complements classroom learning. By incorporating the natural beauty of the campus—the serenity of Nu'uaniu stream, cool mountain breezes that drift down from the Ko'olau mountains, and giant monkeypod trees that have stood as silent guardians over the campus for over

100 years—the amphitheater will offer a sense of place where students can connect with each other and appreciate the beauty of God's creation. This space will also be used for worship and to build community. From family nights to theater performances, these activities help students develop healthy relationships with God and those around them.



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The amphitheater will foster spiritual growth, community building, and a deep appreciation for God's creation.

These learning areas include LEED-certified features like rain gardens to gather stormwater and a green rooftop to enhance energy efficiency. Our commitment to sustainability is a reflection of our deep-rooted values, as we strive to be faithful stewards of the home God has given us.

## Campus Entry

Our campus entry is more than a drop-off or pick-up area. The entry to our school represents the beginning and ending of each student's school day. Renovating the campus entryway will make it an even more inviting space for all who use it. As our students, families, and community step foot onto our campus, they will be welcomed by the open arms of the monkeypod trees that line the driveway. The addition of a covered waiting area protects our students from inclement weather while the wider driveway improves safety for bus pick-ups and drop-offs, and also lets us be good neighbors by minimizing traffic in surrounding streets.



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## Lower Courts



Complementary to the learning spaces are places that bring students, staff, and community together. The Lower Courts will provide students with a safe and open area for recess and extracurricular activities. Three basketball courts and a lower blacktop area can be used for supplemental parking, assemblies, and a venue for guest speakers and public addresses.

## The Aviary

Active free play and exercise are essential not only for physical fitness but also for helping children to focus during classroom activities. The existing playcourt is uncovered and limits outdoor activities during the rain showers that frequent our Nuʻuanu campus. A covered playcourt also becomes a multi-purpose gathering area that can be used not only for athletics, but student assemblies, events, and our After School Enrichment Program. It becomes yet another shared gathering place for our school community.



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# The Institute of Hope: Sharing the Love of Christ in Hawai'i and Beyond

**AT HAWAI'I BAPTIST ACADEMY,** we have the privilege of shepherding future generations to become leaders of our island community. The Institute of Hope endowment will enable us to extend our reach beyond the campus and support our students, parents, staff, and faculty in living our school motto, "Christ for Every Nation."

God has called us to "go and make disciples of all nations," and the Institute of Hope will integrate that calling through faith, innovation, and leadership. By building student disciples strong in their faith, equipping them with an innovative mindset, developing their God-given gifts and talents, HBA can raise up a future generation of leaders who will make an impact in Hawai'i and our world.

## The Institute of Hope will:

- Develop Christian partnerships with businesses, organizations, and educational institutions to offer current students and HBA graduates a variety of internships, seminary college partnerships, and gap-year programs. These programs will provide career development pathways for our students as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of life outside of HBA.
- Encourage student exploration. Through leadership opportunities, students will be mentored in developing a social entrepreneurship mindset, which empowers them to create positive change in the Hawaiian Islands and beyond.
- Provide parent and educator outreach opportunities both internally and externally. By expanding our Parent Cafe offerings, we build relationships with families as they navigate our fast-changing world. HBA will also lead a professional development program to offer workshops for other Christian educators to learn innovative ways to incorporate faith and academic excellence into their curriculum.

The Institute of Hope is foundational to HBA's mission. It will help prepare our students, parents, and the greater community to be beacons of Christ's light in the world.



# The Campaign for Transformation—Q&A



## Our Vision

### What is the Innovation and Discovery Center?

Designed to include an Innovation Station, Collab Lab, and Learning Commons, this 7,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility on HBA's elementary campus will provide a collaborative environment where our students can engage in joyful learning that allows them to dream big and explore their God-given talents.

### What will students experience in the new space?

In this new space, students will embark on a journey of curiosity and collaboration where they engage with their peers to identify problems and collectively seek solutions. With the Learning Commons conveniently located near the Innovation Station and Collab Lab, students seamlessly transition between research, design, and building modes, bringing their ideas to fruition. Here, they will encounter both success and failure, fostering perseverance as they navigate challenges and pursue innovation.

### What other improvements are being made to the campus?

In addition to the Innovation and Discovery Center, this project will add an outdoor plaza, amphitheater, and rooftop deck to provide students with an experiential learning environment. To prepare for inclement weather in Nuʻuanu Valley, we are also building a covering over the existing play court and redesigning our entryway to include a covered waiting area.

### Why are these new facilities important to Hawai'i Baptist Academy?

To continue to prepare students for the ever-changing future, our facilities need to be modernized for innovation, ideation, collaboration, and research to take place more efficiently and cohesively. Our new spaces allow us to better utilize new research on learning that includes the need to have space to move, express creativity, and be inspired by the outdoors. These newly-designed areas support the needs of a 21st-century learning environment and prepare for the 22nd-century.

### What is the Institute of Hope?

The Institute of Hope was birthed in 2021 with the vision to extend our reach into the community and help shape the next generation of leaders through transformational connections between faith, innovation, and leadership. Our goal is to empower students, parents, staff, and faculty to cultivate a global perspective and seek opportunities beyond the walls of the campus to create meaningful impact. Through the Institute of Hope endowment we will be able to:

- Provide college and seminary partnerships for dual credit.
- Encourage student exploration through a gap-year program to further develop leadership opportunities and provide meaningful internships.
- Provide parent outreach and educator workshops.
- Extend our reach into the community-at-large through education and academic programming.

# Project Logistics

## When will construction for the facility begin and how long will it last?

Construction for the Innovation and Discovery Center, amphitheater, and the new entryway is anticipated to begin in May 2024. The driveway will be completed in the fall of 2024 while the building and amphitheater will be completed in the fall of 2025. Construction for the covered play court will follow with completion targeted for the summer of 2026.

## How will construction impact traffic flow?

We are making every effort to minimize the impact on traffic during construction. Beginning in May 2024, pickup and dropoff from the Kuakini side of campus will be adjusted. The upper blacktop location near the pavilion will be unavailable, but the lower blacktop will be used instead to maintain traffic flow.

In the fall of 2024, the new driveway will be complete and ready for use. Construction will continue with a few adjustments in the lower blacktop.

## How will parking be impacted during construction and once the renovations are complete?

During construction, parking availability will be limited, particularly with a reduction in lower blacktop parking spaces. To mitigate this impact, drop-off and pick-up schedules will be rearranged to minimize traffic congestion and optimize efficiency.

## Will students be impacted during construction?

We are working to minimize the impact on students by beginning construction right before summer break. During the construction period, our teachers plan to integrate the project into their curriculum, offering students from elementary to high school opportunities to learn design, architecture, and project management as this project comes to fruition. We expect the impact of construction to be positive for student learning.

## Where will students play or gather outdoors during construction?

During the construction process, students will have designated outdoor areas for play and gatherings, including areas on the Bates Street side of campus, the outdoor space adjacent to the Junior Kindergarten classrooms, the basketball courts, and the auditorium. These spaces ensure that students can continue to enjoy outdoor activities and socialize safely while construction is underway.

## How will afterschool activities be affected during the construction?

Our ASEP and vendor programs will continue throughout construction. Summer School and Intercession for grades K-6 will be housed at the middle school campus until construction is complete.

## How will the school ensure the safety of my child with added vendors/construction workers on the campus?

To ensure the safety of your child, the school has implemented a comprehensive safety protocol. This includes strong communication between our school administration and the builder, enabling the administration to stay informed about the schedules of workers on campus and anticipated noise levels. Additionally, mandatory identification and daily check-in procedures are required for all vendors and construction personnel. Onsite supervision by a dedicated building superintendent ensures compliance with safety protocols, while the presence of two on-campus security personnel during school hours provides additional oversight and support. Furthermore, construction work is confined to the fenced-off construction area, minimizing interaction between students and construction activities.

## What will the noise levels be like?

During construction, the noise level on campus may be elevated, but teachers will make efforts to mitigate its impact by keeping classroom doors closed and utilizing classroom air conditioning. The city has set specific noise level parameters, which will be strictly adhered to by the construction team. Additionally, to accommodate students who require a quieter environment for concentration, noise-canceling headphones may be considered during designated quiet times.



LEARNING COMMONS

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## Join Our Transformation

### Great! We are ready! How can we help?

1. **Pray:** As a faith-centered school, we acknowledge that all things are possible with God. Please join us in prayer!
2. **Share:** Help us spread the word by sharing this project with your family and friends.
3. **Give:** Make a transformational gift and join us in changing the world for Christ.

### What forms of donations do you accept?

You may support the campaign through a gift of check, credit card, transfer of stock, or property. Checks may be mailed to 1848 Nu'unau Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817. Credit card donations can be made at [www.hba.net/transformation](http://www.hba.net/transformation). For other forms of donations, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement, at (808) 533-7094 or [development@hba.net](mailto:development@hba.net).

### Can I make a matching gift with my company?

Yes, if your employer matches the charitable contributions of its employees, please let us know and we can work together to ensure your gift is matched.

### Are gifts to the Campaign for Transformation tax deductible?

Hawai'i Baptist Academy is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. As a result, all campaign gifts are tax-deductible to the extent of the law. The application of such laws varies with individual financial circumstances. Please contact your tax advisor for questions regarding tax deductibility. For more information, please contact Billie Takaki Lueder, Director of Institutional Advancement, at (808) 564-0345 or [btakakilueder@hba.net](mailto:btakakilueder@hba.net).

### How will my gift benefit this project?

Hawai'i Baptist Academy has been blessed by the generosity of our supporters through the years. Your gifts have provided financial aid to our students and enabled countless extracurricular initiatives and program enhancements. *The Campaign for Transformation* specifically raises funds for the construction of a new Innovation and Discovery Center, as well as creates the Institute of Hope endowment fund to support community outreach beyond our campus. A gift can be made online at [www.hba.net/transformation](http://www.hba.net/transformation)

### May I direct my donation to a specific program?

Yes, please let us know if you would like your donation to go specifically towards the Innovation and Discovery Center or the Institute of Hope.

### Will my child's tuition increase to help pay for the new facilities and programming?

No, your child's tuition will not increase as a result of this project. The new facilities and Institute of Hope programs are 100% funded by generous donations from our community and our existing capital improvement funds.

### Are naming opportunities available?

Yes, naming opportunities are available and we are grateful for your consideration! Please contact Billie Takaki Lueder, Director of Institutional Advancement, at (808) 564-0345 or [btakakilueder@hba.net](mailto:btakakilueder@hba.net) for more information.

### May I make a multi-year pledge to the Campaign for Transformation?

Yes, your gift is important in a campaign of this magnitude, and we are happy to work with you to structure a gift that works best with your financial timeline.



To learn more about The Campaign for Transformation go to [hba.net/transformation](http://hba.net/transformation)



# First 100 Days



## AUGUST 2023

**Top:** Maui support, Middle School campus.

**Top right:** Maui aid project— backpacks, Elementary School campus.

## OCTOBER

**Above:** Christian Emphasis Week

**Above right:** Elementary girls volleyball

## NOVEMBER

**Right:** Elementary's Annual Turkey Trot





# of School 2023-2024



**SEPTEMBER 2023** Top: Spirit Week assembly, High School.

**OCTOBER** Above: Hiroshima war memorial crane wreath, Japan.

**DECEMBER** Above left: Miyajima Island, Japan. Left: Christmas nativity players, Elementary School.



OCTOBER 2023

**Above:** UK trip—Students pose by a familiar sight in the U.K., a red public telephone booth. **Top right:** Tour group gather at the front of Buckingham Palace, London.



JANUARY 2024

**Above:** Spirit Week Mana Cup winners, Class of 2024.

**Far left:** 7th graders during tug-o-war.

**Left:** HBA Varsity guard Eli Shibuya '24 (2024 ILH D2 Boys Basketball Player of the Year) shown at HBA's homecoming game against Punahou on January 19. Eagles lost to the Buff n Blue, 64–55. Photo: Brendan Aoki '24

**Below:** Third grade native Hawaiian wetland bird sanctuary field trip.



## Sports

# HBA Wins Bowling State Championship

HBA is once again atop the state in boys bowling.



HBA finished with a total pinfall of 7111 over the eight games. Castle finished second with 6987. Kamehameha-Kapālama was third at 6934. The order of finish for the rest of the state field was Pearl City, Kaua'i, Cambell, Kalani, Moanalua, Baldwin, and Konawaena.

Individually, anchor bowler Eddy Vallesteros '25 finished as the individual runner-up with a total pinfall of 1,675 (209 average). His final session was 221-199-235 (656 series).

### Other Eagles scorers were:

Evan Tamashiro '25 – 1402 (19th place)  
Kameron Fujioka '26 – 1394 (20th place)  
Connor Gum '25 – 1341 (28th place)  
Kobe Chan '25 – 1299 (35th place)

Also on the team was Ryeder Yonesaki '25. In all, 99 boys participated in the state championship.

Congratulations to the team and to coaches Greg Hayashi, Justin Kanda, and Mike Chan!

**THE ILH DIVISION 2 CHAMPION EAGLES** used a strong final three-game session to come from behind to win the state championship on Friday, November 3, 2023 out at Schofield Bowling Center in Central O'ahu. It is our boys program's sixth overall title, but first since 2009. All six championships have come during the tenure of veteran coach Greg Hayashi, whose first title with HBA came back in 1996.

Trailing Castle High and ILH Division 1 Champion Kamehameha-Kapālama through five games, HBA fell further behind in the final session's first game. The Eagles bowled well (916), but the Knights bowled better (963). With just

two games remaining, HBA's deficit was 118 pins. But the Eagles' final two games of 933 and 948 provided a dramatic turnaround with Castle countering with games of 773 and 868.



On November 21, 2023 at the Dan Liu Gymnasium, Honolulu Council member Tyler Dos Santos-Tam presented a certificate of recognition to the HBA boys varsity bowling team on winning the 2023 State Championship.

# 2023

**SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS**

# GO



Varsity Cross Country team and coaches gather after competing at the HHSAA State Championship on November 4, 2023. Photo: Sean Malingier



## 2023 SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

**HBA Boys Bowling team** —  
ILH Division 2 Champions,  
State Champions (all one division)

**HBA Intermediate Girls Basketball** —  
ILH Division 2 Champions

**Boys Cross Country team** —  
Division 2, State Runner-Up

**Girls Cross Country** —  
Division 2 State, 4th place finish

**Girls Volleyball** —  
Division 2 State, 4th place finish

**Girls Intermediate Tennis** —  
ILH Division 2 Champions

**Girls Varsity Basketball** —  
Division 2, 5th place finish

**Boys Soccer (Pac-5)** — ILH Division 2  
Champions, State, 3rd place finish

**Girls Soccer (Pac-5)** — Division 2 State  
Champions (2nd consecutive state title)

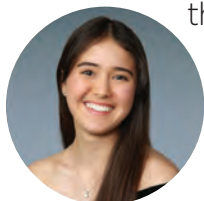
**Precision Riflery (Pac-5, co-ed)** —  
ILH Champions



## Editorial

# Maintaining Our Humanity in the World of AI

BY TAYLOR MALINGER '24, EAGLE EYE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



**Here in the 21st century,** humans and their technology have advanced far beyond the rudimentary tools of the Stone Age. Computers, cell phones, smart watches, and other devices have become indispensable to society, utilized for anything from facilitating mundane everyday tasks to enabling groundbreaking research. Moreover, we have not stopped at creating innovative electronics; we have also developed algorithms, such as artificial intelligence, that revolutionize the use and implications of technology.

Artificial intelligence, otherwise known as AI, replicates human intellectual characteristics such as reasoning processes and is quickly becoming ubiquitous in the workplace, at school, and for recreational use. For example, sites such as Grammarly provide people with quick and convenient edits that correct tone, grammar, and spelling for anything from novels to emails to research papers. Some programs such as ChatGPT can even write entire essays for students, who need only put in a prompt on which the essay will be based.

However, although AI can contribute to greater efficiency and accuracy, it has also raised some ethical questions regarding its necessity, effects, and the extent to which it should be used. For instance, schools find themselves debating whether or not to incorporate AI into their curriculum, and if so, where to draw the line between smart research and academic dishonesty.

Personally, I hope as AI becomes more pervasive in society, I will still be able to keep the skills of creativity and communication—particularly those of writing and art.

Since preschool, writing has been one of my greatest passions. Tucked in the recesses of my family's home computer are my early attempts at being a writer—short works like the story of *Billy the Burglar* or *The Lonely Octopus*. On weekends, I would also occasionally publish a home newspaper that covered the most current events in the Malinge household. As I entered middle and high school, my love for reading and writing flourished as I studied the works of Edgar Allan Poe, the Brontë sisters, and Shakespeare, all of whom told powerful and enduring stories with a writing prowess that my English education sought to instill in me.

If AI makes us less creative and less inclined to collaborate and create with others, then we become less human and more like the algorithms we have created.  
AI is not necessarily a bad thing; we just need to treat it as a tool.

Learning how to write well teaches people how to communicate well. Writers can create an entire world completely out of words that invite other people in without them ever actually being there. Such writing is a result of intentionality—each word, phrase, and detail contributes a key component to the message of the piece and the way it will be received by readers. Understanding these intricacies, while seemingly unnecessary when one has an AI writing assistant, enables people to share stories, real or fictional, with more clarity and purpose. While one may not necessarily seek to become an author or journalist, having such skills strengthens his or her ability to connect with others, which applies to every aspect of life whether it's writing emails, interviewing for a job, or having a conversation with a friend. Furthermore, as many have found, AI is not foolproof, and knowing how to write with brevity and proper grammar is a general life skill I believe everyone should have.

In addition, I believe the ability to make art without AI should also be preserved because it is how we bridge creativity and communication. My love for art first emerged in elementary school art classes as I learned how to color in one direction and form air-dry clay bowls. Now, as an AP Art student who has taken several art courses since, I have developed as an artist and an aesthete, finding art to be a cathartic activity that allows me to process my own emotions and convey them in a way that words cannot. I also believe art is meant to be a form of expression, depicting emotions, stories, and personal experiences in a way that connects the artist to the viewer. Withholding the opportunity to create art simply because a computer can do it “better” or faster would depreciate art’s very purpose.

Unfortunately, writing and art are just two of the many skills that we are tempted to devalue because of AI—skills such as music composition, dance choreography, and more—an issue that has concerning implications for the way we view our



Sample of AI-generated art: Watercolor painting of a quilt with the colors of gold, yellow, gray, black, and white, incorporating an eagle, a stream, and a cross. Source: DALL-E 2024

own humanity. We, humans, are created in the image of God, the ultimate Creator, and as such are intended to be creators. Humans are also communal creatures, just as God is a Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and we are made to interact and connect with each other. If AI makes us less creative and less inclined to collaborate and create with others, then we become less human and more like the algorithms we have created. AI is not necessarily a bad thing; we just need to treat it as a tool. Schools must continue to teach students to be creative and to communicate with their own voices so that they will have a greater understanding of what it means to be human and to live in community.

Total global corporate investment in AI exceeded \$934 billion dollars from 2013 to 2022,\* yet the broad ethical misuse of this technology can have unforeseen destructive consequences.

Production: This image was composited using two separate images, in which the image selection process was facilitated by ai. Concept and compositing: Randall K.H. Chun.

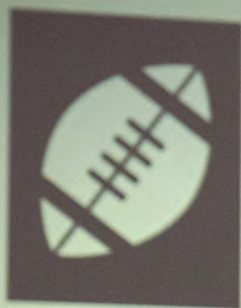
\*[Artificial Intelligence Index Report 2023](#). Stanford University, Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence.



## Presentation

# Keeping Safe in Cyberspace

## Share Smart



Interests



Likes



Dislikes



Lunch

- Create a Username that is unique and unidentifiable
- Maintain a Neutral background when on screen
- Highlight projects / activities to showcase talents
- "Speak words of Kindness!" - Hey Ha (Da Brat) & Friends



Honolulu CrimeStoppers HPD coordinator Sgt. Chris Kim covers topics of digital footprint, online predators, cyberbullying, inappropriate posts, Hawai'i laws, and crime prevention tips.

**WE WANT TO THANK** both the Honolulu Police Department's CrimeStoppers program and the Department of Attorney General's Community and Crime Prevention program for coming to our campuses to share the "Keeping Safe in Cyberspace" online safety presentation. The presentation focused on the dangers of social media, recognizing the methods online predators use to entice children, bullying/cyber bullying, and understanding the risks of posting inappropriate content online.

HPD Sergeant Chris Kim, Coordinator of CrimeStoppers Honolulu, took it a step further by identifying the trending dangers happening on O'ahu, providing prevention strategies, and explaining the Hawai'i laws that protect them as minors. Students were also encouraged to report threats or suspicious activity to a trusted adult and can also submit a tip to the Student CrimeStoppers Program.

This presentation was an effort in partnership with the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General, Honolulu Police Department, and CrimeStoppers Honolulu, Inc. For more information about the Student CrimeStoppers Program, please visit the website at [www.honolulucrimestoppers.org](http://www.honolulucrimestoppers.org).



(L-R) Julia Cleman, Angela Kaiwikuamooohoiu, Sgt. Chris Kim, and HBA's Jennifer Garriss 'go.



# Parenting in a Digital World

EXCERPTS TAKEN FROM DR. EMMETT WINTERS' PARENT CAFÉ CLASSES

Emmett Winters, Ph.D., Principal of the Elementary School at HBA

**Children today** are what the world would consider digital natives; they have not experienced life without the Internet. Because of the reality we live in, our children are exposed to a variety of content that most of us could have never imagined 15–20 years ago. The richest minds in the world had trouble accessing information, and now, a 5-year-old with an iPad can access all of history in the palm of their hand. Unfortunately, all of the benefits that come from screen time use can also be attached with damaging consequences.

## How does the brain develop?

- 25 years for the brain to fully develop
- Activities change and shape our brain
- Neural pruning

<https://screenstrong.org/kidsbrainsandscreens/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3621648/>

We as parents sometimes forget how small and underdeveloped children's brains are in this big world. Though your teenage child might claim their brain is fully developed, human brains are not fully developed until the 25-year mark (Arain et al., 2013). More importantly, the part of the brain that is last to develop is the prefrontal cortex, the decision-making part of the brain (Arain et al., 2013). In addition, the multiple hours of screen time preoccupying a child's brain is simultaneously telling their brain to prune away the unused critical developmental skills (Ruder, 2019 & Screenstrong, n.d.). The American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (2020) suggests "children (ages) 2–5, limit non-educational screen time to about 1 hour per weekday and 3 hours on the weekend days (and) for ages 6 and older, encourage healthy habits and limit activities that include screens". Do not forget that content is equally important. Spending an hour on social media is much more different than watching a movie together with the family (Screenstrong, n.d.).

## How much screen time?

- **Until 18 months of age** limit screen use to video chatting along with an adult.
- **Between 18 and 24 months** screen time should be limited to watching educational programming with a caregiver.
- **For children 2–5** limit non-educational screen time to about 1 hour per weekday and 3 hours on weekends.
- **For ages 6 and older** encourage healthy habits and limit activities that include screens.

[https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families\\_and\\_Youth/Facts\\_for\\_Families/FFF-Guide/Children-And-Watching-TV-054.aspx](https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Children-And-Watching-TV-054.aspx)

Unfortunately, too much screen time has many other negative side effects, including video game addiction, pornography addiction, cyberbullying, and the never-ending list of issues we as a society are just discovering. Of course, there are positive impacts of technology that children can utilize to further their development and education. This is where you, as a parent, come in. Since a child's mind is still developing, they are not yet well equipped to limit their screen time, make a coherent decision to not talk to a stranger online, or protect themselves from other unknown dangers. Children need their mother and father to guide, teach, and prepare them for the big digital world that awaits them.

M. Arain, M. Haque, L. Johal, et al. "Maturation of the adolescent brain." *Neuropsychiatry Disease and Treatment*, 3 Apr 2013; v9: p449–461.

A. Crouch. *The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2017.

D.B. Ruder. "Screen time and the brain." Harvard Medical School, News and Research, 19 Jun 2019.

## Too much screen time and a child's brain

- **Displaces time spent on important activities**
  - + Outside play, in-person social time, reading, problem-solving, family, sleep, etc.
- **Increased dopamine production**
  - + Leads to strong habits, dependencies, and cravings
- **Neural pruning builds efficiency**
  - + Impoverished stimulation (Ruder, 2019)
  - + Boredom is the space in which creativity and imagination happen. (Ruder, 2019)

<https://screenstrong.org/kidsbrainsandscreens/>  
<https://hms.harvard.edu/news/screen-time-brain>

So, parents, where do you start? First, identify your screen time usage. Then, research! Most importantly, you will need to build and strengthen the relationship with your child. Make sure your child can seek and trust you when online issues arise, which they will. If you have not set goals, I highly suggest setting boundaries within your family and their screen time usage. The best way to encourage good screen time usage is to be a good screen time role model. Even for us parents, screen time can be an issue, but if we want our children not to use their phones at the dinner table, we should probably follow our own advice. While building a relationship with your child, begin practicing and equipping them with good decision-making skills. Your child will need to know what to do when online trouble arises. Next, begin finding a small group of parents with similar technology boundaries and values. If your child is the only student in the class with no cell phone, try to find another parent who will commit to the same rule.

Above all else, do not overreact but start praying. It is easy for us as parents to get caught up in the moment, but it is important to assess the situation with a clear head and then talk with your child. Prayer needs to be woven throughout your entire parenting journey. Continually pray for protection, wisdom, and discernment, knowing you cannot control all situations but trust in God and His control.

*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

PROVERBS 4:23 (NIV)

## QUICK TIPS FOR ONLINE SAFETY

### 1. Establish Open Communication

Create a safe space for your child to share their online experiences without fear of judgment. Let them know that even though they may be interacting and communicating in a digital/online space, their interactions should be in a manner as if they are participating in these conversations in person.

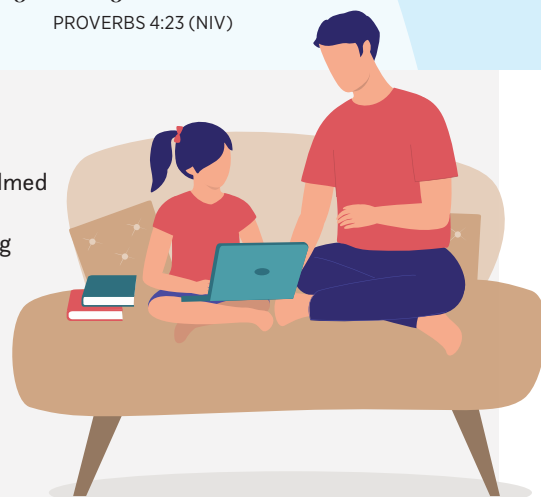
### 2. Report Concerns Immediately

Encourage your child(ren) to report any concerning interactions or content they encounter right away. If there is questionable activity, they should remove themselves from the situation (whether online or in person) and report it right away.

Sometimes child(ren) can feel overwhelmed or fearful of repercussions but it's important they feel comfortable sharing concerns with a parent, teacher, or other trusted adult.

### 3. Set Clear Guidelines

Establish rules about screen time, appropriate online behavior, and the types of content they can access. Regularly review and stay involved with your children's digital usage and interactions. Remind them that what they say and do in and out of school can have lasting impacts on themselves, their families, and their community.



## Alumni News

# Alumni Class Notes

Celebrating the accomplishments of our alumni, the alumni class notes section is an opportunity to acknowledge career changes, graduations, marriages, births, reunions and other worthy shoutouts. Email [alumni@hba.net](mailto:alumni@hba.net) with your news.

## 1954



"Youth is vision... Youth is curiosity... Youth is change... To be young is to live life with optimism. There is always a bright tomorrow just around the corner."

We appreciate our alumni who come back to HBA: whether to serve, share stories, or just to say hello to their former teachers. This week our fifth graders got to meet a very special guest—**KIYO ITOKAZU**, the valedictorian from our very first graduating class back in 1954.

Students from the class of 2031 presented Mr. Itokazu with their findings from a school history project—including a copy of his valedictory speech (excerpt quoted above) and other artifacts from the original school campus. In turn, Kiyo shared about his experience at HBA to help students (and teachers alike) appreciate how the school has transformed over the past 75 years—growing from a small class of 36 students to over 1,100 today.

## 1973



**THE CLASS OF 1973** celebrated their 50th class reunion in July 2023 with a weekend filled with activities that included a tour of the high school campus.

## 1986



**KATHY (NAITO) MORIMOTO '86** is the newly appointed President and CEO of St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawai'i.



HBA Athletic Director and Hawai'i Association of Athletic Directors Association (HIADA) Board President **DEREN OSHIRO '86** (left) and fellow NIAAA board members Xavier Antheaume (Nevada) and Josh Matthews (Georgia) at the Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Conference, September 9–12 in Prescott, Arizona.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

# FAMILY

# FUN



**THE HBA PARENT TEACHER FELLOWSHIP (PTF) HELD ITS INAUGURAL SCHOOL-WIDE FAMILY FUN DAY ON SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024.**

The PTF brought together a Color Run and Fun Fair on one Family Fun Day on the Richard Bento Elementary campus. Students of all grade levels participated in a race course and got doused with colored powders while family, friends, and alumni enjoyed the fun with 'ono food, games, a teacher dunk booth, student entertainers, and so much more.

Through the efforts of the entire HBA community, the Family Fun Fair grossed \$123,529!

Previously, funds raised by the PTF have helped to pay for a new junior kindergarten playground, lunch tables for the elementary campus, outside tables for the middle school, and a large projection screen in the high school gym.

The funds also support PTF-sponsored events such as grade-level fellowships, the PTF Kick Off dinner, Parent Cafes, grade-level 'Ohana Nights, and the 6th grade Aloha Celebration. Funds also provide additional support to our students such as paying for snacks at study sessions and congratulatory gifts for our graduating seniors.

Mahalo to everyone who came out to show your Eagle pride!



**COOLING DOWN FOR CHRIST.** Elementary music teacher, Sam Browning, gets his soul cleansed in the dunk tank.



# DAY



COLOR RUN FINISH LINE



PRESIDENT SHIIRA



DA ANDAGI GUY



JAM FOR JESUS



SODA RING TOSS

## PLATINUM EAGLE SPONSORS



## GOLD EAGLE SPONSORS



DR. RANDALL NITTA, MD



## SILVER EAGLE SPONSORS



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



A fun welcome tunnel at the Dan Kong Middle School.

**ANOTHER MAC WEEK** is in the books, and it just keeps getting better! During the 48th meeting of our extended ‘ohana, 32 Mainland Advisory Council members and guests brought an extra touch of Aloha making it feel like a family reunion. At the end of the week seven guests made commitments as new MAC members.

Throughout the week, our MAC went to each campus, visiting with students of all grade levels. Special speakers shared impactful presentations and heartfelt testimonials. They even enjoyed a fun *lei po’o* (head lei) activity! A big mahalo to Pastor Steve Fairchild of Low Country Community Church in South Carolina for guiding us through deeper revelations of our school’s theme verse 1 Corinthians 15:58 during daily devotionals.

Thank you to outgoing MAC chair, George Gorham of Oklahoma for two years of faithful service, and we welcomed incoming MAC Chair, Don Randall of South Carolina, and new Vice-Chair, Julie Reynolds of Texas, who will continue to lead our Mainland Advisory Council for the next two years.

This year the MAC led a special blessing at the Richard Bento Elementary campus for the upcoming expansion project and committed themselves to a \$2 million dollar pledge towards the campaign! They also continue to contribute to the MAC Scholarship fund that will now be able to bless 36 students in the 2024–2025 school year.

The culminating event was the Aloha Banquet, which was a worshipful experience amongst our faithful MAC hosts, MAC members, and Legacy guests bringing all closer to Christ as the High School Wind Ensemble, Soldiers of Light and Middle School choir, and Halau shared a powerful performance that moved every person’s heart.

No words or photos can capture the spirit-filled moments we shared this week, but we hope our love for our MAC friends is evident. As Matthew 18:20 reminds us, “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Until next year, MAC—you’ve filled our hearts with joy!



Worship at the Aloha Banquet.



**Top left:** Blessing over the upcoming campus expansion project at the Richard Bento Elementary Campus. **Top right:** Special time of prayer among our students and MAC friends. **Above:** Welcoming our new MAC leadership, (L-R) President Ron Shiira, new MAC vice-chair Julia Reynolds, outgoing MAC chair George Gorham, incoming MAC chair Don Randall, and Director of Institutional Advancement Billie Takaki Lueder. **Left:** Kindergarten class share through song and dance. **Below:** Pastor Steve Fairchild led chapel at the high school gymnasium and later entertained at the Aloha Banquet with a country music set. **Bottom left:** MAC student hosts gather at the Middle School campus. **Bottom right:** Delighted MAC friends wear their hand-crafted floral creations at the end of a lei-making activity.

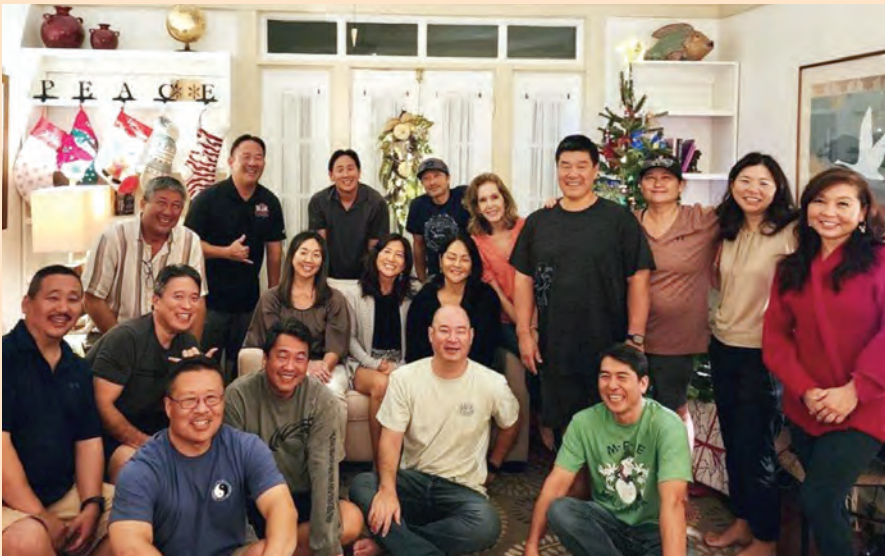


## 1989



Former HBA Alumni Association president **JENNIFER (HARADA) OKINO '89** received the Pinnacle Award for Community Service from the 2023 Honolulu Pacific Federal Executive Board (HPFEB) Annual Excellence in Government Awards.

**Jennifer currently serves** on the Board of Directors for the Mānoa Girls Athletic Club supporting youth basketball, volleyball, and softball, and CSI Honolulu (Construction Specifications Institute), a non-profit dedicated to improving the communication of construction through standards, education, and professional certification. She has been a board member and past president of the Hawaii Baptist Academy Alumni Association since 2016, chairing networking and fundraising events for scholarships, and is an active volunteer for Punahou School's Parent Faculty Association since 2010. Going on almost 20 years, Jennifer has been a Wheelchair Escort for the Honolulu Marathon ensuring the safety of wheelchair athletes, and is an avid volunteer for AIA Honolulu serving on various committees. Lastly, Jennifer is a Blood Bank Super Donor at 120 pints and counting.



**THE CLASS OF 1989** gathered during the Christmas holiday. **Front row:** Darren Yukihiro, Lance Kikuchi, David Tokuda, Derek Chee. **Middle row:** Ralen Yamashiro, Ross Umabayashi, Wendy Matsuzaki, Nikki (Murayama) Senter, Wendy (Kuniyuki) Kodama, Todd Hasuike (not alumni, Mia's husband), Mia (Noguchi) Hasuike, Michelle (Komoda) Yoshimoto, Robin (Harada) Watanabe. **Back row:** David Takiguchi, Garvin Tsuji, Kyle Nishioka, Grant Yamashita, Jennifer (Orrick) Gonzalez.

## 2003



**DANIEL ARITA '03**, President of American Floor & Home, was recognized by Pacific Business News' 24th annual **40 Under 40**. The event honors individuals for business success and community engagement. Photo: Jephtha

## 2013



**THE CLASS OF 2013**—Twenty-six proud Eagles celebrated their 10th class reunion at the Natsunoya Tea House. A decade of memories, growth, and friendship, and what better way to commemorate it than by coming together in the spirit of Aloha. Cheers to these amazing Eagles who continue to soar high! **Front row (L-R):** Riley Fukuji, Kallie Gustafson, Kara Mathews, Arie Esquef, Lauren Sonomura, Alyssa Uwaine, Kristyn Iwane, Rachel Inafuku. **Middle row (L-R):** Huiyi Chen, Kristen Lum, Kimberly Matsui, Skylar Yuen, guest, Jessi Omoto, guest. **Back row (L-R):** Ian Martin, guest, Reese Kato, Tim Plick, Jordan Kimura, Matthew Johnson, Kiana Kageyama, Hayley Dixon, Brayden Yabuki, Bryson Shea, guest, Mark Ikehara, Sierra Zinnel, Tyler Stokes, guest.

## 2012 & 2013



**NYCKOLLE '13 & CHRIS '12** are HBA high school sweethearts. After years of love and dedication, they tied the knot in front of God, family, and friends. Nyckolle's Maid of Honor was Chantelle Sonoda '13, and the couple's officiant was HBA's own Rob Lockridge. Former HBA Japanese Teacher Chie Watanabe, who the couple credit for bringing them together, was also in attendance.

## 2019

**JESSALYN (LIM) SMITH '19 (right)** married Collin Smith in Honolulu on December 30, 2023. Proud parents are Brian '92 and Keri (Ching) Lim '93. Sisters Michela Lim '23, and Zoe Lim '27 served as co-maids of honors. Christianne Young '19 was one of the bridesmaids. It was a special celebration with the following HBA 'ohana joining the celebration: Kristine Ching '89, Alycia Fujii '91, Sandi Kanemori '93, Trisha (Fukumoto) Lee '94, Micah Abe '17, Paige (Oshiro) Su '17, Ryan Su '17, Kira Hasuiki '21, Marisa Tonaki '21, Sydney Kimora '21, Aaron Yoshida '22, Nicole Nakagawa '21, Noah Koshi '21, Summer Bass '19, Niko Lopez '19, Connor Lopes '19, Nicole Lopes '17, David Lopes '84, Adam Hu '19, Cameron Pien '23, Kaelyn Fujii '30, Todd Yokotake '84, Aaron Jones '92, Ashlyn Mashino '22, Lyndsy Mashino '23, Tara Gruspe, Claire Mitchell, and Lynn Nakano. Noah Tenney '19 was the videographer.

## 2018



Congratulations to **MADISON "KU'ULEI" MOKU '18** who is wrapping up her track career at the University of Hawai'i. The sprinter and hurdler, who won multiple state track titles while at HBA, also ran for Cal-State Fullerton prior to Mānoa.

## 2017



"Garden Stroll" (at right), a watercolor original painting by **PAIGE (OSHIRO) SU '17**, was accepted into the 2024 Hawai'i Watercolor Society Members Show. Her artwork was one of 52 paintings selected out of 130 submissions by Hawai'i artists and was on display at the Downtown Art Center located on the second floor of the Chinatown Gateway Plaza. Accompanying Paige at the show opening reception on April 5 was her husband Ryan Su '17.



## 2022



**JOSHUA HAYASHIDA '22** won the 114th Manoa Cup at Oahu Country Club. The 2022 HHSAA Champion, who recently completed his frosh season at UH-Mānoa, had an incredible comeback from 4-down with 8 to play to secure the 2-and-1 victory Josh joins 2003 Champion Kellen-Floyd Asao '01 as HBA Eagles to win Hawai'i's most prestigious amateur golf event!

# Alumni Business Spotlight

## Brittany (Burkhalter) Lum '07

Brittany (Burkhalter) Lum '07, is the creative force behind the Kailua Seasoning Company, a business aimed at connecting people through global flavors. With a Master of Business Administration in food and wine from Paris, she draws inspiration from her Cuban roots and a desire to share cultural experiences through food.

Established in 2022, the Kailua Seasoning Company offers handcrafted seasonings using fresh, globally sourced ingredients. Bestsellers include Aloha Smoked Spice, a seasoned salt blend of three Hawaiian sea salts with some smoked chili powder. Brittany's mission is to be the "salt and light" to people, emphasizing positive impact and connection.

Reflecting on her HBA experience, Brittany credits her English and Math teachers for sparking her love for the subjects, skills now applied to her business. Brittany shares, "The greatest gift HBA has given me is my husband." Acknowledging her husband, Sean Lum '07, as a key contributor, supporter, and encourager, Brittany couldn't do it without him or her family's support.

Kailua Seasoning Company offers gift boxes and seasonal items like Spanish hot chocolate, inviting the HBA community to embrace the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to seek out all that is good, true, and beautiful as we strive to bring glory to Him!

Find them on Instagram @Kailuaseasoningcompany and visit their website at [kailuaseasoningcompany.com](https://www.kailuaseasoningcompany.com). For inquiries, reach out to them at [aloha@kailuaseasoningcompany.com](mailto:aloha@kailuaseasoningcompany.com).



PHOTOS: KAILUA SEASONING COMPANY



# Alumni Spotlight

## HBA LOVE CONNECTION:

### Greg '94 & Jessica (Arita) '98 Schlais

#### GREG AND JESSICA'S LOVE STORY BEGAN SURFING THE WAVES AT ALA MOANA.

In the summer of 2004, after they met, Jessica discovered that Greg attended the same church as her parents, Wellspring Covenant Church. When she returned to Hawai'i for Christmas break from her graduate studies at Loma Linda University, they met again at church and went surfing over the break.

Fast forward to January 2005, Jessica stumbled upon Greg's email in the Hawai'i Baptist Academy Alumni newsletter. They began a long-distance email courtship during her final semester, and when she returned home in the summer of 2005, they officially started dating. The rest, as they say, is history!

Jessica found her passion as a social worker for hospice patients, thanks to the solid faith foundation and support from caring teachers at HBA. For Greg, HBA shaped his character, values, and outlook on life. They are grateful for their HBA journey and excited for their kids to experience the same.

Their favorite things about each other? Jessica loves Greg's dedication to family and his adventurous spirit, while Greg admires Jessica's grounded nature, care for the important things in life, and her adventurous side.

Fun fact: They're ocean enthusiasts! Before kids, mornings were for surfing; now, family beach days are a regular thing. Weekends are about exploring nature and instilling love for the ocean in their family.

Relationship wisdom? Compromise, communication, humility, and love are the keys to success. Remember that perfection isn't the goal, and grace and forgiveness are constant companions.

Carrying on the family legacy within the HBA family, Zoe and Aukai, the children of Greg and Jessica, are presently enrolled at HBA.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF GREG AND JESSICA SCHLAIS



# Aloha 'Oe

## ALUMNI

**William Roberts**, 75, class of 1965, passed away on April 10, 2023, in Prescott, Arizona.

**John Nagasawa**, 61, class of 1980, passed away on September 30, 2023, in Waimānalo, Hawai'i.

**Janice Oshiro Kam**, 47, class of 1994, passed away on October 23, 2023, in Kane'ohe, Hawai'i.

**Scot Yamashita**, 51, class of 1990, passed away on November 19, 2023, in 'Aiea, Hawai'i.

**Amy Konishi Watanabe**, 79, class of 1962, passed away on December 3, 2023, in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

**Serena Nakamura Harrison**, 54, class of 1987, passed away on January 17, 2024, in Centerville, Ohio.

**Wendell Murakawa**, 77, class of 1964, passed away on January 31, 2024, in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

**Victor Yeung**, 48, of the class of 1993, passed away on April 4, 2024, in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

## FORMER FACULTY/STAFF

**Lawrence Sayre**, passed away on January 15, 2024, in Altamonte Springs, Florida.

**W.T. "Travis" Ellis**, 94, passed away on January 23, 2024, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**Julie Carter**, 81, passed away on January 26, 2024, in Knoxville, Tennessee.

**Charles McLemore**, 89, passed away on February 4, 2024, in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

## MAINLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Brownie Bryan**, 93, passed away on April 13, 2023, in Waco, Texas.

**Pat Alexander**, 92, passed away on May 26, 2023, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Jo Ann Cochran**, 92, passed away on June 16, 2023, in Round Rock, Texas.

**Jacqueline Frazer**, 92, passed away on September 21, 2023, in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Florence "Tossie" Young**, 100, passed away on January 10, 2024, in Williamsburg, Kentucky.

**James Granade Jr.**, 81, passed away on January 29, 2024, in Washington, Georgia.

**Teresa Bennett**, 88, passed away on January 31, 2024, in Suwanee, Georgia.

**Amy Land**, 85, passed away on February 2, 2024, in Louisville, Mississippi.

## THE ALOHA COUNCIL

**George Teramoto**, 92, passed away on August 4, 2023, in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

**Claire Teramoto**, 92, passed away on October 2, 2023, in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

*His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant:  
thou hast been faithful over a few things,  
I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.*

MATTHEW 25:23 ASV

# In Memoriam

## HBA BOARD OF DIRECTOR

**Dr. Kent Davenport**, 76, passed away on August 15, 2023. He was born on February 8, 1947, to Gordon and Janina Davenport in Greenfield, Massachusetts. He loved his family and being outdoors (fishing, cycling, running, hiking, mountain climbing, windsurfing, target shooting and photography). Kent lived a full and adventurous life, but his primary life aim was to stay close to the Lord Jesus in all he did.



He received a B.S. from University of California Davis in 1967, a M.D. from University of California San Francisco (UCSF) in 1971, completed a surgical internship from Marquette University in 1972 and his orthopedic surgery residency from UCSF at Moffit General Hospital in 1976. He later received a M.B.A. from University of Hawai'i in 1998. An orthopedic surgeon for over 40 years, he was an active member of University Avenue Baptist Church, and served on the board of directors at Hawai'i Baptist Academy from 2015.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Davenport, daughters, Jordan '23 and Sarah '23 Davenport.

## LEGACY HONOREE—Distinguished Service to HBA

**Faustina "Tina" Lazo**, 93, passed away on May 18, 2023, in Honolulu, Hawai'i. She was born in the Philippines and was an only child. Her parents died at an early age, leaving her to be raised by her loving aunt and uncle as their own. She received her bachelor's degree in English from Far Eastern University in Manila, a master of religious education from the Baptist Bible Seminary in Manila, and a master of arts and science from California State University, Long Beach.



Tina started teaching at Hawai'i Baptist Academy in 1968. During her 35 years as a full and part-time faculty member, teaching middle school children brought her the most joy. Ask any of her former students and they will tell you she had a great sense of humor, that she made learning memorable, and that she always cared about her students. During her time at HBA, she served in many capacities, which included being an advisor to the National Junior Honor Society, Mind Games club, needlework club, and the handcrafts club to name a few.

"She was a woman of true faith in God. She always had unconditional love for me and my siblings, and she demonstrated Christian love and acceptance to everyone she met," shares daughter, Joyce (Lazo) Mickelson '82.



**HAWAII BAPTIST ACADEMY**

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# Alumni Celebration 2024

Join us for our highly anticipated  
Alumni Celebration 2024!

**Monday, June 24—The Athletic Booster Club Golf Tournament**

**Thursday, June 27—Alumni Legacy Family Dinner hosted by  
President Ron Shiira '75**

**Saturday, June 29—Ho'olaule'a honoring reunion years ending  
in 4 and 9.**



Find out more information and to register for these events go to **[www.hba.net/alumnicelebration](http://www.hba.net/alumnicelebration)**.

Alumni spotlights will be shared throughout the month on our website and social media platforms!  
Be sure to follow us on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.



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