

# Soaring Eagle

FALL 2024 NEWS FROM HAWAI'I BAPTIST ACADEMY



*"Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path."* PSALM 119:105



## INSIDE:

71st Commencement • Class of 2024 Portrait Gallery  
School Awards Eagle Eye Stories • High School Spotlight  
Groundbreaking ceremony for new Elementary School  
facilities • \$150,000 Award from FHB Foundation  
Alumni Class Notes • Alumni Ho'olaule'a





## 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'uano 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.

### HAWAI'I BAPTIST ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### 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).

Please send address changes to:  
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# A Message from the President



## Aloha HBA 'Ohana,

As we celebrate the Class of 2024, I am proud of each graduate's achievements. This year's commencement was a testament to their hard work, faith, and character, with every student accepted to colleges in Hawai'i, on the mainland, and abroad. They left HBA not only prepared for their next steps but also rooted in the values of humility, curiosity, love, and commitment.

We also honor our graduates from HBA Preschool at GracePoint, our sixth graders who moved on to middle school, and our eighth graders who advanced to high school. Each of you is reaching significant milestones, and we are excited to see how you will continue to grow in faith, learning, and leadership as you journey through HBA.

To our dedicated faculty and staff, thank you for your commitment to nurturing our students' spiritual and academic growth. Your passion for integrating faith and learning has shaped the lives of our students, equipping them to lead with integrity and purpose.

Graduates of 2024, God has prepared you well for the road ahead. As I mentioned at commencement, I encourage you to continue seeking and knowing Him as you navigate the future. Let His Word guide you as Psalm 119:105 reminds us: "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Remember to thank those who have supported you—your parents, teachers, and friends—who have been your greatest cheerleaders.

You are now part of HBA's legacy, and we are blessed to have been part of your journey. Know that you are always welcome here, and you will remain in our prayers. May God continue to bless you in all your future endeavors.

Congratulations to all, and may God's grace be with you always.

In Christ,

Ron Shiira '75  
PRESIDENT



President Ron Shiira (far left) with HBA Board of Directors (L-R) Walt Agena, Lorna Hu, Ken Hensarling (Chair), Terrance Arashiro, Ernest Lum, Leighton Miyachi, Dr. Glenn Young.



HAWAI'I BAPTIST ACADEMY

**HBA**

is a place where

faith,  
innovation,  
and leadership

*thrive.*



**Join us for the 2025-2026 school year!**



**PRESCHOOL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL**

**APPLY NOW AT [HBA.NET](http://HBA.NET)**



# Soaring Eagle

FALL 2024



NEWS FROM  
HAWAI'I BAPTIST ACADEMY

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**On the front cover:**  
Riley Lorenzo, 2024 Miss HBA and Senior Class President, leads her classmates and audience in a song at the 2024 commencement ceremony.

Photo: Ryan Kwoc





# SENIOR LUNCHEON

The graduating Class of 2024 gather in front of the Dan Kong Middle School campus main hall.

The class of 2024 seniors were treated to a luncheon hosted by school president Ron Shiira '75. Students enjoyed Hawaiian food and guava chiffon cake. They had a special guest alumni speaker who taught many of them as elementary students: 5th grade teacher, Dana Sato '00.

Special recognition was given to students for their commitment to HBA: President's Aloha Council—Winston Yamanaka, Kaitlyn Maruya, Riley Lorenzo, Austin Imperial, and Taylor Malinger.

Alumni Legacy Students—Peyton Chung, Ezekiel Lum, Preston Gonzalez, Dylan Okamura, Harley Ka'awa, Terra Kawamoto, and Sara Komoda.

Recipients of the Evan Jonah Won Memorial Scholarship, Samantha Choi and Tyler Higa, were also recognized.

In the afternoon, students were given words of wisdom from their friends and fellow eagles from the elementary campus. The elementary students advised the seniors to bring "\$100 to purchase all of their school supplies" for college, to do their HBA-assigned "summer reading books to learn lots," and to call their parents "around three times a day."

Finally, with great fanfare, the seniors walked through the high school campus one final time while their peers showered them with confetti, streamers, bubbles, hugs, and high-fives. At the end of their journey, the senior class president passed the baton to the class of 2025 and wished them well.

We're so grateful for all of the students, faculty, and staff that made this day a success and blessed the class of 2024!



Seniors enjoy a piece of delicious guava cake to finish off their Hawaiian meal.





1. Director of Institutional Advancement Billie Takaki Lueder '94 (far left) and President Shiira '75 (far right) recognizes President's Aloha Council members (L-R) Winston Yamanaka, Kaitlyn Maruya, Riley Lorenzo, Austin Imperial, and Taylor Malinger.
2. Alumni Legacy award recipients: (L-R) Peyton Ching, Ezekiel Lum, Preston Gonzalez, Dylan Okamura, Harley Ka'awa, Terra Kawamoto, Sara Komoda, and President Shiira.
3. Guest speaker, 5th grade instructor Dana Sato '00.
4. Evan Jonah Won Memorial Scholarship winners, Samantha Choi and Tyler Higa with scholarship donor Ethan Won (far left) and President Shiira.

# 8 Send-Off



1. Kindergarten students from the elementary school campus impart their advice to the delight of graduating seniors.
2. Jackie Chow receives an exuberant congratulatory outpouring from fellow students and teachers.
3. Presley Longfellow throws up his big double shakas.
4. Senior Class President Riley Lorenzo (left) addressed the Senior Class and Junior Class before passing the gold baton to Josh Higa, incoming Senior Class President (inset).



Behold, I am making  
all things new. REVELATION 21:15

# baccalaureate

**The final worship service for the Class of 2024** was a special gathering held before graduation. The event featured praise and worship, musical performances by performing arts students, and an inspiring message to uplift the graduates. The service offered a special moment for students to reflect and gather together before their special day.





# Mr. & Miss HBA

Brendan Aoki and Riley Lorenzo Elected Mr. & Miss HBA 2024



## Seniors Brendan Aoki and Riley Lorenzo

were elected 2024 Mr. and Miss HBA. The award, which is the school's highest honor, recognizes one male and one female senior who exemplify the best in HBA students, including their contributions to school life through leadership, extra-curricular activities, and character.

The award was established in 1955 and has continued to be a cherished HBA tradition, with the winners being elected by a peer and faculty vote.

**Riley Lorenzo** was recognized for her unwavering faith, servant leadership, and kindness as Miss HBA 2024.

Her character embodies the values that define our school community: faith, compassion, and a commitment to Christ. As a class leader for four years, a member of the National Honor Society, and an active participant in various school clubs and church ministries, Riley has consistently led with humility and a servant's heart.



"The joy of the Lord is her strength and it has given her the capacity to find expression in the way she lives her life and interacts with those around her," describes Todd Yokotake '84, HBA Choral Director. "She has graced the stage as a poised and beautiful hula dancer. As a member of the school halau for the past four years, one can clearly see her love for our Lord through her countenance and a deep conviction of honoring God with the talents and abilities He has entrusted to her."



The Lorenzo family: (L-R) Lana (mother), Riley, James (father), and sister Morgan '18 (sister).

**Brendan Aoki** was recognized for leadership defined by his curiosity and humility. Known for always striving to make the most of his time, resources, and ideas, he carefully plans and executes each project with precision. Whether on the volleyball court, where he exemplifies hard work and discipline, or in his



The Aoki family: (L-R) grandparents, Brian (father), Brendan, Claire (mother), and Kylie '17 (sister).

academic pursuits—such as his award-winning 8th-grade research on radiation protection—he consistently goes above and beyond expectations.

"If there is something that Mr. HBA does not want to leave behind, it is people. Mr. HBA cares deeply about his class with a heartfelt sincerity. He reflects the beauty of community in the way that he loves those around him, especially in the class of 2024," said Sean Malinger, Visual Arts Department Chair. "He will show up for his class, even dancing in Pepper Squad. As a photographer, he can often be found taking pictures and videos because he loves the people. To him, it is an act of service to bring people together. Although his photography has garnered awards and praise, his motive is something else, he is a storyteller who cares for his audience."





# Graduation Recap

**The Class of 2024** gathered with their friends and family to celebrate their accomplishments at HBA's 71st Commencement Ceremony on May 24, 2024, held at the Hawai'i Convention Center in Honolulu. The event was a heartfelt tribute to the students' years of dedication and hard work as well as the sacrifices and unwavering support from their families.

Nineteen students were recognized as Sons and Daughters of HBA for attending the school since kindergarten. Another seven students were recognized as alumni Legacy Graduates.

Thirty-seven students graduated with highest honors and 21 with honors. This year's valedictorian and salutatorians are listed as follows:

## **VALEDICTORIAN — Guanming “Jack” Hong**

The Class of 2024 valedictorian is Guanming Hong. Guanming is the son of Liang Hong and Xuanbo Wu. He will attend Lafayette College where he will major in chemical engineering.



Guanming Hong speaking at the commencement ceremonies. Hong family: (L–R) Liang Hong (father), brother, Jack, Xuanbo Wu (mother), grandmother.

## **SALUTATORIANS — Alissa Tong and Moxiao “Yoyo” Xia**

Alissa is the daughter of Andrew and Vera Tong. She will attend the University of Southern California where she will major in pharmacology and drug development.

Moxiao is the son of Sherry Zhang. He will attend the University of California at Los Angeles where he will major in pre-business economics.



Alissa Tong at the podium. Alissa embracing her mother, Vera, while her father, Andrew Tong looks on.



Center: Yoyo Xia with mother, Sherry Zhang.

## **H.P. & MARY R. MCCORMICK DISTINGUISHED FOUNDERS AWARD — Riley Lorenzo**



Riley Lorenzo was presented the Hugh P. and Mary R. McCormick Distinguished Founders Award by President Ron Shiira.

Riley Lorenzo was awarded the H.P. & Mary McCormick Distinguished Founders Award for consistently exemplifying Christian character during her years at HBA. She is described to have typified the pioneer Christian spirit of the McCormick's, who dared to be bold, reflecting a commitment to Christ in the face of obstacles, struggles, and discouragements.

Throughout her time at HBA, Riley has done just that, constantly reflecting God's love in all circumstances. Through the good times and the bad, she has demonstrated an unwavering faith in the Lord and sought to encourage her classmates, leading with a spirit of humility.

Whether extending a helping hand, offering words of encouragement, or just by being available for a simple hug, she has been a consistent light to all of us in her time here at HBA. Riley will be attending Loyola University in Chicago.



Riley Lorenzo (center) walking with her father James (right) and mother Lana (left).

We deeply appreciate our students for embracing and developing their God-given gifts and talents, and for the dedication and passion they've shown throughout their journey.



# HBA's 71st Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 24, 2024  
Hawai'i Convention Center





2024 Commencement

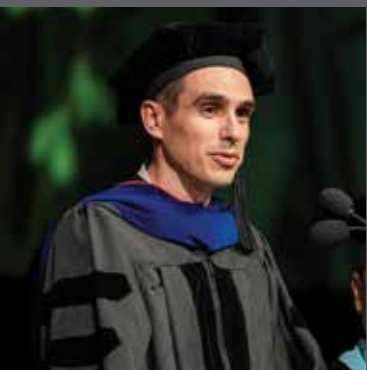
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“...the Lord, He is the One who goes before you.  
He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you;  
do not fear nor be dismayed.”

Deuteronomy 31:8 (NKJV)









# Commencement Address

**Caleb Peich**, High School Teacher, Chemistry and Physics  
(exerpt from his speech below)

To measure a person, we do not quantify them, we come to know them.”



## The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

“As your science teacher, I know that you’ve learned how to measure things like volume, velocity, mass, etc. But tonight, I want to ask: have you learned how to measure a life well lived? Have you learned the units to a good life?

Throughout the year, you’ve been working with units. You have been trying to show that you ‘measure up’ as the person some school or program wants—whether it’s your GPA, SAT scores, extracurriculars... The world will constantly try to quantify you with its worldly units, but what do they really measure?

Writer David Brooks says that we have two resumes in life: the one for a job interview and the one read at your funeral. At the end of your life, what do you want that second resume to say? More importantly, when you stand before God, what units will cause Him to say, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant’?



It’s not your GPA, SAT scores, number of followers, or salary. It’s not the school name or the brand on your car. The units of eternal significance are found in Galatians 5. Those are the units we talk about when we talk about people who have lived a good life. That’s a life that impacts the world for the better. Those are the kind of things you want to be remembered for.”





# 2024 Graduation Lei Ceremony





CLASS OF

# 2024

## SENIOR PORTRAIT GALLERY



Brendan Aoki



Nathan Brock



Abigail  
Bumgardner



Madison Callo



Megan Chang



Travis Chen



Hannah Cheng



Samantha Choi



Jacqueline Chow



Leina Chu



Peyton Chung



Tate Coulter



Noah Curammeng



Rayden Dacuycuy



Ethan Eto



Sienna Fujiwara



Joseph Giles



Taylor Gonsalves



Preston Gonzalez



Trisha Ha



Torin Hayashi



Tyler Higa



Guanming Hong



Benjamin Hsu



*The Lord is my strength and my shield;  
My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;  
Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,  
And with my song I will praise Him.”*

Psalm 28:7 (NKJV)



Austin Imperial



Harley-Vaughn  
Kaawa



Caitlin Kakuda



Henry Kamano



Xayden Kamei



Zoey Kamikawa



Nathan Kang



Terra Kawamoto



Ahlo Keola



Joshua Kim



Keenan Kim



Shane Kimura



Ty Koch



Sara Komoda



Callie Kubota



Kayli Kunitake



Ezra Lee



Michelle Lee



Cerra Leong



Presley Longfellow



Riley Lorenzo



Ezekiel Lum



Reese Machida



Vincent Mack



Taylor Malingier



Kaitlyn Maruya



Julius McClain



Maddee Miyasato



Nainoa Nakamura



Kirra Nishimiya



*“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by  
the renewing of your mind, that you may prove  
what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)



Alisha Nitta



Dylan Okamura



Brenden Osato



Eleanor Pelesky



Maiko Santiago



Eli Shibuya



Nicole Shibuya



Drake Shiraishi



Kyle Siu



Ethan Isaiah Soares



Garielle Steffany



Kirsten Tanaka



Sean Tanji



Dylan Terayama



Lindsey Toda



Alissa Tong



Jaden Tran



Rhyen Umeda



Caitlin Wong



Jadynn Wong



Ryan Wong



Moxiao Xia



Winston Yamanaka



Zoe Yee



Tyson Yoshikawa



Andrew Young



# 2024 Pre-Commencement



*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."*

3 John 1:4 (NKJV)



CLASS OF 2024

# Legacy Graduates

Legacy graduates are students whose parents are HBA alumni. To celebrate our Legacy families, both the student and parent are recognized with a special pin that they wear at the commencement ceremony. Here are the Class of 2024 Legacy Graduates:



Peter Chung '87



Peyton Chung



Jennifer (Orrick)  
Gonzalez '89



Preston Gonzalez



Adam Chang '98



Harley-Vaughn  
Kaawa



Brian Kawamoto '93



Terra Kawamoto



Tasniya (Los Banos)  
Kawamoto '93



Michael Komoda '84



Sara Komoda



Enoch L. Lum '94



Ezekiel Lum



Collette (Okuda)  
Okamura '84



Dylan Okamura



# Class of 2024

Special Recognitions at Commencement Ceremony

## National Honor Society

Brendan Andrew Yukio Aoki  
Abigail Danae Bumgardner  
Madison Pomaikai Rosemarie Callo  
Hannah Sun-Mi Cheng  
Leina Lai Kam Leiko Chinen Chu  
Samantha Yuri Choi  
Joseph Kai Manuel Giles  
Ty William Koch  
Michelle Yating Lee  
Riley Lazaro Lorenzo  
Taylor Toshiko Malinger  
Dylan Jensen Okamura  
Lindsey Puakea Toda  
Alissa Yanlum Tong  
Ryan Daniel Wong  
Jadynn Sanae Wong  
Moxiao Xia

## Sons & Daughters of Hawai'i Baptist Academy

(Attended HBA since kindergarten)

Brendan Andrew Yukio Aoki  
Samantha Yuri Choi  
Leina Lai Kam Leiko Chinen Chu  
Peyton Toshio Chung  
Preston Nainoa Gonzalez  
Zoey Kikuyo Kamikawa  
Nathan Joon-Koo Kang  
Shane Kazuyuki Kimura  
Cerra Ji Ae Leong  
Taylor Toshiko Malinger  
Kaitlyn Nicole Maruya  
Nainoa Takeo Nakamura

Brenden Koki Osato  
Kyle Hymn Siu  
Lindsey Puakea Toda  
Alissa Yanlum Tong  
Caitlin Jung Yun Wong  
Winston Kan Keong Yamanaka  
Zoe Mei Hien Yee

## Graduating with Honors

Jacqueline Kanile`aokalani  
Tse Lin Chow  
Rayden Kai Dacuycuy  
Sienna Yoshie Fujiwara  
Taylor Min Gonsalves  
Preston Nainoa Gonzalez  
Trisha Duong Ha  
Terra Teagan Kawamoto  
Keenan Kim  
Ty William Koch  
Extra Seung Lee  
Michelle Yating Lee  
Presley Matthew Longfellow  
Vincent Haruo Mack  
Julius Kazu McClain  
Maddee Makamae Ai Miyasato  
Allisha Kiyoko Nitta  
Eli T Shibuya  
Gabrielle Taumafai Steffany  
Ethan Isaiah Yasushi Kawaiola Soares  
Kirsten Susan Tanaka  
Winston Kan Keong Yamanaka

## Graduating with Highest Honors

Brendan Andrew Yukio Aoki  
Abigail Danae Bumgardner  
Madison Pomaikai Rosemarie Callo  
Travis Reid Wai Ming Chen  
Hannah Sun-Mi Cheng  
Samantha Yuri Choi  
Leina Lai Kam Leiko Chinen Chu  
Noah Daniel Galindo Curammeng  
Ethan Tsugio Eto  
Joseph Kai Manuel Giles  
Guanming Hong  
Austin Henry Tetsuo Imperial  
Xayden Rn Kamei  
Zoey Kikuyo Kamikawa  
Nathan Joon-Koo Kang  
Sara Miyako Komoda  
Callie Emi Kubota  
Cerra Ji Ae Leong  
Ezekiel Gee Yun Lum  
Taylor Toshiko Malinger  
Reese Kamalani Machida  
Kaitlyn Nicole Maruya  
Kirra Kimie Nishimiya  
Dylan Jensen Okamura  
Eleanor Josephine Pelesky  
Kyle Hymn Siu  
Nicole Emily Felipe Shibuya  
Sean Micah Tanji  
Dylan Noriaki Terayama  
Lindsey Puakea Toda  
Alissa Yanlum Tong  
Jadynn Sanae Wong  
Ryan Daniel Wong  
Moxiao Xia  
Zoe Mei Hien Yee  
Tyson Masaru Yoshikawa  
Andrew William Young





# 6th Grade Aloha Celebration

We honored our 6th graders on Tuesday Evening, May 28, 2024 with an Aloha Celebration at the High School Gym. Special awards were given, the students sang “Lead On Good Shepherd” and families were able to celebrate the student’s accomplishments. They made it successfully to the end of their elementary career and we wish them the best in their future.

**ESLR Trophy**—The ESLR Trophy is awarded to two students who demonstrated ALL 4 ESLRs- Humility, Curiosity, Love, and Commitment for others, our school community and themselves

- Kaila Brownfield
- Channer Lo

**JOY Award**—Students voted for this young woman and young man because they live the qualities of JOY: Jesus first, Others, second and Yourself, last.

- Cassia Lee
- Grayson Kaneshiro

**All Around**—The winners of the All Around Trophy exemplify traits Humility, Curiosity, Love, Commitment, and JOY along with a high academic standing and participation in extracurricular activities.

- Alyssa Wong
- David Okawara

## **President’s Award for Academic Excellence**—

For 4th, 5th and 6th grade these students had an A- Average or better in grades 4, 5 and 6 and scored in the 85 percentile or above on a standardized test.

- Channer Lo
- Brandon Quan
- Myles Magtoto





## 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony

# Kūikawā Celebration

Kūikawā, the middle school's promotion ceremony, was held on May 29, 2024 in the Dan Liu Gymnasium. Kūikawā means "this special moment" in Hawaiian and is meant to denote the significance of leaving middle school and entering high school. Mahalo to our guest speaker Pastor Brandon Ahu from Metro Christian Fellowship.



The highlight of Kūikawā is an exchange of affirmations between parents and students. Parents remind their child through a spoken affirmation that their love is unconditional and will continue to be a first resource to the child as they enter high school. In return, the child returns the affirmation with a prepared message of gratitude for the support received.

This was the first Kūikawā event since 2016, and the first that was staged as a promotion event.



## 2024 Preschool Graduation Ceremony

# HBA Preschool at GracePoint



**Here's a recap of the preschool graduation held on June 1, 2024, at HBA Preschool at GracePoint in Mililani, celebrating the achievements of 21 graduates:**

The Rainbow Class had 11 graduates, under the guidance of Ms. Clarice and Ms. Mayuka. The Pineapple Class had 10 graduates, taught by Ms. Diandra and Ms. Alyssa. The school's director, Kalei DeMello, alongside the teachers, expressed great pride in this accomplishment.



During the ceremony, Kalei DeMello highlighted the joy and privilege of watching the children grow throughout the year, a journey filled with faith, love, and growth, all guided by the light of God's grace.

Congratulations to all the graduates! We celebrate not only what the children have achieved but also who they are becoming: confident, caring, and capable children of God, full of potential and purpose.





# High School Awards

## GRADE 12

### Bible

#### Excellence in Critical Issues in Christian Thought

Riley Lorenzo  
Xayden Kamei

### English

#### Outstanding English 12 Student

Cerra Leong  
Sean Tanji

#### Outstanding AP English 12 Literature and Composition Student

Taylor Malinger  
Alissa Tong

### Journalism

#### Excellence in Photography for the Eagle Eye

Brendan Aoki

#### Excellence in Multimedia Presentations

Brendan Aoki

#### Excellence in Writing for the Eagle Eye

Taylor Malinger

#### Eagle Eye's Most Valuable Staffer

Taylor Malinger

#### Excellence in Illustration and Layout

Taylor Malinger

### Mathematics

#### Outstanding Student in Calculus Foundations

Dylan Okamura

#### Outstanding Student in AP Statistics

Moxiao Xia

#### Outstanding Student in AP Calculus AB

Alissa Tong

#### Hawaii State Mathematics Bowl Team

Reese Machida

### Science

#### Outstanding Achievement in AP Biology

Alissa Tong

#### Outstanding Achievement in AP Physics 2

Brenden Osato

#### Outstanding Achievement in AP Physics C

Ezekiel Lum

#### Outstanding Achievement in Anatomy & Physiology

Hannah Cheng

### Social Studies

#### Social Science Scholar

Moxia Xia

#### Outstanding Student in Economics

Alissa Tong  
Tyson Yoshikawa

#### Outstanding Student in AP Psychology

Zoey Kamikawa

### Visual & Performing Arts

#### Outstanding Student in Wind Ensemble

Travis Chen

#### Outstanding Artist in Basic Drawing

Reese Machida

#### Outstanding Achievement in Basic Mixed Media

Cerra Leong

#### Commitment & Craftsmanship in Ceramics 2

Terra Kawamoto  
Maiko Santiago

#### Commitment & Craftsmanship in Ceramics 3

Zoe Yee

#### Outstanding Photographer in Basic Photography

Kirsten Tanaka

#### Outstanding Artist in Advanced Mixed Media

Zoey Kamikawa

#### Outstanding Artist in Advanced Drawing & Painting

Lindsey Toda

#### Scholastic Silver Key

Zoey Kamikawa  
Terra Kawamoto  
Taylor Malinger  
Lindsey Toda

#### Scholastic Honorable Mention Award

Lindsey Toda



## World Languages

#### Overall Excellence in Chinese

Michelle Lee

#### Outstanding Achievement in AP Japanese Language and Culture

Reese Machida

#### Overall Excellence in Japanese

Dylan Terayama

#### Outstanding Achievement in Spanish 4

Sammy Choi

#### Overall Excellence in Spanish

Leina Chu

## Senior Scholarships

#### Evan Jonah Won Memorial Scholarship

Samantha Choi  
Tyler Higa

#### Rev. O.W. "Dub" and Grace Efurd Memorial Scholarship

Ryan Wong

#### Sue Nishikawa Family Scholarship

Alissa Tong

#### Stacie and Julie Lee Scholarship

Tyson Yoshikawa

#### The Deanna Aoki Memorial Scholarship

Andrew Young

#### "It Takes a Dream" Scholarship

Leina Chu

#### The Community Builder Scholarship

Eleanor "Ellie" Peleske

#### The HBA Alumni Association Eagle Pride Scholarship

Taylor Gonsalves

## PTF Awards

#### PTF Service Award—Grade 12

Abigail Bumgardner

Ty Koch

## GRADE 11

### Bible

#### Excellence in Introduction to Christian Thought

Josh Labaczewski  
Amanda Tsuha

### English

#### Outstanding English 11 Student

Masha Khromtsova

#### Outstanding AP English Language and Composition Student

Brady Katano

#### Shakespearean Recitation Competition

Sage Shiroma

### Mathematics

#### Outstanding Student in Algebra 3

Ridge Nakata

#### Outstanding Student in Trigonometry

Kiani Shiroma

#### Outstanding Student in Pre-Calculus

Evan Chun  
Mia Takahashi

#### Outstanding Student in AP Pre-Calculus

Joshua Legawa

#### Outstanding Student in Introduction to Statistics

Samuel Lim

#### Outstanding Student in AP Calculus BC

Sage Shiroma

#### Outstanding Student in Computer Science 1 & 2

Conner Gum



## 2024 SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Samantha  
Choi



Leina Chu



Taylor  
Gonsalves



Tyler Higa



Eleanor "Ellie"  
Peleske



Alissa Tong



Ryan Wong



Tyson  
Yoshikawa



Andrew  
Young

### High School Awards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

#### Outstanding Student in AP Computer Science

Joshua Legawa

#### HBA Mathematics Team High Scorer

Brady Katano

#### American Mathematics Competition 12–3rd Place

Evan Chun

#### American Mathematics Competition 12–2nd Place

Brady Katano

#### American Mathematics Competition 12–1st Place

Xan Waialeale

#### Hawaii State Mathematics Bowl Team

Evan Chun

Brady Katano

Jaden Oki

### Science

#### Outstanding Achievement in Physics

Sam Ruan

Kiani Shiroma

#### Outstanding Achievement in AP Chemistry

Brady Katano

#### Outstanding Achievement in Marine Science

Sage Shiroma

#### Outstanding Achievement in AP Physics 1

Jaden Oki

Xan Waialeale

#### Outstanding Achievement in Intro to Engineering Design

Dylan Djou

#### Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award

Sage Shiroma

#### Rensselaer Medal Award

Josh Legawa

### Social Studies

#### Outstanding Leadership in Mock Trial

Robert Nordin

#### Outstanding Student in Modern World History 11

Joshua Legawa

Amanda Tsuha

#### Outstanding Student in AP Modern World History

Kiani Shiroma

### Visual & Performing Arts

#### Outstanding Student in Wind Ensemble

Kiani Shiroma

#### Outstanding Leadership in Wind Ensemble

Amanda Tsuha

#### Excellence in Service & Development of the Band Program

Brady Katano

#### Outstanding Student in Theater (fall)

Mia Takahashi

#### Outstanding Student in Theater (spring)

Randie Lueder

#### Outstanding Artist in Basic Art

Harumi Ho

#### Commitment & Craftsmanship in Ceramics 1

Tia Owen

#### Outstanding Photographer in Advanced Photography

Lydia Halcomb

#### Outstanding Artist in Advanced Mixed Media

Zen Wong-Ogata

#### Outstanding Artist in Advanced Drawing & Painting

Megan Monico

#### Scholastic Honorable Mention Award

Kalena Canionero

Colbie Tom

#### Scholastic Silver Key

Melia Castillejos

Megan Monico

Chloe Yamamoto

### World Languages

#### Outstanding Achievement in Japanese 3 Regular

Sydney Zane

#### Outstanding Achievement in Japanese 3 Honors & Japanese 4

Mia Takahashi

#### Outstanding Achievement in Spanish 1

Masha Khromtsova

#### Outstanding Achievement in Spanish 2

Makana Doane

#### Outstanding Achievement in Spanish 3

Justin Won

Asia De La Cruz

### PTF Awards

#### PTF High Achievement Award

Kenshin Casamina

Jennifer Chiang

Brady Katano

Joshua Labaczewski

Joshua Legawa

Kai Motoyama

Kiani Shiroma

Sage Shiroma

#### PTF Service Award—Grade 11

Joshua Legawa

Kaylee LaBarre

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



HBA students perform in "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" musical.





Girls Varsity Volleyball Team

## Japanese National Honor Society Inductee

Kobe Chan  
Nicholas Guillen  
Connor Gum  
Jarin Leong  
Natali Nomura  
Kiani Shiroma  
Colbie Tom  
Tobi Watanabe  
Mason Wong

## National Honor Society Inductee

Marila (Masha) Khromtsova  
Mariia Shiroma

## School Awards & Scholarships

Mariia Khromtsova  
Joshua Labaczewski  
Randie Lueder  
Caden Matsumoto  
Mia Takahashi  
Samuel Fujimoto  
**L.O. and Johnnie Taylor Outstanding Service Award**  
Joshua Legawa

### GRADE 10

#### Bible

**Excellence in Old Testament**  
Paisley Chung  
Vincent Warr

#### English

**Outstanding English 10 Student**  
Tia-Nicole Takekawa  
Vince Warr

## Mathematics

**Outstanding Student in Algebra 2**  
Lily Ames

**Outstanding Student in Algebra 2—Honors**  
Kyler Hasegawa

**American Mathematics Competition 10—3rd Place**  
Andy Fang

## PE & Health

**Outstanding Student in Physical Education and Health**  
Max Chong  
Kira Tanaka

## Science

**Outstanding Student in Chemistry**  
Kyler Hasegawa  
Tia Takekawa

## Social Studies

**Outstanding Student in US History 10**  
Vanessa He  
Vincent Warr

## Visual & Performing Arts

**Outstanding Student in Concert Band 2**  
Kyler Hasegawa

**Outstanding Achievement in Basic Mixed Media**  
Callie Kawaguchi  
Vivien Wong

**Commitment & Craftsmanship in Ceramics 1**  
Kira Tanaka

**Outstanding Achievement in Animation**  
Lily Ames

**Outstanding Filmmaker in Advanced Filmmaking**  
Andrew Lohr

**Scholastic Silver Key**  
Vivien Wong

**Scholastic Honorable Mention Award**

Sydney Lau  
Kira Tanaka  
Vivien Wong

## World Languages

**Outstanding Achievement in Chinese 2**  
Joelle Lum

**Outstanding Achievement in Chinese 3**  
Lydia Zhong

**Outstanding Achievement in Japanese 2**  
Tia-Nicole Takekawa  
Kyler Hasegawa

**Outstanding Achievement in Spanish 2**  
Ashley Ragain

## PTF Awards

**PTF High Achievement Award**  
Codey Chun  
Vanessa He  
Ryan Ing  
Callie Kawaguchi  
Daniel Nagao  
Miah Nakamura  
Tia-Nicole Takekawa

**PTF Service Award—Grade 10**  
Miah Nakamura  
Madison Ogawa

## Japanese National Honor Society Inductees

Chloe Harada  
Kyler Hasegawa  
Vanessa He  
Kate Iida  
Jacey Kage  
Miah Nakamura  
Madison Ogawa  
Lauren Okuda  
Landri Otaka  
Tia-Nicole Takekawa  
Braeden Takeuchi  
Jordon Tam  
Kira Tanaka  
Vivien Wong

## National Honor Society Inductees

Kyler Hasegawa  
Kate Iida  
Miah Nakamura  
Lauren Okuda  
Jordon Tam  
Vincent Warr

## School Awards & Scholarships

Tyler Fujimoto  
Trinity Vong

### GRADE 9

#### Bible

**Excellence in New Testament**  
Callie Kam  
Mischa Riester

#### English

**Outstanding English 9 Student**  
Hannah Garces  
Katherine Butay

## Mathematics

**Outstanding Student in Geometry**  
Max Okazaki

**American Mathematics Competition 10—2nd Place**  
Max Okazaki

**American Mathematics Competition 10—1st Place**  
Mina Kwon

**Hawaii State Mathematics Bowl Team**  
Mina Kwon

## PE & Health

**Outstanding Student in Physical Education and Health**  
Hannah Garces  
Lexi Kamikawa







## Science

### Outstanding Student in Biology

Lexi Kamikawa  
Zoe Lim

## Social Studies

### Outstanding Student in Ancient World History 9

Logan Honbo  
Lexi Kamikawa

### Outstanding Student in Government 9

Verily Coryell  
Hannah Garces

## Visual & Performing Arts

### Outstanding Student in Concert Band 1

Verily Coryell  
Emma Lee

### Outstanding Achievement in Basic Art

Mina Kwon

### Outstanding Achievement in Basic Drawing

Zoe Lim

## Outstanding Artist in Animation

Ian Longpre

### Outstanding Filmmaker in Intro to Filmmaking

Oliva Choi

### Outstanding Artist in CGI & 3D Animation

Anela Murata

### Scholastic Gold Key Award

Lexie Kadooka  
Mina Kwon

## World Languages

### Outstanding Achievement in Chinese 1

Zoe Lim

### Outstanding Achievement in Japanese 1

Hannah Garces  
Mina Kwon

### Outstanding Achievement in Spanish 1

Faith Matsukado

## National Honor Society Inductees

Verily Coryell  
Emily Fukui  
Lexi Kamikawa

Allison Kusuda  
Mina Kwon  
Emma Lee  
Janel Lee  
Zoe Lim  
Summer Malinger  
Faith Matsukado  
Mischa Riester  
Kylie Takamatsu  
Cade Toyofuku  
Leina Wong

## PTF Awards

### PTF Service Award—Grade 9

Hannah Garces  
Leina Wong

## School Awards & Scholarships

Hannah Garces  
Janel Lee  
Summer Malinger  
Faith Matsukado  
Max Okazaki

## Ruby Sakoda Nakahara Scholarship

Zoe Lim

## Now Enrolling Ages 2-5 at GracePoint in Mililani and Ages 3-4 at HBA Elementary Campus in Nu‘uanu.

At Hawai‘i Baptist Academy Early Learning Centers, we provide a nurturing and engaging environment where children grow in knowledge, faith, and love. Our Christ-centered programs foster spiritual, emotional, and academic development, building a strong foundation for young learners.



### GracePoint in Mililani (Ages 2-5)

Priority Admission Deadline: November 30th

### HBA Elementary Campus in Nu‘uanu (Ages 3-4)

Priority Admission Deadline: January 15th



**ENROLL TODAY! VISIT [HBA.NET/ACADEMICS](https://HBA.NET/ACADEMICS). LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!**



# Middle School Awards



## GRADE 8

### Bible

#### Excellence in Bible 8

Kailee Taoka-Davenport  
Abigail Kim

### English

#### Outstanding English 8 Student

Keira Liew  
Abigail Kim

### Mathematics

#### Outstanding Student in Algebra 1

Alex Fujimoto  
Keira Liew

### PE & Health

#### Outstanding Student in Physical Education and Health

Sarah Byrer  
Kaycie Hayashi

### Science

#### Outstanding Student in Earth Science 8

Abigail Kim  
Keira Liew

### Social Studies

#### Outstanding Student in American History 8

John Harada  
Bethany Hofacker

### Visual & Performing Arts

#### Outstanding Student in Fine Arts 8

Sarah Byrer  
Ariana Carreira

#### Outstanding Student in Middle School Band

Nainoa Tindle  
Matthew Murakami

#### Outstanding Dancer in Middle School Dance

Reese Lueder

#### Outstanding Student in Middle School Drama (Fall)

Kailee Taoka-Davenport

#### Outstanding Artist in Middle School Painting Basics

Keira Chang

#### Outstanding Artist in Middle School Drawing

Kaycie Hayashi

#### Outstanding Artist in Middle School Sculpture

Janey Chang  
May Shiraishi

#### Outstanding Artist in Middle School Cartooning

Ari Carreira  
Sophia Tung

#### Soaring Eagle (Overall Excellence in Middle School)

Alex Fujimoto  
Keira Liew

### PTF Awards

#### PTF Service Award—Grade 8

Cinnamon Lee  
Noah Pfeiffer

### School Awards & Scholarships

Cinnamon Lee  
Kaitlyn Legawa  
Keira Liew  
Alex Fujimoto

## GRADE 7

### Bible

#### Excellence in Bible 7

Riley Kim  
Mei Thomas

### English

#### Outstanding English 7 Reader

Demi Chae

#### Outstanding English 7 Writer

Isaac Cai

### Mathematics

#### Outstanding Student in Math 7

Kole Hashimoto  
Jack Okazaki

### PE & Health

#### Outstanding Student in Physical Education and Health

Demi Chae  
Anri Seminara

### Science

#### Outstanding Achievement in Science 7

Jack Okazaki  
Mei Thomas

### Social Studies

#### Outstanding Student in Geography

Demi Chae  
Mei Thomas

### Visual & Performing Arts

#### Outstanding Student in Fine Arts 7

Pressly Reign Stevenson  
Allie Tom

#### Outstanding Student in Middle School Beginning Band

Pollen Samantha Rangol  
Evan Lui

#### Outstanding Student in Middle School Drama (Spring)

Amy Siu  
Riley Mack

#### Outstanding Artist in Middle School Art Basics B Mixed Media

Katie Siu  
Devyn Ames

#### Outstanding Artist in Middle School Painting Basics

Zoey Cheung

#### Outstanding Artist in Middle School Drawing

Pressly Reign Stevenson

#### Outstanding Middle School Filmmaker

Isaac Cai

### PTF Awards

#### PTF Service Award—Grade 7

Demi Chae  
Landon Onishi

### School Awards & Scholarships

Skyla Chua  
Kole Hashimoto  
Zachary Lee  
Eden Preis Carpenter  
Jack Okazaki  
Allie Tom  
Katana Vilorio  
Destiny Vong  
Joseph Wong  
Vanessa Wong





## HMSA Kaimana Awards

# HBA Honored for School Excellence

By Deren Oshiro '86, Athletic Director

**For the 16th time in 19 years, HBA has won a Kaimana Award for overall school excellence.**

Unlike many awards that focus solely on athletic accomplishments, the Kaimana program—sponsored by the Hawai'i Medical Service Association—recognizes overall school excellence based on five criteria: academics, athletics, community service, sportsmanship, and engagement with healthy activities. Each school earns points based on its athletics participation (percentage of student body involved in interscholastic sports), athletes' grade point averages, community service hours accrued by the total student body, and healthy activities engaged by students and school groups. Schools have points deducted in the sportsmanship category if their athletes or coaches are cited for various negative behaviors.

Representing the Interscholastic League of Honolulu ('Oahu's private schools), HBA has now won the Division 1 first place Kaimana Award seven of the past eight years, following Division 2 first place finishes from 2008 to 2015. HBA is the only ILH school—regardless of division—to be recognized all 19 years of the program. HBA finished in second place in 2007 and in 2023. [Although student scholarships were awarded in 2021, school awards took a year's hiatus since sports participation varied by league and took place only in the second half of that particular school year.]

Over 73% of the HBA student body competed in at least one ILH sport in the 2023–2024 school year. Just under 90% of the student-athletes had grade point averages of over 2.75.

Over the past year, HBA won the varsity ILH Division 2 championships in girls tennis, boys tennis, and boys bowling. HBA students also participated on Pac-Five teams that captured varsity ILH Division 2 championships in girls soccer, boys soccer, and softball.



[Caption]

HBA also captured the HHSAA state championship for boys bowling (there is no state classification for this sport; all compete for one title). It was the program's sixth overall title, but first since 2009. Longtime HBA coach and PE instructor Greg Hayashi has led the Eagles to all six championships.

HBA students also participated in numerous community service projects led by grade level advisors, the Honor Society and the Interact Club. Among the organizations serviced by HBA groups were our elementary campus, American Cancer Society, Ho'omaluhia, Malulani Hale, Care Center of Honolulu, Kuakini Adult Rehabilitation, Special Olympics, Lanakila Heath Center, Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, Salvation Army, and the Ronald McDonald House.

For healthy activities, HBA incorporated physical, mental, and social/emotional health focuses in all of the grade level advisory pod meetings and grade level meetings throughout the year. Topics covered were bullying, dangers of drugs and alcohol, growth vs. fixed mindset, sex abuse, depression and suicide, internet safety, conflict management, and building a new community. HBA's students and faculty collectively gave 54 pints of blood in our school's blood drive. And HBA's students made over 1,000 genki balls and tossed them into the Ala Wai Canal.

Athletic Director Deren Oshiro represented HBA and received the award

at the Kaimana Awards luncheon banquet June 9 at the Oahu Country Club. All told, HMSA presented \$88,500 in awards and scholarships to the winning schools and to the 15 student-athletes representing all five interscholastic leagues from across the state (each student was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship). HBA received a \$1,500 check, a banner, and a crystal trophy for its school award.

Over the 19 years of the Kaimana Awards and Scholarship Program, HMSA has distributed 340 scholarships totaling 1.2 million dollars

Serving as awards presenters and emcees were Hawai'i News Now: Sunrise's Steve Uyehara and Liz (Chun) Uyehara of Hawai'i Pacific Health Foundation.





# ACT Perfect: Meet HBA's 36-Star Senior

Jaden Oki, Class of 2025

“Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed”

PROVERBS 16:3 (NLT)

Scoring a perfect 36 on the ACT is a rare achievement, accomplished by less than 0.5% of all test-takers. HBA seniors Jaden Oki and Xan Waialeale have excelled among this elite group through their dedication, strategic preparation, and a positive mindset. We sat down with Jaden Oki to learn more about his journey at HBA, his study tips, and his plans after graduation. Here's what he had to say!

## 1. What was your initial reaction when you received your scores?

I remember we were in math class when one of my friends got an email saying that our ACT scores were released. As I was a little excited and a little anxious, I popped open my laptop and took a peek. Needless to say, I had to do a double-take. I thought to myself, “What the heck?! Am I seeing this right?” I trusted my prep enough to know I'd score high, but not that high.

## 2. What was your mindset going into the testing or the testing process?

To prepare for the test, my dad put me in a summer ACT prep class where I learned many useful test-taking tactics. The class boosted my familiarity with the test questions and taught me how to guess correctly. Leading up to the test, I resorted to the old faithful strategy: taking tons of practice tests and ironing out gaps in my knowledge as well as perfecting my “form.”

The ACT contains many questions in a short time frame, with most sections demanding less than a minute per question. My mindset on test day was to be quick and confident, as second-guessing myself meant suffering a time crunch and missed points. Throughout the test, I mentally repeated, “Go, Go! Don't worry about it! Just keep going!”

## 3. What are you involved in at school and extracurricular activities?

I compete in canoe paddling and tennis as well as the school math team. I also volunteer with the National Honor Society and I was formerly part of the class council. And, I play the clarinet in the school's Wind Ensemble.

## 4. What are your plans after high school?

After high school, I plan to major in biomedical or mechanical engineering.

## 5. How has HBA prepared you academically and for life?

HBA equipped me with foundational knowledge not only to ace the ACT but also to succeed in any future learning endeavor. HBA has provided me with many different courses which challenge me in a variety of areas. These courses teach me not only class material but also how to learn.



More generally, HBA has taught me to know and feel the hand of God on my back as I tread through life. I hear about God on paper through Bible class and chapel, but when I'm paddling on the water or blowing my reed or thinking through a tough problem, that's when the true learning occurs and I become engrossed in His world. I thank this school for allowing me to have so many different experiences where I can see Him in a different yet familiar light.



# Eagle Eye Named Best Website

www.hbaeagleeye.com

Published in *Eagle Eye* on April 19, 2024

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT JOURNALISTS** gathered at UH Mānoa on April 18 for the 55th Hawai'i High School Journalism Awards ceremony. The Eagle Eye won five category awards, including best website, and came in third place for the overall best-in-state award. Sacred Hearts Academy's Ka Leo took home the best-in-state title for the second year running, while Moanalua High School's Na Hoku came in second.



The Eagle Eye team won five category awards at the 2024 Hawaii High School Journalism Awards ceremony at UH Mānoa on April 18, 2024. (Left to right) Seniors Brendan Aoki, Joseph Giles, Allisha Nitta, Kaitlyn Maruya, Taylor Malingier and Michelle Lee, and faculty advisor Eunice Sim. Photo: Noah Hu '23.

**The Eagle Eye was recognized in the following categories at the awards ceremony:**

**Investigative Reporting—1st Place**

"Cafeteria Theft on the Rise" by Taylor Malingier ('24)

**Photo Essay—5th Place**

"A Mad Dash Through the UK for English Class" by Taylor Malingier ('24)

**Action/Candid Photo—3rd Place**

Top photograph of Eli Shibuya vs. Punahou

**Portrait Photo—1st Place**

Portrait of Mr. Sean Seradilla by Brendan Aoki ('24) in "Under Sean's Watch"

**Layout/Design—1st Place**

"Taiwan: Food, Culture and History Through the Eyes of Chinese Language Students" by Taylor Malingier ('24)

**Infographic—4th Place**

Stereotypes vs. Reality by Cayte Akamu ('25)

**Multimedia Presentation—1st Place**

"Restoring Pia Valley, One Plant At A Time" by Brendan Aoki ('24) and Taylor Malingier ('24)

**Video—3rd Place**

"Pia Valley Restoration" by Brendan Aoki ('24)

**Social Media—2nd Place**

Instagram @hbaeagleeye

**Website—1st Place**

www.hbaeagleeye.com

## Restoring Pia Valley, One Plant at a Time

Story and photography by Brendan Aoki '24

Published in *Eagle Eye* on February 4, 2024

**LAST SEPTEMBER**, an assortment of botanists, nature enthusiasts, and students of HBA's National Honor Society gathered in Pia Valley in East Oahu with one goal in mind: help restore the Pia Valley to its purest, natural state.

Under the guidance of Protect & Preserve Hawaii, a local non-profit, the group of volunteers would hike into the valley to remove invasive plant species and plant native ones in their place.

Founded in 2019 by Tyrone Montayre, Protect & Preserve Hawaii seeks to "give back to the land and raise awareness through education in [the] community." Inspired by the loss of his mother, Montayre went looking for a larger purpose in life and decided to buy a 330-acre parcel of land in Pia Valley that was zoned for preservation. While walking through his newly-purchased property, he fell in love with the natural ecosystem. He also learned from passionate conservationists about the need to restore the valley. Montayre soon realized that he had found his calling and started Protect & Preserve to fulfill his mission.

As with every project day at Protect & Preserve, this volunteer gathering in September began with a personal introduction of everyone present, an oli (a Hawaiian chant) to ask for wisdom



Under the leadership of Protect & Preserve, volunteers hike into Pia Valley to learn about the ecosystem and take part in restoration efforts. Photo: Brendan Aoki '24

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28





The view, looking south over the Hawai'i Kai area, from the upper portion of Pia Valley. Photo: Brendan Aoki '24.



**Above:** Along the hike to the project site, the group pauses to examine and learn about some plants they are seeing along the way. Photo: Brendan Aoki '24.

and guidance), and some teaching from the project leaders on the ecosystem in Pia Valley. Ty Koch and Hannah Cheng, both seniors, were among the NHS students present on behalf of the club's Environmental Committee. On this outing, a member of the Birds Not Mosquitos multi-agency partnership shared about how disease-bearing mosquitoes are the leading factor in native bird extinction in Hawaii. Koch recalled, "The representative talked about how climate change with hotter temperatures over time leads to a population increase in mosquitoes in higher elevations where they did not used to live." According to the Birds Not Mosquito website, "Twenty-three species of honeycreepers have gone extinct in Hawai'i since the first arrival of mosquitoes in the early 1800s, with many extinctions linked to avian malaria and pox. Most of Hawai'i's remaining native honeycreepers are now found only at high elevations where it is too cold for the southern house mosquitoes and the avian malaria parasite."

When it came time to put their hands to work, everyone grabbed buckets, sickles, and shovels, and donned protective gloves. Cheng explained how the group dug and pulled out invasive plants, especially guinea grass root balls, and then planted a type of native grass that would help with soil stability and help to restore



Volunteers watch and learn how to dig out invasive plants and to plant native grass in its place. Photo: Brendan Aoki '24.

the native greenery in the area. Other invasive plants in Pia Valley that have choked out native plants include the haole koa tree and strawberry guava.

When asked about her takeaways from the project, Cheng said, "Attending the project with P&P Hawaii stood out to me because I learned about a community I didn't know about before. P&P Hawaii taught us about the island and issues that are currently happening and how they are being addressed. I also learned about how much work goes into the restoration process on the island. It was definitely a lot of hard work to remove invasive species and plant more of the native species."

Come another weekend, another group of volunteers will gather at Pia Valley to tackle another area that needs to be restored. It's a slow process—weeding, planting and watching nature take its course—but according to Montayre over 2,000 native plantings and 1.5 acres of invasive plants have been cleared so far.

HBA's NHS volunteers wait for instruction on the project that day. On the far right are rock walls built by volunteers using the *uhau humu pōhaku* (dry stack rock weaving) method used traditionally by Hawaiians, which is a way of building walls without mortar. The rock wall is part of Protect & Preserve's efforts to engage in not just biological restoration but also cultural restoration.





# COMMON INVASIVE PLANTS IN PIA VALLEY



**STRAWBERRY GUAVA**

The strawberry guava is considered one of the most destructive invasive plants, and it is found on all the major Hawaiian islands. It grows and multiplies quickly, and chokes out native plants and destroys habitats for native animals.



**HAOLE KOA**

The haole koa, or foreign koa, is a small invasive tree that grows rapidly. Like the strawberry guava, its prolific growth is detrimental to native species. The tree also burns easily, which increases wildfire risks in areas where they grow.



**GUINEA GRASS**

Guinea grass, which grows tall and dense, is another invasive plant that is considered a high fire risk by conservationists. It is also allelopathic, producing biochemicals in its root system to kill off and prevent the growth of other plants around it.

Illustration: Taylor Malingier '24



A volunteer pauses during a hike up the Pia Valley ridge to take a photo of a plant. In the distance on the left is Koko Crater. Photo: Brendan Aoki '24.



# Staff Spotlight

## Under Sean's Watch

By Allisha Nitta '24 | Photography by Brendan Aoki '24  
Published in *Eagle Eye*, March 2024

The name Sean Seradilla might not immediately ring a bell with HBA students and families, but the unmistakable smiling face behind it is a familiar one. Every school day, Seradilla is likely the first HBA staff everyone sees when arriving at the high and middle school. He stands at the driveway directing the morning traffic, accompanied by a top hits playlist and a welcoming *shaka*.

**P**RIOR TO BECOMING A SECURITY GUARD AT HBA, Seradilla was managing a Gelato shop in Kaimuki. He enjoyed his time there but didn't feel it was the best fit for his personality. He then started working for a security company, Securitas, which is HBA's security contractor. In July 2020, he was assigned to HBA and was promoted just a few months later to become a site supervisor. Teoni Obrey, HBA's security coordinator, requested that Seradilla take on more leadership responsibilities as he observed that Seradilla was "trustworthy, dependable, organized, and communicated very well." Obrey was also impressed by Seradilla's commitment to the school. "He was a very fast learner, showed initiative and desire to make our school security team better. He was extremely positive and willing to do more," Obrey said. Those at HBA that have since crossed paths with Seradilla cannot agree more.

Amidst the rush and stress of student drop-offs and pick-ups, rain or shine, one can find Seradilla full of smiles starting at 6:30 a.m., waving cars onto campus in his energetic fashion. His friendliness is a key part of his job. Seradilla explained, "I'm going to be the first thing that they see in the morning. It's better to have someone who is smiling and waving to start off their day." Madison Callo, a senior, walks past Seradilla daily. She said, "He just brightens up my mornings each day with his welcoming smile. I always look forward to hearing what song he is playing and hearing his signature slogan, 'No prob.'"

When there are after-school events like parent meetings or athletic games, Seradilla sometimes remains on campus till 8:00 p.m. During these times, Seradilla is challenged with managing the school's limited parking space, and the emotions and concerns of people who may not be able to find a parking spot. "At times, it can get backed up and Security has to think on the fly to get things flowing or at least ease the backup. Although it's pretty stressful, it keeps me on my toes and is a nice change of pace," he said. In these

circumstances, Seradilla keeps one thing in mind: "The main thing is to keep a level head and make sure I don't make the situation more stressful for the drivers," he said.

His quick thinking is appreciated by the front office secretary Sharon Darapiza. She wrote, "Mr. Seradilla has a spirit of flexibility that's able to adjust to any circumstance. He communicates well and is constantly on alert when students leave the campus on foot, being picked up by parents, boarding school buses for sports activities as well as directing traffic and accommodating families and visitors for on-campus evening events."

To Seradilla, putting people first, whether they are parents, faculty, students, or visitors, is essential to doing his job well. Rob Lockridge, middle school Christian Ministries coordinator, has been impressed by Seradilla. "During Spike Nite and Homecoming, he can park more cars on this campus than anyone else," he said.

In a couple of weeks, students will be off on their spring break, but Seradilla will be on campus going about his daily duties besides directing traffic. These include patrolling the school's three campuses, monitoring security cameras, helping any visitors that come on campus, and assisting the remaining campus staff as needed. Then come April 1, Seradilla will be back to greet students as they return, a welcome sight that has become a fixture in the HBA middle and high school experience.





# A Journey of Growth and Faith: Our Experience at Hawaii Baptist Academy

By John '70 and Pamela (Glisson) Crawford

**R**ELECTING ON OUR TIME at Hawai'i Baptist Academy (HBA), we are filled with a deep sense of gratitude and affection for the formative years we spent there. Both of us arrived at different stages in our high school journeys—my wife for her 10th and 11th grades, and myself for 11th and 12th, eventually graduating from HBA. Despite our different entry points, the experience we shared was marked by a profound and shared appreciation for the nurturing environment that the school provided.

Pam and I met, became friends, and started dating in the 11th grade. During the summer of 1969, her family moved back to the mainland. After graduating from HBA in 1970, I went to Florida State University, but returned to Hawai'i to enlist in the U.S. Navy the spring of 1971. During that time, Pam's father was transferred back to Hawai'i. Coincidentally, we met again at a party and have been together ever since that evening. We were married in the chapel on Hickam Air Force Base, June 24, 1972. After serving in the US Navy in Yokosuka, Japan for three years, we moved to California and I graduated from California State University, Fullerton with a BS in Chemistry. We then moved to Huntsville, Alabama, where I was employed by the Department of Defense for 43 years and recently retired. During those years Pam was employed as a pre-school teacher at a local church-based school.

One of the most remarkable aspects of HBA was its small class sizes. This intimate setting fostered a unique and close-knit community where everyone knew one another. Unlike larger schools where students can often feel like just another face in the crowd, HBA provided us with an environment where we were truly seen and heard. Our classmates became more than just peers; they were friends who shared in our academic journey and personal growth. We still stay in touch with many of them. The friends we made at HBA have become our "forever family" mostly because of our mutual belief in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Christian principles and lifestyle we witnessed during our high school years at HBA.

The teachers at HBA were, without a doubt, the heart and soul of our experience. Their dedication went far beyond the call of duty. Each teacher brought not only a wealth of knowledge in their respective subjects but also a genuine care for the well-being of their students. It was not uncommon for teachers to stay after class to offer additional help, or to check in on how we were doing outside of academics. They knew our strengths and weaknesses, and they

tailored their teaching to help us succeed both in the classroom and in life. The relationships we built with our teachers were built on trust and mutual respect, making learning a truly collaborative process. All the teachers we had were exceptional. However, there are a few that deserve special recognition for the guidance and care they provided. Ms. Joyce Wong and Mr. William Russel were our Senior advisors, and Ms. Pam Metthe, Ms. Darena Bankston and Ms. Maurine King were also wonderful teachers and role models. Most important, each of these teachers devoted their life to God, and that devotion carried over to all their students.

Academically, the school excelled in providing a robust education. The curriculum was challenging yet accessible, encouraging us to push our boundaries while providing the support needed to meet those challenges. Whether it was the complexities of advanced mathematics, the intricacies of literature, or the historical insights into world events, each subject was taught with a depth and clarity that fostered both understanding and curiosity. The small class sizes allowed for more in-depth discussions and personalized feedback, further enriching our academic experience.

What truly set HBA apart, however, was its integration of faith-based instruction into the fabric of daily life. The school's commitment to fostering a strong spiritual foundation in their students was evident in every aspect of our education. From daily devotions to the incorporation of Christian principles into the curriculum, we were constantly encouraged to reflect on our faith and its application to our lives. This emphasis on spiritual growth, combined with academic rigor, provided us with a well-rounded education that prepared us not only for college but for the broader challenges of life.

The impact of this faith-based education cannot be overstated. It instilled in us values that have stayed with us long after graduation—integrity, compassion, and a commitment to serving others. The lessons we learned at HBA went beyond textbooks; they shaped our character and influenced the way we view the world. This holistic approach to education, where spiritual and intellectual growth were intertwined, is something we cherish deeply.

In conclusion, our time at HBA was more than just an educational experience; it was a journey of personal and spiritual growth. The school provided us with a solid academic foundation, nurtured by caring and dedicated teachers, within a community that valued everyone. The integration of faith into every aspect of our education enriched our lives and left a lasting imprint on our hearts. We look back on our time at HBA with fondness and gratitude, knowing that it played a significant role in shaping who we are today, and our daily walk with our Savior, Jesus Christ.





# HBA Breaks Ground on New Elementary Campus Facilities



Turning of the soil (L-R): Ken Hensarling, Jr., Chair Board of Directors; Richard Bento, former HBA President; Dr. Emmett Winters, Elementary Principal; Ron Shiira '75, President; Alyssa Wong, Elementary Student Council President; Susan Utsugi '82 Campaign Cabinet Chair; Charles Kaneshiro, President & COO, G70; Brendan Inglis, Senior Project Manager, Allied Builders System.

In its 75th year as one of Hawai'i's top college preparatory schools, Hawai'i Baptist Academy celebrated a major milestone on May 9, 2024, with a ceremonial ground-breaking for new facilities at its Richard Bento Elementary Campus.

**THIS INITIATIVE** is part of a multi-year capital campaign that will also fund an endowment for an expanded programmatic curriculum, extending the school's impact to parents and the broader community.

"Today marks a significant milestone in our school's journey—one that signifies growth, progress, and the realization of our collective vision," remarked HBA President, Ron Shiira '75. "This project represents more than just a physical transformation of our elementary campus; it symbolizes our unwavering commitment to transforming the lives of students through faith, innovation, and leadership."

The new facilities will include state-of-the-art spaces equipped with the latest technology, fostering dynamic learning environments. Highlights include the 7,000 square-foot Innovation and Discovery Center, rooftop deck, outdoor amphitheater, multi-use



Elementary students, faculty, and staff were part of the ceremony.

covered playcourt, renovated campus entryway, and resurfaced campus lower courts. These designs are crafted by Honolulu-based architect G70.

"Looking forward, we are excited about this new era for HBA and our community," said elementary school principal Dr. Emmett Winters.

Constructed by Allied Builders Systems, the new facilities are expected to be completed in the summer of 2026.



# First Hawaiian Bank Foundation Awards \$150,000 Grant to Hawai'i Baptist Academy



**Left:** (L-R) First Hawaiian Bank Foundation President Cameron Nekota, President Shiira '75, Director of Institutional Advancement Billie Lueder '94, and FHB President Bob Harrison. **Above:** President Shiira presenting a Gold Eagle to Mr. Harrison.



**FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK FOUNDATION** awarded a \$150,000 grant to Hawai'i Baptist Academy's (HBA) Campaign for Transformation. This multi-year effort focuses on the construction of the new Innovation and Discovery Center on HBA's elementary campus and establishes an endowment to extend the school's programmatic curriculum to parents and the broader community.

When it is completed, the 7,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art center will feature an Innovation Station, Collab Lab, Learning Commons, and outdoor plaza. These dynamic and creative spaces provide an experiential learning environment where students imagine and design solutions for real-world challenges. For more information about the Campaign for Transformation, visit [www.hba.net/transformation](http://www.hba.net/transformation).

Ron Shiira '75, President of Hawai'i Baptist Academy, expressed his gratitude: "First Hawaiian Bank has been a cornerstone of support for HBA, and their generous award is a testament to their commitment to our mission. This partnership helps us nurture future generations of leaders rooted in faith and innovation. We are deeply grateful for their continued support as we embark on this exciting journey."

HBA's longstanding partnership with First Hawaiian Bank Foundation spans 44 years, and with this grant, they are now part of HBA's prestigious "Gold Eagle Circle" for donors who have given over \$500,000.

Bob Harrison, President of First Hawaiian Bank, added:

"First Hawaiian Bank is honored to stand alongside Hawai'i Baptist Academy in their pursuit of educational excellence and community impact. Our partnership spans decades, and this grant reflects our commitment to nurturing future leaders and fostering innovation."

HBA celebrated this partnership with members of the First Hawaiian Bank community who have strong affiliations with the school, including alumni and parents. The event featured a check presentation from First Hawaiian Bank executives and President Shiira presenting a Gold Eagle Award to First Hawaiian Bank President Bob Harrison.

Notable employees of First Hawaiian Bank who are closely connected to HBA and attended the celebration include:

- Jody Mukaigawa '90 – Senior VP, Corporate Banking at First Hawaiian Bank, and member of the HBA Campaign Feasibility Committee.
- Kyle Kato '96 – Transformation Manager at First Hawaiian Bank, and member of the HBA Campaign Cabinet.
- Ryan Masuno '09 – AVP & Wealth Associate at First Hawaiian Bank, and member of the HBA Advisory Board.
- Candice Naito – Retired Senior Vice President at First Hawaiian Bank, and member of the HBA Advisory Board.



# Athletic Booster Club

## 23rd Annual Golf Tournament

**The ABC's 23rd Annual Golf Tournament teed off at the Mililani Golf Club on June 24th, 2024.**

**THANK YOU** to all of the sponsors, donors, golfers, and volunteers who made this year's tournament a smashing success!



**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following contest winners:

Closest to the pin Hole #3 - Ed China  
Closest to the pin Hole #7 - Dave Nakama  
Closest to the pin Hole #12 - Scot Iseri  
Closest to the pin Hole #15 - Aaron Ujimori



**CONGRATULATIONS** to the teams who finished in the top 11 along with the team who finished in 23rd place (recognized as the top winner in our 23rd Annual Golf Tournament):

23rd Place: Scott Nishimura + Jim Utsugi + Kevin Kashiwai

1: Vince Acohido + Logan Hamacon + Mark Gardner

2: Bryan Low + Darin Okuda '88 + Rick Wagatsuma

3: Jacey Kage '26 + Carson Kage + Jason Kage

4: Stan Wada + Carol Wada + Mel Ung

T5: Kirk Kodama + Justin Saito + Skye Inakoshi

T5: Reid Takatsuka '83 + Scott Harada + Joe Strauss

7: Nicole Lopes '15 + Jeff Omori + Connor Lopes '19

8: John Corpuz + Devin Corpuz '25 + Thurston Wong

9: Ellison Iseri '09 + Scot Iseri + Keith Iseri

10: Jaime Dominguez + Eric Montross + Ethan Montross

11: Isaac Hayashi '09 + Dean Tamura + Drake Akiyoshi





# 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.

'70



**ALUMNI VISIT! John '70 and Pamela Crawford** both attended HBA at the former Makiki campus. Pamela was at HBA for her 10th and 11th grade years before moving and graduating elsewhere. They first met as high school students at HBA and have now been married for 52 years. Currently living in Alabama, they recently visited Ms. Maurine King (center), Pamela's former teacher.

'73



**SHOUT OUT TO THE CLASS OF '73!** They had a get together over some yummy hotpot. **Left side, front to back:** Gerin Chun, Gwen (Okimoto) Murakami, Jeanne Sadaoka, Wanda (Chong) Tsumaki. **Right side, front to back:** Pauline (Gima) Rediger, Kevin (Cory's husband) and Coraleen (Chun) Robinson, Lael (Tokita) Kaopuiki.

'79

**HBA CLASS OF 1979 CELEBRATED ITS 45TH REUNION!** They had a two-day celebration including a dinner party, brunch, and a boat ride. Nothing better than meeting up with some of your favorite people!

**BELOW—Back Row (L–R):** John Harris, Jeffery Ching, Gary Matsuura, Mark Shiira, Charles Regan, Terri (Faleskie) Breen, Jon Hergert, Marty (Lovelace) Watts, Judy (Humphrey) McDonald, Maria (Trejo) McDonald, and Jean Dangler. **Front Row (L–R):** Steve Farr, Cindy (Melton) Nakamura, John Hom, Diane Hom, Maurine King, Yuki Kobayashi, Terri (Oshiro) Gilmour, Janine (Lau) Marzouki, Eric Yuasa, Mark Tipton, and Gary Murakami (associate).



'79 CONTINUED

**RIGHT—AT DUKE'S, Back Row (L–R):** Steve Farr, Terri (Oshiro) Gilmour, Terri (Faleslie) Breen, Judy (Humphrey) McDonald, Charles Regan, John Harris, Gary Matsuura, Maria (Trejo) McDonald, Jeffery Ching, and Garrett Omoto. **Front Row (L–R):** Marty (Lovelace) Watts, Tim Savage, Mark Tipton, Yuki Kobayashi, Eric Yuasa, Janine (Lau) Marzouki, and Sheryl (Iwahiro) Kahue



'82

To commemorate the Year of the Dragon and their 60th birthday year, about 30 members of the **Class of 1982**, including their senior advisor, Chris Windnagle, recently celebrated at 100 Sails in Waikiki for an evening of catch-up, laughter, and reminiscing. Several of the classmates flew in from the mainland for this memorable event.

**Foreground:** Traci (Maeda) Hirakawa, '82 Senior Class Advisor Mr. Chris Windnagle and Merle Fukuda. **First Row:**

Karen (Uesato) Stoupe, Raegene Nakamura, Kathy (Leong) Ramek, Jeff Matsuo, Robin (Oka) Estrada, Susan (Miyamoto) Utsugi, Debbie (Kidani) Duval, Jamie (Hidalgo) Soquena, Cherie Nouchi, Joyce (Lazo) Mickelson, Lynne (Sato) Yamamoto, Michele (Young) Nakamoto and Jon Yamamoto. **Second Row:** Tammi Yokogawa-King, Eric Arasato, Lynette Higa, Lisa Lui, Leona (Ma) Anthony and Michael Takaesu. **Back Row:** Bart Nakamoto, Peter Hill, Mark Williams, Todd Eddins, Patrick Williams and Sterling Kaya



'86



As President and CEO of St. Francis Healthcare System, **Kathy (Naito) Morimoto '86** is committed to continuing the 140-year legacy of caring and compassion which began with St. Marianne Cope. The St. Francis Kūpuna Village at Liliha campus is a vibrant space for short-term skilled nursing and rehabilitation at The Clarence T.C. Ching Villas, and assisted living at Hale O Meleana. Care navigation, in-home personal support, adult day care and preschool, and hospice services extend the mission of St. Francis into our community.

As a lifelong Hawai'i resident, Kathy's experience in healthcare inspires her work to enhance the quality of life for all. She was most recently Vice President of Clinical Integration & Community Health at HMSA, focused on improving access to affordable care and addressing health disparities for HMSA members. She also served in executive leadership roles at The Queen's Health System (QHS) and The Queen's Medical Center (QMC).

Kathy began her career as an audit and consulting manager with Arthur Andersen LLP and its successor firm, KMH LLP, where she earned her CPA designation (inactive). She is a graduate of Hawai'i Baptist Academy and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Kathy is actively involved in organizations dedicated to education and social impact. She currently serves as a trustee of Mid-Pacific Institute, a board member of Kupu, and a strategy facilitator for the YWCA's Patsy T. Mink Leadership Alliance. She is a former member of the Kamehameha Schools Audit Committee.

Kathy and her husband David reside in Honolulu with their two daughters.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 36)



'91



**EXCITING NEWS ALERT!** Alumni spotlight on **Lon Takiguchi '91**! From filmmaker to debut director of Freform's "grown-ish," the live-streaming TV series—what a journey! Check out his interview with KHON2 Living808's John Veneri for the full story.

'93



We are excited as our Legacy Family, **Ezra Lum '93** and his daughter Elizabeth join us in 7th grade! The Lum family legacy continues to grow.

'98



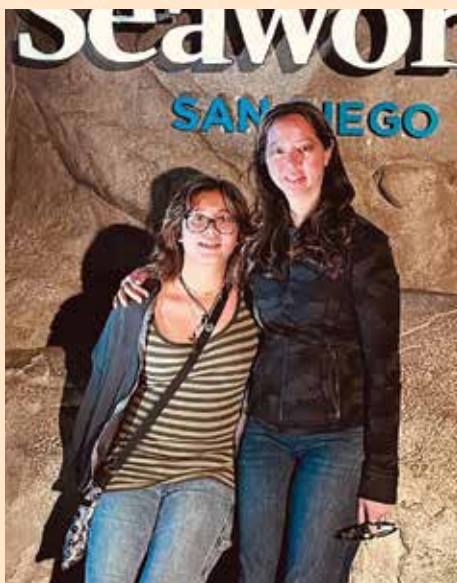
A big shoutout to **Adam Chang '98**, who's proudly sending the next generation to our halls! His son, Jeda, is entering 6th grade, and his daughter, Lainey-Monroe, is starting 4th grade. Here's to continuing the legacy!

'92 & '07



**Becky McGuire '92** met flight attendant **Chad Duarte '07** on the airplane! Chad attended HBA from kindergarten and graduated as a Son of HBA.

'94



Legacy Family Alert! Excited to spotlight **Ali (Young) Flickinger '94**, as her daughter, Journey, begins 9th grade at HBA! The Flickinger family is keeping the tradition alive.

'04



The legacy continues for **Lester Leung '04**, as his son Brody begins his journey at HBA in Kindergarten! We are proud to have you here at HBA!

'03



**Daniel Arita '03** is a seasoned professional with over 17 years of dedicated service to American Floor and Home, formerly known as The Carpet Shoppe, Inc. His journey with the company began shortly after graduating from college. Throughout his tenure, Daniel

has spearheaded numerous initiatives aiming at expanding the company's product offerings and market reach. He successfully established a distribution sales department targeting neighbor island flooring dealers and introduced an extensive range of new products. Daniel's leadership also extends to managing large scale projects, such as the Country Club Village 6 and 801 South Street Buildings A and B.

In 2019, Daniel initiated the KIBA Division, focusing on home remodeling. He expanded the company's services to encompass comprehensive renovations for residential and commercial projects, positioning American Floor and Home as a one-stop destination for all interior finishing needs.

Daniel is deeply committed to giving back to the community. He actively participates in various charitable organizations, including Aloha United Way, Hawaiian Humane Society, Junior Achievement Hawaii, and Breast Cancer Awareness, among others. Daniel's philanthropic efforts extend to serving on the boards of Aloha United Way, The Carpet Shoppe, Inc., Pali Momi Foundation, and advisory roles for the Better Business Bureau and Carpet One National.

Daniel's outstanding contributions have been recognized nationally and within the flooring industry. He was honored with the Floor Focus National Magazine's 2024 Emerging Leaders Award. In 2021, he was named among the Top 35 Under 40 by Flooring Covering News. Additionally, he received the Pacific Business News 40 Under 40 award in 2023 and was named among Hawaii Business Magazine's 20 For the Next 20 in 2024.

In his personal time, Daniel cherishes moments with his wife, son, daughter, and family. His dedication to both his professional and personal pursuits reflect his unwavering commitment to excellence and making a positive impact on those around him.

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'05



**Justin T. Matsukawa '05** is general manager and partner of Aloha Creamery. Based in Aiea Shopping Center, Aloha Creamery a snack shop creating frozen treats similar to *guri guri* in the form of soft serve and frozen cups along with various out-of-the-box popcorn flavors. Justin creates everything from scratch and continuously creates new flavors. In addition to running Aloha Creamery, Justin works for his family businesses doing real estate and mortgages at Primary Residential Mortgage and Engel & Volkers Honolulu. He is a Senior Loan Officer at the mortgage bank and was awarded 1st place in the Star-Advertiser's Hawaii's Best contest for Best Mortgage Loan Officer 2023. In his spare time, Justin is on the executive board of the Hawaii Restaurant Association Educational Foundation where he helps high school students, who are passionate about cooking, develop their culinary skills.

'12 & '13



Join us in celebrating the union of two HBA lovebirds! Congratulations to **Nyckolle (Lucuab) Akatsuka '13** and **Christopher Akatsuka '12** on tying the knot! From high school sweethearts to lifelong partners, their journey is an inspiration to us all. Special shout out to the Maid of Honor Chantelle Sonoda '13 and officiant Rob Lockridge for making their day extra special. The couple shares that their former HBA Japanese Teacher Chie Watanabe played a pivotal role in bringing them together. Here's to a lifetime of love and happiness for the newlyweds!

'13



**Dr. Rachel (Inafuku) Kaneshiro** is a 2013 alumna of HBA and received a bachelor's degree in economics from Loyola Marymount University. After working at a wealth management firm, she went on to pursue a doctoral degree in economics from UH Manoa and graduated with her PhD in 2022, specializing in labor and health economics. She has since contributed to several research reports and academic peer reviewed articles. Rachel is currently an economist at the UH Economic Research Organization (UHERO). She is passionate about using data, statistics, and research to improve Hawaii's economy and better the quality of life for local residents. Her most recent work has been dedicated towards advocating for more of Hawaii's high school graduates to enroll in college, driven by her research on the value of a college degree in Hawaii. In the near term, she will be actively contributing to research aimed at informing public policy decisions regarding the economic ramifications of the Maui wildfires.

'22



Another big summer win for **Josh Hayashida '22** (center) captured the 63rd Hocht Amateur Golf Championship in Japan. Also shown is UH golf teammate Zach Sagayaga (left). A few weeks after defending his Manoa Cup title, he has now successfully defended his Hocht Amateur title. Congratulations, Josh!

'22 & '23



**HBA PRIDE SHINING BRIGHT IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA!** **Danford Chang** (second from right), our Director of Counseling at Stan Sagert High School Campus, took a trip to Jessup University in Sacramento and made some heartwarming connections with our amazing alumni at UC Davis.

Big shoutout to **Caley Chun '23** (far left), **Shea Erler '22** (second from left), and **Rachel Harris '22** (far right) for taking the time to catch up and share their college experiences. It's moments like these that remind us of the lasting bonds forged at HBA.

## Obituaries

### ALUMNI

**Victor Yeung '93**, 48, passed away on April 4, 2024, in Honolulu, Hawai'i

**Stephen Kubota '62**, 80, passed away on October 7, 2024 in Honolulu, Hawai'i

**Terri (Faleskie) Breen '79**, 63, passed away on October 14, 2024, in West Orange, New Jersey

### FORMER FACULTY/STAFF

**Charles Whitten**, 80, passed away on May 30, 2024, in Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i

### MAINLAND ADVISORY COUNSEL

**Robert Hazel**, 87, passed away on May 6, 2024, in West Columbia, South Carolina

**Carol O'Rear**, 94, passed away on June 22, 2024, in Tulsa, Oklahoma

**Dot Zeigler**, 95, passed away on August 20, 2024, in Seneca, South Carolina

**Flo King**, 94, passed away on August 27, 2024, in Cleveland, Tennessee

**June Hatley**, 96, passed away on October 2, 2024 in Garland, Texas



# Alumni Legacy Dinner

At this year's Alumni Legacy event, we celebrated over 28 multigenerational families with decades-long ties to HBA, honoring both second- and third-generation alumni. With a remarkable 312 families spanning decades, we deeply appreciate the legacy of trust and dedication that continues to strengthen our community as we mark our 75th anniversary.









## Alumni Celebration 2024

# Ho'olaule'a 2024

**WE HAD A BLAST** celebrating our alumni with Dawn O'Brien as our emcee, amazing music from Zeo Worship, delicious food by Marians Catering, and ice cream from Aloha Creamery. Here are some highlights from the night!



## VENDOR PROFILES



**Eric Yamashita '84** is the owner of **Every Day Better Hawaii**, a small motivational brand inspired by YOU. The idea came to him through three simple words: EVERY DAY BETTER. Eric shares, "We don't strive for perfection; we live for PROGRESS, daily. Forward progress, EVERY DAY. Whether it's life, work, fitness, family, faith, or finances, we strive to make EVERY DAY BETTER."



**Cara (Cazinha) Bair '06** founder of **Bairy Sweet Treats**, seller of original energy bars and Oreo bars. Originating as a holiday endeavor, the business officially launched in August 2023 after a decade of evolution. You can find her sweet treats at Whiskey Smoke 808 and the Windward Mall Farmers Market every other Sunday. Orders can be placed through Instagram @bairysweettreats or by email at bairysweettreats@gmail.com.





**Tracie (Fukunaga) Isara '98** founder and creator of **Simply Sparkle Designs**, a seller of unique, handcrafted jewelry. The designs are simple yet elegant and can be worn casually or for special occasions. Available online through their website, Facebook, Instagram, Etsy, and also at multiple Ben Franklin locations. Tracie's pieces are on display and for sale in the following Ben Franklin lockers: Mapunapuna-Locker 123; Market City-Locker 69; Enchanted Lake-Locker 3E and 4E.



**Ariel (Sato) Kishimoto '12** is the owner of **Reign + Skye**, a local apparel line, established in 2021 and inspired by two island babes. Reign + Skye is designed with the intentions of affordable prices while preserving quality. With an aloha babe and island grom in mind, comfort is key. All pieces are influenced from the beauty of the islands and the keiki of Hawai'i.



**Paige (Oshiro) Su '17** is the artist behind **Poshiki**. By day, she works in the mortgage industry, and during her free time, she makes art! Specializing in watercolor artwork, Paige uses her artistic gifts to create colorful original paintings, prints, stickers, and more! Much of her inspiration comes from the natural beauty around O'ahu. Deeply moved by the beauty of God's creation, Paige desires to share a little bit of wonder and joy through her work.

