

A TIMELINE

Celebrating 75 Years of Hawai'i Baptist Academy

For 75 years, Hawai'i Baptist Academy has shaped tomorrow's leaders, fostering spiritual, intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth. With God's abundant blessings, we've empowered generations to bring honor to Him. Join us in celebrating 75 years of growth and success as we reflect on HBA's journey through the past, present, and future.

Founders of HBA



Mary and Hugh McCormick

"Christ for Every Nation" was the vision that led Southern Baptist missionaries to establish Hawaii Baptist Academy. In 1949, founders Hugh and Mary McCormick welcomed 36 students to a campus in Honolulu's Makiki district, using army barracks as classrooms. By 1953, HBA served grades 1-12, expanding its mission beyond the church to the wider community. HBA's first graduating class had three students in 1954; today, we celebrate a legacy of over 5,000 alumni.



HBA's first graduating class in 1954

Milestone Moments

- **1963** - Operation of the school is transferred to the Hawai'i Baptist Convention. The McCormicks and other missionary teachers retire/move back to the mainland.
- **1963** - Kindergarten is added



Kindergarten nap time



Stanley Sagert with students

- **1970** - Retiring U.S. Air Force Col. Stanley Sagert is elected by the HBC Board to head HBA and authorizes him to raise critical funds to support the school.

- **1971** - The 13.6 acre estate in Nu'uaniu is acquired for \$553,000 through an auction.

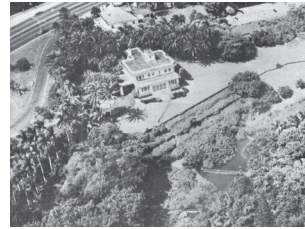


Photo courtesy of R.M. Towill Corporation

- **1973** - Construction starts on a 4-level classroom building on the Pali property. Dr. Dan Kong is asked to join HBA as vice president of development to help raise funds on the mainland. Grades 7-12 meet at Makiki Christian Church's educational building.

- **1975** - The Bessie Fleming Building on the Pali Campus is completed. Grades 7-12 move to the new Pali campus.



The Bessie Fleming Building - Pali Campus

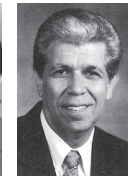
2nd grade class - 1957



- **1977** - The Mainland Advisory Council (MAC) holds its first meeting in Honolulu.
- **1982** - Isaiah 40:31 is adopted as the new Alma Mater.
- **1983** - The Shiraki Building is completed.
- **1986-1998** - HBA's Leeward Coast outreach brought education and faith to over 1,000 children, thanks in part to the generosity of John and Donna Stanford.
- **1987** - HBA purchased the Sacred Hearts Convent School for its elementary campus, a transaction that even required Vatican approval.



Dan Kong



Richard Bento

- **1988** - Dr. Dan Kong becomes president.
- **1994** - Richard Bento becomes HBA's fourth president.
- **1999** - HBA celebrates its 50th anniversary, marked by student involvement in 50 community service projects.
- **2006** - The middle school campus is completed and named after former school president Dr. Dan Kong.



Dan Kong Middle School Campus

- **2013** - The new Arts and Science Building is completed at the High School. The high school library is renovated into the Learning Resource Center.



New Arts and Science Building and the Learning Resource Center (inset).

- **2014** - Donor Wall on the Arts and Science Building is unveiled in February.



Ronald Shiira '75

- **2016** - Ronald Shiira '75, vice president since 2013, becomes HBA's fifth president.

- **2016** - The elementary campus is named in honor of Richard Bento.

- **2020 and 2022** - HBA opened the JK Preschool in Honolulu and expanded with a new preschool at GracePoint in Mililani, broadening HBA's commitment to early education.



Looking Ahead: Campaign for Transformation

Our Campaign for Transformation will further HBA's legacy with the new Innovation and Discovery Center, a cutting-edge space for hands-on learning, and the Institute for Hope, designed to expand outreach and deepen our mission work in the community.

As we look to the future, we continue the legacy set by our founders. With a mission to bring "Christ for Every Nation," HBA remains dedicated to faith, innovation, and leadership—guiding future generations to Christ. Our journey, now 75 years strong, is far from over.

