



# Graduation

**FALL 2023**



## A Message from President Gotanda

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### *Aloha Fall 2023 Graduates,*

*Congratulations, and welcome to our graduation festivities, celebrating and honoring you and your significant achievements!*

*On your academic and life-enriching journey at Hawai'i Pacific University, you seized the opportunity to broaden your knowledge and your viewpoints. Through every experience in which you have engaged, interacting and collaborating with world-class faculty, supportive staff, classmates from diverse backgrounds, and leaders in our community, you graduate equipped to make impactful contributions in your communities and serve your fellow citizens. Your problem-solving, communication, and team-building skills will empower you now and well into the future as you continue to learn and grow.*

*While each of you, as a member of the Class of 2023, traveled a unique path to Hawai'i Pacific University, you and your classmates are now joined with a lifelong connection to your alma mater as members of our HPU 'ohana.*

*On behalf of HPU and your university's 'ohana, we are so proud of you and applaud your accomplishments. Mahalo, for taking part in the graduation ceremony, as a way to commemorate the tremendous efforts you made to pursue your passions, advance your education, and most importantly, prepare yourself for the next exciting chapter in your life's journey.*

*John Y. Gotanda  
President*

# HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

## **PROGRAM**

President John Y. Gotanda  
Senior Vice President and Provost Jennifer Walsh, Ph.D.,  
Master of Ceremonies

### **Welcome 'Oli**

Instructor of Hawaiian Language, Tracie Lopes

### **Processional**

### **Star-Spangled Banner *and* Hawai'i Pono'i**

River Roussos '23

### **Welcome and Remarks**

Senior Vice President and Provost Jennifer Walsh, Ph.D.

### **Valedictory Speakers**

Natalie Ann Ovena, Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

Natalie Castillo O'Brien, Master of Public Health

### **Presentation of Candidates**

### **Conferring of Degrees**

### **Degrees in Course**

### **Alumni Pledge**

Olena Heu, BA '07, MA '13

### **President's Remarks**

### **Recessional**

# Alumni Pledge

As a proud graduate of Hawai'i Pacific University,  
I am committed to upholding the mission and values of my alma mater.  
I pledge to honor our unique location in the Pacific  
Embracing diversity and global awareness in all situations  
To continue my innovative learning journey and  
Engage as an active member in my community.  
I pledge to preserve the traditional values of Hawai'i and of the University  
To act pono  
By upholding righteousness and integrity  
To tend to my kuleana  
By taking responsibility for my actions and looking out for others  
And to spread the message of aloha  
By showing endless compassion to all.  
I am forever changed by these lifelong values, lessons and experiences,  
Which have shaped me into a thoughtful leader, a global citizen, and most of all,  
A proud member of the HPU 'ohana.

## Core Values

Hawai'i Pacific University embraces these values which represent the spiritual, ethical, and philosophical principles that support our community.

These are the ideals that our students, graduates, faculty,  
and staff aspire to uphold.

### *Pono*

Meaning righteous, honest and moral, and an energy of necessity.

### *Kuleana*

Meaning responsibility and rights, and concern for all interests,  
property, and people.

### *Aloha*

Meaning hello, goodbye, love, kindness and grace, unity, humility,  
patience, and waiting for the right moment.

# Valedictory Speakers

Valedictory speakers at Hawai'i Pacific University are selected on the basis of grade point average and service to the community.

## **Natalie Ann Ovena**

### ***Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science***

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Natalie Ann Ovena grew up in Beaverton, Oregon. She has roots in Hawai'i, with her family immigrating to the Hawaiian Islands from the Philippines. She discovered her connection to nature by hiking and learning to identify plants with her mom, and from a young age, Ovena knew she wanted to study the environment and learn how to protect it. She chose HPU to study the diversity of ecosystems in Hawai'i.

Working with the Blue Planet Foundation as their Policy Fellow, Ovena researched renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy equity policies. Through community engagement, she helped build connections throughout Hawai'i, supporting Blue Planet's policy priorities. Embracing the opportunity to gain hands-on research experience, Ovena conducted research with HPU professor Dr. Carmella Vizza and partnered with the North Shore Community Land Trust to create a baseline profile of water quality parameters for Kalou fishpond and wetland taro patch to help inform restoration efforts.

Upon graduation, Ovena will continue research with Dr. Vizza through a two-year Hawai'i Sea Grant, beginning a new project documenting the fish species diversity and abundance to provide a baseline profile of the fish and help the North Shore Community Trust move forward with restoring Kalou as a traditional Hawaiian fishpond. Her longer-term career plan is to attend law school, studying environmental law and continuing to create change and help build a sustainable and equitable society.

## **Natalie Castillo O'Brien**

### ***Master of Public Health***

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Natalie Castillo O'Brien's global journey has led her to diverse locations, culminating in her current residence in the enchanting country of England. When the global pandemic emerged in 2020, O'Brien, then an undergraduate healthcare administration major, immersed herself in understanding public health dynamics, sparking a profound interest in epidemiology. Pursuing a Master of Public Health (MPH) became her next logical step, and HPU offered the ideal program to refine her skills further. Despite relocating to England midway through her MPH studies, O'Brien found the HPU program fulfilling and valuable, demonstrating her commitment to overcoming logistical challenges.

Her master's capstone project, "Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) Health Seeking Dilemma," benefited significantly from her internship and volunteer work with HealthWatch England. The research underscored the complexity of the OCD health-seeking dilemma, emphasizing the urgent need for policies promoting mental health literacy across various settings. These initiatives, according to O'Brien, can facilitate early detection, diagnosis, and treatment for individuals grappling with OCD.

O'Brien attributes the shaping of her HPU education to guidance from professors, collaboration with peers, and hands-on experiences in the broader community. Looking ahead, she is determined to continue her academic journey, pursuing a Ph.D. in epidemiology.

# Academic Honors and Degree Conferral

Academic honors and degrees for this ceremony are calculated based upon grades earned prior to commencement. Final honors and degrees are conferred when the University Registrar posts the degree to the student's official transcript. Students graduating with HPU honors are wearing an honors sash as follows: Associate degree students graduating With Honors (with overall 3.4 – 4.0 HPA) receive a light blue sash; Bachelor's degree students graduating Summa Cum Laude (3.9 – 4.0 HPA), Magna Cum Laude (3.7 – 3.89 HPA), and Cum Laude (3.4 – 3.69 HPA) receive a silver sash; and Master's degree students graduating With Distinction (3.8 – 4.0 HPA) receive a gold sash.

## Honors Regalia

Graduating students wearing honors regalia are members of local, national, or international honor societies. Honor cords, pins, or medallions identify students as members of one of the societies or programs listed below:

**Alpha Chi:** Blue and green cords. Membership is limited to the top 10% of juniors and seniors based on their HPU GPA and completion of 30 credits at HPU.

**Alpha Epsilon Delta:** Red and violet cords. Membership is limited to students with at least a 3.2 GPA in science courses and a major interest in medicine.

**Alpha Lambda Delta:** Red, gold, and white cords. Membership is limited to students in their first year at HPU who have achieved a GPA of 3.5.

**Alpha Sigma Lambda:** Maroon and gold cords. Membership is limited to undergraduate students at least 27 years of age who have a GPA of 3.2.

**Beta Beta Beta:** Green and red cords. Membership is limited to students enrolled in biological sciences with a GPA of at least 3.0.

**Chi Alpha Sigma:** Gold medallions. Membership is limited to students in HPU athletics who have earned the equivalent of an intercollegiate varsity letter and have maintained a GPA of at least 3.4.

**Delta Mu Delta:** Purple and gold cords. Membership is limited to undergraduate and graduate students in the business degree program having a minimum GPA of 3.4 and 3.6 respectively.

**Kappa Mu Epsilon:** Lapel pins. Membership is limited to undergraduate students majoring in mathematics who have earned a GPA of 3.0 or better and rank in the upper 35% of their class.

**Lambda Pi Eta:** Red and white cords and lapel pin. Membership is limited to students majoring in communication who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 for all communication courses.

**Mu Kappa Tau:** Royal blue cord and lapel pin. Membership is limited to undergraduate or graduate marketing students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 and undergraduate students who are either in the top 10% of their junior class or top 20% of their senior class.

**Phi Alpha:** Single gold cord. Membership is limited to students enrolled in the social work degree program who have an overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a GPA of 3.25 in social work courses.

**Phi Alpha Theta:** Lapel pins and sashes. Membership is limited to students majoring in history ranking in the top 35% of their class with a GPA of at least 3.1 in history classes.

**Pi Alpha Alpha:** Lapel pin and blue and gold cords. Membership is limited to students in disciplines related to public service, such as public administration and criminal justice with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 for undergraduates and 3.7 for graduate students.

**Pi Sigma Alpha:** Medallion. Membership is limited to students majoring in or having taken at least six upper-division credits in political science, with a cumulative GPA of 3.2.

**Psi Chi:** Blue and silver cords.

Membership is limited to students in psychology who have a cumulative GPA of 3.45 and rank in the top 35% of their class.

**Sigma Delta Pi:** Lapel pins. Membership is limited to students studying Spanish language and culture who have a GPA of 3.0 in their Spanish courses and rank in the top 35% of their class.

**Sigma Tau Delta:** Red and black cords. Membership is limited to students majoring in English or minoring in writing, film Studies, or literature who have a cumulative GPA of 3.44.

**Sigma Theta Tau:** Orchid and white cords. Membership is limited to nursing students who have a GPA of 3.0 (3.5 for graduate students) and are of junior or senior status with a ranking in the highest 35% of the nursing class.

**Upsilon Pi Epsilon:** Maroon and white cords and lapel pin. Membership is limited to students in the study of information systems, computer science, and computer information systems who have a GPA of 3.0 for undergraduate students or a 3.5 for graduate students.

**University Scholar:** Gold-ribboned honors medallion signifies a University Scholar who has maintained at least a 3.4 GPA in addition to completing nine honors-designated courses in their degree program, participated in extracurricular activities, and completed a senior presentation.

## Academic Regalia

Graduates and faculty participating in HPU's graduation ceremonies wear traditional academic attire. Associate and bachelor's degree candidates wear royal blue gowns with straight sleeves. Master's degree candidates wear royal blue gowns with oblong sleeves and hoods with colors that represent their degree programs. Doctoral candidates wear royal blue gowns with bell-shaped sleeves, including three velvet bars, blue velvet panels down the front with the university logo, blue velvet tam, and hoods with the colors that represent their degree program. Faculty may wear the regalia representing the university from which they received their terminal degree. At HPU, graduates may also wear lei in addition to honors cords, sashes and stoles. Tassel colors represent the various degree programs. They include:

<b>Doctoral Degrees</b>	<b>Tassel</b>	<b>Hood/Tam</b>
DNP	Apricot	Apricot with Silver and Grey
<b>Master's Degrees</b>	<b>Tassel</b>	<b>Hood</b>
MA	White	White with Silver and Grey
MATESOL	White	White with Silver and Grey
MBA	Drab	Drab with Silver and Grey
MCJ	Gold	Peacock Blue
MEd	Light Blue	Light Blue with Silver and Grey
MPA	Gold	Peacock Blue
MSIS	Gold	Gold with Silver and Grey
MSMS	Blue	Gold with Silver and Grey
MSN	Apricot	Apricot with Silver and Grey
MSW	Citron	Citron with Silver and Grey
<b>Bachelor's Degrees</b>	<b>Tassel</b>	
BA	White	
BEd	Light Blue	
BPA	Peacock Blue	
BS	Gold	
BSBA	Drab	
BSHS/BSPH	Gold	
BSN	Apricot	
BSW	Citron	
<b>All Associate Degrees</b>	<b>Tassel</b>	
Associate	Black	
<b>Veteran Affairs</b>	<b>Cord</b>	
Veteran Affairs	Braided Red, White, and Blue	

# College of Business

— DEAN: *Mark S. Rosenbaum, Ph.D.*

## Bachelor of Science

---

Randi Eyðunsdóttir á Bergi

Isaac Ikaika Costa

Garrett Michael Dean \*

Megan Nicole Espinoza \*

Jefferson Jay Foust †

Andrew James Hauck \*

Shamod Hill

Mads Larsson Hovelsroed

Shawn Hutchinson †

Beth Marie Ilanan

Andrew Perez Jennings

Ian Drake Miller

Alice Sharon Bañez Minor †

Joseph Musto †

Hasee Nazir †

Sonny Nguyen \*

Ryuji Oshima †

Denise A. Robinson

Amiryn Strong

Hong An Nguyen Tran

Raymonchito Uclusin †

Alani White

Honoka Yamami †

Yuya Yamamoto †

## Master of Business Administration

---

Eivind Oliver Asskildt †

Sebastián Andrés Pavez Busch

Rath Chavalitumrong †

Christina Del Guidice †

Jacob Harrison †

Johann Laurits Cometti Koppervik †

Jacob Michael Lane

Sean Majer

David Paul Martinez †

Paul J. Mayo †

Cara Chan McClean †

Clemens Vincent Meyers

Anika Lariz Novio

William Demarius Ricks †

Diana Roberts †

Diana Marcela Romero

Mervyn Sales †

Kiley Ozaki

## Master of Science

---

Keerthy Bharathan

Darryl Thomas Byrd JR

Romar Peynado

Dominic Toone

\**Summa Cum Laude* (HPA 3.9–4.0) †*Magna Cum Laude* (HPA 3.7–3.89) \**Cum Laude* (HPA 3.4–3.69)

\**With Honors* (HPA 3.4–4.0) †*With Distinction* (HPA 3.8–4.0)

*Program went to print on December 4, 2023.*



# College of Liberal Arts

— DEAN: *Allison Gough, Ph.D.*

## Bachelor of Arts

---

Lena Eugenio Barber  
Reginald Maurice Bowman Jr. ◊  
Kathleen Chevalier  
Amanda Chhour  
Jakia Raquel Cox  
Noah Emile Daher ◊

Mitchell Egelhoff  
Lili Rose Garcia (Viola)  
Theodore Takaharu Gonzales  
Alyssa Lynn Harris \*  
Celeste Herrstrom  
Gillian Victoria Huss ◊

Jenairia Lewis \*  
Richard Rah  
Karina Angela Reyes  
River Roussos \*  
Kate Nohea Wilhelm †

## Bachelor of Science

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Michael Collat ◊  
Joshua P. Gartner ◊

## Graduate Certificate

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Kristin Ashley Kojima

## Master of Arts

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James Asman ◊  
Joshua Rustin Bates ◊  
Elise Drag ◊  
Sophia Jade Garrido ◊

Madeline Margaret Heyde  
Céleste Vandenheede ◊  
Tatyana Lukov ◊  
Suzuyo Obata ◊

Barton Daniel Robinson ◊  
Celeste Vandenheede ◊  
Vernon Tyler Wilcox

*\*Summa Cum Laude (HPA 3.9–4.0) ◊Magna Cum Laude (HPA 3.7–3.89) \*Cum Laude (HPA 3.4–3.69)*

*◊With Honors (HPA 3.4–4.0) ◊With Distinction (HPA 3.8–4.0)*

*Program went to print on December 4, 2023.*

# College of Natural and Computational Sciences

— DEAN: *Brenda Jensen, Ph.D.*

## Bachelor of Science

---

Montaye Asongen Adams ◊

John Doyle Bazile

Ian Beals †

Jamie Jade Brink

Alyssa Taylor Cabbab Carino ◊

Kellen Chevalier \*

Somer Nichole Kay Dahme

Ryan Hunter Batangan De Jesus

Tori Falk

Olivia Michelle Freed \*

Tyler-Perryn Maradee Gates

Jenna Grantham

Emily Rose Hackett ◊

Donna Hernandez

Nicholas Kalis \*

Liam Killeen

Mikayla Kreeger ◊

Kirsten S. Lindner \*

Theresa Marzano-Furuly ◊

Truong Nguyen ◊

Natalie Ann Ovena †

Yam Pariyar \*

Frances Elisha Alipio Pascual

Devyn Leilahni Viera

Ashley Rose Whitney †

Melissa Zheng

## Master of Science

---

Annie Rose Deck ◊

Savannah Marie Laliberte

Colleen Marie Lawlor ◊

Brittney Lockett

Sydney Rae Luitgaarden

Hannah Lara Weinstein ◊

*\*Summa Cum Laude (HPA 3.9–4.0) ◊Magna Cum Laude (HPA 3.7–3.89) \*Cum Laude (HPA 3.4–3.69)*

*◊With Honors (HPA 3.4–4.0) ◊With Distinction (HPA 3.8–4.0)*

*Program went to print on April 28, 2023.*

# College of Professional Studies

— DEAN: *Mani Sehgal, ABD*

## Certificate

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Michael Kea

## Associate of Arts

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Victor Davis

Alia Ivory Gaddy

Terrance Hogan

Hunter Jett

Fiorella Naomi Rojas Navarro

Alaina Rodriguez

Gabriela Lisette Rodriguez \*

## Associate of Science

---

Tyron Jig Reyes Acero \*

Kathren K. Acosta-Gonzalez

Markita Bursey \*

Emmanuel K. Dei \*

John Anthony Delgado Jr.

Katherine Marie Flemming

Ian Charles Hazen

Tylor Edward Hinders

Kenneth Jake Peterson

Hepsy Gail Herosa Salada \*

Luke Joseph Sherman \*

Bonnie Marie Snyder

William Eugene Stafford III \*

## Bachelor of Arts

---

Thipmalay Siyajuck-Lynn

Cadeshia Taylor

## Bachelor of Science

---

Glenn Austin Ablang Cacho

Isabella Marie Chop

Alexis Isabel Fuentes

Riley Victoria Hennessy \*

Lea-Ann Aiko Ka uamailani Sado-Elvenia \*

Adam Douglas Smith \*

Randy Tabura \*

Sara Marianna Valtanen \*

## Master of Arts

---

Christine Nobleza Balderas Ortiz

Naomi Hughes \*

## Master of Education

---

Nakia Pohaikealoha Braffith \*

Hia Chan \*

Sheila Marie Edwards \*

Makana Leialoha Skyler Macomber \*

Mia Narcisa Mercado

Ricky Salinas \*

Christine Meredith Schafer Cosca \*

Holly N. Tarver \*

Sanoe Avetonu Maluhia Tuitele

Gwendolyn Kailea Peneyra Turla

Darren James Young \*

## Master of Public Administration

---

Thomas Aceunway Dobbin Jr. \*

Tasha Auli'inani Ham-Deponte

Raul Francis Heredia Jr. \*

Derrick Alton Hilton

Chazerae Maghanoy

Kim T. May

Lawrence Matthew Mickelson \*

Maggie Osborne

Leah Marie Prasinios \*

Julius Caesar Tinaza \*

## Master of Science

---

Jarret F. Espiritu \*

Christopher Magnani Sr.

# School of Nursing

— DEAN: *Edna Magpantay-Monroe, Ed.D.*

## Bachelor of Science

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Maria Mae Calabitin Aguilar \*  
Che-ung Julian Kamoku Aiona \*  
Brennan Allee-Munoz  
Danielle Maria Archuleta  
Tiana Valen Aspili  
Rosi Badalamenti \*  
Jennifer Bandy \*  
Maria Rose Cane  
Kenedy Rain Cheeseman †  
Alexandra Lyons Stainton Costa  
Simeon Jose Ines de Hitta †  
Greer Evelyn Dinsmore †  
Nohea Isabella Kanoelehuau'ilauna'oleonalani Espejo \*  
Christian Cadiante Fontanilla  
Rafael Santiago Gacula  
Samantha Jayne Gamble \*  
Angela Noelle Garcia †  
Allyson Aiko Goldman \*  
Chantel Ann Green \*  
Maya Michiko Moani'ala Hagiwara †  
Andrea Chanel Herrera  
Alyssa Jitchaku  
Courtney Morgan Johnson  
Kaitlyn Taylor Tolentino Justo  
Jenny He Kashimoto  
Hara Ku  
Leya Leliaert  
Baylee Kau'i Khanthayavong Leong  
Diné Leonillo  
Kealee Lingard  
Crystal Roxann Llamas  
Juliet Llarenas †

Vi Lowder  
Irene Ly †  
Helen Baldacchino Marshall  
Bryan Mollitor  
Lauren Marie Jimenez Nagal  
Vicky Nguyen †  
Youngrok Oh \*  
Alyssa Malia Okawa  
Jon Ivan Ordonez †  
Georjianne Nicolai R. Ortiz †  
Caressa Lat Palma  
Kiana Reyes Paulino  
Alyssa Primacio  
Gabrielle Quimino \*  
Ashley-Rachel Bonilla Ragonjan †  
Jessica Mae Raposas \*  
Lacy Christine Razor †  
Samantha Lei Angel Resurreccion  
Dannie Rogers  
Yailenne Yannette Rosado †  
Amber Kathryn Schaefer \*  
Ashley A. Sebastian \*  
Kristia Selga  
Jenna Leigh Shelburne  
Kristin Michele Bumanglag Silva  
Bryn Ellen Smith  
Bailey Marie Strauser  
Robyn Teruya  
Brittenny Quinn Ubaso \*  
Ryan Kapeka Villaverde  
Demi Irene Winters

\**Summa Cum Laude* (HPA 3.9–4.0) †*Magna Cum Laude* (HPA 3.7–3.89) \**Cum Laude* (HPA 3.4–3.69)

\**With Honors* (HPA 3.4–4.0) †*With Distinction* (HPA 3.8–4.0)

*Program went to print on December 4, 2023.*

## Master of Public Health

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Shelby Waioli Kioko Enos  
Geraldine Euplas ✦  
Emma Gownley ✦  
Kodeelyn Himuro

Megumi Mai Miyataki ✦  
Natalie Castillo O'Brien ✦  
Ritchell Ruth Miguel Tejada

## Master of Science

---

Christina Nancy Braddock  
Ryan Mark Demello ✦  
Ashley-Rae N.V. Fujie-Fukuki ✦

Mary Katherine Tully ✦  
Jessica Kristin Reiko Ward ✦  
Kathryn Louise Weber ✦

## Post Master's Certificate

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Micole Brookins  
Ma GennyLou Hauf  
Victor Labrado

Tineisha C. Nagle  
Shijuana Obi  
Hyesu Shin

## Doctor of Nursing Practice

---

Susan Yi Berganio  
Dione Marcia Cole  
Ebony Elaine Hairston  
Yun Jung Lee  
Michael Glen Luttrell  
Nicole Meier  
Nicole Therese McBride Riley

*\*Summa Cum Laude (HPA 3.9–4.0) ✦Magna Cum Laude (HPA 3.7–3.89) \*Cum Laude (HPA 3.4–3.69)*

*\*With Honors (HPA 3.4–4.0) ✦With Distinction (HPA 3.8–4.0)*

*Program went to print on December 4, 2023.*

*HPU acknowledges the loss of two students who passed away  
during the course of the Fall 2023 semester.*

*We join their families and friends in honoring them today:*

*Nolan R. Chappell*

*Yliana Aileen Hernandez*

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While every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of this publication, changes may occur after printing. This program is printed prior to final grades being received for the Fall term. Degrees and honors in the program are calculated based on the HPA (Honors Grade Point Average) earned as of the end of the Winter term, the last graded term. Final degrees and honors are determined by the Registrar's Office. This publication does not legally confer degrees or honors status.