

KAI ULU

HPU Alumni Currents

The Appointment of HPU's New Senior Vice President and Provost

Hawai'i Pacific University is pleased to announce the appointment of Alan R. Shoho, Ed.D., as Senior Vice President and Provost, effective May 2026. This appointment reflects HPU's continued commitment to academic excellence, student success, and global engagement.

Dr. Shoho brings more than three decades of senior leadership experience in higher education, most recently serving as Provost and Chief Academic Officer at New Mexico State University, where he provided comprehensive oversight of academic programs and guided the institution through a period of significant advancement. His leadership contributed to enrollment growth, improved student retention, expanded research activity, and the attainment of Carnegie R1 research status.



Alan R. Shoho, Ed.D.,
as Senior Vice President and Provost,
effective May 2026.

Previously, Dr. Shoho served as Dean of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and spent more than twenty years at the University of Texas at San Antonio in faculty and senior academic leadership roles. A nationally recognized scholar in educational leadership, he has authored and edited multiple books and published extensively in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Shoho holds degrees from California State University, Fullerton; the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and Arizona State University. He will officially assume his role after Spring Commencement and is expected to visit campus in March to begin engaging with the HPU community.

Hawai'i Pacific University looks forward to welcoming Dr. Shoho as he advances the institution's academic mission and priorities.

Introducing a New Alumni Benefit



Maureen C. Silva, Ph.D.
Vice President of
Advancement
Hawai'i Pacific University

At Hawai'i Pacific University, our commitment to you does not end at graduation—it evolves with you. That's why I'm delighted to share an exciting new benefit designed to support your lifelong learning and professional growth.

HPU has partnered with Coursera, one of the world's leading online learning platforms, to provide our alumni with access to 5,000+ high-quality courses spanning business, technology, leadership, wellness, and more. Whether you're looking to sharpen existing skills, explore a new field, or stay competitive in an ever-changing career landscape, this opportunity is here for you.

We are proud to invest in resources that empower our alumni to continue learning, growing, and leading—wherever life and career may take you.

To get started, join the waitlist by filling out the form [HERE](#). We will be in touch with next steps to complete your enrollment.

Aloha from Spring Sports

HPU's spring athletics season is off to an exciting start as coaches share their optimism, welcome new and returning talent, and gear up for the season, ready to compete with heart, pride, and purpose.

Alex Takemura – Softball Coach

With a new coaching staff, this season asked us to adapt quickly and trust each other. We answered with preparation, resilience, and consistent effort. That foundation is something we'll carry with us.

THE CURRENTS



[Softball Schedule](#)

Daisha Paulino – Acro & Tumbling Coach

This year, Acrobatics & Tumbling has an exciting mix of returning talent and newcomers. This group has shown tremendous growth and commitment to the process throughout the fall. We're looking forward to carrying that momentum into the season while representing HPU with pride.

[Acro & Tumbling Schedule](#)



James Burns – Cheerleading Coach

Your HPU Cheerleading Sharks are gearing up for an amazing spring semester! The team made a HUGE splash at the 2025 Hawaii High School State Cheerleading Championship Exhibition back in November and are excited to do the same at this year's NCA Daytona Collegiate Cheerleading Nationals. Follow our Instagram for more updates! @HPUCheer.

[Cheerleading Schedule](#)

Daniel Pollock – Men's Tennis Coach

This year we have an exciting mix of experienced returners and fresh faces with a lot to prove. The fall semester brought success on the court, in the classroom, and through significant community engagement. During the spring we'll rely heavily on our strength in depth as we aim to represent HPU with pride on the national stage!

[Men's Tennis Schedule](#)



Chelsea Patton – Women's Tennis Coach

I'm incredibly excited to start off season on January 20th at Kailua Racquet Club. The players motivate each other to bring their best daily and I'm honored to lead them into battle on the tennis court. As my first season as head coach, we are prepared to fight passionately for every point and look to be the top in the Pacwest Conference.

[Women's Tennis Schedule](#)

Ed Kageyama- Women's and Men's Golf Coach

We're really looking forward to the Spring season. Having come off a historic Fall season for our women's golf team with two team wins and two individual wins, we hope to be good position going into our Spring Championship season.

[Women's Golf Schedule](#)

[Men's Golf Schedule](#)



Dane Fujinaka – Men's Baseball Coach

We are really looking forward to continuing to build off of the last 4 seasons. Thanks to previous teams, we are in a spot to compete for championships, and the goal is to bring one home this year. We have the culture, depth, and support to really make this happen for HPU in 2026

[Men's Baseball Schedule](#)

Join the excitement this spring—cheer on a game, reconnect with the 'ohana, celebrate the spirit of HPU, or show your [support by donating](#) to a team.

Go Sharks!

[HPU's Las Vegas Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program Is Granted Accreditation](#)

[Physician Assistant Student Awarded Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship](#)

[Blues Singer and Guitarist Ana Popovic Featured at 'HPU Talks'](#)

[Military Student Charts a Course Beyond the Uniform](#)

[Alumna Spotlight: Jill Castilla '96](#)



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*Celebrating 60 Years
of Innovation*

THE CURRENTS



HPU's Las Vegas Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program Is Granted Accreditation

Following a three-year, multiphase review, HPU's Las Vegas Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program has received seven-year accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. As one of only three accredited OTD programs in Nevada, it helps address the state's growing need for skilled occupational therapy practitioners. The program welcomed its first cohort in August 2025.

[READ MORE](#)



Blues Singer and Guitarist Ana Popovic Featured at 'HPU Talks'

Ana Popovic recently visited the university for the popular "HPU Talks" series. The event, hosted



Physician Assistant Student Awarded Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship

HPU Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant (PA) student Alexandra "Kau'i" Aplaca has been awarded a scholarship by the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program. Aplaca said the scholarship opportunity affirms her commitment to becoming a PA who serves the people of Hawai'i with both clinical excellence and cultural understanding.

[READ MORE](#)



Military Student Charts a Course Beyond the Uniform

by the College of Liberal Arts and moderated by Professor John Hart, Ph.D., gave students and community members an opportunity to learn about Popovic, who is celebrated for her commitment and determination as an artist and so much more.

[READ MORE](#)

Kailua-born Noah Eddins grew up as a “waterman,” but instead of heading straight to college, a chance encounter while surfing inspired him to join the U.S. Coast Guard, launching nearly a decade of global service. His journey eventually brought him back home to Hawai‘i, where he is now a standout student leader at HPU and an aspiring attorney.

[READ MORE](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

HPU Alumna Jill Castilla's '96 Journey Back to HPU



HPU alumna and trustee Jill Castilla '96 grew up in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, a small town that reminds her a lot of Hawai‘i. It is a place where people know one another, look out for one another, and step in when help is needed.

Located in eastern Oklahoma, Okmulgee was shaped by hardship in the past. The region was hit hard by the oil bust during the Great Depression and, decades later, by statewide energy downturns in the 1980s that collapsed oil prices. Opportunities were limited then, and expectations were often practical rather than aspirational.

Castilla was raised by her single father, a probation and parole officer. She attended Okmulgee High School, one of the most challenged school districts in the

Alumni Involvement

The HPU alumni ‘ohana is worldwide, all opportunities are available in-person or virtually. We encourage you to consider how you can contribute your time and talents to support our students. Your involvement can have a lasting impact on student personal and professional growth.

HPU Connect

HPU Connect makes it easy to get in touch with fellow alumni and support current students. Every HPU member adds value and prestige to our community.

[Sign Up Today!](#)

Career Connections

Whether you're exploring options for the future or simply curious, our online tools will help you reflect on what matters most, explore giving possibilities, and take the next step, with aloha.

[Learn More Here!](#)

Planned Giving

state. The focus at the time, she recalled, was not on college, but on getting students through high school and into stable lives.

“I was academically focused. I wanted to do a lot with my life and did not get a lot of encouragement to go to college,” Castilla said. “This is one of the most challenged school districts in our state.”

Determined to earn a college degree, Castilla paid her own way to Oklahoma State University, working overnight shifts at a grocery store in Stillwater while attending classes during the day as an engineering major. After a year and a half, she ran out of money and returned home, living in a storage building without plumbing behind her father’s house. She took another grocery store job, intent on saving enough to return to college.

It was a conversation with a customer one night that changed everything moving forward. The customer suggested the military and the GI Bill as a pathway forward. At 19, she enlisted.

Castilla became a construction surveyor, learning discipline, accountability, and how to operate under pressure. Living frugally, she saved nearly \$15,000, determined to reclaim her education. Then, in a painful lesson in financial vulnerability, that money disappeared after a family member forged her signature and drained her checking account.

“I didn’t know better from a financial literacy standpoint,” Castilla said. “And I never got it back.”

With little left but momentum and the determination to overcome obstacles, Castilla found a small college in South Texas that offered her a full ride. She packed her belongings into a trash bag and went. There, she met her husband. Both were in ROTC. When his orders came unexpectedly, stationed to Hawai‘i, Castilla arrived in Honolulu as a chemical engineering senior with unfinished business.

Castilla took a job at Crazy Shirts in the International Marketplace in Waikiki, working sales support at the company’s largest store. She loved it. More importantly, the role revealed something about herself she hadn’t fully recognized yet.

She tracked inventory, studied tourist demographics, and aligned products with who was walking through the door. Japanese visitors, she noticed, gravitated to one particular cat T-shirt. The store never sold out. Revenue climbed. Her supervisor, Sandy Wooden, took notice.

“Sandy told me I had great analytical skills and that I liked people,” Castilla said. “She suggested I think about business.” That suggestion echoed an earlier turning point in Castilla’s life.

[Full Article](#)

Whether you're exploring options for the future or simply curious, our online tools will help you reflect on what matters most, explore giving possibilities, and take the next step, with aloha.

[Launching soon — stay tuned!](#)

HPU Athletics

Learn more about our teams, game schedules, standout student-athletes, and how you can support HPU Athletics all season long.

[Learn More Here!](#)

Upcoming Events:

How to Brand Yourself for Success

Wednesday, February 4th

9:00 a.m. PST

[More Info Here](#)

How to Navigate Disruptive Change

Tuesday, February 24th

9:00 a.m. PST

[More Info Here](#)

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