

# KAI ULU

## HPU Alumni Currents

### A Message from Dean Edna Magpantay-Monroe: Local Heart, Global Impact: Celebrating HPU's Nursing Community

As we celebrate Nursing Awareness Month, I want to share my heartfelt appreciation for the remarkable achievements of HPU's nursing students and the meaningful impact they make in our communities. I also extend deep gratitude to our dedicated alumni who embody the values of compassion, leadership, and service in their daily work. Whether you're serving in hospitals, public health organizations, or communities around the world, your contributions are recognized and deeply valued.

As I reflect on my own journey into nursing, I'm reminded of how personal this calling can be. I immigrated to the U.S. with my siblings, and it was my mother—a pharmacist in the Philippines—who encouraged my sister and me to pursue nursing. I have now been a registered nurse for nearly 38 years. I earned my BSN from the University of Illinois at Chicago and went on to receive a Master of Science in Nursing as an adult primary care nurse practitioner from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. Later, I pursued a doctoral degree in Education, solidifying my commitment to shaping the next generation of nurses and advancing nursing education at the university level.

This journey led me to HPU, not once, but twice.



Dean Edna Magpantay-Monroe of  
the School of Nursing,  
at Hawai'i Pacific University

[Full Message](#)

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THE  
CURRENTS

# HPU GRADUATES

## LARGEST CLASS SIZE IN

## A DECADE AT SPRING

## GRADUATION

## CEREMONY

By Gregory Fischbach



HPU celebrated the accomplishments of its spring class of 2025 with two graduation ceremonies held yesterday at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort. Approximately 700 graduates received their degrees, marking HPU's largest graduating class in a decade. Nearly 100 of these graduates earned Associate of Arts (A.A.) degrees through the

University's **dual-credit program**.

Through partnerships with five local high schools, Hawai'i high school students have earned college credits and completed their A.A. degrees before their high school graduation ceremonies. Since 2023, more than 250 students have achieved this significant milestone, a testament to the program's remarkable growth and impact.



Inspired by this success, HPU will extend its commitment to affordability and accelerated achievement with the launch of its new three-year undergraduate business degree in fall 2026. Designed to meet the needs of today's students and their families, the program will help graduates enter the workforce sooner, with less debt and greater momentum.

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## THE CURRENTS



### Honoring the 'Āina through Beyond the Cap 2025

This spring, HPU students gathered at the Maunawila Heiau Complex in Hau'ula for the semester's Beyond the Cap event. The initiative, which blends cultural education with



### HPU Names Its 2025 'Teacher of the Year'

Associate Professor of Economics Ken Schoolland was named "Teacher of the Year." A surprise announcement occurred



### Waves of Justice Summit Brings Together Community Partners

This spring, HPU, Chaminade University of Honolulu, and the nonprofit Ho'ōla Nā Pua collaborated to host Waves of

environmental stewardship, was organized by Sharks United, the Student Government Association, and Sharks Legacy, in partnership with the Hawai'i Land Trust.

[Learn More](#)



### Nursing and Public Health Students Promote Wellness at 'Healthy Kids Day'

At the Nu'uuanu YMCA's annual 'Healthy Kids Day,' HPU nursing and public health students provided hands-on health education and screenings to over 100 children and their parents. The idea for HPU's participation originated with Assistant Professor of Public Health and program co-chair Derek Cegelka, Ph.D., MPH, CHES, who also serves on the Nu'uuanu YMCA's board of managers.

[Click Here](#)

during one of his economics classes, followed by formal recognition at the May 5 graduation ceremonies. Schoolland, who joined the university in 1979, has inspired countless HPU students. He will retire from HPU in summer 2025.

[Read This](#)



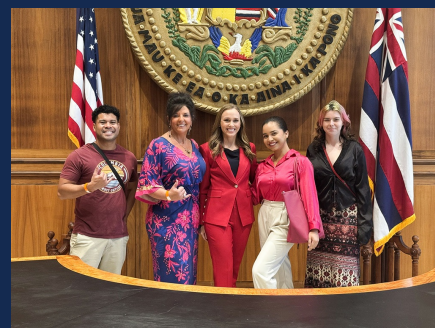
### The Evolution and Enduring Significance of Earth Day: Hangin' at the Reef Interview

In a recent podcast episode, Associate Professor and Acting Associate Dean of the College of Natural and Computational Sciences Regina Ostergaard-Klem, Ph.D., delves into Earth Day's lasting impact. She highlights Hawai'i's grassroots sustainability initiatives and introduces the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) as a more comprehensive alternative to GDP.

[Listen Now](#)

Justice: Human Trafficking Awareness & Strategy Summit, a community conference. The event emphasized real-world learning experiences for students across multiple academic disciplines.

[More Here](#)



### Business Students Step Inside Hawai'i's State Capitol for Real-World Policy Insight

Hosted by HPU alumna and Hawai'i State Rep. Lauren Matsumoto, students in College of Business faculty member Leslie Blood's "Business Policy and Strategy" course traded PowerPoints for policy and politics during a memorable "Capitol Talk and Tour" on March 20.

[More Info](#)



## Alum Zachary Drury '15



HPU alumnus Zach Drury '15 found his bliss in the Navy, winding through the streets of Cambodia, where the air shimmered with smoke from grilled meats and fish over charcoal and the distinctive tang of prahok rose from street stalls. Mangos, jackfruit, and longan spilled across the wooden tables of open-air markets. Drury walked across dampened soil from fresh rain, the scent of burning wood in the breeze. Jasmine and sandalwood drifted from home altars tucked under eaves. It was there, on humanitarian missions with the Navy and his wife, that something stirred, a recognition of a life rooted in culture, service, and human connection. A life he wanted to live more fully.

Originally from Salt Lake City, Utah, Drury joined the Navy as a professional bass guitarist. His job was to travel, to represent the United States through music and goodwill across the South Pacific. "Cambodia was our favorite," he said. "The people were so friendly. Everyone we met on our tours was just remarkable." Alongside his wife, a Navy saxophonist, they played city after city, building bridges note by note.

But in the quieter moments aboard the ship, he found himself watching the nurses with a closetful eye. "I remember how they connected with people," Drury said. "The trust. The impact. That's what made me start thinking about healthcare."

## 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

Networking, mentorship opportunity, and continued involvement with the HPU campus.

[Learn More Here!](#)

## Upcoming Events:

**Human-Centered Leadership:  
Cultivating a High-Performing and  
Innovative Workplace**  
Thursday, June 5th  
9:00 a.m. PDT  
[More Info Here](#)

**Why Are We Here: Creating a Work  
Culture Everyone Wants**  
Tuesday, June 10  
9:00 a.m. PDT  
[More Info Here](#)

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