



A Message from Greg Grauman , Vice President of Enrollment Management

Aloha HPU Alumni,

Every student’s HPU story begins somewhere.

For some, it starts with that first visit to Aloha Tower Marketplace and seeing campus along the waterfront. For others, it’s a meaningful conversation with an admissions counselor, a meeting with a faculty member, a scholarship offer, a call from a current student, or hearing a story from someone who once sat in the same classrooms.

As Vice President of Enrollment Management, I get to witness those first moments up close. My team works with students and families as they explore whether HPU is the right fit. We walk them through academic programs, financial aid, transfer options, international student support, and all the steps that turn interest into enrollment. It’s detailed work, but at its core, it’s deeply personal. Choosing a university is not just a transaction. It is a decision about belonging, purpose, and where you want your future to go.

That’s why our alumni matter so much.

You are one of HPU’s strongest and most authentic voices. You can speak from experience about what this university made possible in your life. You know what it meant to study in Hawai‘i, surrounded by cultures and perspectives from around the world. You know what it felt like to be part of a place that meets students where they are and prepares them for what’s next.



Greg Grauman, M.Ed.
Vice President of Enrollment Management
at Hawaii Pacific University

Full Message

HPU Alumni Gather in Stockholm
to Celebrate 60 Years of Global Impact



Hawai‘i Pacific University alumni, friends, and future students gathered in Stockholm to celebrate the university’s 60th anniversary, reflecting HPU’s global reach and enduring community.

HPU President John Gotanda and Vice President of Advancement Maureen Silva traveled from Honolulu to join attendees at the celebration, held at Café Opera and organized by alumni leaders Ella Berge ‘25, Louise Forslind ‘26, and Andreas Solheim ‘02.



The evening brought together graduates from across Europe and attendees from the U.S., highlighting the breadth of HPU’s global ‘ohana. In remarks to guests, the president underscored the significance of the university’s global presence.

“Although HPU is rooted in Hawai‘i, its reach has always been global,” he said. “Our graduates live and lead all over the world, and gatherings like this reflect the incredible international spirit that has defined HPU from the very beginning.”

THE
CURRENTS

[HPU Expands with Three Graduate Programs in Vietnam](#)

[A Look Inside HPU’s Master of Arts in Diplomacy and Global Security](#)

[Housing and Residence Life Welcomes New Director](#)

[Biomedical and Health Science Research Symposium Returns to HPU](#)

[Alumnna Spotlight: Mirta Gilson](#)



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THE CURRENTS



HPU Expands with Three Graduate Programs in Vietnam

HPU master's degrees in business, psychology, and artificial intelligence will be offered online and taught in Vietnamese. The Vietnam launch builds on HPU's partnership with Beacon Education, which introduced online graduate programs in China in Mandarin in 2024. MBA cohorts graduated in fall 2025, followed by artificial intelligence graduates in spring 2026.

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A Look Inside HPU's Master of Arts in Diplomacy and Global Security

HPU's Master of Arts in Diplomacy and Global Security is the only graduate program of its kind in Hawai'i, combining diplomacy and security studies through an interdisciplinary curriculum. According to Russell Hart, Ph.D., professor and director of Diplomacy and Military Studies, the program is built around a specific goal: preparing graduates for success in the knowledge economy of the 21st century.

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Housing and Residence Life Welcomes New Director

HPU's new Director of Housing and Residence Life, Marquet Houston, brings experience in residential programming, student engagement, and community development across diverse higher education settings. Most recently, he served as



Biomedical and Health Science Research Symposium Returns to HPU

Fourteen students from the College of Natural and Computational Sciences presented original research in marine science, chemistry, biology, and biomedicine at the symposium, which drew about

Associate Director of Residential Engagement at Simmons University in Boston.

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50 students, faculty, alumni, and community members at the close of the spring 2026 semester.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

HPU Alumna Mirta Gilson: The Music Between Us



HPU alumna Mirta Gilson is the co-founder and chief operating officer of [Audiotool](#). Today, the platform is a complete music production studio that opens in a web browser, available to anyone with an internet connection, and it has put professional music-making within reach of creators in nearly every country on earth. The promise is simple, and a little radical: the tools that once sat behind expensive software and locked studio doors now belong to everyone at once.

"Audiotool enables music production collaboratively. And it is free," Gilson said. "If you produce a song online with someone, everyone has the same access."

Long before Gilson and her team built a place for collaborators around the world to make music together, she was the one crossing oceans, boarding planes to find the people and places she had only imagined. Her story starts, as so many of the best ones do, with a young person who wanted to see everything.

Gilson grew up in Bonn, the Rhine River town that gave the world Beethoven and served for decades as the capital of West Germany. She went on to university in nearby Cologne. She carried a mixed inheritance from the start. Her father is Belgian, and she was raised speaking both French and German. She was, in her own telling, always interested in the world.

In her senior year of high school, she flew to the San Francisco Bay Area as an exchange student, living with a host family in Walnut Creek and, within days, learning the BART system well enough to make the region her own. "It was so fascinating how different it was, making friends there," Gilson said. "I made friends with other exchange students from all of these different countries. I wanted to become a journalist or have a career in music. My first idea was to become a tour manager for a band. That was my dream job growing up."

The soundtrack in her ear was grunge, Nirvana loud in her headphones, and the experience did two things at once. It introduced her to the American way of life, and it surrounded her with an international one, a room full of teenagers from everywhere.

Back in Germany, an internship at a radio station gave her the advice that would shape everything that followed. The station chief told her to study whatever she was truly passionate about.

"Maybe I'll study American Studies, I thought, because I was interested in America," Gilson said. "It was a fascinating program because it spanned various

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

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.

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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:

Good Money: Building a Financial Life with Purpose with John Coleman
Wednesday, May 13th
9:00 a.m. PDT
[More Info Here](#)

How to Thrive in Times of Uncertainty with Liz Tran
Thursday, May 21st
9:00 a.m. PDT
[More Info Here](#)

topics that included literature, law, history, geography, art history, economics. It was a strong, rare, interdisciplinary program."

Early on, she learned that the degree would require a semester abroad in the U.S. She had already lived in the Bay Area, so this time she wanted somewhere different, somewhere even more diverse, a place where the world's cultures met.

One day, Gilson discovered an information session in Cologne. The presentation described how Hawai'i is at the crossroads of the Pacific, a place where cultures from around the globe converge in the middle of the ocean. HPU is placed right at that intersection.

Gilson had never set foot in the islands. In the second year of her degree, she got on a series of planes and arrived at night.

"I went to the beach in Waikiki, and it was unreal," Gilson said. "I couldn't wait for the sun to rise. To see paradise. It left a profound memory, my arrival in Hawai'i."

HPU welcomed her at the door. She still remembers the shape of those first days, the onboarding week, the orientation, a campus full of people from places she had only dreamed of visiting. The palm trees, the scent of the ocean, the flowers in the lei shops in Chinatown.

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