

# KAI ULU

## HPU Alumni Currents

### A Message from John Y. Gotanda: HPU's Role in the Global Marketplace

One of the greatest privileges of serving as President of Hawai'i Pacific University is witnessing the extraordinary ways our alumni are shaping the world. Across continents and industries, they are leading with purpose—advancing innovation, strengthening communities, and building connections that reflect the spirit of HPU.

Among them are:

- Vikén Martarian, BSBA '02 & MBA '04, Head of Americas & Escalators and member of the Group Executive Committee at Schindler Group. (A premier worldwide manufacturer and provider of elevators, escalators, and moving walkways with a workforce of over 69,000 in more than 100 countries.)
- Ricardo Losada Revol '02, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Choice Hotels International (One of the world's largest lodging franchisors, with over 7,500 hotels and 650,000 rooms across 46 countries and territories.)



John Y. Gotanda  
President  
at Hawai'i Pacific University

[Full Message](#)

### In Memoriam



Hawai'i Pacific University shares the passing of Violet "Vi" Soo Wun Loo, a longtime trustee and dedicated member of our 'ohana, on March 5 at the age of 90. Alongside her late husband, Paul C. T. Loo, one of HPU's founding members, she played an important role in shaping and supporting the university through her leadership and generosity. A strong advocate for education, the arts, and community, her legacy continues to be reflected across campus and beyond. The university extends its condolences to her family and loved ones.

## PRESS RELEASE



## THE CURRENTS

[HPU's 'Bounty Project' Hauls Over 185,000 Pounds of Ghost Gear](#)

[The Inaugural HPU Physician Assistant Cohort Is Celebrated at White Coat](#)

# HPU Earns Accreditor Approval for Groundbreaking 3-Year Business Degree



HPU announced that its Bachelor of Science in Global Business (BSGB) has received formal approval from WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), the University's regional accreditor. The BSGB is a pioneering 90-credit, three-year undergraduate degree that was designed from the ground up to be fast, flexible, and future-focused.

The WSCUC review committee issued two formal commendations alongside its approval, noting that the "curriculum has been thoughtfully designed and provides evidence of innovation in delivery method and instructional pedagogy," and "the program has attracted well-qualified faculty with teaching and professional experience."

The approval makes HPU one of only a select group of national institutions to offer a fully accredited three-year bachelor's degree in business and is the first program in Hawai'i to do so.

"The return on investment of a college degree is not measured in years. It's measured in outcomes," said HPU President John Gotanda. "Our global business scholars earn a fully accredited bachelor's degree in three years, saving an entire year of tuition, housing, and living expenses, all while building the real-world skills employers are actively looking for. This program gives HPU students a clear competitive advantage."

The cost of a bachelor's degree has come under increasing scrutiny as tuition, housing, and living expenses continue to climb, fueling a national conversation about whether higher education can deliver the same quality outcomes in less time and at lower cost. The three-year degree joins a growing national movement to reimagine the bachelor's degree as a smarter, faster, and more affordable pathway to career readiness, and HPU's BSGB is designed to answer that question directly, without sacrificing rigor or credential quality.

Ceremony

Community Partnership with Child & Family Service Advances HPU's Strategic Pillar

Winner of the 'Scarpa Entrepreneurial Pathway Startup Challenge' Awarded \$10K


A Look Inside HPU's Master of Science in Medical Science (MSMEDS)

SGA's "Networking 101" Bridges the Gap Between HPU Students and Industry Leaders

Alumnus Spotlight: Andreas Beck



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## Join the HPU European Alumni Network LinkedIn!

Connect with alumni and stay updated on the upcoming gathering in Stockholm in this May!



Be a part of HPU's European Alumni Network!

Celebrate our global community.



Celebrating 60 Years of Innovation

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# THE CURRENTS



## HPU Bounty Project Hauls Over 185,000 Pounds of Ghost Gear

In just over three years, HPU's Center for Marine Debris Research "Bounty Project" has removed over 185,000 pounds (84 metric tons) of derelict fishing gear from the North Pacific Ocean by turning commercial fishing trips into vessels of opportunity for ocean cleanup, pulling nets, lines, and floats out of the water before they can drift into reefs, shorelines, or threaten endangered marine wildlife.

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## The Inaugural HPU Physician Assistant Cohort Is Celebrated at White Coat Ceremony

HPU's inaugural Physician Assistant cohort – the class of 2026 – was honored during their white coat ceremony on February 7 at the downtown campus. The milestone marks a key transition in their 24-month Master of Medical Science journey, symbolizing the shift from the didactic phase to the clinical phase.

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## Community Partnership with Child & Family Service Advances HPU's Strategic Pillar

HPU nursing students are taking their learning beyond the classroom through a growing partnership with Child & Family Service. Beginning this academic year, third-year pediatric nursing students will share their PDSA (Plan–Do–Study–Act) poster projects with CFS staff through a monthly presentation series.

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## Winner of the 'Scarpa Entrepreneurial Pathway Startup Challenge' Awarded \$10K

HPU held the inaugural "Scarpa Entrepreneurial Pathway Startup Challenge" competition on February 26, featuring five teams pitching innovative concepts. The winning team received \$10,000 and will advance to the next stage of the Hult Prize, a global competition where students build, scale, and pitch innovative startup ideas for a chance to win \$1 million in funding.

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## A Look Inside HPU's Master of Science in Medical Science (MSMEDS)

As the only program of its kind in Hawai'i, HPU's MSMEDS program was developed to replicate the experience of a first-year medical student. While MSMEDS is structured to prepare students for medical school, it also supports students pursuing other advanced health degree pathways.

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## SGA's "Networking 101" Bridges the Gap Between HPU Students and Industry Leaders

On March 2, the Student Government Association hosted "Networking 101," an event that encouraged students to step out of their comfort zones and learn how to create strong relationships to grow their personal and professional lives. The featured presenters were HPU alumni Joy Barua and Naomi Hazelton.

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# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## HPU Alumnus Andreas Beck: Seizing Opportunity in Chaos

### 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



HPU alum Andreas Beck can recognize Hawai‘i in an instant. Not by the skyline or the surf report, but by the air.

“The smell of Hawai‘i and the ocean is magical,” Beck shared. “You can wake me up in the middle of the night and I would know it is Hawai‘i right away. Something in the air. You know right away when you land that you are in a magical place.”

For Beck, an international business leader who’s spent about a decade in Dubai on and off, and who now serves as a managing partner and banking community leader at Kyndryl, that sensory memory isn’t just nostalgia. It’s a timestamp. Hawai‘i was the moment the world got bigger, louder, and more possible.

Beck grew up in Cologne, Germany, a city he describes as “warmhearted, open, and unapologetically social, historic in its bones and festive in its bloodstream.” Cologne’s carnival season is famous for taking over the city, and locals are known for being outgoing. Beck has an easy explanation for why: in Cologne, even the dialect comes with a drink pairing.

“We have a slang dialect in Cologne, and we are a very social culture,” he said. “It’s comically known as the only dialect you can drink! Kölsch dialect. And this is the beer that we drink as well. It’s only served in small glasses in the pubs, and if you go to a traditional Cologne pub, waiters go around and refill the beer. The only way to pass on the refill is to put your coaster on the top of the glass.”

It’s funny in the way Beck shares this local custom, but it’s also Beck in a nutshell: friendly momentum, lots of conversation, and an appreciation for the unwritten rules that make a place feel real.

That people-first wiring started early. Beck’s mother worked in consumer goods, and he began helping his family supply supermarkets with essentials—food, beverages, candy, tourist items—while meeting store owners and workers from many different backgrounds. The stores, he recalls, were run by a wide mix of

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!](#)

## 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.

[Learn More Here!](#)

## 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 Your Expectations Shape Your Performance, Resilience, and Results**

Tuesday, April 7th  
9:00 a.m. PDT

[More Info Here](#)

**The Strategic Genius of Taylor Swift**

Wednesday, April 15th  
9:00 a.m. PDT

[More Info Here](#)

people, and the work became a front-row seat to the world. Cologne, he said, is a liberal, open community, and growing up there made international diversity feel natural rather than novel.

“People want to go places,” Beck said. “Because Cologne is so diverse and open, we are used to being with people around the world. It is natural to feel comfortable with that diversity and for us to seek other cultures around the world that are as diverse and open as Cologne.”

That instinct collided with a very real problem in 2008. As a student at Fontys University of Applied Sciences Venlo in the Netherlands, Beck needed to complete a mandatory internship abroad. His original plan, a semester on a ship, fell apart when the financial crisis hit. Another option was Australia, but it didn’t spark his interests. He was stuck, the clock was ticking, and he wanted something real that was more than a backup plan.

Then a name popped up that he hadn’t expected: Hawai’i Pacific University.

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