

# KAI ULU

## HPU Alumni Currents

### Kai Ulu, Alumni Currents

Welcome to HPU's second edition of *Kai Ulu: Alumni Currents*. One of the most rewarding aspects of my role is fostering relationships with our alumni community. Just in the last year, I met graduates who are successful entrepreneurs and business owners, and others who are leaders of mature industries. I met a recent graduate from Hawai'i, boldly launching her career in mid-town Manhattan, and a mid-career alumni couple working to address complex international cybersecurity issues.

Just like you, today's students are from around the globe, gathering in the heart of the Pacific to experience HPU's innovative academic programs. They work closely with world-class faculty while learning in one of the world's most unique environments. To ensure our students are prepared not just for their first job, but for their entire careers, we continually update our curriculum and expand student opportunities for co-curricular, hands-on experiences.

One such initiative on campus is our new Maker Space—a hub dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation.



John Y. Gotanda, J.D.  
President of Hawai'i  
Pacific University

[Full Message](#)

## HPU UNVEILS INNOVATIVE MAKER SPACE AT ALOHA TOWER MARKETPLACE



Written by: Gregory Fischbach

## THE CURRENTS

[HPU Receives Prize from NASA to Advance Underrepresented Students in Space Research](#)

[HPU's Occupational Therapy Doctorate Programs Showcase Dual Campuses with One Singular Vision](#)



This spring, HPU unveiled an innovative Maker Space at Aloha Tower Marketplace—a 900-square-foot interdisciplinary hub open to students across all academic majors. Made possible by an anonymous donation, this initiative champions creativity, collaboration, and the fusion of diverse perspectives.

The Maker Space boasts cutting-edge equipment, including a direct-to-garment machine, embroidery machine, large format printer, vinyl cutter, multi-color 3D printers, sewing machine, various hand tools, and a laser cutter and engraver. In this space, HPU students will collaborate with a dedicated staff member, exploring their creativity and pushing boundaries. Additionally, a student mural project is in the works, promising an exciting addition to this dynamic space.



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Showcasing Student Talent at the 19th Annual 'Da Shark Show'

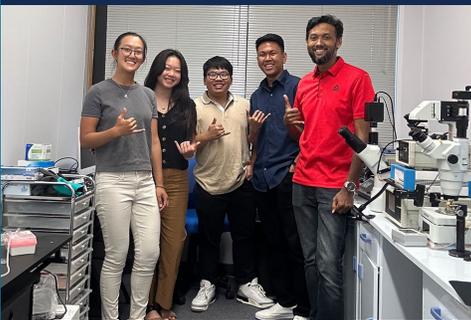
HPU Hosts 2024 Hawai'i State Economics Challenge

'Take Down Tobacco Day' Event Organized by HPU

NCAA II Awards the HPU Men's Basketball Team

Alumni Spotlight: Sarah McFarland

# THE CURRENTS



**HPU Receives Prize from NASA to Advance Underrepresented Students in Space Research**

HPU's Arif Rahman, Ph.D., was awarded the NASA Space Tech Catalyst prize for his commitment to diversity and



**HPU's Occupational Therapy (OT) Doctorate Programs Showcase Dual Campuses with One Singular Vision**

April is OT Month, celebrating the vital role of occupational therapy professionals in improving the lives of



**HPU Showcases Student Talent at the 19th Annual 'Da Shark Show'**

HPU's 19th annual 'Da Shark Show' student talent event took place on March 29th, featuring five student acts and four exhibitions at the Sunset Ballroom, Aloha Tower

commitment to diversity and inclusion in space technology. The \$25,000 prize will aid HPU in fostering more inclusive space ecosystems, underscoring Rahman's impactful contributions.

[Learn More](#)

improving the lives of individuals facing various conditions. It's a time to raise awareness about their contributions to rehabilitation, mental health, and pediatrics.

[Read This](#)

Dalroon, Aloha Tower Marketplace. The show celebrated diverse talents, with cash prizes awarded to top acts and a special Shark's Spirit Award recognizing performers who embodied HPU's values, as voted by the audience.

[More Info](#)



### **HPU Hosts 2024 Hawai'i State Economics Challenge**

The annual Hawai'i State Economics Challenge, welcomed students from four local high schools. With 'Iolani School clinching victory in both divisions, the school now sets its sights on the National Economics Challenge semi-finals. Guided by the HPU Center for Entrepreneurship and Economics Education, the event continues to bolster economic education and entrepreneurial values across Hawai'i.

[Click Here](#)



### **'Take Down Tobacco Day' Event Organized by HPU**

HPU's public health program students and, HPU Public Health Lecturer Heather Medicine Bear, MPH, hosted a successful "Take Down Tobacco Day" event at Aloha Tower Marketplace on March 21. The initiative, in collaboration with several organizations including the Hawai'i Public Health Institute and the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, aimed to combat Big Tobacco with participation from students and youth statewide.

[Full Article](#)



### **NCAA II Awards the HPU Men's Basketball Team**

The Hawaii Pacific Men's Basketball team has demonstrated aloha, pono, and kuleana, by extending their impact beyond the court by collaborating with various local entities, including University Avenue Baptist Church and elementary schools. Guided by their coaching staff and university support, these athletes have embraced "The Shark Way" as more than just a motto, reflecting their dedication to excellence and service within their community.

[More Info](#)

## HPU ALUMNA WINS BEACON AWARD FROM ELLIS ISLAND HONORS SOCIETY



Sarah McFarland, a graduate of HPU from the class of 2011, has been honored with the distinguished Beacon Award in 2024 by the Ellis Island Honors Society in New York City.

This accolade is a mark of distinction reserved for individuals who have made remarkable contributions to American society through their leadership, philanthropy, and service.

McFarland, deeply moved by the recognition, expressed her humility and gratitude, emphasizing the importance of leveraging her entrepreneurial education from Hawai'i Pacific University to advance philanthropic efforts on a global scale. She credited HPU for providing her with a strong business foundation, which has been instrumental in guiding her toward impactful endeavors aimed at creating positive change worldwide.

## 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.

## Upcoming Events:

**'HPU Talks' Featuring Drummer Chris Layton**

Tuesday, April 23

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Aloha Tower Marketplace Sunset Ballroom

[More Info Here](#)

**Night Market 3rd Annual Military Appreciation Night**

Saturday, May 25

4 - 8 p.m.

Aloha Tower Marketplace

[More Info Here](#)

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