

KAI ULU

HPU Alumni Currents

A Message from Dean Tricia Catalino: Upholding Pono, Kuleana, and Aloha Values in Las Vegas

At HPU, our core values—Pono, Kuleana, and Aloha—are the foundation of our mission and vision, shaping our approach to education and community engagement. As we expand to Las Vegas with our Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) programs, we remain deeply committed to these values, embedding them into our curriculum, teaching methods, and the ethos of our Graduate College of Health Sciences.

Pono, Kuleana, and Aloha in Las Vegas.

- **Pono** reflects our unwavering commitment to doing what is right. It drives our decisions and actions, ensuring that we maintain the highest levels of integrity and ethical standards in all we do.
- **Kuleana** represents responsibility and accountability. It calls on every member of our community—students, faculty, staff, and alumni—to uphold excellence in personal and professional conduct.
- **Aloha** encompasses love, compassion, and mutual respect. It fosters an inclusive and supportive environment, guiding our interactions and relationships within the Las Vegas community.

One particularly meaningful aspect of Aloha is the concept of “waiting for the right moment.” This principle resonates deeply with our expansion to Las Vegas, marking a historic milestone as HPU becomes the first Hawai‘i-based university to establish a campus on the continental U.S..



Tricia Catalino, PT, DSc
Dean, Graduate College of
Health Sciences,
at Hawai'i Pacific University

[Full Message](#)

HPU CELEBRATES HISTORIC OPENING OF ITS LAS VEGAS CAMPUS

Written by: Gregory Fischbach



THE CURRENTS

[Welcoming the Inaugural
Physician Assistant Cohort](#)

[‘Project Shaka’ Established at](#)



HPU celebrated the grand opening of its Las Vegas campus on February 18, marking a pivotal milestone in the University's 60-year history. This expansion heralds the first-ever campus established on the U.S. mainland by a Hawai'i-based university. The campus is a cornerstone of the University's strategic vision to grow its national presence and meet the critical workforce demands in the healthcare industry, furthering HPU's mission to promote its [core values](#) of aloha, pono, and kuleana

across the country.

"Today marks a defining moment for Hawai'i Pacific University. We are honored to welcome students from across the country to our newly established Las Vegas campus," said HPU President John Gotanda. "HPU's enrollment and academic successes over the past decade have defied national trends, enabling us to expand with industry-specific health sciences programs in Las Vegas that directly address critical workforce needs. These programs equip students with the skills to thrive in a range of healthcare sectors, reinforcing HPU's commitment to preparing graduates for meaningful careers that will shape the future in ways yet to be imagined."



[Learn More](#)

[HPU Launches Inaugural Marine Debris Circularity Academy, Summer 2025](#)

[HPU's Outrigger Club Collaborates to Clean the Ala Wai Canal](#)

[Alumni Spotlight: Alyssa Eva'24](#)



THE CURRENTS





Welcoming the Inaugural Physician Assistant Cohort

HPU recently welcomed its inaugural cohort of Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant students, marking the first time a Hawai'i-based institution is educating physician assistant students in the state. The program is strategically designed to meet the healthcare demands of underserved communities in Hawai'i.

[More Info](#)



'Project Shaka' Established at HPU

Thanks to a \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, eligible HPU students and recent graduates with a STEM major can receive up to \$18,500 per year in scholarships to develop the skills needed for a successful career in teaching STEM education.



HPU Launches Inaugural Marine Debris Circularity Academy, Summer 2025

HPU's Center for Marine Debris Research is set to host the Academy this summer on Oahu. The series of short courses is designed to promote sustainable solutions to the global plastic pollution crisis, focusing on creating a "circular economy for plastics" in Hawai'i and beyond.



HPU's Outrigger Club Collaborates to Clean the Ala Wai Canal

Through a partnership with Kaimuki High School, HPU's official outrigger paddling club, Nā Manō 'o Ke Kai, has been actively engaged in creating and deploying Genki balls, making significant strides in environmental stewardship.

[Click Here](#)

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

HPU ALUMNA ALYSSA EVA '24



Alyssa Makaanapulama'iaonalani Eva is a physical therapist specializing in outpatient orthopedics at Smith Therapy Partners in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Originally from Kapolei, Hawai'i, Eva is a member of the inaugural class of the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) - Honolulu Program at HPU, where she serves as class president.

Eva and her classmates formed strong bonds during their immersive on-campus lab sessions. Demonstrating their commitment to

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:

Lead Well: 5 Mindsets to Engage, Retain, and Inspire Your Team with Paula Davis
Thursday, March 6th, at 9AM PST
[More Info Here](#)

Nature or Nurture: Unraveling the

community care, they volunteered with organizations such as Access Surf Hawai'i, Mālama Loko Ea Fishponds, and Special Olympics.

While pursuing her bachelor's degree in kinesiology and rehabilitation science, Eva gained hands-on experience by creating an exercise program for post-treatment cancer patients. She also worked as a physical therapist technician, where she developed a passion for patient care.

As a DPT student, Eva furthered her academic knowledge and honed her clinical and professional skills. She gained outpatient orthopedic experience during her clinical rotation at JACO Rehab. Eva expanded her expertise with outpatient, inpatient, skilled nursing, and long-term care patients during her second clinical rotation at Kaua'i Veteran's Memorial Hospital.

Embarking on her career as a Doctor of Physical Therapy, Eva aspires to make a meaningful impact in the lives of her patients. She is committed to continuous learning and professional growth, with the goal of advancing the field of physical therapy and contributing to the health and well-being of her community.

Origins of Introverted Personalities
with Richard Etienne
Wednesday, March 19th, at 9AM
PST

[More Info Here](#)

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