

# KAI ULU

## HPU Alumni Currents

### HPU Celebrates 60 Years of Innovation and Impact!



John Y. Gotanda  
President  
at Hawai'i Pacific University

On September 20th, Hawai'i Pacific University joyfully celebrated its 60th Anniversary, bringing together our HPU 'ohana and community at Aloha Tower Marketplace.

It all began in 1965, when four visionary leaders gathered in a Manoa home with a bold dream: to create an independent, nonsectarian college that would strengthen the workforce, offer hands-on learning, and serve the community. From those humble beginnings with just a handful of students, HPU has grown into a vibrant university of nearly 8,000 students from all 50 states and over 40 countries, with more than 55,000 alumni around the world. Today, we teach across Hawai'i and beyond—downtown, at Makapu'u, on military bases, in Las Vegas, and even select programs in China.

To our students, alumni, faculty, staff, trustees, and friends—mahalo for being part of this incredible journey.

Here's to the next 60 years of learning, growth, and aloha!





# Celebrating 60 Years: Event Recap



## THE CURRENTS

[HPU Celebrates 60 Years of Innovation: Event Recap](#)

[Nursing Students Participate in Hawai'i Pacific Health Program](#)

[Education Professor Explores AI-Enhanced Learning Design](#)

[Rethinking Waste, Work, and the Ocean: Research Featured in New Book](#)

[HPU Announces a Three-Year Bachelor's Degree](#)

[Alumnus Spotlight: Forrest Ching](#)



To view more photos, log in with your HPU email to our photo gallery found [\*\*HERE!\*\*](#)



## THE CURRENTS



### **Nursing Students Participate in Hawai'i Pacific Health Program**

Eight HPU Bachelor of Science in Nursing students entering their second year of nursing were selected for the 2025 Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH) Clinical Home Program. This innovative initiative allows students to complete all clinical rotations at HPH facilities, fostering deeper integration, consistency, and preparation for future nursing careers.

[Learn More](#)



### **Education Professor Explores AI-Enhanced Learning Design**

Han Nee Chong, Ed.D., HPU Assistant Professor of Education and Program Chair for the Master of Education in Educational Leadership program, traveled this summer to the University of Galway in Ireland to present her research at the 2025 International Society for Design and Development in Education Conference.

[Click Here](#)



### **Rethinking Waste, Work, and the Ocean: Research Featured in New Book**

Megaplastic Program Director at HPU's Center for Marine Debris Research, Mafalda de Freitas, is contributing to a global conversation on reimagining waste and work in the face of environmental and economic challenges. Her research—at the intersection of ocean plastics, circular manufacturing, and community-based innovation—is featured in the newly published book *The Future of Labour*.

[More Info](#)



## HPU Announces a Three-Year Bachelor's Degree

HPU plans to make history as the first university in Hawai'i to offer a three-year undergraduate degree. The new 90-credit Bachelor of Science in Global Business is designed to be fast, flexible, and future-focused—allowing students to accelerate their education without compromising quality. Applications are now open, with the first cohort of Global Business Scholars expected to begin in fall 2026.\*

\*Pending approval from WASC Senior College and University Commission.

[Full Article](#)



## Limited Edition Merchandise Barnes & Noble at Hawai'i Pacific University

HPU 60 Years Mug - \$19.98

HPU 60 Years Tee - \$19.98

HPU 60 Years Baseball Cap - \$29.98

Phone: 808.544.9369

Address: 3 Aloha Tower Dr. Suite 1207 Honolulu, HI 96813

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alumni Involvement

# Alumnus Forrest Ching '22 Finds Success in Tech and Tea



HPU alumnus Forrest Ching graduated with his MBA in 2022 and has hit the ground running. By day, he works in tech, building internal tools for a leading streaming platform. In 2025, he co-founded Hapa Drink Company, a Brooklyn-based brand with Hawai'i roots.

Hapa Drink Company's debut is Pineapple Black Tea, a nod to plantation iced tea, capturing that bright, refreshing, and unmistakably local spirit. Made with black tea, pineapple juice, and cane sugar, its equally refreshing at home, at a party, or on the beach with friends at a potluck.

Brewed in New York, grounded in Kailua, and powered by the lessons from HPU, Ching is turning classroom coursework into company-building, one flavor at a time. "Our mission at Hapa is to share the aloha spirit with the world, one drink at a time," Ching said. "Our vision is a world where authentic Hawaiian flavors become mainstream."

Ching's journey begins in Kailua, where he grew up surrounded by family, friends, and countless trips across the Pali as a child and young adult. "I've driven the Pali at least a thousand times," he said with a laugh. After graduating from Kamehameha Schools in 2007, he moved to Oregon for his undergraduate degree in finance at Portland State

The HPU alumni 'ohana spans the globe, and all opportunities are available in-person or virtually. We invite you to explore how you can make a meaningful difference by sharing your time and talents to support our students. Your involvement will create lasting, transformative impacts on their 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.

[Launching soon — stay tuned!](#)

## 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:

Deep Listening: Transform How You Connect, Lead, and Learn

University, then on to New York City, where he and his wife have lived since 2015.

But when COVID-19 arrived in 2020, he returned home to O‘ahu to help care for his father before he passed away. Those years, he says, were formative. “I am very glad that I was able to be back home during that time, and to help my mom move on to her next phase in life. I also really enjoyed re-connecting with my braddahs and I have my wife to thank for supporting our move home.” Out of that period of transition came another big decision: pursuing an MBA at HPU.

[Full Article](#)

Tuesday, October 7th  
9AM PDT

[More Info Here](#)

The Advice Trap: Be Humble, Stay Curious & Change the Way You Lead Forever

Thursday, October 16th  
9AM PDT

[More Info Here](#)

Stay Connected with Us:



Hawai'i Pacific University | 1 Aloha Tower Drive | Honolulu, HI 96813 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!