

ON THE HORIZON

AT UH WEST O'AHU

Alaka'ina Hakuhia Wahine Women's Innovative Leadership

April 22, 11 a.m.

<https://uhalumni.org/webinars#OTH>

Aloha mai kākou!

In this quarter's Kūkulu Kaiāulu Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki (Quarterly Impact Report) for Spring 2021, we highlight how our programs' dynamic opportunities shape our student's entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to community stewardship. What makes UH West O'ahu unique is the prominence of our internship opportunities that are woven into a student's academic program providing valuable work experiences. Our faculty and staff continue to generate and strengthen professional networks in our region, across the State, and with employers across the globe. This provides our students with critical on-the-job skills that lead to successful employment and prolific careers.

This April, we cohost an On the Horizon webinar with the University of Hawai'i Office of Alumni Relations and UH Foundation. It focuses on how our innovative capstone opportunities support enterprising students to become 21st century entrepreneurs and community leaders. We call the session Alaka'ina Hakuhia Wahine/Women's Innovative Leadership. Our brilliant faculty, Dr. Kristina Lu and Dr. Holly Itoga, provided the foundational pillars of the program, which was illuminated by the ingenuity, resourcefulness, and inspiring life stories shared by graduates Ilima Fisher, B.A. Business Administration, founder of Milk Market Hawai'i, and Leina Ijacic, B.A. Public Administration, chief administrative officer for Institute for Human Services and owner of Premier Medispa. Read more about their experiences and contributions in this report.

We hope that this issue of our quarterly report inspires you to think of how you might become more active in supporting UH West O'ahu's community of diverse learners!

E mālama pono!

Maenette K.P. Ah Nee-Benham
Chancellor, UH West O'ahu

uhfoundation.org/give/giving-opportunity/covid-19



Spring 2021

Kūkulu Kaiāulu *Building Community*

Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki

Quarterly Impact Report



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII
WEST O'AHU

The University of Hawai'i is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.



UH West O'ahu alumna Ilima Fisher is the owner and founder of Milk Market Hawai'i.

Getting a step ahead

To start a business just three months after graduating from college is one thing. To start a business in the middle of a pandemic is another. Ilima Fisher did both. And business is thriving.

Fisher, who graduated from UH West O'ahu in May 2020, is the owner and founder of Milk Market Hawai'i, which she started in August 2020. Her business specializes in fresh, organic, and dairy-free beverages — almond milk, coconut milk, and "cold brew o lei," which is their version of an iced cafe au lait, combining cold brew and their almond milk.

Milk Market Hawai'i beverages are currently available online to customers on O'ahu and Maui, as well as at various O'ahu farmers markets. Products are made fresh locally and weekly, and they sell out quickly.

"We're happy with where we are," Fisher said, "but we do want to expand and make different types of milk and make more that we can send out to (other markets)."

Fisher's education and experience at UH West O'ahu helped shape her path to entrepreneurship — and to small-business success. She recalled how the flexible modalities of the courses she took and the strong relationships she was able to develop with faculty even via her online classes were among the highlights of her time at the university, which culminated with her receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration.

"Having a degree now just lets me have that step ahead of everyone else," Fisher said. "It just allows you a lot more opportunities and it gives you that credibility."

Words of advice from UH West O'ahu alum

Who you surround yourself with is critical to accomplishing your goals.

"We all have destinations that we want to go to, but it's also very important for us to pick who's in our canoe and enjoy who we're surrounding ourselves with ... who's in your boat really matters," Leina Ijadic said.

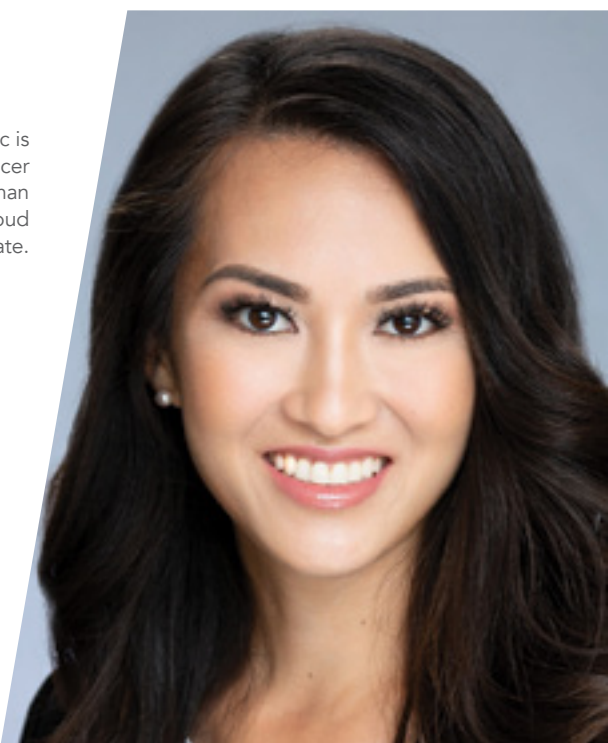
If Ijadic offers advice, take heed. An exemplary alumna of UH West O'ahu, Ijadic is the Chief Administrative Officer at The Institute for Human Services, Hawai'i's oldest and most comprehensive non-profit focused on ending homelessness. She oversees health services, operations, finance, grants, human resource, and community development. Ijadic is also the clinical director and owner of Premier Medispa, which provides medical aesthetic services such as laser hair removal, fat reduction, laser skin resurfacing, and vitamin injections.

While a Public Administration student in Health Care Administration, Ijadic (a 2013 graduate) had an internship at Hale Nani Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

"PUBA was very hands on — things that I could apply to my current businesses, things that I still use today — I felt it gave me those real-life skills," Ijadic said. "Also with the internship, PUBA really got me in the door."

Elaborating on her aforementioned "canoe" advice, Ijadic said to be mindful of the people you decide to be around, wherever you are in life. If you're going to school, choose to spend time with classmates who have good study habits. If you're looking for a job, pick an organization that shares your values.

Leina Ijadic is Chief Administrative Officer at The Institute for Human Services and also a proud UH West O'ahu graduate.



Read the full version of both stories at westoahu.hawaii.edu/kaloinews