



Aloha mai kākou!

This is a unique moment in our history: what we do today matters. In the midst of our global health crises, we can make a difference to support our emerging leaders — our college-going students — as they address the challenges of COVID-19 while forging ahead in their journey to attain their baccalaureate degrees. In this quarter's Kūkulu Kaiāulu Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki (Quarterly Impact Report) Winter 2022, you'll meet three of our students whose lives you are changing.

Matthew Isami Schaefer, Mililani High School, 2021, UHWO Chancellor Scholar majoring in Business Administration. He is focusing on marketing.

Mikaela Briones, Wai'anae High School, 2020, Roy and Hilda Takeyama Scholar majoring in Creative Media. Her dream is to give back to her community as a teacher-leader.

Skye Sachiko Yasuda, Waipahu High School, 2021, UH Presidential Scholar majoring in Education. Her dream is to be an elementary school teacher on the west side.

These students represent the voices of all our students who understand the opportunities they have to fuse disciplinary knowledge with their own cultural and familial stories, traditions and practices to build stronger communities, to protect and manage our island's natural resources, to build sustainable food systems, and to forge climate resiliency policies and practices. Our students are committing to creating 21st century careers through which they will strengthen and uplift their families and communities.

There are many ways that you can support our students to overcome barriers and to become leaders in their communities. 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

Left and cover: Student Mikaela Briones at the UH West O'ahu fall commencement. Chancellor Benham poses with a graduate at commencement.
Photo credit: Terri Ota



Equity and Access Scholarship

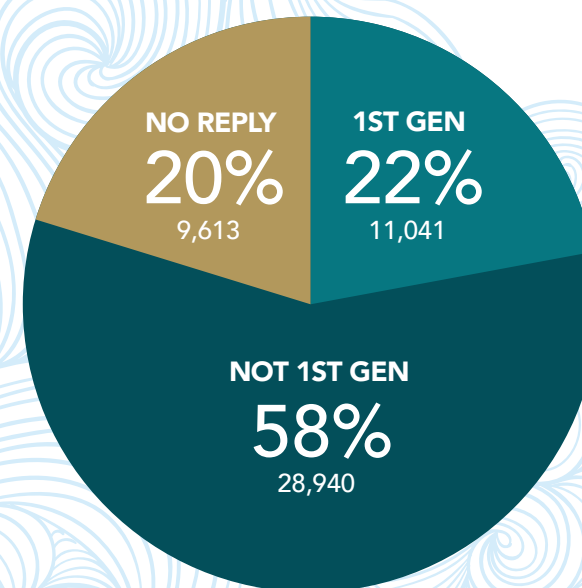
Nearly one-third of all UH West O'ahu students are Pell Recipients, and a quarter are first generation — or the first in their families — to attend college. The UH Equity and Access Fund is a bridge for students who are first in their families to attend college. It reaches into our island communities where college attendance is not a foregone conclusion. It lifts up our friends and neighbors who make UH campuses the most diverse in the nation. This fund supports students who:

- ▶ Demonstrate financial need;
- ▶ Are the first generation in their family to attend college; or
- ▶ Are one of UH's under-represented student populations.

Preference will be given to Hawai'i residents.

Visit: www.uhfoundation.org/scholarships/equity-access

First-Generation Students at UH



Note: First-generation students refer to those who self-reported being the first in their immediate family to attend college. Data source: UH Institutional Research & Analysis Office, Fall 2020.

Winter 2022

Kūkulu Kaiāulu *Building Community*

Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki

Quarterly Impact Report



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Opening Doors

As a recipient of the inaugural Roy and Hilda Takeyama Foundation Scholarship — the first-ever full scholarship in the Academy for Creative Media program at UH West O’ahu — Mikaela Briones is full of so much gratitude.

Briones graduated as a valedictorian of her class from Wai’anae High School in 2020 and soon after was awarded the scholarship, which is part of a \$1 million commitment made in 2015 by the Roy and Hilda Takeyama Foundation to support and advance the mission and priorities of the ACM program at UH West O’ahu.

“The significance this scholarship has for me is huge,” said Briones, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Creative Media.

“It’s honestly everything to me because I’m not in such a fortunate position that I’d be able to pay for college out of pocket without any financial assistance,” she said. “But this scholarship really opens up more doors for me as I know that my hard work pays off.”

While in the Creative Media program, Briones said she will do her best to use the resources and information provided to her full advantage, with the hopes of developing skills and projects she could only dream of when she was younger.

“Once I get my degree, I hope to maybe return to my alma mater and teach or even start my own design firm,” Briones said. “The possibilities from here are endless as long as I stay on this track.”

Hometown: Wai’anae

Degree: Creative Media/General Creative Media

Goal of Giving Back

Skye Sachiko Yasuda’s commitment to academic endeavors throughout her high school years paid off with a fantastically impressive first-in-the-state feat.

Yasuda graduated in May 2021 from Waipahu High School as a valedictorian, with Academic and Career Technical Education Honors, and as a member of the National Honor Society and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

As if those accomplishments alone weren’t amazing, there are more.

“At the same time, I graduated with Leeward Community College’s Spring Class of 2021 with my Associate in Science in Teaching Degree and Associate in Arts Degree with Honors, as well as my Certificate in Culturally Responsive Teaching,” Yasuda said. “I became the first high schooler in the state to do so.”

Yasuda’s outstanding academic achievements factored into her being awarded a Presidential Scholarship, which focuses on supporting the transfer of University of Hawai’i System community college students to UH baccalaureate campuses as juniors.

“This scholarship allows me to show everyone around me what is possible with hard work and dedication,” Yasuda said. “I made my family, friends, community, and alma maters proud.”

Yasuda chose to attend UH West O’ahu, where she is majoring in Education with a concentration in Elementary Education.

“I felt that UH West O’ahu could offer me more opportunities to give back to my community, whether it is getting a job in education close to home or being a teacher candidate at one of the schools on the west side,” Yasuda said.

Hometown: Waipahu

Degree: Education/Elementary Education



Jumping for Joy

Matthew Isami Schaefer could not contain his excitement when he found out he was a recipient of the UH West O’ahu Chancellor’s Scholarship.

“I was so overwhelmed when I received the news ... I jumped out of my chair with joy in the middle of one of my high school classes,” recalled Schaefer, who graduated in May 2021 from Mililani High School.

The scholarship is awarded to Hawai’i high school resident graduates with a 3.5 cumulative GPA and evidence of academic achievement, leadership, and community service.

“The Chancellor’s Scholarship means a lot to me, as I don’t have to burden my family with having to assist a fourth child through college,” Schaefer said. “Especially with how tough the times have been due to COVID-19, this scholarship has really allowed me to put one step forward, towards learning to be more responsible and independent.”

Schaefer said he has a love for learning, in part stemming from an Advanced Placement Biology science project during his junior year of high school. The project earned him and his partner first-place honors in the Earth and Environmental Sciences division at the 2020 (Virtual) Hawai’i State Science and Engineering Fair.

“Through this experience, it’s really helped shape me into the student I am today,” he said.

Schaefer looks forward to continuing his educational journey and pursuing his academic aspirations at UH West O’ahu, where he is majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing.

Hometown: Mililani

Degree: Business Administration/Marketing