



## Aloha mai kākou!

At UH West O'ahu, we view the summer months as an opportunity to provide comprehensive orientation, preparation, and transition experiences for our incoming students. Many are first-generation college students from families with limited income. The goal of our faculty and staff is to provide both coursework and tutoring to sharpen the students' academic skills as well as engage them in social/cultural activities they will need to succeed in college. We call these experiences our summer bridge programs, which we offer to soon-to-enter first year students as well as rising high school seniors and students transferring from a two-year college degree program.

In this quarter's Kūkulu Kaiāulu Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki (Quarterly Impact Report) Summer 2023 we introduce students who are participating in three of our dynamic summer bridge programs. Pōmaika'i Poti, a recent Waipahu High School graduate, says that our He Paepae Aloha program has prepared him for his freshman year at UH West O'ahu. Current student Sierra Furukawa participates in our Kumu Ola Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), which continues to support her preparation for a career as a physical therapist. The Ho'opūliko Kumu Hou Secondary Teacher Pathway Project is having a tremendous impact on students. Makayla Marie Rogers-Tivao shares how this program has inspired her and is preparing her with needed skills and strategies to be a successful teacher.

There are many ways that you can support our students and our many enrichment programs that prepare them for careers of service and leadership in our island communities. Your support helps our students to overcome financial barriers and supports our faculty and staff to provide dynamic, value-added learning experiences. 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

## Summer Programs

Programs designed to help current and prospective students prepare, transition, and get an early start on the college experience. Depending on academic area of interest or criteria, some programs are designed around traditional themes, while others may focus on an area of interest.

### 'A'ali'i Scholars Program

Offers a distinct opportunity for high school students from West Hawai'i to focus on increasing college/career awareness while incorporating Hawaiian cultural knowledge, values, practices, and principles. For more info contact: [uhwo.nhssp@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhwo.nhssp@hawaii.edu)

### He Paepae Aloha

Dedicated to the preparation of high school students and their 'ohana for their college journey by embracing Hawaiian cultural values as a building block of the program. For more info contact: [hpaloha@hawaii.edu](mailto:hpaloha@hawaii.edu)

### Ho'opūliko Kumu Hou

Supporting our student participants in UH West O'ahu's education pathway with a grounding in Hawaiian Culture Based Education (HCBE). For more info contact: [kumuhou@hawaii.edu](mailto:kumuhou@hawaii.edu)

### Ke Ala Kiakahi

Empowering students to embrace their indigenous identities. The program aims to increase college and career readiness for high school seniors from the Wai'anāe Coast. For more info contact: [uhwo.nhssp@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhwo.nhssp@hawaii.edu)

### Kumu Ola

For incoming freshmen interested in pursuing an undergraduate degree in Health Science and other health-related fields. For more info contact: [nicolea4@hawaii.edu](mailto:nicolea4@hawaii.edu)

### R.I.S.E.

Introducing incoming students to UH West O'ahu campus and resources before the start of the school year. For more info contact: [uhwowc@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhwowc@hawaii.edu)

### Papahana Wailau Ola

An online support program for transfer students that embraces 'ōlelo, nohona, and 'ike Hawai'i to foster a holistic approach that is inclusive of Native Hawaiian values and principles. For more info contact: [pwo@hawaii.edu](mailto:pwo@hawaii.edu)

### Pūko'a Kani 'Āina

For students interested in pursuing a B.S. in Natural Science with concentrations in Applied Mathematics, Life Science, or Health Science. The program provides students with a foundation in STEM designed to prepare them for the challenges of a STEM degree and career path. For more info contact: [pka20@hawaii.edu](mailto:pka20@hawaii.edu)



Participants of a UH West O'ahu summer program joining hands at a Ko 'Olina Lagoon located in west O'ahu. Cover: Kumu Ola HCOP students performing CPR on a training manikin.

Summer 2023

# Kūkulu Kaiāulu *Building Community*

## Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki

### Quarterly Impact Report



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## "100 percent" prepared

Pōmaika'i Poti just graduated from Waipahu High School in May and said he already feels "100 percent" prepared for attending classes at UH West O'ahu, where he begins his freshman year in August.

His confidence is thanks, in part, to He Paepae Aloha, a program dedicated to the preparation of high school students and their 'ohana for their college journey at UH West O'ahu.

"It really helps you understand the foundation of what college is like," said the Kapolei resident, 18. "As soon as you start college, you're not completely lost, you'll have some insight on it, and you'll feel more comfortable."

Poti plans to major in Creative Media with a concentration in Video Game Design and Development.

Wela Wāhilani, Director of He Paepae Aloha, said the program is a Native Hawaiian Education program grant that is in partnership with the six regional high schools — Pearl City, Waipahu, Campbell, Kapolei, Nānākuli, and Wai'anae — surrounding UH West O'ahu.

"He Paepae Aloha: A Foundation of Caring does just that," Wāhilani said. "We provide an 'ohana of support to our partnered high schools in the form of workshops, professional development, and early college courses."

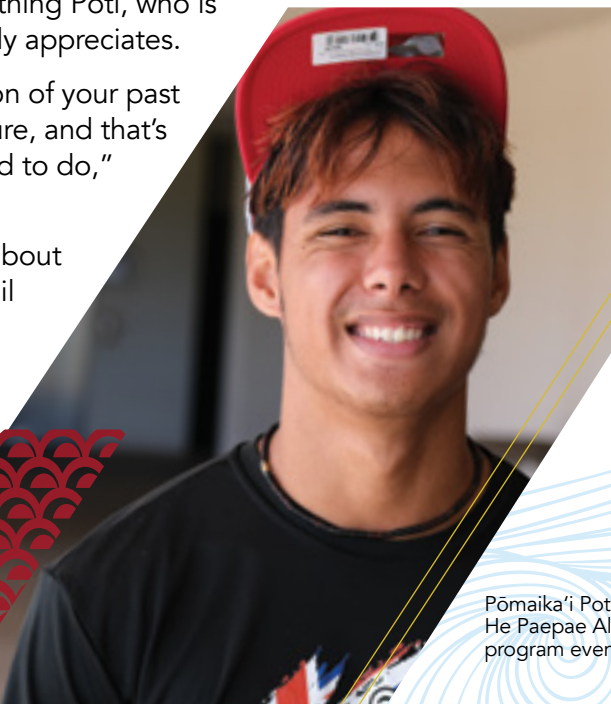
Wāhilani said the goal of the grant is to strengthen the college going pathways of these high schools, with the intention of increasing Native Hawaiian high school students' exposure to college, where they will eventually matriculate to UH West O'ahu.

"As this grant is a Native Hawaiian Education grant, program staff is very intentional in approaching the high schools, faculty, and students with Indigenous approaches and Native Hawaiian values and principles," Wāhilani noted.

That approach is something Poti, who is Native Hawaiian, greatly appreciates.

"It draws the connection of your past with our Hawaiian culture, and that's what I've always wanted to do," Poti said.

For more information about He Paepae Aloha, email [hpaloha@hawaii.edu](mailto:hpaloha@hawaii.edu).



Pōmaika'i Poti at a He Paepae Aloha program event.

Makayla Marie Rogers-Tivao is a Ho'opūliko Kumu Hou program participant.



## Transitioning "with ease"

Signing up for UH West O'ahu's Ho'opūliko Kumu Hou program was one of the best decisions Makayla Marie Rogers-Tivao said she has ever made for herself.

"As an aspiring educator, I've learned a lot about myself and my teaching pedagogy thanks to the program's workshops, aid, and their support system," said Rogers-Tivao, 20, of 'Ewa Beach. "The program has given me tools and the confidence to continue pursuing my dreams of becoming a kumu (teacher)."

The program, in its fourth year, aims to guide its student participants through UH West O'ahu's education pathway by providing them with support and a grounding in Hawaiian Culture Based Education (HCBE).

"The main goal for Ho'opūliko Kumu Hou Secondary Teacher Pathway Project is to expand and sustain a vibrant grow-our-own, Hawaiian culture based secondary preservice teacher program," said Dr. Cathy Ikeda, Associate Professor of Education at UH West O'ahu and Director of Ho'opūliko Kumu Hou Teacher Pathway.

Rogers-Tivao, who graduated from Waipahu High School in 2020, enrolled at UH West O'ahu that fall and began majoring in Secondary Education.

Since joining Ho'opūliko Kumu Hou in March 2020, Rogers-Tivao said she has benefitted from the program in many ways — including transitioning "with ease" from high school to college, meeting other students who have since become some of her closest friends, and attending free summer classes and Build-A-Teacher workshops.

"I love attending any Ho'opūliko Kumu Hou workshop and summer class because I know I'm going to learn new skills, gain some tools and new knowledge, and enjoy my time with the program staff," she said, noting that the caring and supportive staff is "without a doubt" the most valuable part about the program.

"I truly believe that I would not be where I am today if not for the program," Rogers-Tivao said.

For more information about Ho'opūliko Kumu Hou, email [kumuhou@hawaii.edu](mailto:kumuhou@hawaii.edu).

## Jumpstarting their college journey

With the help of the Kumu Ola Health Careers Opportunity Program, UH West O'ahu student Sierra Furukawa is well on her way to achieving her goal of becoming a physical therapist.

Kumu Ola Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), a partnership program between UH West O'ahu and the Hawai'i/Pacific Basin AHEC, Inc. Health Education Center, is a student-centered, academic, supportive summer bridge program for graduating seniors and incoming freshmen from West O'ahu communities interested in a health-related career.

"I had the amazing opportunity to be a part of the first cohort of students in HCOP and I really enjoyed what I learned," Furukawa said. "Not only did I have the opportunity to jumpstart my college journey by completing seven credits for free, but I also met new classmates and aspiring healthcare professionals, as well as knowledgeable professors in their field of teaching, some of whom I still communicate and work with to this day."

UH West O'ahu's Nicole Akana, Program Coordinator of Kumu Ola HCOP, said the program is committed to providing foundational learning and enrichment opportunities through hands-on clinical training and experiences, especially for students in need of educational or financial support.

"Kumu Ola offers students the ability to learn valuable practical skills such as vitals signs, suture training, CPR, AED, and first-aid training — all under the guidance and mentorship of highly skilled health professionals," Akana said.

Furukawa's plans are to graduate this fall with a Bachelor of Applied Science with a concentration in Health Professions, Pre-Physical Therapy, then attend a Doctor of Physical Therapy graduate school program to become a physical therapist, and later specialize in pediatric care.

"Because of the people I met and the experiences I had while in HCOP, it ... opened the door for me to get involved with healthcare-related leadership and volunteer opportunities throughout my college tenure," Furukawa noted.

For more information about the Kumu Ola Health Careers Opportunity Program, email [nicolea4@hawaii.edu](mailto:nicolea4@hawaii.edu).

Sierra Furukawa is a participant of the Kumu Ola Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP).

