

KAI ULU

HPU Alumni Currents

Seasons Greeting from President John Y. Gotanda



HPU Celebrates Fall 2024 Graduates and Marks Historic Milestones

By Gregory Fischbach

THE CURRENTS

For B-roll from the Fall 2024
Commencement Ceremony,
[click here.](#)

For Images from the Fall 2024



HPU proudly celebrated the accomplishments of its fall 2024 graduates on Tuesday, December 17, with two commencement ceremonies held at the Hawai'i Convention Center. Nearly 400 students were awarded degrees, marking the culmination of their academic journeys.

The morning ceremony honored doctoral, master's, and graduate certificate recipients, while the afternoon celebrated associate, bachelor's, and undergraduate certificate graduates. HPU President John Gotanda, J.D., presided over both ceremonies, offering words of encouragement and presenting degrees alongside Acting Provost Brenda Jensen, Ph.D., who served as Master of Ceremonies.

Both ceremonies can be viewed online by [clicking here](#).

A highlight of this fall's commencement was the graduation of HPU's inaugural cohort of 93 Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students. These graduates represent Hawai'i's first-ever DPT professionals, completing the state's only accredited program. Launched in 2022, the program aims to address local and national needs for skilled physical therapists.

[Read More](#)

[Commencement Ceremony, click here.](#)

[HPU's Senior Giveback Day: A Commitment to Community](#)

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THE CURRENTS



HPU's Senior Giveback Day: A Commitment to Community and Environment



Students Participate in Downtown Art Center Black Friday Collaboration

HPU students participated in the Saturday, November 23, inaugural “Beyond the Cap: Senior Giveback Day,” an initiative organized by Sharks United and the Student Government Association in partnership with the State of Hawai‘i and the Global Preservation Initiative. The student leaders envision the event to be a biannual graduation tradition.

[Learn More](#)



HPU Hosts Access Pakistan Teacher Training and Cultural Exchange Program

The HPU Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Program hosted 25 Pakistani teachers from October 29 to November 13 through a program funded by the U.S. Department of State. The visiting teachers engaged in academic workshops focusing on teaching English as a foreign language through service learning and experiential learning.

[Click Here](#)

The Downtown Art Center (DAC) invited HPU’s Arts Entrepreneurship students to take part in DAC’s Black Friday Craft Fair. Students had a unique chance to showcase the art they created, present their work, and engage with Craft Fair patrons.

[More Info](#)



Nursing Professors Present at Transcultural Nursing Society Conference

Hazel Downing, RN, Ed.D., and Patricia Burrell, Ph.D., APRN, participated in the 50th annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, in October. They presented research that reflects HPU’s commitment to preparing future healthcare professionals with the skills to provide equitable and culturally competent care.

[More Info](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ALUMNI

Alumni Involvement

HPU Alumna Marisol Castillo '24



HPU alumna Marisol Castillo '24 has been awarded the **Mildred R. Marion Scholarship**, a \$3,000 award that stands as one of the most significant honors given by the Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society for business. Castillo, who graduated in spring 2024 with a bachelor of science in business administration with a marketing concentration, was inducted into HPU's Delta Mu Delta Iota chapter in spring 2023.

“I am so grateful to have been recognized for this scholarship by Delta Mu Delta! Having the support to continue my academic career is greatly appreciated, and I am honored to have been part of this amazing organization,” Castillo said. “After graduating, I decided to take a gap year before pursuing graduate school so I could carefully research programs. I'm currently considering a master's in communication, or advertising, with the hope of working in the creative side of marketing.”

Leslie Blood, J.D., M.B.A., a lecturer in HPU's College of Business and the faculty advisor for Delta Mu Delta, expressed her enthusiasm for Castillo's achievement. “Marisol is an exceptional student who has demonstrated outstanding academic dedication and leadership. Winning the Mildred R. Marion Scholarship is a testament to her hard work and passion for learning. I couldn't be prouder of her success,

Alumni Involvement

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 opportunities, and continued involvement with the HPU campus.

[Learn More Here!](#)

Upcoming Events:

Get to the Point: Communicate More By Saying Less with Diane DiResta
Tuesday, January 7th
12PM ET
[More Info Here](#)

Mastering the Art of Closure with Dr. Gary McClain
Wednesday, January 15th
12PM ET
[More Info Here](#)

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and I am confident that she will continue to make a positive impact in her future endeavors.”

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