



Ka Nūleka ‘o Nā Lei Koa  
*Fall 2021*

In honor of Veteran’s Day, we recognize and mahalo our alumni and proudly share their stories. Many Kamehameha Schools Maui alumni have chosen the military path for various reasons: serving their country, attaining higher education, gaining skills and experience, and travel. In this issue, we feature **Matthew Pires '06**, US Air Force Reserve, and **Kuiokalani Gapero, KSK '02**, US Army. We also spotlight a KSM gem, the *Hikina Rising* podcast, a series of alumni conversations conducted by nā kumu Kevin O’Brien and Kaholo Rickard. We invite you to listen to two episodes that focus on KSM alumni and their military experiences: Episode 11 featuring: **Riley (Shiraishi) Slavich '13**, and Episode 13 featuring: **Jake Bernardino '07**, **Rockne Matsuda Jr. '10** and **Kayla Fernandez-Roy '20**. Good mana‘o that is worth taking the time to hear!

# He Lei Koa Makamae

## *Alumni Spotlight*

### **Matthew Pires '06**

*US Air Force Reserve*

*Airport Fire Captain at Moloka'i Airport*



When September 11 occurred, I definitely felt a pull to serve in any way that I could. After graduating high school, I decided to go to college but after two years, it wasn't satisfying. So then, I decided to join the US Air Force and was able to get job in Fire Protection (FIRE). I've always felt that I wanted to join the military at some point. My dad was in the Air force for 20+ years, and I grew up with the concept of service before self. Visiting the military bases as a kid was always fun. Getting to see the military aircraft became a sort of treat, as my dad and I roamed the base while running his errands.

One of the highlights of my military career for me has always been the traveling to different parts of the world like England, Scotland, Japan, Okinawa, Ireland, and many of the states in the US. Another highlight was the opportunity that I was given to deploy overseas to the Middle East which was a great experience. I was happy to contribute and do my part. Also, being able to participate in all the training required for my job classification. This gave me a bunch of fire certifications that translated very well into civilian life and helping me secure a career that I currently hold. Training was very hands on, realistic and fun.

The main challenge is just being away from home a lot. Whether I was deployed, off somewhere at a training class or just a normal duty on O'ahu, it can be tough to miss a lot of things or events that may be happening at the time at home on Maui. After over 13 years now I am still serving in the Air Force Reserve where I plan to one day happily retire.

The first thing I would advise would be to know your "why" for wanting to join the military. I know so many people who joined because they were bored, and ended up having the worst experience. Also, make sure to do your research. Know exactly what branch you want to join, and the job that you want to hold. As everyone says recruiters are famous for rushing you to sign up under any job classification just to get you in the door. Don't do that! Sign the contract

that specifies exactly the career field that you want to do. And if it's not available, then just be patient and wait. Trust me, you will be a lot happier in the long run.



*Matt Pires '06 (second from the right) in Kuwait*



*Matt Pires '06 (on the left) with Kaina Tavares*



## **Kuiokalani Gapero KSK '02**

*KS Maui Grade 6 Social  
Studies Kumu  
&  
US Army Veteran*

Kumu Kui Gapero currently teaches grade 6 social studies, and he celebrated his 5<sup>th</sup> year as a KS employee in August. His career with KS began at KS Kapālama (KSK) where he taught 'Ōlelo Hawai'i for two years, and in 2018 joined KSM as a lifeguard. Kumu Kui attended KSK as a boarder from Maui and enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 17 when he was a junior. He shares an interesting and inspiring story.

[Click here to keep reading](#)

## **KS Maui Alumni in the Military**



### Army

**Brandon Brown '06** (Special Forces)  
**Aaron Quitazol-Lopes '06** (Retired)  
**Mana Rodrigues '06**  
**La'akea Baz '13** (Reserve)  
**Kaimi Kapaku '13**  
**Matt Paschoal '14** (Infantry Retired)  
**Cal Alexander '14**  
**Isaac Kala '15**  
**Cody Fushikoshi Wago '15** (Intelligence)  
**Maka Medeiros '15**  
**Nainoa Silva '16**

### Marine Corps

**Jake Bernardino '07** (Retired)  
**Keanu Kaaa '09** (Retired)  
**James Kaho'okele '17**  
**Kauila Medeiros '17**

### Navy

**Makana (Newman) Bliss '07**  
**Pua Ka'opū'iki '08**  
**Kainoa Perryman '08**  
**Kamaki Maluo-Huber '09**  
**Devonte Llanes '13** (Reserve)  
**Kayla Fernandez-Roy '20**  
**Michael Kalalau '20** (US Naval Academy  
 Prep School)

### Air Force

**Matt Pires '06** (Reserve)  
**Cody Felipe '08**  
**Rockne Matsuda Jr. '10** (Retired)  
**Keanu Franco '11** (Retired)  
**Kai Kaaukai '11**  
**Kaiea Hokoana '13**  
**Caleb Kaaukai '14**  
**Iain James Armitage '14**  
**Erin Lindsey '14**  
**Ka'iulani (Vila) Gutierrez '14** (Reserve)  
**Ashley Castro '15** (Reserve)  
**Kiaku Nae'ole '15**  
**Aaron Murray '16**  
**Zane Nagata '16**  
**Rayne Poepoe '16**  
**Sarai Poepoe '19**

### Space Force

**Cody Felipe '08**

### Army National Guard

**Kawena Chang Yuen '11** (Reserve)  
**Riley (Shiraishi) Slavich '13**

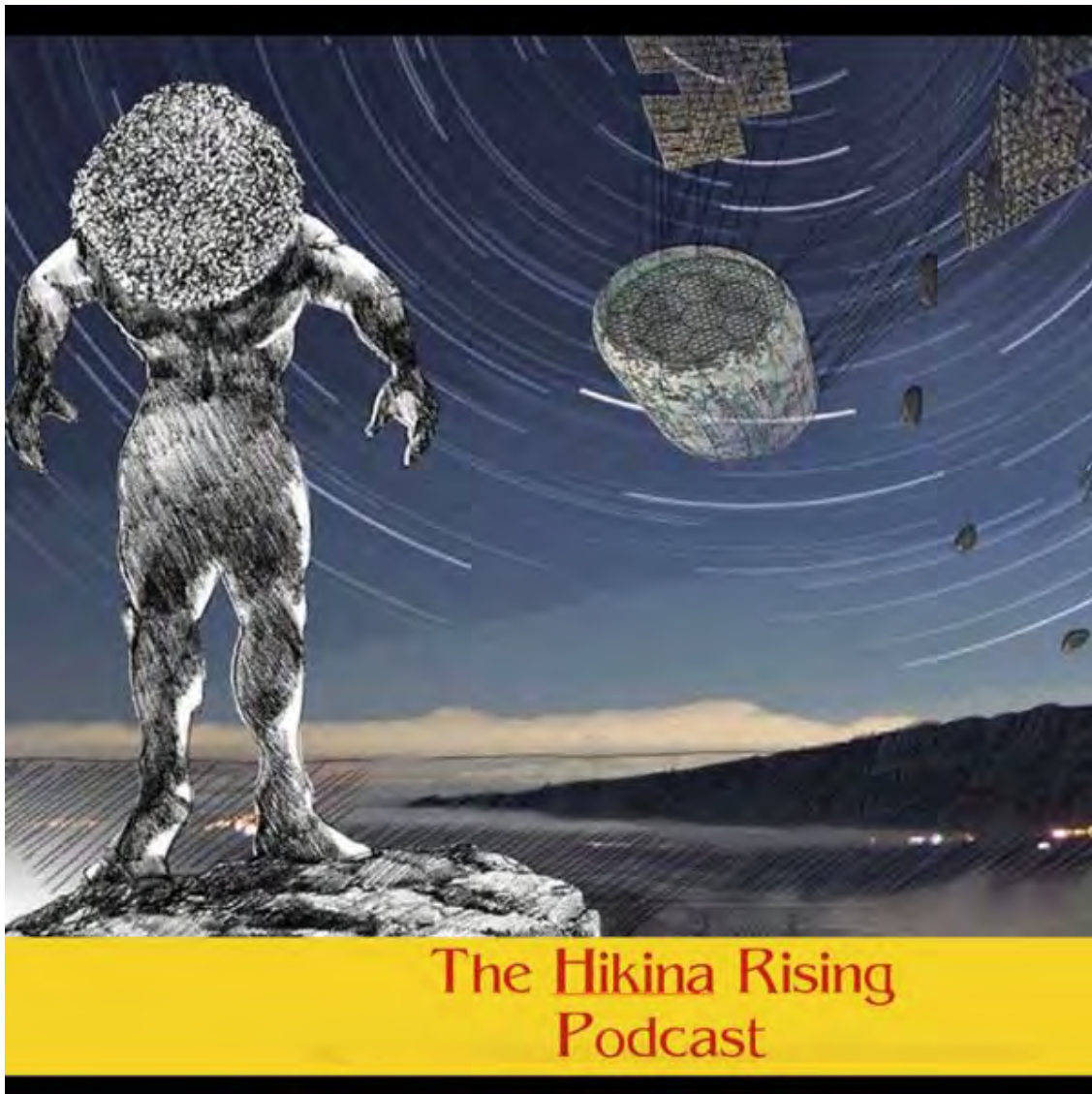
### Air National Guard

**Jacob Espania '17**

Alumni List courtesy of Mr. Kevin O'Brien. Any correction or addition, contact [KSMalumni@ksbe.edu](mailto:KSMalumni@ksbe.edu) or contact Mr O'Brien directly at [keobrien@ksbe.edu](mailto:keobrien@ksbe.edu)

## **The Hikina Rising Podcast**

*Embracing the past while envisioning our future. A podcast series featuring alumni, staff, students, and faculty at Kamehameha Schools Maui.*



*The Hikina Rising* podcast was created to connect and create a conduit between KSM alumni and haumāna, sharing information and advice. *“To extend our kula’s reach to our alumni and get them reconnected to Kamehameha Schools Maui. It would also give our current students a chance to “talk story” with some alumni.”* -Rickard.

The podcast was launched by faculty members Lisa Correa, High School Counselor at the time, currently serving as Assistant Principal, Māhele Lalo, grades K-6; Coach O’Brien, History; and kumu Kaholo Rickard, Math. *“Kevin and I sit down and hash out ideas until one hits us in the face”* -Rickard. *“We ran with ideas we were passionate about. Kaholo and I love sports, so it was natural for us to do a couple of sports podcasts. He loves music, so he did the one with the musicians. I have always been interested in military stuff. But in each case, we felt like it was something that was not talked about well enough to our own students.”* -O’Brien. For each session, Coach O’Brien handles the content and guest preparation, and Kumu Rickard is responsible for the technical components of recording and editing. It’s brilliant recorded alumni conversations that are accessible to all and easily played from many devices.

When asking Coach O'Brien about the military series (Episode 11:KS Maui Alumni in the Military and Episode 13:Alumni in the Armed Forces), he shares: *“I grew up in a military town, my father was in the army right after WWII, and I was always surrounded by honorable military people. I have a former St. Anthony student/football player who was not a college student prospect. I talked to him about joining the military, and he joined the Navy after high school. He has seen the world, learned a trade, several really, and raised a family. I*

*am humbled that he gives me a lot of credit for his life. The Military option was never discussed enough on campus so this podcast venture allowed me to share more knowledge with our students and their parents. I have been tracking how many KSM alums have joined. My original goal was a trilogy. Episode 13 was about enlistees basically out of high school. Episode 11 was about going to college and doing ROTC and National Guard while being a college student. The third one is going to be with our military academy alums. So three ways to get into the military, three podcasts."*

Kumu Rickard's advice, "*To haumāna, you'll be out of high school in just a few years and also become an alumni of Kamehameha Schools Maui. Listen to the advice of our KS Maui alumni and begin to sort out your goals and plans for life beyond high school. To alumni, we are proud of who you have become and appreciate the stories, experiences, and advice you provide for our current haumāna at Kamehameha Schools Maui.*"

**Current podcasts available at <https://ksmpodcast.podbean.com/>**

Episode 1 - What Founder's Day means to me? With **'Iolani Antonio '08, Taylissa (Joaquin) Lehano '08, Evan Garces '09, Lowen Okamoto '06** and **'Eleu Novikoff '06**.

Episode 2 - It's Been Ten Years! With **Class of 2009: Lu'ukia Nakanelua, Jordan Saribay, Larissa (Nakamitsu) Jimenez, Shelby (Bantilan) Kihara, Kaylee Razo, Kainoa Kai'aokamālie, Kūpono Hong, and Mālia (Medeiros) Howarth.**

Episode 3 - He Leo Kumu with kumu Kaholo Rickard, and Kumu Lōkahi and Kapulani Antonio.

Episode 4 - Ka 'Ālapa – Athletics with kumu Kaholo Rickard, Coach Kevin O'Brien, **Keoni Wong '06, Makana Pundyke '12, Bryan Pali '08** and **Kalei Guth '11**

Episode 5 - Ka 'Ālapa - Athletics with kumu Kaholo Rickard, Coach Kevin O'Brien, **Alex Akana KSK'09** and **Sofia Stupplebeen '21**

Episode 6 Meet the Song Leaders with **Madison Vaught '14, 'Ikaika Mendez '19, Kaylee Zimmermann '19, Tosh Tanaka '19, Mia Symonds '20, Malina Mossman '21, and Kawena Espania '22**

Episode 7 Ka Maka Kilo - Community Spotlight with Musical Duo Kahālāwai musicians Pi'ilani Arias, Josh Kahula, and kumu Kaholo Rickard.

Episode 8 Ke Po'ō Kula - From the Office of the Headmaster Dr. Scott Parker. with **'Eleu Novikoff '06**.

Episode 9 Nā Po'ō Kumu - Welcome back to a new school year! with **Bronson Espania '20, Mrs. Jay-R Ka'awa** and Mr. Lance Cagasan.

Episode 10 Ka 'Ālapa – Athletics with Coach Kevin O'Brien, kumu Kaholo Rickard, **Cade Harris '17, Kymani Fernandez-Roy '18, Logan Spencer '20** and **Kealia Sjostrand '20**.

Episode 11 KS Maui Alumni in the Military (Part 1 of 3) with Coach Kevin O'Brien, **Riley (Shiraishi) Slavich '13** and her husband Zach Slavich.

Episode 12 Kula Kaiapuni to Kamehameha Maui...and Back with Kumu Ekela Kaniaupio-Crozier, **Kūlia Johnson '11, Kaha'i (Johnson) Harders '07, and Kaleialoha Kaniaupio-Crozier '11**.

Episode 13 - Alumni in the Armed Forces (Part 2 of 3) with Coach Kevin O'Brien, **Jake Bernardino '07, Rockne Matsuda Jr. '10** and **Kayla Fernandez-Roy '20**.

# Nā ‘Oihana Lei Koa

## *Alumni Business*



### **Lilia Lorenzo '15**

*Founder, Lilia Poliahu Studio*

<https://www.liliapoliahustudio.com/>

Towards the end of my senior year of high school, I knew I wanted to go to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) to study ‘ike and ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. UHM’s ‘Ike Hawai‘i program had different tracts, so the one I wanted to choose was specific to Native Hawaiian creative expression (art). Although I got mixed views from some of my teachers wanting me to do “more,” there was no other choice for me. What could be more fulfilling than studying our ‘ike kupuna, right? I didn’t really have a plan regarding the future use of my major, but to me, the knowledge that would be gained was more important than worrying about how it would affect my career opportunities.

While I was at UHM, I worked at Ka Papa Lo‘i ‘o Kānewai, and my time there helped me realize the valuable history that the lo‘i had in our Hawaiian community. I was also able to use my skills as an artist to create artwork and supplemental materials for events and group tours. This campus job aligned with my educational path and provided an environment where I could grow as a young kanaka. The experience and connections I made while working there were priceless.

I initially started my business to earn extra money for college. It was a small Instagram account selling Hawai‘i themed vinyl decals, patches, and pins, mostly to students on campus. After graduation, I decided to commit to a slightly larger scale operation, and rebranded my little business as Lilia Poliahu Studio, with the goal of creating more artwork to offer with the original items. Currently, my business offers pins, vinyl printed stickers, vinyl decals, iron-on patches, art prints, and some jewelry. As I learned from one of my professors in college, Hawaiians are very intentional, and I aim to to the same in my work. There’s always a specific reason why I choose the subject matter for my artwork and products. Every item that I create, whether I’m making Pua Kenikeni stickers, or a portrait of Lili‘u, must have purpose, function and meaning.

I really enjoyed being a student at KSM. There were so many things that I was able to see and do, and my fondest memories were the random conversations with teachers and administrators. The relationship between students and teachers/staff is super important. It shows how much care the faculty and staff have for their students. I clearly remember Po‘o Kula DeLima, on her morning/afternoon walks or during lunch, asking me and whoever she saw, how their day was. Mr. Del was always checking on all the hooligans. Things like that are what I remember most. When you get to college, everything is on you. You won't always have that support, so I cherish these memories.

Be grateful for the things you learn in high school. Because of what I learned at KSM, college was a lot less stressful. I might even say it was easy, with enough effort. From the note taking skills I learned from Ms. Laepa‘a my freshman year, the spool method for writing essays in Mr. Oliver’s class, the perfect essay in Ms. Haina’s class, it was all worth it! The kumu at KSM always have their students’ well-being and future in mind, and I learned after leaving KSM that not all high school students are fortunate to have caring kumu.







Lilia's artwork and merchandise can be purchased at <https://www.liliapoliahustudio.com/>

# Ka Nūhou Lei Koa

*Alumni News*



## **Roxy Ragsdale '06**

*KS Maui High School Art Kumu*

After graduating from KSM, I attended U.H. Mānoa where I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts – Studio. My focus was in Drawing and Painting. Then, I pursued my teaching dream, and received my post-bachelor secondary education teaching certification. It was a very different experience doing my student teaching in O‘ahu schools, but I knew from the moment I went into education that I wanted to come back to Maui to teach.

Once I knew that I wanted to be an educator, teaching at KSM became my “dream job.” Not only am I familiar with the way things are done at KSM, I believe in the academic systems and values that are being taught here that perpetuate Pauahi's legacy. I was fortunate that I didn't have to wait too long before my “dream” position became a reality and here I am! I am so very thankful and blessed to be here, and I cannot wait to share the amazing world of art with the haumāna that come through my classes. I am forever indebted to Princess Pauahi for all the opportunities that I was given while I was a student here and that I continue to enjoy as a kumu.

One of my favorite memories of being a student here at KSM was homecoming week. I loved seeing the display of school and class pride and the fun themed dress-up days. I cannot wait to see the new, fun, homecoming traditions that have been created since I was here.

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## **Kulia Fernandez '17**

graduated from Pacific University in May 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and a minor in Biology. In Fall 2021, she will be attending Pacific University College of Optometry.





## **KSM Alums returned to campus with Mauiola Pharmacy**

On Friday September 10, KSM HOSA Future Health Professionals members joined Mauiola Pharmacy for the second campus-based vaccine clinic. KSM HOSA alumnus and former HOSA state officer **Shane Nae'ole '14**, PharmD; and KSM alumna **Tori Ching '13** mentored and guided current KSM students. Pictured from left to right are **Shane Nae'ole '14**, **Kawai Apolo '22** , **Kaydence Lilio '22**, **Jayna Kanoholani '23**, **Katie Anakalea '23**, and **Tori Ching '13**.

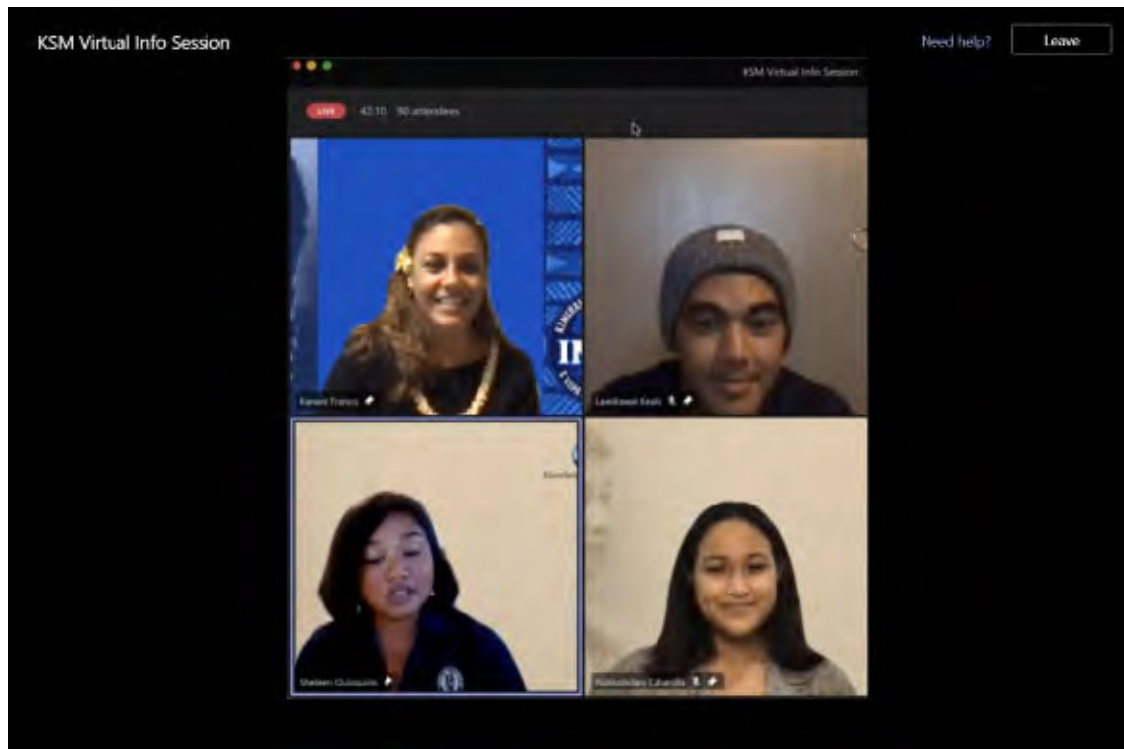


## **Mānaiakalani Wa'a on Campus**

**Maleko Lorenzo '13** came back with Mānaiakalani crew and Captain Archie Kalepa. They

brought their wa‘a to the campus, and introduce students to the skills involved in traditional Hawaiian sailing. Read the story in [Nā Maka Pueo Newsletter](#).

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## Admissions: Virtual Info Session

On September 23, **Keolapono Keahi '21** participated in KS Maui Admissions Virtual Info Session with Kumu **Kanani Franco** (KSM Christian Education Kumu and KSK graduate), **Nalikeilani Cabanilla '22** (Papa Olonā Class President) and Ms. **Sheleen Quisquirin** (Admissions Program Liaison and KSK graduate).

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Posts

imaikalani\_devault 3rd place finish here in Portugal 🇵🇹  
A bittersweet finish but very happy with my performance this past week! I was a heat away from making it an all Hawaiian final with @zekelau but very happy that he took the win! Thanks coach @pedro.robvalho , it's awesome to see the work pay off. Thanks to everyone at home as well as my sponsors for all the support, excited to keep the momentum going into the next event in France and to cap off the challenger series in Hawaii ! Let's go 🙌

**Imaikalani DeVault '15** finished third at the MEO Pro Ericeira in Ericeira, Portugal. This is one of the four events of the World Surf League Challenger Series for 2021. These four events will determine which surfers qualify for the 2022 Championship Tour.

**Erika Kekiwi '12** is a recipient of the second annual Don Reeser and Mary Evanson Memorial Scholarship award given by the Friends of Haleakala National Park. [Click to read the Maui News story.](#)

## Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards 2021

Hūlō to our talented alumni who were nominated for the prestigious Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards 2021:

\* **Keely Rivera '09** - Haku Mele (Composer's Award) with Frank Ka'iuokalani Damas for "Ahulau Ka Pi'ipi'i I Kakanilua"

\* **U'ilani Tanigawa Lum '10** - Winner of Liner Notes Award with husband Zachary Alaka'i Lum (KSK '10) for Huliāmahi, Vol. 1 by Various Artists.

**Do you have any news to share? Click on the link below**

Submit my news

# Announcements

our kaka'ako **HAPPY**  
VIRTUAL GHOST STORIES: **KAKA'AKOWEEN**

Featuring Master Storyteller  
**Lopaka Kapanui**  
of Mysteries of Hawai'i

**Sunday, Oct. 24**  
**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**  
LIVE on Zoom

Join us virtually for chilling ghost stories told by Lopaka Kapanui.

For years, he's recounted the stories of Hawai'i's most mystifying places, and this year, his tour company, Mysteries of Hawai'i, placed in USA Today's 10 Best Ghost Tours. Now, he will be sharing stories about the areas in and around the Kaka'ako region.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity from the comfort of your own home, where you can hide under the covers!

**KAKA'AKOWEEN GHOSTLY GIVEAWAY**

**PLUS FROM OCT. 16TH TO OCT. 31ST,**  
take a selfie against the Halloween-themed spooktacular backdrop in The Barn at SALT at Our Kaka'ako!

Post your selfie on your social media page, tag us with #kakaakoween, follow Our Kaka'ako, and you will be entered for a chance to win these prizes: Our Kaka'ako logo wear or a Sunset Texas Barbecue gift card to rattle in the spooky season with a fang-tastic feast of bone-chilling BBQ ribs!

OURKAKAAKO.COM    #KAKAAKOWEEN #OURKAKAAKO

[Click Here](#)

## PCI Alumni Directory Project Update

Last month, KS Alumni Relations implemented a KS Alumni Directory Project. Notifications were sent to every alumni via an email, phone call, or a yellow postcard in the mail.

What is a PCI Alumni Directory? PCI is a third-party company contracted by KS to gather data information in order to update the KS Alumni Directory. The last KS Alumni Directory was published over 10 years ago.

As of today, 6,341 alumni have responded. That's 23.41% of the 27,089 alumni that were targeted.

Here are a few key things to keep in mind:

**NO purchase is necessary to participate in the update.** The proceedings from the purchase do not affect KS.

If you prefer to update your data online, please use the link below. You will need your unique ID Number provided in email or postcard to access your data.

<https://myupdate.publishingconcepts.com/kamehameha/>

PCI has provided a "1(800)" number to call to provide your updates, Monday - Friday, 5AM - 7PM (PT).

You may receive a phone call to update your information if PCI has not been able to contact you via email or mail.

All changes and updates must be made by February 18, 2022 to be included in the printed directory.

The refreshed alumni directory will be available for sale until May 31, 2022. Production will begin June 2022.

If you or a classmate did not receive an email or a mailer, please reach out to [alumni@ksbe.edu](mailto:alumni@ksbe.edu) or (808) 534-8172 or (808) 534-8283 to update your information. Please visit [ksbe.edu/alumni](https://ksbe.edu/alumni) for more information.



# Spread the Joy

**Include KSM in your  
Holiday Card mailout**

 [KSMalumni@ksbe.edu](mailto:KSMalumni@ksbe.edu)

 **KS Maui Alumni Relations**  
**270 'A'apueo Pkwy**  
**Pukalani, HI 96768**



## Apply for College Scholarships and Internships

Multiple scholarships are available in one application, including the Na Ho'okama a Pauahi and Ho'okawowo scholarships. KS college scholarships are available to undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate financial need and are committed to contributing to the lāhui.

**Application opens on October 1, 2021 and deadline to apply is January 14, 2022.**

Pauahi Foundation offers a variety of scholarships by private donors for undergraduate and graduate students. **Application opens on November 8, 2021 and deadline to apply is Dec. 23, 2021.**



[Click Here to Apply](#)

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## **Apply for Pauahi Keiki Scholarship 2022-2023**

Pauahi Keiki Scholars (PKS) is a need-based scholarship. The application process for the 2022-2023 school year is open to eligible preschool-aged students planning to attend a participating PKS preschool in Hawai'i.

Students applying must be:

- A State of Hawai'i Resident — KS defines Hawai'i residency as having lived continuously in the state of Hawai'i for at least 12 months of date of application
- Born in 2017, 2018, or 2019
- Enrolled or plan to enroll at a participating preschool

**Application opened on August 15, 2021 and deadline to apply is December 1, 2021.**

[Click Here to Apply](#)

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UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

PEHEA?

UPDATE YOUR COLLEGE/CAREER INFORMATION

2014 2006 2016

2015 2012

2009 2019 2011 2008 2020

2018 2007 2017 2013

2021 2010

STAY CONNECTED

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/KSMALUMNI](https://tinyurl.com/ksmalumni)

*Nā Lei Koa Newsletter is provided by Kamehameha Schools Maui Parents and Alumni Relations.*

*To contact us or share story ideas, email at [KSMalumni@ksbe.edu](mailto:KSMalumni@ksbe.edu)*

**KU'UPAU**

Kamehameha Schools - Maui Campus Pukalani would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Kamehameha Schools - Maui Campus Pukalani directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.