

TO: KHS Parents & Ohana, Guardians, Friends (12/12/2025)

KALANI High School

Where the Winds of Knowledge Carry You to a Brighter Future

WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

IMPORTANT DATES...

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1) Friday, December 19 | End of 1 st Semester |
| 2) Thursday, December 25 | Christmas |
| 3) Monday, January 5 | No Students – Teacher Work Day |
| 4) Tuesday, January 6 | First Day of Second Semester (odd schedule) |
| 5) Monday, January 19 | Holiday – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| 6) Friday, February 6 | Planning and Collaboration Day – no students |
| 7) Sunday, February 15 | Freshmen/Sophomore Banquet @ Ala Moana Hotel 5:00pm – 9:00pm |
| 8) Monday, February 16 | Holiday – Presidents’ Day |
| 9) Friday, March 13 | End of 3 rd Quarter |
| 10) Sunday, March 15 | Junior Prom – Koolau Ballroom |
| 11) Thursday, March 26 | Holiday – Kuhio Day |
| 12) Friday, April 3 | Holiday – Good Friday |
| 13) Wednesday, May 13 | Senior Awards Night @ Moanalua High School Auditorium |
| 14) Wednesday, May 20 | Graduation at the Stan Sherrif Center - confirmed |
| 15) Monday, May 25 | Holiday – Memorial Day |
| 16) Thursday, May 28 | Last Day for Students – End of 2 nd Semester |
| 17) Friday, May 29 | Last Day for Teachers |
- December 22 – January 2 : Winter Break
March 16 – 20 : Spring Break

Email address ----- mitchell.otani@k12.hi.us

Vision: Character. Compassion. Community.

**Mission : We at Kalani High School create opportunities to discover our passions, purpose, and personal pursuits.
A vision is not just a picture of what could be; it is an appeal to our better selves, a call to become something more.**

Ne'epapa: Stronger Together

Kindness 101 : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MPVjhw2yDM>

Holiday Reminders

As the holiday season approaches, it often brings with it high expectations for joy and celebration. While this is a wonderful time, we want to remind our families to remain vigilant and attentive to your child's well-being. In the past, we have observed that this period can sometimes be challenging for students. Please be aware of potential signs that your child may be struggling, which include:

- Significant changes in mood or behavior (increased irritability, withdrawal, or noticeable sadness).
- Signs of anxiety or depression.
- Discussions or signs of self-harm.
- A sudden and sustained drop in academic performance or grades.
- Changes in sleeping or eating habits.

Please engage in conversation with your child. Inquire about school, their day, what's going on this weekend, etc. We also encourage you to be aware of your child's friends and their well-being, as students often support and influence one another. If you notice a change in your child’s mood or behavior—no matter how subtle—please do not hesitate to reach out to the school counselors. We are here to offer confidential support, guidance, and resources for your child and your family. Your vigilance is our greatest asset in supporting our students. Let's work together to make this a safe and healthy season for everyone.

STUDENT SECTION

Clubs / Sports

Laulea – Ms. Yagi
Anime Club – Ms. Miyashiro
Book Club – Ms. Miyashiro
Spanish Club – Ms. Rivette
Health Occupations Students of America – Mr. A. Kimura
Center for Tomorrow's Leader – Mr. Iwanaga
Ceramics Club – Ms. Berezni
Chinese Club – Ms. Young Chan
DECA – Ms. Potterton
The Health and Fitness Club – Mr. Melemai
LEO Club – connected with Lions Club (Ms. Kaneko / Mr. Lee):
Model United Nations Club – Mr. Melemai
Key Club – Ms. Takayesu
National Honor Society (NHS) – Dr. Ida
Computer Science/Technology and Service Club – Dr. Ida
Oahu Math League (OML) – Dr. Ida
FFA – Ms. Doran
Hawaii Aspiring Aerospace Engineers Academy – Ms. Sato
Japan Club – Ms. Klein
CORE Club – Ms. Kaaua
Mock Trial – Mr. Bard
Photography Club - new

Mock Trial Team

2026 Hawai'i High School Mock Trial Competition.

Similar to last year, this year's competition will be conducted in-person. Competing in person allows students to build confidence, sharpen public speaking and critical thinking skills, and collaborate more effectively with teammates and legal mentors, all within the same environment in which attorneys practice daily. The courtroom setting also fosters deeper engagement, professionalism, and memorable learning experiences.

The competition will be held on Saturday(s), February 7, February 21, February 28, and March 7, 2026.

This year's competition will involve a civil case. See Mr. Bard

Project Grad 2027

If you are interested in helping to plan and make graduation night memorable for our upcoming SENIORS, please consider joining our Project Grad 2027 parent planning committee.

Send your name, and contact info(phone number and email) to kalanipg2027@gmail.com.

Sister School Partnerships – International Travel

Busan Computer Science High School – Korea
Koyo Senior High School – Hiroshima
Obihiro Hakuyo High School – Hokkaido
Iwakuni High School – Yamaguchi
Japan Super Science Fair – Ritsumeikan High School - Kyoto
Osaka Gakuin University / High School
Bihoku High School – Nagoya

Osaka Gakuin University Summer Bridge Program
Chengdu Debate Competition Jeju International Youth Forum
Hainan/Beijing Cultural Exchange Trip
Qinhuangdao / Beijing Cultural Trip

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION
SUMMER INTERNSHIP/OTHER EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Mrs. Lisa Hayashi College and Career Counselor lisa.hayashi@k12.hi.us 808-305-0556
[SCHEDULE A MEETING \(Students only\)](#) Visit our Kalani HS College & Career Site

Check our website for more information – <https://sites.google.com/k12.hi.us/kalanicounselorscorner/college-and-career>

Ongoing events:

Many colleges visit Kalani High School to share more information about their school. Please visit our ongoing calendar of visits. These visits are open to Kalani students only. <https://sites.google.com/k12.hi.us/kalanicounselorscorner/college-and-career/college-visits-presentations-meetings-slides?authuser=0>

College Admission Counselor Visits

During these meetings, you will meet the college admission counselor for Hawaii applicants, learn more about the school, programs and majors offered, the application procedures and requirements, and have a chance to ask questions. Students need to sign up using their SCOIR account. Open to Kalani students grades 9-11.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iz2tLh8e6InR8oa5Za8tLL0Z0q0G6xBqWR15wQnXCM/edit?usp=sharing>

FAFSA Financial Aid Webinars

Sign up for virtual webinars occurring every Wednesday through Hawaii P-20 to learn more about financial aid. Open to all students and families. <https://collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com/Upcoming-Events/>

College Visits

Pick up an activity pass from the College and Career Center in the Library
Ask your teacher for approval (sign up for NO more than 3 visits for the same class period)
Students who have off campus during a college visit do not need a pass to attend

ATHLETICS

Soft-Tennis All Stars

1st Team All-Stars : Lexi Duldulao Sydney Lin Conner Lin Tyka Ching
2nd Team All-Stars : Isabella Lee Haley Smith Jasmine Uyesono Breydi Nuibe
Player of Year: Lexi Duldulao

Crosscountry All Stars

1st Team All-Stars : Seita Takinishi Rui Imai Ashlyn Wang
2nd Team All-Stars : Oscar Richardson Jisung Kang Hayden Bishop
2nd Team All-Stars : Tricia Tengan Ella Kimura Jerney Martin Anela Ohelo

WINTER SPORTS

Girls Basketball

12/17 Kalani vs. Farrington
12/19 Kalani @ Kailua
12/22 Kalani @ Roosevelt (pending)
12/26 Kalani vs. Kahuku
12/29 Kalani vs. Moanalua
01/03 Kalani @ Farrington
01/06 Kalani vs. Kailua
01/08 Kailua vs. Roosevelt
01/14 Kalani @ Kahuku
01/16 Kalani @ Moanalua

Boys Basketball

12/20 Kalani vs. Pearl City
12/23 Kalani @ Waianae
12/27 Kalani @ Waialua
12/30 Kalani vs. Anuenue
01/02 Kalani @ McKinley
01/05 Kalani @ Kaimuki
01/07 Kalani vs. Dreamhouse
01/13 Kalani vs. Roosevelt
01/15 Kalani @ Castle
01/21 Kalani vs. Aiea
01/24 Kalani @ Waipahu

Girls Soccer

Kalani 1 – Castle 0
Kalani 0 – Kaiser 1
12/12 Kalani vs. Moanalua
12/16 Kalani vs. Kahuku
12/19 Kalani vs. Castle
12/23 Kalani vs. Kalaheo
12/30 Kalani vs. Kaiser
01/02 Kalani @ Moanalua
01/06 Kalani @ Kahuku

Kalani 1 – Kalaheo 1

Boys Soccer

Kalani 1 – Castle 0
Kalani 7 – Kailua 0
12/15 Kalani @ Roosevelt
12/18 Kalani vs. Kaiser
12/22 Kalani vs. Castle
12/29 Kalani vs. Moanalua
01/03 Kalani @ Kailua
01/05 Kalani vs. Roosevelt
01/08 Kalani @ Kaiser

Kalani 3 – Moanalua 0

Swimming

12/13 Preseason @ Kalani
01/10 OIA JV Championships
01/15 OIA East Diving
01/23 Kalani Invitational
01/30 OIA Trials
02/13 HHSAA Trials
01/17 OIA East Swimming
01/24 Kalani Invitational
01/31 OIA Finals and Diving
02/14 HHSAA Finals and Diving

Wrestling

12/13 Preseason @ Kalaheo
12/19 Officials Tournament
12/23 Kalani/Kaiser Novice Tournament
12/26 Pa`ani Girls
01/03 Dual @ Moanalua
01/10 Round Robin @ Aiea
01/17 ILH Crossover
01/24 OIA JV @ Kailua
01/31 OIA Dual Championship @ Radford
02/07 OIA Eastern Division Championship @ Moanalua
02/13 OIA Championship @ Leilehua
02/27 HHSAA Championship @ NBC
12/26 Aiea Boys
02/14 OIA Championship @ Leilehua
02/28 HHSAA Championship @ NBC

Paddling

12/20 Preseason @ Keehi Lagoon
12/27 Preseason @ Keehi Lagoon
01/03 Preseason @ Keehi Lagoon
01/10 Preseason @ Keehi Lagoon
01/17 JV Championships @ Keehi Lagoon
01/24 OIA Championship @ Keehi Lagoon
02/07 HHSAA Championship @ Keehi Lagoon

JV Baseball

Kalani 1 – Kaiser 11
12/13 Kalani @ Moanalua
12/18 Kalani @ Farrington
12/20 Kalani @ Roosevelt
12/27 Kalani vs. Kailua
01/03 Kalani @ Kaiser
01/08 Kalani vs. Moanalua
01/10 Kalani vs. Farrington
01/15 Kalani vs. Roosevelt
01/17 Kalani @ Kailua
01/22 OIA Semi-Finals
01/24 OIA Championship

JV Tennis

Kalani 5 – Farrington 0
Kalani 4 – Kalaheo 1
Kalani 1 – Kaiser 4
Kalani 4 – Moanalua 1
Kalani 2 – McKinley 3
Kalani vs. Kahuku (forfeit)
12/13 Kalani vs. Castle
12/17 OIA Semi-Finals
12/20 OIA Finals
12/13 Kalani vs. Roosevelt

SPORTS OFFERINGS 2025-26

SPRING

JV = junior varsity, V = Varsity, B = Boys, G = Girls

BASEBALL (V) B/G GOLF (V) B/G JUDO (JV/V) G SOFTBALL (V)
B/G TENNIS (V) B VOLLEYBALL (JV/V) G WATER POLO (V) G FLAG FOOTBALL (V)

Department of Education requirements for athletic participation:

- Current Department of Education Athletic Physical
- Department of Education Consent and Assumption of Risk form per sport. (1 sport per form)
- Concussion Management Student Consent
- Need a physical? We encourage you to take your child to their regular doctor. Those who want a physical quicker please contact your nearby Urgent Care facility to inquire about walk-in physical appointments. (Fee may be charged). Don't forget to download and take the physical form with you.

Kalani High School requirements for athletic participation:

- Completion and submission of Athletic Registration (New to Kalani? Create a new account and remember your password. Returnees log in with their password.
- Sign up and try out for a team.
- Once selected to a team, student-athlete will pay the \$80.00 ASET Fee

Athletic Supply, Equipment & Transportation (ASET) \$80.00

Once your child has been selected to a team, parents will receive an email asking you to log into your child's account to pay the \$80.00 ASET fee. The amount of money allocated by the DOE for Athletic Transportation is much less than is needed considering the current cost of buses. This fee (pays for buses and other transportation costs) is charged once per school year regardless of the number of teams your child gets selected for.

The **ASET Fee** is charged once per school year for the first sport a student plays.

- If your child played a fall sport this year, you won't need to make any additional payment.
- Payment is made **online through GoFans** once your child is selected for a team.
- We no longer accept in-person payments.
- A small transaction fee applies.
- A payment link will be sent when it is time to pay.

Alumni

Posted: 11/15/2025 Ticket punched.

The third-seeded Pacific Lutheran University volleyball team won the Northwest Conference Tournament title for the second time in three years on Saturday night, dethroning top-seed and host Whitworth University 3-1 (17-25, 25-23, 25-21, 25-18) to earn the conference's automatic bid to the 2025 NCAA Division III Tournament. The Lutes (16-9) dropped the opening set but won the next three, returning to the NCAA Championships for the 14th time in program history and first time since 2023. "Incredible performance by our young women," said Head Coach Kevin Aoki. "To come in as the third seed and beat both co-champions in two days, plus Whitworth on its home court says something about our team." The first set was tied at 10 before the NWC regular season champion Pirates (21-7) scored eight of the next 11. Whitworth would continue to put its foot on the gas, scoring the final four points for a 25-17 set victory. The host Pirates headed into the second set having won seven of the eight sets played this season between the two teams after sweeping the Lutes 3-0 back on Oct. 10 and winning 3-1 last Saturday. A spark midway through the second set made sure the same thing wouldn't happen for the third time. A Je T'aime Paio kill tied the set at 6-6 and kicked off a 5-0 Lute run, getting a kill from Julissa Pernsteiner and a pair of aces from **Ayre Takamoto (Northwest Conference 2nd Team Honors)**. Whitworth battled back, tying the set at 17 and later pushing ahead 21-19, but another Paio kill sparked a run of four straight Lute points, including a kill and a block from Pernsteiner. PLU led the rest of the set with a Whitworth error giving the Lutes the 25-23 set win. Pacific Lutheran surged to an early 4-1 lead in the third, but it wouldn't be that easy. Four straight points tilted the scales 10-9 in favor of the Pirates later in the set. Kills from Shaela Allen-Greggs and Bailey Johnson swung the lead back to the Lutes who never looked back, getting a clinching kill from Alexis Eggert to hand the underdog Lutes a 25-21 victory. Whitworth scored the first three points and held an 11-7 lead in the fourth set before PLU rattled off seven straight points to surge into the lead. A Pernsteiner kill started the rally before getting an ace from Paio and a pair of kills from Clare Freberg. The score would be tied at 16 and again at 17 before PLU scored eight of the final nine points, including the last five to seize a 25-18 set win to capture the third annual NWC Tournament. Paio was instrumental in that final run, scoring the final three points of the match with a trio of kills. Paio led the team with a career-high 14 kills while also adding 11 digs while Allen-Greggs had 13 kills, boasting a .314 attack percentage. Pernsteiner was the third Lute with double digit kills, netting 11 on the night along with four blocks. **Ayre Takamoto had 31 of the team's 35 assists and added 17 digs** while Macy Matsushima led the defensive efforts with 19 digs. Next up: NCAA Tourney It will be Pacific Lutheran's 14th NCAA Tournament appearance and first since the 2023 season. All 14 appearances have come under the tenure of Head Coach Kevin Aoki who has guided the squad to 12 NWC regular season titles, two NWC Tournament titles, and has PLU as the only program to make it to the NWC Tournament finals every year of its existence.

Continuous Notice

The Hawaii State Department of Education (HSDOE) and its schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion in its programs and activities. Please direct inquiries regarding Department nondiscrimination policies as follows:

Civil Rights Compliance Branch

Hawaii State Department of Education

P.O. Box 2360

Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

(808) 586-3322 or relay

CRCB@k12.hi.us

Beth Schimmelfinnig, Director

Rhonda Wong, Compliance

Aaron Oandasan, Title VI

Toby Yamashiro, Title VII

Nicole Isa-Iijima, Title IX

Krysti Sukita, ADA/504

AHERA

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which mandated the Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule, 40 CFR Part 763. It requires all primary and secondary school buildings to be inspected by AHERA accredited inspectors and to identify all asbestos-containing building materials. The rule further requires the development of a management plan by an AHERA accredited management planner that is based on the findings of the inspection. The management plan outlines our intent in controlling the potential for exposure to asbestos fibers in our school. In February 2001, Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 11-502 was adopted by the Hawaii State Legislature. These rules essentially mirror the requirements of the AHERA regulations. In both cases, the rule requires our school to notify parents, teachers, and employees of the presence and status of asbestos containing material in our school buildings.

The initial inspection of our school was conducted in 1958 and identifies some asbestos-containing materials. Since that time, we continue to conduct periodic surveillance and triennial re-inspections to ensure that the asbestos-containing materials remain in good condition and do not pose a hazard to our students and staff. An asbestos management plan was drafted based on our initial inspection and submitted to the Hawaii State Department of Health. It outlines in detail the methods we will use to maintain the material in a safe manner. The management plan is updated regularly as asbestos is removed or conditions change. A copy of the management plan is on file in the administrative office and is available for your review during our regular school hours. Should you have any questions, please call the school at 808-305-0500.

Annual Notice of Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Statement

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion. This requirement extends to all of the Department's programs and activities, including employment and admissions as applicable. If you have difficulty understanding English, you have the right to receive language assistance at no cost to you. Please contact your school's principal for more information. For the Department high schools that offer Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs of Study in arts and communications, business, health services, industrial and engineering technology, natural resources, and public and human services, there are no admission criteria. Department high schools will take steps to assure that the lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in CTE programs and will provide equal access to designated youth groups. The Department does not tolerate acts of harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion. Any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion is encouraged to report such harassment. Students and parents may report allegations of discrimination or harassment to the school's administrator or to the Department's Civil Rights Compliance Branch at the address listed below. The Department is committed to conducting prompt investigations. Support, including counseling and educational resources, will be available to students who are harassed as well as to students found to have engaged in acts of harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion. Students found to have engaged in harassment may be disciplined up to and including suspension if circumstances warrant. Students, parents, and Department staff should work together to prevent harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion. The Department will not tolerate retaliation for reporting discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, and religion, and will take steps to protect those who wish to report the discrimination or harassment. Please direct inquiries regarding Department nondiscrimination policies to:

Civil Rights Compliance Branch
Hawaii State Department of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
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Inquiries concerning discrimination and/or harassment may also be referred to the Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education.

Archived

US News 2025 Best High Schools

Kalani High School is ranked first within Hawaii (non-charter public schools).
<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/hawaii>

Congratulations

National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist

Ivan Tse

On September 10, 2025, officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of the more than 16,000 Semifinalists in the 71st annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 6,930 National Merit Scholarships worth \$26 million that will be offered next spring. In October 2024, Ivan took the PSAT/National Merit Qualifying Test and met the requirements to enter the 2026 NM Scholarship Program. He is one of 10 Hawaii public school students recognized.

National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student

Bryce Hara Jayden Tran

On September 11, 2025, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation released the names of approximately 34,000 Commended Students based on a national selection score of 210. These students are also being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. *“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success. These students are vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation, and we hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities.*

Model UN Conference

Punahou Competition

Best Delegate Winners: Ivan Tse Morgan Lenoir Ryder Goto

Outstanding Delegate Winners: Mirah Levine

Verbal Accommodation Winners: Leala Florendo David Summers Bryce Hara

David Lenoir

All-American Model United Nations Travel Team

Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders

Class of 2026 Fellows

Mia Nishiguchi

2025-2026 MTNA Performance Competitions

Hawai‘i State Division

Junior Performance (strings) : Hawai‘i State Winner: Evangeline Tjoeng

Junior Performance (woodwinds) : Alternate: Desmond Sutton

Senior Performance (Woodwinds) : Alternate: Zhi Yi Chen, student of Aileen Kawakami

Honua Scholars Laulima Symposium

1st Place : Sarah Lee, Ella Lam & Kalea Santos: Honua Pitch Competition : Medical Innovation: Rescuerpen

2nd Place : Isebel Lam & Summer Hall: Honua Pitch Competition and Honua Proposal Competition:

Medical Innovation: Targeted Knee Thermotherapy Device

Jeju International Youth Forum

The students participated in discussions involving a variety of topics to improve their respective countries.

Students proposed solutions to real-life problems.

Chaperone : Ms. Kaneko

Students : Tamar McMillan-Zilberman + Mirah Levine + Qian Chen + Jeannie Kim

Japan Super Science Fair

The fair aims to cultivate scientific thinking, promote learning across different subjects and cultures, and create friendships through curiosity and discovery.

Chaperones : Ms. Hamasaki and Mr. Okawa

Students : Rodrigo Del Carpio Sydnie Melemai Ivan Tse Sara Lau Miki Okata

Chengdu Debate Challenge

Chaperone : Scott Melemai Bryce Hara and Anson Li captured 4th place.

Soft Tennis Trip

The Kalani Soft-Tennis Team returned from visiting Koyo Senior High School in Hiroshima, Japan

DECA

Kalani High School returned from representing Kalani at DECA's national leadership conference in Arlington, VA.

Students : Rex Ho Annika Li Brandalyn Tran Advisor : Mrs. Lisa Potterton

OGU Sister School Partnership

Kalani High Staff and students returned from visiting Osaka Gakuin High School

Chaperones : Lisa Hayashi Rei Akasaki Dan Hamada

Students : Kira Ann Ichiyama Madeline Eakin Jayhee Hasty Kylie Amine

Isaac Kim Shota Nakamura Daigo Tokunaga Jett Kume Ace Kume

Sports

Congratulations

Fall Sports

HHSAA Champion – Christina Kidd

HHSAA Runner-up : Girls Bowling

OIA Champions

Girls Junior Varsity Crosscountry

OIA Runner-up : Girls Air Riflery Boys Air Riflery Girls Bowling

OIA Eastern Division Champions

Girls Soft-Tennis Girls Air Riflery Girls Bowling Girls Junior Varsity Crosscountry

Alumni in the News

Jill Takasaki Canfield (Class of 1984), Hawai'i Literacy executive director

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2025/11/07/editorial/name-in-the-news/5-questions-jill-takasaki-canfield-hawaii-literacy-executive-director/>