

# KALANI High School

*Where the Winds of Knowledge Carry You to a Brighter Future*

## WEEKLY E-BULLETIN

### IMPORTANT DATES...

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1) Wednesday, April 1 | Air Force Drill Team exhibition on field during Period 7 |
| 2) Friday, April 3    | Holiday – Good Friday                                    |
| 3) Friday, April 3    | Kalani Complex Elementary Track Meet @ Kalani            |
| 4) Friday, April 3    | Junior Prom @ Koolau Ballroom 5:00 – 10:00pm             |
| 5) Friday, April 10   | Friday Night Prime Time Kalani @ Kaiser 6:30pm           |
| 6) Friday, April 17   | Falcon Fair  |
| 7) Friday, May 8      | Senior Last Day  |
| 8) Wednesday, May 13  | Senior Awards Night @ Moanalua High School Auditorium    |
| 9) Wednesday, May 20  | <b>Graduation at the Stan Sheriff Center - confirmed</b> |
| 10) Monday, May 25    | Holiday – Memorial Day                                   |
| 11) Thursday, May 28  | Last Day for Students – End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester  |
| 12) Friday, May 29    | Last Day for Teachers                                    |

Email address ----- [mitchell.otani@k12.hi.us](mailto:mitchell.otani@k12.hi.us)

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**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>

### **Smarter Balanced Assessments**

Every school year, all students in grades 3–8 and 11 take the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy and Mathematics Assessments. The purpose of the assessments is to provide you and your child’s teacher(s) with information about the extent to which your child has met identified content standards in ELA/literacy and mathematics, depending on your child’s current grade level. A *Parent Information Booklet* with information about the Smarter Balanced Assessments and what you can do to help your child prepare has been posted online at <https://smarterbalanced.alohasap.org/families.html>.

The *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, as reauthorized by the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)*, requires states to establish challenging standards, develop aligned assessments, and build accountability systems based upon educational results. All students are included in a state’s system of standards, assessments, and accountability.

If you have any questions, please contact Assessment Coordinator Jaime Edwards at [jaime.edwards@k12.hi.us](mailto:jaime.edwards@k12.hi.us).

### ***Congratulations***

**2026 Citizen-Scholar Award recipient**

***Mia Nishiguchi***

For the past 21 years, the Hawai`i Lodging & Tourism Association, the Hawai`i State Department of Education, and the Honolulu Star-Advertiser have honored one outstanding senior from every public high school throughout the state who best exemplifies citizenship in school and the community. Each of these students have given back to make our state a better place and embody the Department of Education's Vision of a Public School Graduate.

Please congratulate Mia Nishiguchi - Kalani High School Citizen Scholar 2026

### ***Congratulations***

**2026 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing High School Award Hawai'i Affiliate Winner**

**Summer Hall Katie Ta** : Both are State Winners and National Honorable Mentions

**Mia Nishiguchi** : State Honorable Mention.

Only five students recognized statewide

***Congratulations***  
**2026 Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Foundation Scholarship**  
***Taylor Shimamura***

The Takitani Foundation Legacy Scholarship Program was started in 1993 by Mamoru and Aiko Takitani, founders of Hawaiian Host chocolates as a way to give back to the people of Hawai'i. Since that time, the Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Foundation (Takitani Foundation) has awarded scholarships each year to an outstanding student at every qualifying high school in the state. The Takitani Foundation Legacy Scholarship Program recognizes outstanding students who exemplify the qualities of hard work, high academic achievement, commitment to excellence, and dedication to our community.

Please congratulate Taylor Shimamura – Kalani High School 2026 Takitani Foundation Scholarship recipient

***Congratulations***  
**Industry Certification**  
***Arisa Baruffi***

Arisa Baruffi completed her Dual Credit ITS122, Cyber Security course in December. Recently she successfully completed the industry's certification exam, which Dr Ida can attest is no small feat. She can enter the industry's workforce before graduating and begin her career in the Cyber Security industry. This industry has a very healthy job market with a strong future in Hawaii and across the nation. It is not uncommon for employers to pay for their employees to continue their education. Arisa has a brilliant career ahead of her.

***Congratulations***

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ICSpark Hackathon

Hosted by ICSpark and [SWITCH](#) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, this event brings together middle and high school students to showcase their coding skills. Students created web-based projects to solve real-world problems.

Congratulations to the following students : Amy Li, Susan Zheng, and Caleb Crosswell

They won fourth place against some tough competition.

Even in the age of AI, the human element still makes a difference.

**Lottery for Geographic Exemptions for School Year 2026 – 2027**

**From January 1, 2026 to March 1, 2026, Kalani High School  
accepted Geographic Exception (GE) applications for next school year (SY 2026-27).**

**Lottery will take place on the first Friday in April**

**Applications received after the March 1, 2026 deadline will be placed on a waiting list.**

***Congratulations***

Aiden Nakamura, Kaydee Nakamitsu, and Serena Uchima-Pyun

Best Produced Video at the 2026 Japan Wizards Competition.

Their piece explores what makes the Sumidagawa Festival unique and exciting, how it reflects Japan's traditions and seasonal life, and how it brings people together. Great job Aiden, Kaydee, and Serena.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/WhetKLbvVZQPfftwJtsHNlnkGmQzwTIKgzJcZdvRkWXRgkHnpFDHFJGgJHmdwDnmGpzFxl?compose=TfjTVSKkxNILtjLwhkdngljhcZWMNPGGNBQxsVjwxwsXIHspGDJnSICqWNHMTJILPPgKGNXGrdXnnvPxVDqHmzPjJBjWVmNTFMBWHFwWnTlpjJFKfkSdlnXHjtgbpBTsrLHLnmLWptWfCJRlgsBDgLwZCDcRKBvdsCGrZNdptgWtSDTRjPnmZKdTThvXrtvfTbtsjrvhTvsnpBbRHbjVbhfZCqWzcxVbKPrfxWqdpKTijZJxQQMVbrmbLbSdHBICBBCLICpnrqiGelnmtJhBZjdVRRpCPRZnnSQnngJJmhTQJwSFHzgrLmmLjFRxNbHDNfdbHhBchzDjHKzKlgwNbTCzdHsKGjq&projector=1>

***Congratulations***

***Atona Chan***

National American Vision Medal awardee and Gold National Medalist

63rd Annual Scholastic Art Awards

Atona won a total of 4 Gold Keys, and 3 Silver Keys overall.



## *Congratulations*

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America – CTE Competition  
Culinary Students

Pastry Arts Technical Decorating Skills Event Demonstration:

Students demonstrated several different piping skills in script writing, piping animals and flowers out of frosting  
Kaela Santo, Silver Medalist

Garrick Imamura, Bronze Medalist      Connor Lin, Bronze Medalist      Joshua Zheng, Bronze Medalist

STAR Event: Culinary Arts

Students cooked a starch, protein, and vegetable and was judged on their cleanliness, taste of final dish and presentation skills  
Vincent Than, Bronze Medalist

Louisa Mossman, Bronze Medalist, 5th place overall

STAR Event: Baking and Pastry

Students baked cookies, cream puffs, and decorated a cake with script writing

Elizabeth Tom, Silver Medalist

### **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

Qinhuangdao Cultural Exchange

Iwakuni High School (Sister School) – Yamaguchi Prefecture

A delegation of 6 students and 4 adults traveled to Iwakuni High School and Meikai University.

## **STUDENT SECTION**

### **Summer School**

Dates : June 3 – July 8      Time : 8:00am – 1:00pm

1<sup>st</sup> semester : June 3 – June 19 [Holiday : June 11]      2<sup>nd</sup> Semester : June 22 – July 8 [Holiday : July 3]

Courses to be offered :

Modern History of Hawaii / Participation in Democracy      U. S. History      World History

Physical Education      Health

Remedial courses : TBD

### **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

#### **SUMMER INTERNSHIP/OTHER EVENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Mrs. Lisa Hayashi      College and Career Counselor      [lisa.hayashi@k12.hi.us](mailto: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>

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

### 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\*\*

### Project Grad 2026:

Please email [kalanipg26@gmail.com](mailto:kalanipg26@gmail.com) for more information on how to get involved.  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x\\_Rxik3nKJY77Fkg38zbJ6IzzJ9FuxW8/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101974132834342025504&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x_Rxik3nKJY77Fkg38zbJ6IzzJ9FuxW8/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101974132834342025504&rtpof=true&sd=true)

## ATHLETICS

### Spring Sports

#### Baseball

Kalani 1 – Kaiser 2  
Rain delays – next games TBD

Kalani 2 – Kaiser 10

#### Softball

Kalani 6 – Kaiser 2  
Kalani 12 – Castle 6  
March 28 Kalani @ Kaiser 10:00

Kalani 7 – Roosevelt 0 (forfeit)  
Kalani 13 – Moanalua 3  
March 31 Kalani vs Roosevelt 3:00

#### Flag football

Kalani 18 – Kailua 13  
March 27 Kalani @ Kalaheo 2:00

Kalani 20 – Anuenue 18  
March 30 Kalani @ Roosevelt 7:00

#### Surfing

Our student-athletes participated in the first ever official High School Surf Meet! It was a huge success with many of our student athletes shining. Overall we had the second most points of any team at the meet and several of our surfers won their events.

**Max Peters-** Boys Shortboard heat winner and currently 1st place overall in OIA

**Kaipo'i Koa-** Girls Bodyboard heat winner and currently 1st place overall in OIA

**Reid Bernier-** Boys Longboard heat winner and currently 2nd place overall

**Izumo Miyazawa-** Boys Longboard heat winner

#### Judo

TBD

#### Tennis

BOYS : KALANI def. CASTLE 5-0  
1st Singles (KLN) Ryuki Tatemori def. (CAS) 6-0 6-1  
2nd Singles DEFAULT (KLN) def. (CAS)  
1st Doubles DEFAULT (KLN) def. (CAS)  
2nd Doubles DEFAULT (KLN) def. (CAS)  
3rd Doubles DEFAULT (KLN) def. (CAS)

GIRLS : KALANI def CASTLE 5-0

1st Singles DEFAULT (KLN) Keira Oba def. (CAS) 6-0  
2nd Singles DEFAULT (KLN) def. (CAS)  
1st Doubles DEFAULT (KLN) def. (CAS)  
2nd Doubles DEFAULT (KLN) def. (CAS)  
3rd Doubles DEFAULT (KLN) def. (CAS)

BOYS : KALANI def. KAILUA 5-0

1st Singles (KLN) Ryuki Tatemori def. (KAI) 6-1, 6-0

2nd Singles DEFAULT (KLN) def. (KAI)

1st Doubles (KLN) Ian Pak/Noah Pak def. (CAS) 6-0, 6-0

2nd Doubles (KLN) Lucas Chew/Kayden Wong def. (CAS) 6-0, 6-0

3rd Doubles DEFAULT (KLN) def. (KAI)

GIRLS : KALANI def KAILUA 5-0

1st Singles (KLN) Keira Oba def. (KAI) 6-0, 6-0

2nd Singles (KLN) Sydney Lin def. (KAI) 6-1, 6-2

1st Doubles (KLN) Tracy Kha/Elizabeth Huang def. (KAI) 6-1, 6-0

2nd Doubles (KLN) Yuna Takimoto/Isabella Lee def. (KAI) 6-2, 6-0

3rd Doubles (KLN) Jasmine Uyesono/Breydi Nuibe def. (KAI) 6-0, 6-0

BOYS : KALANI def. ROOSEVELT 5-0

1st Singles (KLN) Ryuki Tatemori def. (ROS) 6-0, 6-0

2nd Singles (KLN) Eric Topacio def. (ROS) 6-0, 6-0

1st Doubles (KLN) Ian Pak/Noah Pak def. (ROS) 6-0, 6-0

2nd Doubles (KLN) Lucas Chew/Kayden Wong def. (ROS) 6-0, 6-0

3rd Doubles (KLN) Connor Lin/Ryan So def. (ROS) 6-0, 6-1

GIRLS : KALANI def ROOSEVELT 3-2

1st Singles (ROS) def. (KLN) Keira Oba 6-1, 6-3

2nd Singles (ROS) def. (KLN) Sydney Lin 6-4, 6-2

1st Doubles (KLN) Tracy Kha/Lexi Duldulao def. (ROS) 6-0, 6-0

2nd Doubles (KLN) Yuna Takimoto/Isabella Lee def. (ROS) 6-0, 6-0

3rd Doubles (KLN) Isabella Lee/Mana Takimoto def. (ROS) 6-0, 6-2

BOYS : KALANI def. KAISER 4-1

1st Singles (KLN) Ryuki Tatemori def. (KAS) 6-1, 6-1

2nd Singles (KLN) Eric Topacio def. (KAS) 6-2, 6-4

1st Doubles (KLN) Ian Pak/Noah Pak def. (KAS) 6-4, 6-0

2nd Doubles (KAS) def. (KLN) Lucas Chew/Kayden Wong 6-3, 6-4

3rd Doubles (KLN) Connor Lin/Ryan So def. (KAS) 7-5, 7-6 (14)

GIRLS : KAISER def. KALANI 3-2

1st Singles (KAS) def. (KLN) Keira Oba 6-3, 7-6

2nd Singles (KLN) Sydney Lin def (KAS) 6-4, 1-6, 1-0

1st Doubles (KLN) Tracy Kha/Lexi Duldulao def. (KAS) 6-0, 6-3

2nd Doubles (KAS) def. (KLN) Yuna Takimoto/Elizabeth Huang 6-7, 6-3, 1-0

3rd Doubles (KAS) def. (KLN) Isabella Lee/Mana Takimoto 7-6, 1-6, 1-0 (4)

BOYS : KALANI def. KALAHEO 5-0

1st Singles (KLN) Ryuki Tatemori def. (KLH) 6-0, 6-1

2nd Singles (KLN) Eric Topacio def. (KLH) 6-0, 6-0

1st Doubles (KLN) Ian Pak/Noah Pak def. (KLH) 6-1, 6-3

2nd Doubles (KLN) Lucas Chew/Kayden Wong def. (KLH) 6-0, 6-1

3rd Doubles (KLN) Connor Lin/Ryan So def. (KLH) 6-1, 6-1

GIRLS : KALANI def. KALAHEO 4-1

1st Singles (KLH) def. (KLN) Keira Oba 6-2, 0-6

2nd Singles (KLN) Sydney Lin def (KLH) 6-3, 6-1

1st Doubles (KLN) Tracy Kha/Lexi Duldulao def. (KLH) 6-1, 6-3

2nd Doubles (KLN) Yuna Takimoto/Elizabeth Huang def (KLH) 6-0, 6-2

3rd Doubles (KLN) Isabella Lee/Breydi Nuibe def (KLH) 6-0, 6-1

## Track and Field

March 28 Kalani Invitational @ Kaiser

### Golf : Girls

75 Sakura Ramirez

77 Sora Kishida Tatum Frias Ashlyn Yorimoto Rylee Hara-Shimabuku

### Golf : Boys

70 Issac Kim

85 Brady Kudo

86 Koa Tseng

97 Yuya Shiragami

105 Lancerlot Wang

121 Brendan Ho

## Volleyball

Kalani 1 – Kahuku 3

Kalani 0 – Roosevelt 3

Kalani 3 – Farrington 1

Kalani 2 – Castle 3

March 31 Kalani vs. Moanalua

April 2 Kalani @ Kahuku

## Water Polo

Kalani – Kaiser (Loss – forfeit)

Kalani – Roosevelt (Loss – forfeit)

### 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)

### 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.

### 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

Beth Schimmelfinnig, Director

Hawaii State Department of Education

Rhonda Wong, Compliance

P.O. Box 2360

Aaron Oandasan, Title VI

Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Toby Yamashiro, Title VII

(808) 586-3322 or relay

Nicole Isa-Iijima, Title IX

[CRCB@k12.hi.us](mailto:CRCB@k12.hi.us)

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  
(808) 586-3322 or relay  
[CRCB@k12.hi.us](mailto: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

Inquiries concerning discrimination and/or harassment may also be referred to the Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education.

## *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*

#### **Kalani High School Named to Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll**

College Board announced that Kalani High School has been named to the 2025 Advanced Placement (AP) Program School Honor Roll, earning Silver distinction. The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening participation. Schools can earn this distinction annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness. Kalani High School is the only school in the State to receive a Silver Distinction – no Hawaii school received a Gold Distinction.

Kalani High School had 57% of seniors who took at least one AP Exam during high school, 48% of seniors scoring a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam and 14% of seniors who took 5 or more AP Exams.

AP Courses Offered : 17      Sections Taught : 29      Number of teachers Teaching AP : 14      671 students

#### **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 71<sup>st</sup> 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.*

#### **Air Force Academy Appointment**

Appointment of Senior Ryder Goto to the United States Air Force Academy as a member of the Class of 2030.

#### **Rhode Island School of Design**

Atona Chan

Congratulations to Atona Chan for being accepted by the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design.

#### **Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders**

Class of 2026 Fellows

Mia Nishiguchi

#### **Dean’s List Finalists**

Reese Sekiya and Rodrigo Del Carpio are Dean's List Finalists for FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC).

They are the only two from the state of Hawaii selected as Dean’s List Finalists.

They are invited to attend FIRST World Championship in Houston April 29 to May3.

#### **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

## **Congratulations - continued**

### **Honolulu District Science and Engineering Fair Awards**

First Place

Summer Hall

3D Printed Biodegradable Skin Scaffolds Using Cross-linked Polymers to Predict Cell Regeneration

Second Place

Alexander Wang

Exploring the Use of Hybrid Post-Quantum Key Exchange in TLS 1.3

Summer and Alexander have qualified for ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair), where they will represent our school and the state of Hawai'i at the highest level of scientific competition.

Advancing to State Science Fair (8 of the 16 total advancing)

3D Printed Biodegradable Skin Scaffolds Using Cross-linked Polymers to Predict Cell Regeneration – Summer Hall

Exploring the Use of Hybrid Post-Quantum Key Exchange in TLS 1.3 – Alexander Wang

Aloha Red: *Hylocereus Costaricensis* and *Hibiscus Rosa-Sinensis* as Natural Colorant Alternatives to Red 40 – Andrew Li

Creating a Medical Device to Facilitate Greater Upper Mobility - Ella Kimura

Examining the Effects of Sunscreens on *E. mathaei* and *T. gratilla* Embryos and Larvae - Tehya Lipman

Fused Deposition Modeling of Activated Carbon Fiber-Reinforced PLA Filters for Low-Cost Microplastic Removal- Lina Herzog

Infusing Wound Dressings with Plant Pigment to Monitor pH Levels - Isabelle Lam

Study of EDTA Acid to Break Down Albumin Aggregates for Alzheimer's Disease Research - Sarah Lee

Best in Category:

BCHM - Sarah Lee ENBM - Summer Hall CHEM - Isabelle Lam ENEV - Lina Herzog SOFT - Alexander Wang

Special Awards:

Regeneron Biomedical Science Award- Summer Hall Society for In Vitro Biology Award - Isabelle Lam

United States Metric Association Award - Alexander Wang

United States Air Force Award - Sarah Lee, Andrew Li, Tehya Lipman

U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize - Lina Herzog Yale Science & Engineering Association Award - Summer Hall

### **HOSA**

2026 State Leadership Conference – Results

1<sup>st</sup> Place : Health Informatics : Cathy Tran

1<sup>st</sup> Place : Pharmacology : Wenjing 'Kelly' Mo

2<sup>nd</sup> Place : Family Medicine Physician : Susan Zheng

3<sup>rd</sup> Place : CPR / First Aid : Bruce Fujita-Simmons Maceo Bodner

1<sup>st</sup> Place : Medical Innovations : Isabelle Lam Summer Hall

2<sup>nd</sup> Place : Medical Innovations : Ella Lam Sarah Lee Kalea Santos

3<sup>rd</sup> Place : Ella Kimura Cortlyn Endo Andrew Li

1<sup>st</sup> Place : Public Service Announcement : Airi Choy Taylor Shimamura

15 students qualified to represent Hawaii in the 2026 International Leadership Conference in Indianapolis in June

### **2026 Hawaii State Future Farmers of America Convention in Kona**

Career Development Event :

Yaya Germain and Isabella Lorenzo : Ornamental Plant ID 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Landon Nii : Extemporaneous Public Speaking 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Tennessee Idol, Logan Luke, Seth Roach, Tryston Thompson, and Andy Wang : Parliamentary Procedure 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

### **Kalani LifeSmarts Team**

State Runner-up

The LifeSmarts competition tests students on their knowledge of personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, as well as consumer rights and responsibilities.

Individual award - Michele Kabasawa : 2nd place in overall combined online test scores.

Representing Kalani High School : Brandalyn Tran Nicole Du Michelle Kabasawa Zachary Li Cristian Matache

### 37th Annual Physics Olympics

Kalani Team 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Overall : Andrew Li, Rodrigo Del Carpio and Ella Kimura.

1<sup>st</sup> in Car Jost, and Balloon Powered boats

Kalani Team 2 : Kyle Louie, Summer Hall, Reese Sekiya, Xinyue Yu 2<sup>nd</sup> in Car Joust  
Kyle Louie's Bridge supported him all the way to Nationals.

### Kalani High School Urban Plan Team

Urban Land Institute's Urban Plan Hawaii State Championship : 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

This year's competition included participants from Punahou, Iolani, and Kalani High School. The students were tasked with creating a new development in the fictional city of Yorktown that would simulate the real-world decision making that goes into urban planning and development.

Representing Kalani High School : Stephanie Yeung Nadine Laposi Mirah Levine Bryce Hara Rin Dong.

### VEX Robotics Tournament.

Good Engineers Notebook top third

4<sup>th</sup> in skills and 6<sup>th</sup> over all.

They are recognized with the Energy award. Our first state trophy in 14 years.

Cristian Matache, Katie Ta, Aliya Gallucci, Dylan Gia-Diep, Alessio Cherubini Morrison, and Caleb Crowell

### Honua Scholars Laulima Symposium

1<sup>st</sup> Place : Sarah Lee, Ella Lam & Kalea Santos: Honua Pitch Competition : Medical Innovation: Rescuopen

2<sup>nd</sup> Place : Isebell 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 Sydney Melemai Ivan Tse Sara Lau Miki Okata

### OGU Sister School Partnership

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

### Chengdu Debate Challenge

Chaperone : Scott Melemai Bryce Hara and Anson Li captured 4<sup>th</sup> place.

### Koyo High School – Hiroshima

We would like to welcome home our delegation that went on a cultural exchange to Hiroshima, Japan.

### Kalani High School Model UN Team

Model United Nations Conference at Vancouver, British Columbia

H-USS - Historical Senate : Mirah Levine - Outstanding Delegate Bryce Hara - Honorable Delegate

HCC Historical Crisis Committee : Ivan Tse - Outstanding Delegate Ryder Goto - Best Research

UNSC- United Nation Security Council : David “Morgan” LeNoir – Best in Committee

Results from January 17 MUN conference at Mililani.

Kalani had delegates in two committees and we got best delegate for both of them : Anson Li and Ty Terada.

Kalani also received the best researcher : Bryce Hara and Verbal Commendation for Lino Tseng and Ivan Tse.

Morgan LeNoir went to Columbia University MUN in New York.

Received Best Delegate in his committee on French Wars on Religion.

### **63rd Annual Hawaii Regional Scholastic Art Awards**

7 Gold Keys      10 Silver Key Awards      25 Honorable Mention Awards  
Gold Key winners will have their work on display at Capitol Modern starting February 4th.  
The awards ceremony for Gold Key winners will be held on February 28th (1-3:30pm)  
at the Capitol Modern Museum downtown.

#### **Gold Key Awards**

Atona Chan (grade 12) - 2 Gold Keys Awards (one for the Portfolio category) and 3 Silver Key Awards  
Nicole Du    Cindy Lin    Alexandra Knight    Adelyn Shelverton    Olivia Liu    Cael Sneed  
Nicole Du - Lexus Hawai'i Takumi Award.

#### **Silver Key Awards**

Sadie Leong    Zimeng (Annie) Li    Riona Miyazawa    Chelsea O'Brien    Russet Sounthala    Ellie Tsumoto

#### **Honorable Mention**

Atona Chan    Shiho Chan    Anna Demarco    Aidan Giliberti-Ippel    Emily Hashimoto    Sarah Ing    Michelle  
Kabasawa    Sae-Eun Kim    Alexandra Knight    Sadie Leong    Zimeng Li  
Jayden Liang    Olivia Liu    Mahina Lopez    Yueqi Luo    Riona Miyazawa    Kiran Ngo  
Chelsea O'Brien    Rose Pak    Taylor Shimamura    Ty Terada    Ellie Tsumoto    Bokyeong Yang

### **2026 TC Ching "What Makes Hawaii Special" Contest**

Mika Velasco : 1st place in the Essay Division      Rana Terai : 2nd place in Poster Division

### **2026 High School Select Band**

Kainoa Alcain, Trumpet    Hope Bayudan, Flute    Junyu Blas, Clarinet    Rylan Chan, Tenor Sax  
Kai Herzog, Trumpet    Yuto Kawaguchi, Clarinet    Jett Katano, Clarinet    Jeannie Kim, Clarinet  
Lani Kim, Alto Sax    Olivia Kobayashi, Bass Clarinet    Kaden Kojima, Trumpet    Brandon Lai, Alto Sax  
Jayden Lamayo, French Horn    Ethan Lewis, Euphonium    Samuel McNeil, French Horn  
Kobe Miyamasu, French Horn    Tanner Nagata, Clarinet    Ellie Obara, Clarinet    James Oulayrack-Oshiro, Trombone  
Erin Suehisa, Clarinet    Brandalyn Tran, Oboe    Jessica Wiemer, Flute    Nagito Yasuda, Alto Sax

#### **2026 High School Honor Band**

Jake Hwang, Bassoon    Slayter Kamimura, Tuba    Desmond Sutton, Flute    Peyton-Reese Sylva, Tuba

### **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

### **DECA**

#### Individual Event Finalists (top 6 in State)

Accounting Applications - Reese Sekiya, Bradlee Simmons  
Apparel and Accessories Marketing - Reece Fujitani  
Food Marketing - Stephanie Yeung  
Hotel & Lodging Management - Erin Wong  
Personal Financial Literacy - Rylan Gubatan  
Principles Event: Business Management - Michelle Kabasawa  
Principles Event: Entrepreneurship - Yuna Takimoto  
Principles of Marketing - Phoebe Feng  
Retail Merchandising - Lilyanne Florendo

#### Team Event Finalists

Business Law and Ethics - Annika Li/Keagan Ocampo  
Buying and Merchandising - Kate Jones/Brandalyn Tran  
Financial Services Team Decision Making - Logan Chang/Jisung Kang  
Hospitality Services - Elijah Chung/Luke Waters  
Marketing Management Team Decision Making - Ryder Goto/Morgan Lenoir  
Travel and Tourism Team Decision Making - David Summers/Ty Terada, Aiden Nakamura/Justin Wong

### Written Event Finalists

Community Awareness Project - Rex Ho, Katie Ta  
Start-up Business Plan - Kylie Amine, Madeline Eakin, Kira Ichiyama

### Written Exam (top 3 in State)

Accounting Applications: *Third Place* - Bradlee Simmons  
Apparel and Accessories Marketing: *Second Place* - Reece Fujitani  
Business Law and Ethics: *First Place* - Annika Li  
Buying and Merchandising: *First Place* - Brandalyn Tran, *Third Place* - Kate Jones  
Hotel & Lodging Management: *First Place* - Erin Wong    Human Resources Management: *Third Place* - Mia Doma  
Marketing Management Team Decision Making: *Second Place* - Ryder Goto, *Third Place* - Morgan Lenoir  
Principles Event: Business Management: *Second Place* - Michelle Kabasawa  
Retail Merchandising: *Second Place* - Lilyanne Florendo  
Travel and Tourism Team Decisions Making: *Second Place* - David Summers

*The following students placed top 3 in the state for their role-plays:*

### Role-plays

Accounting Applications: Bradlee Simmons, Role-Play #1: *First Place*  
Apparel and Accessories Marketing: Reece Fujitani, Role-Play #1: *First Place*, Role-Play #2 - *First Place*  
Business Law and Ethics: Annika Li/Keagan Ocampo, Role-Play: *First Place*  
Buying and Merchandising: Kate Jones/Brandalyn Tran, Role-Play: *First Place*  
Financial Services Team Decision Making: Logan Chang/Jisung Kang, Role-Play: *First Place*  
Hospitality Services - Elijah Chung/Luke Waters, Role-Play: *Third Place*  
Hotel & Lodging Management: Erin Wong, Role-Play #1: *Third Place*  
Marketing Management Team Decision Making: Ryder Goto/Morgan Lenoir, Role-Play: *First Place*  
Principles Event: Business Management: Michelle Kabasawa, Role-Play - *Second Place*  
Principles Event: Entrepreneurship: Yuna Takimoto, Role-Play - *Second Place*  
Retail Merchandising: Lilyanne Florendo, Role-Play #1 - *First Place*  
Travel and Tourism Team Decision Making - David Summers/Ty Terada - Role-Play: *First Place*; Aiden Nakamura/Justin Wong - Role-Play - *Second Place*

### Trophy Winners

Accounting Applications: *Third Place* - Bradlee Simmons  
Apparel and Accessories Marketing: *First Place* - Reece Fujitani  
Business Law and Ethics: *First Place* - Annika Li/Keagan Ocampo  
Buying and Merchandising: *First Place* - Kate Jones/Brandalyn Tran  
Community Awareness Project: *First Place* - Katie Ta, *Third Place* - Rex Ho  
Financial Services Team Decision Making: *Second Place* - Logan Chang/Jisung Kang  
Hotel & Lodging Management: *Third Place* - Erin Wong  
Marketing Management Team Decision Making: *First Place* - Ryder Goto/David Lenoir  
Principles Event: Business Management: *Second Place* - Michelle Kabasawa  
Principles Event: Entrepreneurship: *Second Place* - Yuna Takimoto  
Retail Merchandising: *Third Place* - Lilyanne Florendo  
Travel and Tourism Team Decision Making - *First Place* - David Summers/Ty Terada, *Second Place* - Aiden Nakamura/Justin Wong

Erin Wong received a \$500 check from Joni B. Redick-Yundt, the Founder and CEO of FAMES Hawaii  
Kalani DECA Officers elected to Hawaii DECA State Leadership for 2026–2027:  
- VP of Hospitality: Annika Li        - VP of Career Development: Rex Ho

### **Hawaii News Now Feature**

Halia Kaaua

Localicious Art / Recipe Contest

<https://www.hinowdaily.com/2026/01/22/enter-hawaii-agricultural-foundations-localicious-art-recipe-contest/>

## **Boston College Nursing Program**

Jeannie Kim

### **Questbridge**

Yijia Wang – Matched with Stanford University

**Accepted to Sophia University**

Yuna Otsuka Sociology (SPSF)

### **Sports**

#### Winter Sports

OIA JV Paddling Champions : Boys – Girls – Mixed : 1<sup>st</sup> Place in all 3 divisions

#### OIA Eastern Division Champions

Girls Varsity Basketball

Boys Varsity Swimming and Diving

Boys Varsity Soccer

Boys Junior Varsity Soccer

Swimming – Boys Junior Varsity East 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Boys Varsity East 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Boys OIA Varsity – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Girls Junior Varsity East 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Girls Varsity East 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Girls OIA Varsity – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

#### Wrestling

OIA Dual Champions - Boys

OIA Eastern Division Boys Champions

OIA Championship Boys – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

HHSAA Boys : 3<sup>rd</sup> Place      Girls : 20<sup>th</sup> Place

OIA Eastern Division Girls – 4<sup>th</sup> Place

OIA Championship Girls - 12<sup>th</sup> Place

Girls Basketball – Eastern Division Champions

OIA – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place      HHSAA – top 8

Boys Soccer – Eastern Division Champions

OIA – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place      HHSAA – top 4

#### Paddling

OIA JV Paddling Champions : Boys – Girls – Mixed : 1<sup>st</sup> Place in all 3 divisions

OIA Varsity : Girls - 4<sup>th</sup> Place

Boys - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Mixed - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

HHSAA Championship – Girls – Semifinals 5<sup>th</sup> Place

Boys Varsity – 4<sup>th</sup> Place

Mixed – 5<sup>th</sup> Place

Girls Soccer – East 4<sup>th</sup> Place – OIA 5<sup>th</sup> Place

Boys Basketball – Division II 4<sup>th</sup> Place after regular season

JV Tennis – Eastern Division 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

JV Baseball : results forthcoming

#### 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

#### **Soft-Tennis All Stars** : Player of Year: Lexi Duldulao

1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Stars : Lexi Duldulao    Sydney Lin    Conner Lin    Tyka Ching

2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Stars : Isabella Lee    Haley Smith    Jasmine Uyesono    Breydi Nuibe

## **Crosscountry All Stars**

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

## **Volleyball All Stars**

2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Stars ; Rohm Takamoto  
Honorable Mention : Hana Engelhardt Shayla Harris Kyry Kiyabu Mira Lum Marie Muir  
Samantha Niide Suzue Shower Ariana Taylor

### **Dr. Michael Ida**

Computer Science Honor Society Teachers Award

CSTA Hawaii is pleased to recognize Dr. Michael (one of three teachers) at the annual Computer Science PD Summit.  
Congratulations for his willingness to go above and beyond for your students.

### **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/>

**Kalani grads from the early-'70s proving to be the school's golden age**

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2025/12/15/sports/hawaii-prep-world/curtis-murayama-kalani-grads-from-the-early-70s-proving-to-be-the-schools-golden-age/>

**Overcoming racial and Hawaii bias in MLB should mean more than World Series victory for Lenn Sakata**

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2026/01/05/sports/curtis-murayama-overcoming-racial-and-hawaii-bias-in-mlb-should-mean-more-than-world-series-victory-for-lenn-sakata/>

### **Dr. Kathryn Ko**

<https://hawaiipublicschools.org/2026-alumni-spotlight-kathryn-ko-kalani-high/>

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2026/02/02/sports/curtis-murayama-jabsom-grad-ko-hurdled-obstacles-to-become-rare-gem-in-medical-field/>