



Educators Shaping
Hawaii's Future Today

Educator Connection

HEA Celebrates Centennial Year Supporting Hawaii Educators

The Hawaii Education Association, founded in 1921 to support all educators, expected to celebrate its 100th anniversary in grand style in 2021. But the best laid plans were no match for the COVID pandemic. As Hawaii waited out the pandemic, the HEA stepped back and took a long look at what was happening to educators in schools and higher education communities in Hawaii, the country, and around the world. What HEA realized was that educators were suffering from the isolation and stress of constantly changing modes of teaching. Support was needed, and HEA stepped up immediately, turning its thoughts of gala celebrations into celebrations of support for Hawaii educators.

The first event in HEA's centennial year was a statewide convening of educators to celebrate connections for sharing creative ideas, which we called HEA Hallway Chats. Presenters included



Dr. Nathan Murata, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, stressing the importance of movement; Kecia McDonald, Department of Education resource teacher in the West Hawaii complex, who shared how she stayed connected with other educators around the world during the pandemic; and Jodie Cheff, Interim Head of School at Waiālae Elementary Public Charter School, who shared how her school supported learning for students and families during COVID, in particular by creating moveable study desks that could be used outside on campus for social distanced groupings or at home.

The second centennial event was sponsorship of Fred Lane, internationally known speaker and subject matter expert in cyberethics for educators. Mr. Lane's presentation was especially useful for educators at this time when much of their work is still based online. His main focus was on sharing ways to support student safety and pitfalls for educators when using technology in their practice.

The Bishop Museum Atherton Halau and Bowman Halau Wa'a were the perfect setting for HEA's culminating Centennial Celebration on Saturday, April 30, 2022. Even the weather cooperated, sending gentle winds through the open-air venue.

HEA members and guests were greeted by officers and directors at the registration table, which featured a display of door prizes from sponsors Farmers Insurance, Zippy's, Honolulu Cookie Company, Big Island Candies, and Jamba Juice.



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Our Vision

To affirm the professionalism of
Hawaii's educators.

Our Mission

To strengthen excellence
in education:

- Advocate teaching as a profession.
- Support pre-service and in-service educators.
- Advance professional learning for effective teaching.

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A Message from the President: Aloha!



This year, HEA proudly celebrated 100 years of advancing education in Hawaii and proudly celebrated the shaping of a new future of connections with and among public and private school teachers, administrators and with faculties and administrators of institutions of higher learning as well as with the education community and public.

The immediate future looks promising as the Board of Directors have adopted upcoming plans that I am sure you will be able to give your wholehearted Thumbs Up!

I am grateful for your support and commitment to our Association. Your congratulatory notes, great comments and generous gifts reflect your belief in HEA's mission and confirms for me that our Board and staff are on track - in advocating teaching as a profession and in strengthening and supporting excellence in Hawaii's education of its students.

I'm pleased to let you know that as I prepare to leave the presidency, I am equally proud of the strategic plans and accomplishments made during my tenure as president. There is a lot more to do and the next president has my confidence as she leads towards the long-term viability of the HEA. (YES! I said, "she"... 😊)

I remain on the Board of Directors for the next fiscal year to support the new president!

Much Aloha and Mahalo to you.

June Motokawa

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HEA Celebrates Centennial Year Supporting Hawaii Educators

After a welcome by HEA President June Motokawa, three learning sessions focused on educator well-being. Jonathon Medeiros, Kauai High School English teacher and HEA Director, inspired us to use daily, personal writing as, "our meditation, our way to process, to care for ourselves." An interactive writing activity led participants through the process of journaling, and before anyone knew it, the group had all written for ten minutes straight.



Nutritionist Rita Madden conducts workshops on the importance of nutrition in supporting wellness around the country. Her focus on finding balance in nutritious eating and its influence on mood, activity, and health was appreciated by attendees.

Hawaii National Board Certification lead Tracey Idica focused on the "why" of the work of educators. She reminded attendees that as leaders, they are often the first to be asked to take on increased responsibility because others know they will get the job done and done well. Her presentation helped attendees define their non-negotiables to identify the rules for maintaining a healthy schedule to make leadership fulfilling and joyful.

Following the presentation of awards, Dr. Medeiros led the crowd in singing Happy Birthday to HEA. As members and guests enjoyed a Highway Inn bento lunch and talk-story time, it was clear that HEA is headed into its second one hundred years on firm footing.

**Mahalo
to our
sponsor
& donors!**



Congratulations to Our Re-Elected Board Members for 2022-2024!

Current directors who have been re-elected for another two-year term are: Ms. Pilialoa Lee Loy, retired educator, Mr. Wilbur Luna, retired educator, Mr. Meredith Maeda, retired administrator and Mrs. June Motokawa, retired educator from the Department of Education.



Pilialoa Lee Loy



Wilbur Luna



Meredith Maeda



June Motokawa

Stop Badmouthing Teaching!

Joan Lee Husted



There is an acute shortage of educators across the country.

The most vital institution in the United States appears to be on the verge of collapse. In his nineteenth century autobiography, the Education of Henry Adams, the author states, "Education is the dynamo that drives the democracy." Perhaps the reason that American democracy appears to be troubled is that American education is in deep trouble. When the issue is raised some people believe you are being an alarmist. Educators know what is happening and they are alarmed.

Let us look at what is happening to American education. There has been a massive ban in books in our history, bans on certain words like "gay," ban mathematics books, I guess because the teacher critical race theory by using the word "division" in them. Who knows? But we do know that usually mainland movements arrive in Hawaii Nei two or three years later.

We cannot take on the world, but we can take on our community. The most powerful two letter words in the English language are found in the saying, "if it is to be it is up to me." So, it starts with each one of us. First, let's stop bad mouthing public schools and the staff in them. Especially teachers. We get into our social groups, and we moan and groan about schools and how bad kids are. "What a day, I had." "I go home so tired that I can barely think." "I have to take another job because I can't make ends -meet." And the greatest put down of all; "What do you do?" "Oh, I'm just a teacher."

I hope none of our readers have ever engage in the bashing of Hawaii's public schools, public school students and public-school colleagues. But I know better because I have heard all those comments.

Let's take the first step. Make a commitment not to complain about Hawaii's public schools. We all know the difference between complaining and identifying the problems we face.

When we find ourselves talking about our jobs, make a point to identify something good. "What do you do, Joan?" "I teach six grade." Or "I make a difference in kid's lives." "How did you do that?" In conversation, highlight what you like about teaching such as when a student gets the lesson after struggling or talk about a student who has stayed connected with you. Or the time you sat with a girl and let her work through her anger with her boyfriend. You can talk about a sad student you got to smile. You can discuss how you have a student who shows signs of abuse and how you took the time to call Child Protective Services. At that time, you can talk about how you wish you have fewer students so you can give one of them the attention they deserve.

Every teacher has examples that highlight the importance of teaching. Engage your high school or middle school students in a conversation about becoming a teacher and listen to their reasons why they would or would not consider it. If it is negative give them the other side of the story.

Every teacher has a positive statement to make about their job. Some will be more dramatic than others, but every teacher has made a difference in a student's life. Let other people know the positives of teaching not just the negatives. Give some thought to it. Make a list of the upside of teaching keep it in your wallet. It is a start.

As the Chinese proverb says, "a journey of the thousand miles begins with a single step."

Congratulations HEA Special Centennial Awards Recipients

Bishop Museum’s Bowman Halau Wa’a stage was the setting as Hawaii’s First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige presented HEA’s Centennial Awards, along with Master of Ceremonies Dr. Glenn Medeiros, President of Saint Louis School, and HEA President Motokawa. Recognized for their award-winning project proposals were:

Photos: Courtesy Office of the Governor



Dr. Ronnie Tiffany-Kinder and Dr. Rayna Fujii for winning a \$10,000 HEA Centennial Award for a Hawaii Educator Preparation Program! They are faculty with the Statewide Elementary Education Licensure Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education. Drs. Tiffany-Kinder and Fujii will use their award to support recruitment efforts for the statewide elementary education program which prepares individuals for state licensure.



Dr. Amber Makaiau and Dr. Veronica Kimi for winning a \$10,000 HEA Centennial Award for a team from a DOE, Charter, or HAIS school! Drs. Makaiau and Kimi will use their award to provide quality professional development offerings to educators through community workshops tailored to the specific needs of the attendees.



Daphne Okunaga from Pearl City High School for winning a \$5,000 HEA Centennial Award for an individual from a DOE, Charter, or HAIS school. Ms. Okunaga will use her award to support the entrepreneurship class at Pearl City High as it provides business experiences and local workforce contacts for students.



Denise Karratti from Waimea High School on Kauai for winning a \$5,000 HEA Centennial Award for an individual administrator from a DOE, Charter, or HAIS school. Ms. Karratti will use her award to support the creation of a “Foundation of Aloha” cohort at her school to support school staff as they interact with the community to build the Aloha Spirit.



Dr. Shawna Ortogero, faculty with the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education Special Education Department, for winning a \$5,000 HEA Centennial Award for an individual faculty member from a Hawaii institution of higher education. Dr. Ortogero will use her award to support her work with the Model Code of Ethics for Educators.



**HEA Celebrates
Centennial Year**



**Hawaii
Education
Association**

EDUCATORS SHAPING HAWAII'S FUTURE TODAY

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an individual to
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