



HEA Grants Support Teaching as a Career

Educators Building Better Pathways to Teaching

Three educators involved with their school's Teaching As A Career program, CTE Pathways program, and Education Academy each received a \$1,000 HEA grant to support their innovative efforts. They are **Val Tina Oishi**, faculty advisor at James Campbell High School; **Joyce Kasper**, faculty advisor at Kealakehe High School in Kailua-Kona on Hawaii Island; and **Rondy Arquero**, faculty advisor at Maui High School in Kahului.

Val Tina Oishi has ambitious plans for her grant. She plans to accomplish three events for students to explore a career in education.

The first event will be a half-day workshop for James Campbell High School students. Guest speakers will share insights into the field of education and share their journey through their career.

The second activity will involve a series of mini-workshops targeting incoming ninth graders to consider education for their Career and Technical Education elective class - Foundations of Education. Teams of students in the upper level Teaching as a Profession courses will develop a lesson to teach these students at feeder schools to James Campbell High School.

The third event is a read aloud visit to kindergarten students at neighboring elementary schools, Kaimiloa Elementary and Pohakea Elementary Schools. In December 2025, students in the Educators Rising Club and Teaching as a Profession classes will select an age-appropriate book and conduct an activity with the children. This hands-on experience will allow high school students to become teachers for a day and make connections with the children through a structured activity.

Joyce Kasper, who just started Kealakehe High School's Teaching as a Career Club this school year, said she plans to use her grant for a year-end celebration to support the school's mentor-mentee program.

A survey revealed that students from kindergarten to the third grade want to feel a stronger sense of belonging at school. To fill this need, Joyce said her high school students have connected with elementary school students by creating holiday

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Three HEA Board Members Re-Elected

At the HEA annual business meeting on Saturday, April 26, three board members were re-elected to serve on the board for a two-year term that continues through 2027. Congratulations and mahalo to the following board members:



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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:

Greetings from the School Zone!

Aloha!



Education is under siege today. There is no way to deny what is unfolding before us. The U.S. Department of Education is being dismantled. Our educational institutions, from pre-school to higher education, are under attack. Title I funding for our most vulnerable students are at risk. And there is uncertainty surrounding our Special Education and School Meal Programs.

These are issues that HEA has not typically had to address in our work, nor has there been a need to since the advent of the State of Hawaii collective bargaining laws. Today, however, nothing can be taken for granted.

How do we respond to what is happening today? We can go back to our roots, which offers insights on a way to move forward. Based on our founding documents, when HEA was established more than 100 years ago, part of our reason for being was based on the "...urgent necessity prevalent at this time...for a unified and professional channel..." Our Charter of Incorporation by the Office of the Treasurer in the Territory of Hawaii, also shows that HEA intended to "maintain and advance the best American ideals and standards of education" and "to foster professional zeal and growth."

Over the years, these standards have been upheld through collective bargaining and legislation and this has allowed HEA to focus on providing direct support to educators and those pursuing teaching as a profession. In many ways, we have embraced the role of being cheerleaders for Hawaii's educators, backed by millions of dollars in investments to support their work over the years. During this challenging period, the role of HEA has become even more critical for educators across our islands.

HEA plans to stay the course. Alongside our numerous scholarship offerings, we continue to support education, educators, and aspiring educators through programs like our annual Leadership Summit, our TAAC Symposiums, and our Student Convenings. What all these have in common is the importance of an organization that provides a unified and professional channel, just as our founders envisioned.

Now more than ever, we must band together. There is strength in numbers. I encourage everyone to reach out to anyone they know that cares about education in Hawaii and ask them to consider joining HEA. If ever there was a time to expand our channel, to grow our shared space in support of Hawaii's schools, school communities, and the educators at every level, it is now.

Thank you for your unwavering support of HEA.

Mahalo,

Joan Kamila Lewis

BOARD PRESIDENT

HEA Presents New AI Courses for Hawaii Educators

Keeppace with the rapidly changing artificial intelligence landscape! Frederick Lane, a veteran educator, attorney, award-winning author, and nationally recognized authority on education technology and ethics, is back by popular demand and offering new courses on artificial intelligence for Hawaii educators this spring and summer.

Fred, who is the co-founder of The Center for Cyberethics and is nationally recognized for his expertise on cybersafety, digital misconduct, personal privacy, and other topics intersecting law, technology, and society, will provide the following four courses:

Course 1

A Four-Module Introduction to AI for Classroom Instructors and Administrators

Equip your faculty with the tools to navigate the rapidly evolving world of artificial intelligence. This comprehensive four-module course provides classroom instructors and administrators with a solid foundation in AI technologies, focusing on practical applications, ethical considerations, and strategies for integrating AI into teaching and school policy.

Course 2

A One-Hour Virtual Session on AI for Individual Teachers

Dive into the essentials of artificial intelligence in this engaging one-hour virtual session tailored for individual educators. This session explores the impact of AI on education, practical classroom



Fred Lane
Facilitator of
AI Courses

applications, and strategies for fostering responsible AI use among students. Whether you're new to AI or seeking fresh insights, you'll gain valuable tools to enhance teaching while addressing ethical challenges. Embrace the potential of AI and prepare for the future of education with this focused and accessible learning opportunity!

Course 3

A Two-Hour Virtual Session on AI for School Faculty

Prepare your faculty for the future of education with this two-hour virtual session that explores the basics of artificial intelligence and its classroom implications. Tailored for groups of school faculty, this interactive workshop provides practical insights into AI technologies, ethical considerations, and strategies for incorporating AI into teaching. This session helps educators enhance learning while protecting student integrity.

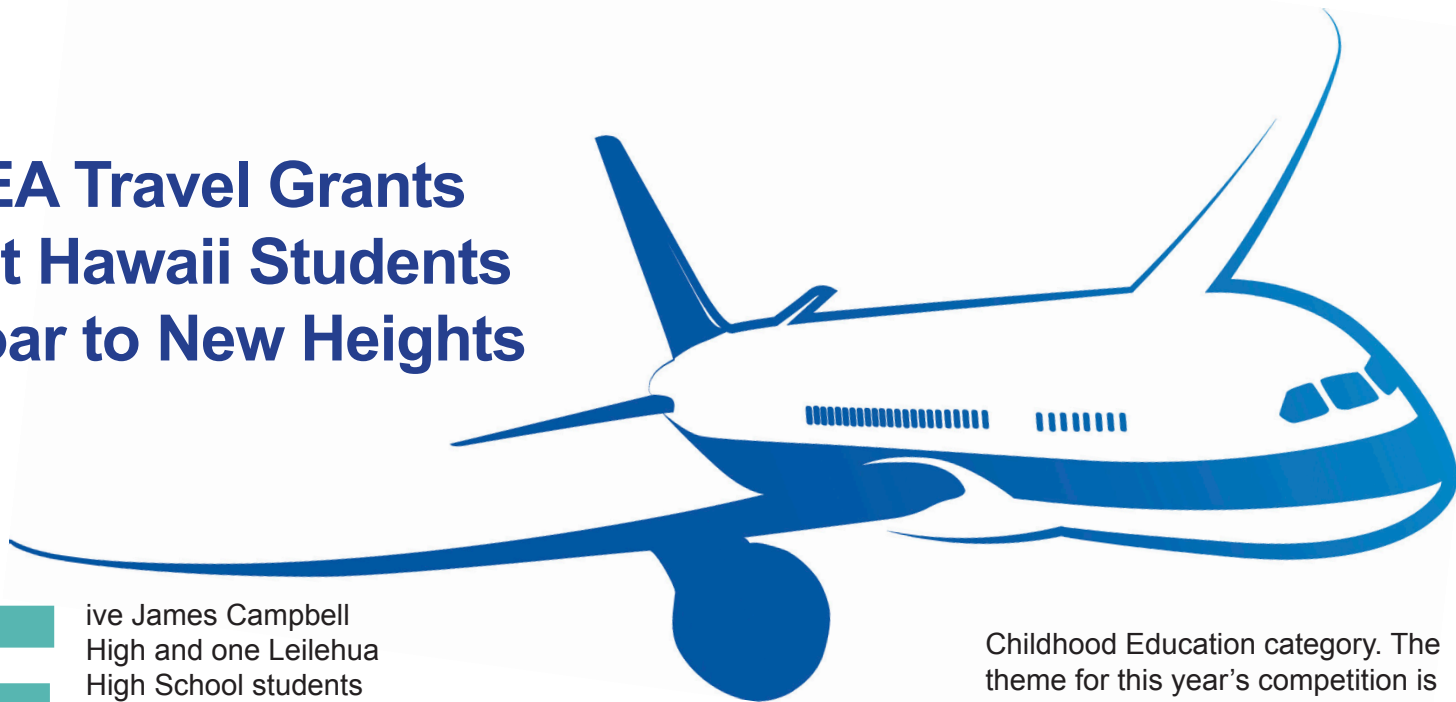
Course 4

Two Two-Hour Virtual Sessions on AI and Policy Development

Empower your school with in-depth knowledge of artificial intelligence through two interactive virtual two-hour sessions, tailored for your faculty. Session one covers the fundamentals of AI and its implications for teaching, while session two delves into developing best practices and policies for responsible AI use. Prepare your team to lead in the AI-driven education landscape!

Courses range from \$50 to \$150 per person. For group discounts for your school, contact Lynn Hammonds, Ed.D, Hawaii Education Association's Program Manager, at lhammonds@hawaiieducationassociation.org.

HEA Travel Grants Let Hawaii Students Soar to New Heights



Five James Campbell High and one Leilehua High School students will be heading to the FCCLA (Family, Career & Community Leaders of America) National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, from July 5 to 9, 2025, thanks to a \$1,000 HEA travel grant for each of them. Funds for these HEA grants were made possible through a State of Hawaii grant-in-aid.

The grants were designated for students in Teaching as a Career Clubs, the Hawaii Department of Education's CTE (Career and Technical Education) Pathway program, or those involved with Education Academies in their schools who need financial assistance to travel to national conferences or competitions. The recipients are: **Evette Alacar**, **Layden Balisacan**, **Danica Baysa**, **Mia Fetalco**, **Penelope Oishi**, and **Ryane Lei Pascua**.

Val Tina Oishi, who serves as advisor for the James Campbell High School's Educators Rising Club, is understandably proud that her students were selected to represent Hawaii at this conference.

The students attending the FCCLA National Leadership Conference

will have the opportunity to learn from great speakers, participate in workshops, and network and compete with their peers from other states. This experience will help them become more confident, effective leaders in their school, community, and our state.

As newly elected FCCLA Hawaii State President, **Evette Alacar** will coordinate all activities pertaining to representing our state association and compete in the Job Interview STAR event. "This includes hosting meetings, preparing students for their STAR (Students Taking Actions with Recognition) events, coordinating during general sessions and distributing awards to nationally recognized programs and students," she wrote in her application.

Mia Fetalco, a senior at James Campbell High School, is looking forward to the competition. "Over the past four years, I have specialized in the education pathway, which has sparked my passion for teaching," she wrote in her application. "This year, I am excited to have the opportunity to compete in the 2025 FCCLA National Conference in the Early

Childhood Education category. The theme for this year's competition is 'Circus of Creativity,' which provides an exciting challenge for me to design an engaging and innovative lesson plan."

"The competition itself is broken down into three main parts. First, I will have 20 minutes to analyze the prompt and create a lesson plan. Then, I will have 10 minutes to present the lesson I developed on the spot," Mia added. "Finally, I will have five minutes to respond to questions from the judges, allowing me to showcase my understanding and preparation. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to challenge myself, represent my school, and showcase my passion for teaching at the national level."

Fellow Saber **Danica Baysa** will also be competing in the Job Interview STAR event.

"The upcoming NLC offers a valuable chance to enhance my leadership abilities through comprehensive training and learning experiences," Danica said. "I am excited to gain deeper insights into what it means to be an effective leader and how to make a meaningful impact."

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HEA Travel Grants for Students

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Additionally, this event will allow me to build connections with peers from across the U.S. and around the world, fostering collaboration and expanding my network...This experience will help me become a more confident and effective leader in not just my school and community, but a leader in the state of Hawaii."

Penelope Oishi, of James Campbell High School, also worked hard for this upcoming conference. "During the FCCLA Hawaii State Leadership Conference, I participated in the Job Interview event for our James Campbell High School chapter and earned second place, a silver award. I will represent Hawaii as a delegate at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference and participate in the Level 2 (grades 9-10) Job Interview competition. I also plan to meet students from around the nation during the conference, learn more about additional FCCLA opportunities, and practice my communication and leadership skills."

Layden Balisacan is also looking forward to showcasing his project, "Uplifting Mind: The Power of Words of Affirmation," which won first place in the Hawaii FCCLA Leadership Conference, to a national stage at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference. His project, which fosters children's self-esteem and emotional well-being through positive reinforcement, made a meaningful impact on nearly 600 children.

"I will be competing against participants from across the nation in the Focus on Children Level 3 program. FCCLA's Focus on Children program is designed to

support children's development and well-being by addressing three key areas: fostering healthy relationships, promoting child development, and ensuring child safety," Layden said. "This program challenges members to create impactful projects that positively influence children while developing their leadership skills and addressing critical issues."

Ryiane Lei Pascua, representing Leilehua High School, said: "I will be representing the Leilehua High School FCCLA Chapter and competing in a skills demonstration event called, 'Lesson Plan

Development and Modifications,' where I will be given a chance to showcase the skills I have developed over the years I have been in the CTE Teacher Education Pathway. This individual event allows me to portray my skills in tailoring one of my original lesson plans according to a student's profile given to me at the beginning of the competition. I am tasked with creating modifications for a student's specific learning needs to ensure the well-being and ability of the student with learning within my classroom."

Congratulations to all these great students! We are proud of all of them!

HEA Grants Support Teaching as a Career

Better Pathways to Teaching

Continued from page 1

crafts together, running game-based learning stations, and spending time talking with them about school.

"This program highlights what it truly means to be a teacher and shows the mentors (teenagers) that there is a purpose to teaching," Joyce said. "It also gives the elementary school students an opportunity to translate what they have learned from their high school mentors into better ways to interact with other children their age."

"We would love to connect with Project Equal Access schools across the state to deepen our program and this grant would allow us to close out an amazing first year well," Joyce added.

Rondy Arquero, faculty advisor for Teaching as a Profession at Maui

High School in Kahului, will use her grant to generate excitement about pursuing a career in education by taking students to the Dive Into Education event on Oahu in November 2025.

"This year, I was able to take two students to the Dive Into Education event on Oahu. They were welcomed with a huge career fair for those interested in education, treats, breakouts, and opportunities to network with like-minded peers," Rondy said. "I felt like this event reinforced their interest in teaching and both of them are heading to college in the fall to pursue education."

"Being able to travel to Oahu and to create connections with other students is a huge morale boost for my students who are interested in going into education," Rondy added.

Six High Schools Receive HEA Grants to Support Teaching as a Career

Six Hawaii High Schools have each received a \$200 Teaching as a Career Clubs/CTE Education Pathway Academy grant from the Hawaii Education Association/ Pi Lambda Theta-Beta Zeta Hawaii Chapter. Congratulations to Farrington High School, James Campbell High School, Leilehua High School, Maui High School, Mililani High School, and Pearl City High School.

Farrington High School



Farrington High School seniors prepared an interactive reading lesson, called the Apron Story project, for elementary school students. This work-based learning project fulfilled their requirement to serve as interns as a teacher aide. Teacher cadets (seniors) choose a book that is age appropriate for their classroom, decorate an apron with paint and accessories that match the story. The cadets also created prompts based on the book that the elementary students attach to the apron as the story unfolds. Teacher Cadets learned how to turn a reading session into an interactive class assignment where young learners are actively engaged in the reading process. Cadets also learned how to deliver a reading lesson in front of real learners face

to face in a work- based learning environment. Cadets learned how to use creativity to turn any story or fairy tale into an interactive and engaging lesson, and always returned from their assignment with big smiles on their faces.

James Campbell High School

Thanks to the HEA/Pi Lambda Theta-Beta Zeta Hawaii Chapter grant, the administrators and teachers of James Campbell High School were able to



implement a number of activities this past year that allowed their students to gain firsthand experience as an educator.

The Teaching as a Profession classes and events for the school's Educators Rising Club have deepened the students' understanding of the profession through work-based learning activities at schools in the community. This past school year, the students visited Kaimiloa Elementary School and Seagull Schools at Ocean Pointe, a pre-school, to conduct read aloud activities and provide toys that were created for a project.

The education students and club members enjoyed their role as a teacher and realized the extensive amount of tasks involved in meeting the needs of more than 20 children at once, requiring problem-solving skills, creativity, and patience. They completed each visit with a greater

respect for the teaching profession

In addition, **Mia Aisha Fetalco**, a fourth-year Teaching as a Profession student, coordinated an inaugural half-day workshop for 25 students aspiring to be educators. The theme of the workshop was "Empowerment in Education: Building Dynamic Educators," and included speakers from the Hawaii Department of Education Office of Talent Management, Teach for America Hawaii, and University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Education to meet with the group and share opportunities in the field of education.

Leilehua High School

With their HEA grant, the Leilehua High School's Foundations of Education class purchased supplies

for the activities they designed for the Iliahi Elementary School kindergarteners. The students were able to read Dr. Seuss books to the children and accompany the book reading with a fun activity. One group read "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish" and had the children compete in a relay race fishing competition. It was a great learning opportunity for the education students.



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Six High Schools Receive HEA Grants to Support Teaching as a Career

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They enjoyed working with the children and learned that it is essential for them to create lesson plans that are detailed and also have a back-up plan in case the original plan does not work.

Maui High School



Maui High School used their HEA/ Pi Lambda Theta-Beta Zeta Hawaii Chapter grant to take students to Pomaikai Elementary School and volunteer at the elementary school's annual Fun Run. Students helped with obstacles in the morning, participated in their assembly, had lunch with the elementary students, and prepared and participated in the afternoon dance party.

"The Maui High School students were able to have authentic interactions with the elementary students. They also had the opportunity to see how much work goes into a school event. Our students were exhausted at the end of the day but they were thrilled about the impact they left," said Rondy Arquero, Maui High School's advisor. "I'm hoping that this event creates a lasting impact on the elementary students so when they come to Maui High School, they consider enrolling in the Education Pathway."

Mililani High School

With the HEA/Pi Lambda Theta-Beta Zeta Hawaii Chapter grant, Mililani High School students pursuing teaching as a profession, were able to purchase supplies to hold activities for the Mililani High School Trojan Trading Post for a second year in a row. Education pathway students planned and organized weekend workshop activities for preschool to elementary school students.



Education pathway students created holiday workshops to make gratitude cards and ornaments and planned other activities. In the process, education pathway students learned how to plan an engaging activity and work with a variety of children.

"Students learned the importance of preparation and planning. In addition, they learned each week how to adjust and modify activities to engage community members," said Stephanie Grande-Misaki, Mililani High School advisor. Students also learned to practice effective communication skills not only with each other and elementary school students, but with the business students and teacher who were running the Trojan Trading Post and the Mililani Town Center manager."

Pearl City High School



Each year, the Foundations of Education class at Pearl City High School plans and executes crafting activities with the high school's community-based instruction program for special education students. The students learn to develop and execute lesson plans, work with others, budget like a teacher and, most importantly, reflect on their teaching. The HEA/ Pi Lambda Theta-Beta Zeta Hawaii Chapter grant is used to buy snacks and supplies to supplement the basic materials like construction paper, scissors, and glue.

"It's really a great partnership because my students don't feel judged when running their activities, the CBI students are just happy to participate because they don't regularly interact with the general education population," said Tammy Yoon, Pearl City High School advisor. "My students get the opportunity to work with a different group of students with their own challenges and gives them a chance to see different educational roles: teachers, EAs (educational assistant), and RBTs (registered behavioral technician)."



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HEA/HSTA-Retired Special Education Micro Grant



HEA is proud to announce a new grant program for special education educators: the HEA/HSTA-Retired Special Education Micro Grant in honor of **Susan Hagiwara**, a passionate Hawaii special education educator who made a positive difference in the lives of children with special needs over many decades. This grant perpetuates her commitment to children with disabilities and supports educators in special education.

The grant is specifically for special education teachers, librarians, counselors—anyone who works with special education students and would like to work on a project with special education students. This new program provides grants of up to \$500 per project per person until the grant recipient reaches a total of \$5,000. Be sure to watch for more information and application for this grant in August 2025.



Happy 100th Birthday, Sarah!

HEA Executive Director Laurie Togami (left) and HEA Board Member June Motokawa (right) recently celebrated the 100th birthday of Sarah Moriyama, an English teacher for three decades, who served as the HEA president for 10 years, and is now an Arcadia resident.