



Seventeen Awards

Susan Hagiwara Special Education Grants



Susan Hagiwara had a passion for special education and was the consummate educator with a reputation for genuine care for children, their families, and fellow teachers. She was truly a rare gem.

Although she passed away on Aug. 4, 2026, her memory and legacy live on through the next generation of special education teachers. The HEA/HSTA-Retired Special Education Micro Grant program was established in her honor to award grants to provide resources for special education educators to effectively help their students grow and flourish.

In this second year of the grant program, HEA is proud to award

17 educators with a grant. They collectively are building on the solid foundation that Susan established and are carrying on special education in our islands in the same spirit of caring that Susan had for others.

The educators who received the grant awards know their students well and the grants are giving them the resources to design and implement their own curriculum so that they can realize positive outcomes for their students. Congratulations to all and mahalo for your commitment to special education and continuing the legacy of Susan Hagiwara!

Kristy Arakawa ‘Ilima Intermediate School



Kristy Arakawa will use her grant to engage 7th and 8th grade students as environmental engineers in designing and testing sustainable solutions to restore and protect Kalauha‘iha‘i Fishpond. The project connects students to a critical local challenge: the health of Hawai‘i’s ocean and coastal ecosystems. Students will explore

how healthy water flowing from mauka to makai impacts fish, limu, native species, and the overall balance of the ecosystem. They will investigate authentic problems affecting the fishpond and develop potential engineering solutions. The goal of the program is to support environmental stewardship, problem-solving, collaboration, and a deeper connection to Hawai‘i’s natural resources.

Rayme Ann Awaya Webling Elementary School (Halawa)



Rayme Ann Awaya says she struggled as a student because she was not an auditory learner. She needed to touch, build and learn by doing.

That experience inspired her to become a special education teacher and has made it her life's mission to ensure every student, regardless of how their brain works, is given the opportunity to learn in the way that suits them best. Instead of creating her own materials, she will use the grant for commercial-grade, durable hands-on materials for her classroom that she can use for years to come.

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A Message from Our President



Aloha!

As HEA wraps up another year of service, we can all be proud that we are making a difference in the lives of so many in our community, thanks to the generosity of special donors and all our members who share our commitment to enhancing education across our islands.

In this issue of our newsletter, you'll see that we are continuing to invest in the careers of those pursuing education, whether they are high school students, undergraduate and graduate students in college, doctoral candidates, and those who are already immersed in teaching in their schools and want to continually deliver a better educational experience for their students.

At a time when affordability is even more important for all of us in Hawai'i, and making ends meet weighs on many families, every dollar means so much for those who are teaching our students. Scholarships and grants go a long way toward making Hawai'i a better place and preparing the next generation of educators.

If you would like to continue to make a positive impact on education in our state, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to HEA before the end of the calendar year. Your donation will support HEA's mission of improving education and inspiring innovation to support Hawai'i educators.

Have a safe, happy holiday season and let's plan to make 2027 a great year together!

Mahalo!

Christopher Lewis
President
HEA Board of Directors

Our Vision

To affirm the professionalism of
Hawai'i'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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Teaching As A Career Teacher Symposium

Friday, November 20, 2026 · 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

**Kapolei High School, Staff Room
91-5007 Kapolei Parkway, Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707**

Learn strategies to recruit and support diverse students interested in teaching to build Hawai'i's educator pipeline, prepare future educators about responsible AI use, and how to inspire the next generation of educators using TAAC and CTE curriculum. Register today at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DRBDTK5>

Faith C. Ai Scholarship Now Accepting Applications

The Faith C. Ai Scholarship Fund honors the legacy of public school educator Faith C. Ai (1915 – 1997), who had a reputation for bringing out the best in teachers, offering enriching extracurricular activities, and being attentive to the individual needs of every child. This is the fourth scholarship fund established by her daughter, Cynthia Ai, and son-in-law, Dr. Ronald Embry, with the generous support from Faith's long-time friend, George Hu Wong.

Since 1997, more than 230 scholarships have been awarded in memory of Faith C. Ai to current and future educators throughout the world — from the United States, Asia, the Pacific, and South America — to touch the lives of thousands of students.



About Faith C. Ai

Faith enjoyed a long, illustrious career in public education in Hawai'i. She served as an elementary school special education teacher and vice principal at two O'ahu elementary schools, and topped off her career as principal of Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in Honolulu for 16 years until her retirement in 1980.

Her straightforward manner, sense of humor, and appreciation for creativity made her the consummate volunteer, ready to give back in her retirement. She was elected to the HEA board and established a warm friendship with Carol Yoneshige, then executive director, who was instrumental in working with her daughter and son-in-law to establish the first scholarship program in honor of Faith to benefit undergraduate students majoring in education.

Eligible Applicants

Those eligible for the Faith C. Ai Scholarship include undergraduate and graduate students as well as those seeking their doctorate degree. The criteria include:

- Must be in or from Hawai'i.
- Must be currently enrolled in an accredited American college or university.
- Must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5.
- Must be a full-time undergraduate student majoring in education and about to start their third year of study (i.e., the first semester of their 3rd year) toward a bachelor's degree in education.
- Must be a full-time master's degree student majoring in any subject as long as you intend to teach and have completed at least one semester of study toward a master's degree.
- Must be a full-time Ph.D. student majoring in any subject as long as you intend to teach, and who have completed at least eight semesters of study toward a Ph.D. degree.
- Must be an active in-service certified educator who is currently teaching and pursuing a master's degree and have completed at least one semester of study toward a master's degree while continuing to teach.
- Must be active in-service certified educator who is teaching and pursuing a Ph.D. degree and who have completed at least eight semesters toward a Ph.D. degree while you are continuing to teach.

Application Deadline

Only hard copies of the application are accepted and must be mailed and postmarked by Friday, January 29, 2027. See the requirements at faithcaischolarship.org and send in your application and supporting materials to: The Faith C. Ai Memorial Scholarship Fund, Selection Committee, P.O. Box 29661, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96820, Attn: Selection Committee.

Four New Recipients

HSTA-Retired/HEA Professional Development Grants

Congratulations to the following four educators who received professional development grants to support their educational journey:

Dariess Ah Sui **Ka Waihona o Ka Na'auao** **Public Charter School** **(Nanakuli)**



Dariess Ah Sui, a special education inclusion teacher for kindergarten and first grade students at Ka Waihona o Ka Na'auao Public Charter

School in Nanakuli on the Wai'anae Coast, supports diverse learners in accessing the general education curriculum through differentiated instruction, visual supports and small group learning.

She will use her HSTA-Retired/HEA grant to continue her master's degree in interdisciplinary education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She started the master's program, focusing on place-based education and culturally responsive curriculum design this past spring and is expected to be completed in 2027. Dariess, who taught a summer program at Papa Hana No'eau at Ka Waihona, a public charter school on Nanakuli Hawaiian homestead land by integrating Hawaiian culture through hands-on arts and crafts and place-based learning, plans to work closely with students to develop individualized education programs to build independence and engagement.

Rain Yong **Ka Waihona o Ka Na'auao** **Public Charter School** **(Nanakuli)**



Rain Yong, a fellow educator of Dariess Ah Sui at Ka Waihona o Ka Na'auao Public Charter School in Nanakuli, also received an HSTA-

Retired/HEA grant for professional development. She will use her grant to further integrate indigenous knowledge systems and place-based learning into a modern educational framework, ensuring that her instruction is both rigorous and culturally relevant to better serve the unique student population.

Rain has been a Kaiapuni since 2014, and previously taught at other schools, including Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Anuenue in Pālolo Valley, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Pū'ōhala (special education) in Kāne'ōhe, and Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīkalanī'ōpu'u Iki Lab Public Charter School in Kea'au, Puna, Hawai'i Island.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Hawaiian language and a master's degree in elementary education, both from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, which she says provided "the pedagogical foundation for my teaching career."

Tiffany Brown **Innovations Public Charter** **School (Kailua-Kona)**



Tiffany Brown, a full-time performing arts instructor at Innovations Public Charter School in Kailua-Kona on Hawai'i Island, received a Ka'ohekanī

Hawaiian Music Academic Subject Certificate at Windward Community College last year, and loved it so much that she will use her HSTA-Retired/HEA grant to continue her training in Hawaiian performing arts because "the curriculum is strong, effective, and directly informs my teaching practice."

"Our school has long wanted to incorporate more place-based learning, and as their performing arts instructor, having a growing repertoire of content and curriculum aids me in this mission," she wrote in her application. "I have studied Hawaiian language, music, movement, and history at introductory and intermediate levels now, and am ready to take my studies further."

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HEA TAAC Travel Grants

Partially Sponsored by Pi Lambda Theta-Beta Zeta Hawai'i Chapter

Hawai'i students who are members of their Teaching As A Career (TAAC) clubs in their high schools had opportunities to showcase their skills, compete in a variety of friendly competitive events, and network with their peers from across the nation at conferences held over the summer.

HEA TAAC Travel Grants program, partially sponsored by Pi Lambda Theta-Beta Zeta Hawai'i Chapter, helped to subsidize the costs of travel and accommodations for students from three Hawai'i high schools. In addition to the competitive events, the students also had opportunities to visit historic landmarks at our nation's capital. By all accounts, it was a great investment in these students who made all of Hawai'i proud.

James Campbell High School

Layden Balisacan was one of three students from James Campbell High School who attended the annual Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) national leadership conference, held in Washington, D.C. from July 6 to 10, 2026. FCCLA is a national Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) for students in family and consumer sciences education. It is the nation's #1 career preparation and workforce readiness organization for students pursuing careers in education and training and other fields. More than 10,000 students from across the nation, including the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, attended the conference.



Layden competed in the Focus on Children Level 3 event in last year's FCCLA conference and was up to the challenge again this year. He showcased his lesson plans on the declining population of native plants in Hawai'i, and earned a silver medal for his project.

"Not only did I want to share my project, but I also wanted to reconnect with the friends I made last year from different states," he said. "I'm grateful to have experienced historical Washington, D.C. I'm fortunate that



the highlights during my trip was going to the Capitol with the rest of Hawaii's FCCLA team, the Library of Congress, and the different monuments."

Leilehua High School

Leilehua High School students also made an impressive showing at the FCCLA conference. The Mules competed in different categories: Focus on Children, Leadership, Sports Nutrition, and Hospitality and Tourism. The students acknowledged the support

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HEA TAAC Travel Grants

Partially Sponsored by Pi Lambda Theta-Beta Zeta Hawai'i Chapter

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of their advisors: **Cindy Abe**, CTE coordinator; **Keshawn Wright** culinary advisor, and **Lizchel Ugalde**, state advisory.

- **Allen Agbayani** received a silver medal for Nutrition and Wellness Level 3 category for high school seniors;
- **Nina Dace** received gold medal and placed seventh nationally in the Focus On Children Level 2 category for sophomores;
- **Lily Kam** received a silver medal in the Focus On Children Level 3 for juniors;
- **Reech Malanog** received a gold medal and was top 10 finalist in the Focus On Children Level 2 for sophomores; and
- **Karitza Sotomayor** received a bronze medal in the Leadership Level 2 for sophomores.

While in Washington, D.C., the Leilehua students also squeezed in visits to the Capitol, Smithsonian National Zoological park, Lincoln Memorial, and a Major League Baseball game between the Washington Nationals and Houston Astros.

“Attending my first FCCLA National Leadership Conference (NLC) was an unforgettable experience that contributed significantly to my growth as both a leader and an individual. As a Hawai'i State Officer, I had the privilege of representing my state, connecting with members from across the country, and learning from inspiring leaders who share a passion for service and leadership,” said **Karitza Sotomayor**, Hawai'i

FCCLA state vice president and Leilehua FCCLA vice president of membership. “Serving as a State Officer taught me that leadership is not just about holding a title; it’s about supporting others, creating connections, and making a positive impact.”

“Evaluating various projects on similar topics deepened my appreciation for the high standard of leadership fostered among FCCLA members, including a project that used a board game featuring onomatopoeia to teach word sounds and another that used origami to develop fine motor skills,” said **Allen Agbayani**, who volunteered as a student evaluator. “These examples showed me that leadership isn’t a simple formula; it’s

about passionately executing your ideas. This experience has inspired me to move away from rigid lesson plans that rely solely on lectures and worksheets.”

“Focus on Children is a project that is supposed to reflect your journey in impacting kids on a certain topic...As I worked through my project, I aimed to show my impact rather than the areas I wanted to improve (the data I wanted to improve),” reflected **Nina Dace**. “I believe this is a major factor that allowed our judges to be amazed and actually focused. It shows how clearly we worked with kids and the direct impact we had. I learned that it’s important to show more of how you made an impact rather than just put a bunch of information in your project.”



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HEA TAAC Travel Grants

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The Leilehua team is now looking forward to the state leadership conference at Ala Moana Hotel in February 2027, and national leadership conference in San Antonio, Texas, in June 2027.

Mililani High School

Mika Lynn Real and Mae Jean Ortogero of Mililani High School used their TAAC Travel Grants for the Educators Rising National Conference in Portland, Oregon from June 20 to 23, 2026.

"Placing in the top three was the biggest relief for me because it proved to me that we had the potential we thought we did and the work that we put into the board was justified," wrote Mika in a reflection

of her trip. "It was also Hawaii's first year competing nationally and I think that it put us on everyone's radar like "Oh they have talented and competent people too!" Thank you so much for providing the HEA travel grant so that we could experience a National competition and explore a new city!"

"I'm so grateful to have this opportunity to experience all of this and even take home third place for nationals," said Mae Jean. "It was not only a blessing to me, but I hope a blessing for others who got to experience our aloha and passion for Hawai'i. I am so thankful to have received the HEA travel grant. It was an amazing time, and I am so blessed to have been provided the opportunity."

HSTA-Retired/HEA Professional Development Grant Recipients

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Matthew Gallivan
Waialua High and Intermediate School

Matthew Gallivan, a

math teacher at Waialua High and Intermediate School since 2024, will use his HSTA-Retired/HEA grant to pursue a master's degree in education with an emphasis in instructional leadership at Chaminade University. He wrote in his application that a master's degree "has always felt like a very important and natural next step for me as a teacher. Over time, I've realized that the more I learn about teaching, the more I see how much room there is to grow as an educator...Earning a master's degree is not just about advancing my education, it's about becoming a better teacher for the students I work with every day."

"Every class is different, and every student walks into the room with their own strengths, challenges, and experiences," he added. "I try to adjust my teaching to meet their needs, but I know I can do that more thoughtfully and intentionally."



Seventeen Awards

Susan Hagiwara Special Education Grants

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Catherine Baldaino Ala Wai Elementary School



Catherine Baldaino's project will provide hands-on learning activities for fourth grade students with significant

learning needs. The grant will be used to purchase different materials to make concepts more concrete and accessible. These resources will support small-group instruction, intervention, independent practice, and participation in whole-group lessons. The goal is to help students access grade-level standards while receiving instruction and practice at their individual learning levels, and help students develop greater independence and confidence. The program will provide students with disabilities the tools and multiple ways of learning to make academic progress, and experience success alongside their fourth grade peers.

Rochelle Borja Mokulele Elementary School



Rochelle Borja will use her grant to help her students recognize letters, master phonic sounds, identify numbers and two- and three-

dimensional shapes, and solve basic addition and subtraction problems using hands-on resources.

Her program will also support differentiated instruction, supply teachers with adaptive learning materials while empowering students to independently explore stations, build self-regulation, and meet their individual goals in a fun environment.

Katherine Brown Wailuku Elementary School



Katherine Brown is a special education teacher at Wailuku Elementary School and many of her students have

Autism Spectrum Disorder. She plans to have special lighting for her classroom for students with sensory disabilities who are overwhelmed by the fluorescent lighting. The goal is to reduce sensory overload occurrences, and to create a calming environment and keep her students from becoming overstimulated. The alternative lighting will help her preschool special education students reach their goals for toileting, communication, numeracy, literacy, fine motor skills, and physical therapy. In addition, many students can improve their cognitive abilities, executive functioning, and approaches to learning.

Maureen Burnham Kalani High School

Maureen Burnham will put her grant to good use by implementing the "Falcons for Inclusion," a year-long, school-wide awareness campaign designed to reduce stigma



and promote authentic inclusion for students with disabilities at Kalani High School. The Laulea Club, currently 35

members including students with disabilities and general education peers, will wear custom "Inclusion" t-shirts every Monday throughout the school year, creating a visible, recurring statement about belonging and wants to double membership to 70 with half of the members with disabilities.

Jason Dettweiler-Pavia Ka'iulani Elementary School



In March 2027, **Jason Dettweiler-Pavia** plans to take his students on a field trip to watch a performance of Hawai'i Theatre

for Youth's Heart Strings, which is set during the territorial days of old Hawai'i. The story is about two hanai sisters who face a powerful storm, a clash of cultures, and the challenges of sibling rivalry. The story is told through the use of hei, traditional Hawaiian string games. The sisters must untangle what it means to be family and learn about the kuleana that comes with loving someone.

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Susan Hagiwara Special Education Grant Recipients

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Jonathan Drayton Kaua'i High School



Jonathan Drayton will use his grant to develop a steam-bending station to expand hands-on instruction in wood science, construction

materials, and fabrication as part of the the Kaua'i High School Construction Program. Steam bending allows students to investigate how heat and moisture affect wood that can be bent into curved components. This experience will allow students to connect math, material science, design and craftsmanship.

Tracey Murata Ahuimanu Elementary School

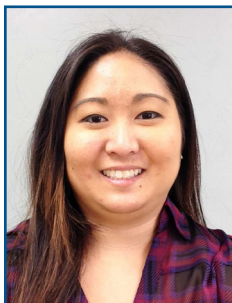


Tracey Murata is a fifth and sixth grade mathematics teacher at Ahuimanu Elementary, and plans to implement

Building Thinking Classrooms (BTC) with her students. As part of the BTC program, she wants to create a classroom where students actively think, persevere, collaborate, and develop their problem-solving skills rather than simply mimic procedures demonstrated by a teacher. She will use the grant to purchase rolling whiteboards for her classroom to create a dynamic classroom

where students become confident, independent mathematicians.

Kelsey Muromoto Pearl City Elementary School



Kelsey Muromoto will use this grant to create an inclusive outdoor gathering space to provide students with a comfortable,

welcoming place to eat lunch, enjoy picnics, and spend time with their peers. Her goal is to encourage meaningful social interactions and help students develop communication, cooperation, and friendship-building skills in a natural setting. For our special education students, opportunities to interact with same-age peers are especially valuable, as they benefit from observing and modeling positive social behaviors.

Becky Naeole Kailua Elementary School



This project is an observational study of a short-term immersive experience through the Japan Preschool Exchange. As a parent of a

child receiving special education services, **Becky Naeole** will observe how educators in Japan naturally integrate neurodivergent and diverse learners into unstructured, outdoor settings and explore how Japan's

nature-centric, inclusive early childhood practices support holistic development, social integration, and emotional resilience. She also hopes to learn about another country's inclusive practices, including mixed-age collaborative play, sensory-rich forest exploration, mud play, and harvesting local crops, and to nurture confidence and non-cognitive skills beyond language barriers. She hopes to gather actionable insights, inclusive strategies, and pedagogical methods for inclusive outdoor learning in her school district.

Luciane Pimentel Aliamanu Elementary School



Luciane Pimentel will use this grant for a real-world project that culminates in March 2027 with her students operating an art store that they

helped design, plan, implement and operate. Students will sell their art to raise funds for an organization that supports and cares for the Hawaiian endangered animals they learn about through this project. Students will practice and learn the values of living pono and aloha and its impact at their school community, in Hawaii and the world, building empathy, collaboration, communication and other important academic and life skills while caring for Hawai'i's unique natural resources.

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Susan Hagiwara Special Education Grant Recipients

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Spencer Serrao Leilehua High School



Spencer Serrao will use this grant for his sophomore biology resource students at Leilehua High School and to provide

hands-on learning experience through classroom dissections. He will purchase preserved specimens, dissection tools, and other necessary materials, rather than only reading about them in a textbook. His goal is to make biology more engaging, meaningful, and accessible for his special education students while building their confidence, curiosity, and understanding of science.

Lisa Jean Silva Kula Elementary School



Lisa Jean Silva will use her grant to implement "Building Blocks of Literacy," a one-year project delivering multisensory reading

intervention to 2nd grade special education students. As students transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." Grounded in science of reading principles, this initiative will use tactile phonics games, high-interest decodable books, and structured workbooks to offer visual, auditory, and kinesthetic pathways to learning and will

feature hands-on game warm-ups, workbook practice, and decodable reading.

Natasha Skaltsas Ewa Makai Middle School



Natasha Skaltsas, a special education teacher at Ewa Makai Middle School, will implement a "Hands-On Science &

Kitchen Lab Exploration," to bridge functional life skills with rigorous core academic standards for her middle school students. Utilizing her classroom's full kitchen setting, this initiative integrates hands-on science experiments, such as chemical reactions behind volcanic eruptions, with foundational English language arts, math, and social studies. Her classroom is a diverse group of multicultural learners with unique learning needs, and the project will help to make abstract scientific concepts tangible, accessible, and engaging. The project will also nurture critical thinking, functional independence, and a lifelong curiosity for STEM learning tailored to a Hawai'i context.

Van Tran-Trimner Kalani High School



Van Tran-Trimner will create, Mind in Focus, a student-led photo exhibit that uses art to break the silence around mental

health and let teens know they are not alone. The exhibit will give students an opportunity to take an honest look into the real pressure, mental health struggles, and everyday resilience of young people. The art will be linked to youth crisis resources, school counselors, and mental health tools so that students know where to find support.

Beth Young Waialua Elementary School



Beth Young, a preschool special education teacher at Waialua Elementary School will use her grant for a sensory tuff table

and water table for her preschool students to learn through touch, texture, and movement. A sensory tuff table and water table provide a safe environment to explore new fine motor, gross motor, and sensory activities to enhance pre-academic skills. Sensory and water tables also support emotional regulation, social-emotional skills, and self-help skills through play and sensory exploration.

Support HEA!

Your donation helps us continue to provide inspiring programs to improve education in our community and provide scholarships and grants for students and teachers.

Make a donation today by visiting the HEA website at hawaiieducationassociation.org/giving or mail a check to Hawaii'i Education Association, 1953 South Beretania St., Suite 5C, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826.

In Memoriam

As 2026 rapidly comes to an end, HEA would like to remember the faithful members of our HEA community who have passed away.

These members generosity supported our mission, sharing their commitment to education and enriching the lives of Hawai'i educators at every stage of their career.

We extend our sympathy to their families and loved ones. We remember them with gratitude, respect, and fondness, and their kindness will always be remembered by the HEA 'ohana.

Wallace Aki
George S. Anzai
Susan O. Aoki
Annie L. Awong
Cynthia Brown
Leroy J. Ching
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Florence H. Kawahara
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Mae Kimura
Esther K. Kodani
Shigeru Koizumi
Carol Kondo
Aileen H. Kuboyama
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Kimie Matsui
Roberta L. Miyashiro
Robin T. Mizuta
Nikky U. Mori
Charlene S. Murata
Suyeno Nada
Irene M. Nagata
Jane M. S. Nakashima
Mae M. Nakayama
Paula S. Nelson
Rachel H. Nishiguchi
Walter S. Nobuhara
Thelma M. Okada
Michiko I. Okasako
Agnes R. Okino
Kathleen T. Oshiro
Jane S. Ouye

Harry A. Pacarro
Katherine K. Sano
Jean H. Sera
Linda S. Shimamoto
Takeo L. Shishido
Aimee Takaki
Amy Y. Takayama
Karen M. Tam
Franklin S. Tamaribuchi
Marjorie H. Tanaka
Yoshiichi Tanaka
Walter K. Tanaka
Pao Ming Tchou
Eishin Tengan
Ella M. Tomita
Elaine E. Tsumura
Esther S. Tyau
Yukie H. Ueoka
Jane S. Ueoka
Patsy K. Uyeda
Raymond S. Watanabe
Justin F. Wong
Kiyoshi Yamada
Ethel K. Yoshimasu
Byron K. Yoshina
Lois F. Yoshioka
Betsy F. Young
Sandra Young

HEA Offers Grants for All TAAC High Schools

Deadline: Monday, November 30, 2026

If you're a Department of Education high school with a Teaching As A Career program to support your school's club or Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, your school could be eligible for an HEA grant.

HEA, in partnership with Pi Lambda Theta-Beta Zeta Hawai'i Chapter, will award grants to schools to develop and build programs that encourage more students to enter the teaching profession.

Deadline to apply for the grants is Monday, November 30, 2026. For more information and application forms, contact the HEA at (808) 949-6657. Neighbor island residents may call toll-free at (866) 653-9372.



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Education
Association

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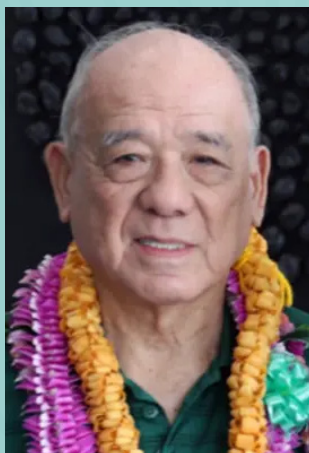


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In Memoriam

Celebrating the Life of Justin Wong



HEA is sad to report that long-time HEA member **Justin Wong**, who served in various HEA board leadership roles, passed away on Aug. 27, 2026. He was 89.

Mr. Wong was on the HEA board of directors for 12 years, from 2011 to 2023. He served as treasurer and a member of the HEA executive committee for a decade. He was chair of the finance/investment committee from 2011 to 2021. Mr. Wong also served on the strategic planning committee, finance committee, and insurance committee. He also served as chair of the subcommittees for oversight, operating budget, fund development and membership. Mr. Wong also served on the board of directors of the HEA Insurance Agency (HEAIA), and served as its treasurer for a decade.

His service will be at Nuʻuanu Memorial Park & Mortuary on Saturday, Nov. 14. Visitation begins at 10 am and services at 11 am.