

Spring 2024



Project Ho'oku'i

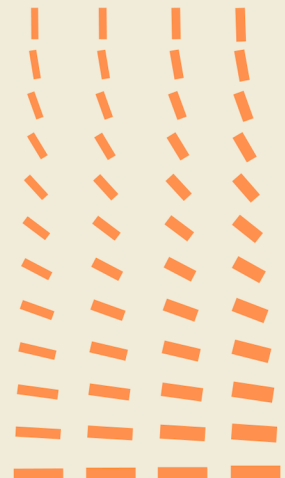
GRADUATION

UH Mānoa
Scholar News

School
Reports

NEW! Ho'oku'i
VI Scholarships

UHMC 2024
Commencement,
Molokai



Graduates throwing caps in the air!

UH Mānoa Scholar Updates

Our initial cohort of H5 Scholars, who received a first-year scholarship to UH Mānoa, benefitted greatly from the financial support as well as the mentoring provided by Misty Kela'i who helped them adapt to the changes they encountered moving from a quiet, rural to a busy and sometimes overwhelming urban lifestyle.

All four of the outer island students successfully navigated their first year, learning valuable life skills along the way. Many of the scholars talked about finding the classes more difficult than high school but all of them maintained a high academic standard. We are very proud and send our congratulations to this first cohort of future leaders. We are excited to introduce our second cohort of H5 Scholars, who received a first-year scholarship to UH Mānoa. These are the first graduating seniors, who survived the many challenges of the pandemic and are now on the next steps of their higher education journey.

School Reports

Kudos to the Farrington graduates who received their associate degrees from Honolulu Community College: Dillen Acupido, Faith Bayawa, Carla Dela Cruz, Rhealyn Delos Santos, Venice Eugenio, Janae Garcia, Gregory Harrell, Jennifer Lasconia, Louise Justine Lorenzo, Zire Luab, Zhymmone Paguirigan, Mileen Patdu, and Jade Queyquep!



Farrington High School

In a year for record numbers, 13 Farrington High School Seniors graduated with their associate degrees! Zhymmone Paguirigan received the H5 First-Year Scholarship to UHM and will be pursuing a BA as an Exploratory Business Major at UHM.



Hana High School

Zoe Smith (above) is our first Ho'oku'i scholar from Hana High. She is pursuing a BA as an Exploratory Business Major at UHM. Her dream is to return to Hana and open her own Cat Café. Congratulations Zoe!



Lanai High School

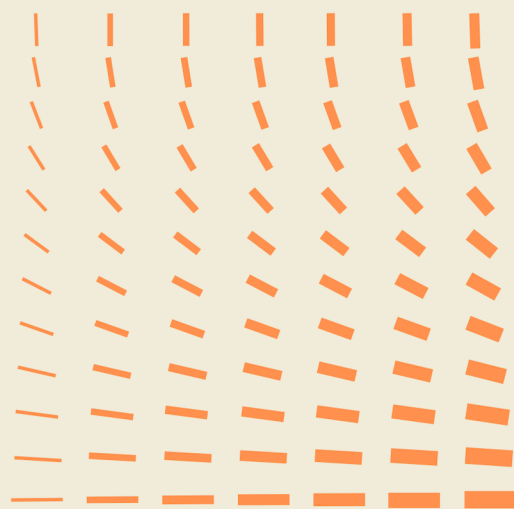
Once again, Lanai High School had two seniors who were graduating with their associates degrees: Hershey Manuel and Rylee Sanchez.



Hershey Manuel



Rylee Sanchez



Tysen Ayonayon

The graduating class also have two seniors who received the Ho'oku'i first-year scholarship to UH Mānoa, Rylee Sanchez and Tysen Ayonayon, pictured above with Lanai lead mentor, Michelle Fujie-Ka'auamo.



Molokai High School

At MHS, Sonni Han was the recipient of the H5 First-Year Scholarship to UHM. She is a Native Hawaiian student who also received a nurse aid certificate at the same time as her high school graduation certificate.

Congratulations,
Sonni!



MHS Scholarship Award Ceremony: Sonni Han (front center)

NEW! H6 Scholarships for SY 2025-2026.

In addition to the 10 Ho'oku'i V scholarships that will be offered for UH Mānoa, we expect a larger pool of scholarship applicants next year as H6 will offer more choices, such as UH Hilo (5) and CTE Certificate Programs (7) at any UH Community College campus. As a result of Ho'oku'i, many students are now considering careers in education and health care (nursing, dental hygiene, etc.).



Ho'oku'i V: Kūlia i ka Nu'u

Maui College, Molokai Commencement 2024

(May 10, 2024). This was the first in-person graduation ceremony held on Molokai since 2016 for its graduates. Everyone who received a degree during that time was invited to attend and the occasion drew a large crowd with 101 students receiving a variety of diplomas. These ranged from certificates, associates, and graduate degrees, and even to one doctorate! One in five graduates (20%) were Ho'oku'i participants. In Ho'oku'i IV, four of the seven parents in the 'ohana cohort also graduated with a range of degrees, including one Master's in Human Resource Management. There were several families (parents and children) walking together in the graduation ceremony. Maikai! Here's the link to the video.



UH graduation returns to Molokai

This cherished tradition, usually observed every four years, had been delayed in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

 University of Hawai'i System News / May 10

“The joy of celebrating achievement – especially in community with fellow learners and family – never fails to thrill and so to strengthen and empower the resilient learner.” – Elly Tepper (2024).