Aloha WHS Alumni and Friends,

This year was a transition period for Waimea Alumni and Friends Foundation as we resumed most of our activities. We began with the Menehune Mingle in July 2022, at Waimea High School, followed by the Pancake/Silent Auction/Plant Sale fundraiser in March 2023. We recognized our 25 scholarship recipients with a Drive Thru activity on May 9th and participated in the Reality Fair for WHS juniors on May 12th. Our monthly WAFF meetings were regularly scheduled as we determined it was safe for us to meet; however, we’re still mindful concerning Covid.

As mentioned, we kick started our Pancake Breakfast, Silent Auction, and Plant Sale on March 25th. It was a huge success and the Board of Directors, and I would like to say once more, “thank you” and express our appreciation and gratitude for your support. Your generous monetary donations coupled with our WAFF Pancake Breakfast fundraiser yielded scholarship funds for 25 WHS seniors in the amount of $41,500. We were also able to purchase two new electronic scoreboards for the Clem Gomes gym in July 2022. Big thanks to Jon Kobayashi and Richard Jim for installing the scoreboards.

At our April WAFF meeting, we decided to postpone the 2023 Spirit Awards Luau and General Membership Meeting to a later date in 2024. Erring on the side of safety, we will continue to monitor and assess the Covid numbers in 2024. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate through the Covid uncertainties.

Congratulations to these outstanding twenty-five (25) Waimea High School seniors who are recipients of the 2023 WAFF Scholarships:

Jade Aguinaldo, Keilana Ando-Aana, Maeani Arbilera, Kasey Carveiro, Kaizen Castillo, Makala El Saieh-Rowe, Matthew Fontaine, Matthew Gabriel, Jeremiah Harper, Kale Kakuda, Tehillah Matsusaka, Hope Newton, Kylen Parongao, Kayla Prigge, Clarenz Ringor, Mar Heinrich Ruiz, Safina Sandblom, Keisha Suga, David Tsuchiya, Kimberly Vidinha, Kanale Viquelia, Charlz Visitation, Areck Yamamoto, Tevai Yorkman, and Haley Zina. We recognize their parents, family, teachers, counselors, coaches, administrators, friends, and community members for their mentoring, guidance, and support. In addition, we thank Scholarship Chair Lynne Tamashiro and committee members Brenda Denny, Esther Estes, Jerry Nishihira, Janice Nitta, and Blanche Suga for their hard work.

Our newsletters are posted on the waffkauai.org website for your reference in addition to the mailed copies. Blanche has also been emailing newsletters to our alumni. If you know of any alumnus who prefer emailed copies, please let them know to contact Blanche Suga with their email address. Also, keep sending us your class reunion photos and we will include them in next year’s 2024 WAFF newsletter. We’ve seen an increase in class reunions this year.

In closing, we would like to encourage you to join our WAFF ‘ohana in our efforts to support WHS and the students. Between June of 2022 and May 1st, 2023, we have welcomed 75 new WAFF memberships. Would you like to be part of the Waimea Alumni and Friends Foundation? Please consider completing and submitting the enclosed WAFF Membership Form if you decide to be a member. We will keep you posted regarding future activities and events on our website: waffkauai.org. WAFF meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the Waimea Neighborhood Center starting at 6:30 pm.

‘Ahoe hana nui ke alu ‘ia
(No task is too big when done together by all)
Mary Kawena Pukui

E Malama Pono
Russ Hasegawa, President

WAFF TREASURER’S REPORT

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Alvin Kyono
Treasurer
Furthermore, we are proud to report that our students are well-prepared for post-secondary education and are pursuing higher education opportunities at an exceptional rate. Recent data released by the University of Hawaii's Post Office shows that Waimea had the 7th highest college going rate in the state, only beaten by large Oahu schools from affluent communities. Again, this is a testament to the hard work of our staff and the dedication of our students to their academic pursuits.

Lastly, we are pleased to report that our students performed exceptionally well on last year’s SBA test, with scores that were on the best on the island. This achievement reflects our teachers’ dedication to academic excellence and the high standards we set for our students. We are proud of their achievements and know that they will continue to excel in all their future endeavors.

I want to thank our students, staff, and community for their hard work, dedication, and support throughout the year. We look forward to continuing to work together to provide our students with the best possible education and opportunities for success.

With much aloha,
Congratulations TO OUR 2023 WAFF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the 2023 graduating seniors who applied for and received scholarships through the Waimea Alumni & Friends Foundation! This year we again received a generous donation from the EZ Street family of $21,000. This enabled WAFF to award 21 $1,000 scholarships to each student bound for a 4-year college. Captain Andy also generously donated $2,000 scholarships to three students who plan to attend Kaua‘i Community College. These scholarships were in addition to the 10 scholarships WAFF has given in the past.

Some applicants were awarded 2 scholarships. This was based on a scoring rubric that judged how well the students met the criteria in the application.

Jade Aguinaldo received a $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship. Her goal is to become a pediatric nurse practitioner after getting her degree at the University of Hawai‘i in Mānoa. She is the daughter of Stacie Agualaindo (class of 1992) and Joel Aguinaldo.

Keilana Ando-Aano, who plans to attend KCC to become a nurse practitioner, received a $2,000 scholarship from Captain Andy’s Sailing, Inc. She is the daughter of Terrine Ando (class of 2004).

Meani Arbiler, who is bound for Weber State University, received an EZ Street Scholarship of $1,000. She will major in Radiologic Sciences. She is the daughter of Dayne (class of 1998) and Mynaeli (class of 2001) Arbiler.

Kasey Car vog, who is also a recipient of a $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship, will major in Business Administration at Boise State University. She hopes to become an interior designer with her own business. She is the daughter of Sheri Carvigo.

Kaizen Castillo, who aspires to become an electrical technician and will study at KCC, was awarded a $2,000 Captain Andy’s Sailing, Inc. Scholarship. He is the son of Zeal (class of 1995) and Peggy (class of 1987) Castillo.

Makala El Saihe-Rowe, heading for Hiram College to major in Computer Science, received a $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship. She plans to eventually return to Kaua‘i to work in Information Technology. Her parents are Rupert Rowe, Jr. and Malaika El Saihe-Rowe.

Another EZ Street scholarship of $1,000 was awarded to Matthew Fontaine, who will attend UH Mānoa to major in Mechanical Engineering and minor in Marine Biology. He is the son of Sean and Rosabel Fontaine.

Also attending UH Mānoa is Matthew Gabriel, whose $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship will help him pursue his studies in Computer Science. He would like to eventually be a video game or software developer. His parents are Salvador (class of 1979) and Floricita Gabriel.

Jeremiah Harper will pursue his major of Kinesiology at George Fox University with the help of his EZ Street $1,000 Scholarship. His goal is to become a strength and conditioning coach at the college level. Jeremiah is the son of Charzon and Janna Harper (both class of 2004).

Kale Kakuda was the recipient of 2 scholarships, each in the amount of $1,000. They are the EZ Street Scholarship and the second, a WAFF Scholarship. He plans to major in Biology with the goal of becoming a doctor of internal medicine or an otolaryngologist. His parents are Jeffrey Kakuda (class of 2005) and Ashley Yimoto (class of 1988).

Attending Grand Canyon University to major in Psychology is Tehillah Matushuka, who was awarded a $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship. She would like to become a youth counselor. Her parents are Clifford (class of 1987) and Cheri Matushuka.

Hope Newton, who has been accepted in the Aerospace Engineering program at the University of Texas, Austin, was awarded 2 scholarships. They are the Dan Suga Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $1,500 and an EZ Street Scholarship for $1,000. Her “fascination by space and the possibilities of the universe” has led her to participate in internships with the University of Hawaii. Her parents are Kevin and Ashley (class of 1993) Newton.

As Kylen Paronag heads for Saint Martin’s University to major in Exercise Science, he will do so with an EZ Street $1,000 Scholarship. He would like to become a sports trainer or strength and conditioning coach. He is the son of Kristi (class of 1984) and Christie Domingo (class of 1989) Paronag.

Kayla Prigge was awarded the $1,000 J. Nishihara Scholarship and an EZ Street Scholarship of $1,000. Her goal is to attend Hiram College to major in Exercise Science. Kayla plans to become a physical therapist. She is the daughter of John James and Angeline Prigge (class of 1992) Prigge.

Clarenz Ringor, who will be attending Kaua‘i Community College, received a $2,000 Captain Andy’s Sailing, Inc. Scholarship. After obtaining a degree at KCC he would like to further his education at the Oregon Institute of Technology, get a degree in Electrical Engineering. His parents are Andrew and Wilma Ringor.

The recipient of the $1,000 George & Doris Crowell Memorial Scholarship and a $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship were awarded to Mar Heinrich Ruiz. He will be majoring in Political Science at the University of San Francisco. Mar has won honors in the History Day competition, which led to his interest in politics and government. His parents are Mario and Teresita Ruiz.

Safina Lei Nalinmea Sandblom was awarded two scholarships. She received a $1,000 EZ Street scholarship and the $1,000 Kaoru & Kikuni (Nakaue) Fujita Endowed Scholarship. She plans to major in Exercise Science, ultimately becoming a physical therapist. She is the daughter of Eirk and Mariissa Matsuda (class of 1997) Sandblom.

This year, for the first time, WAFF awarded a $1,000 Lauren Uyeda Memorial Scholarship. It went to Keisha Suga, who also received a $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship. All will be applied toward her education at University of Washington, where she plans to major in Graphic Design and Media. A long-term career goal is to work for a film company like Disney as an art director or production designer, where she has a creative outlet. Keisha is the daughter of Keith (class of 1995) and Jill Shimatsu (class of 1998). Suga.

David Tsuchiya plans to study Environmental Engineering at the University of Nevada Reno. He received the $1,000 Naoko and Yoshihara Ogata Scholarship and a $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship. His career goal is to “help develop products that are environmentally friendly to help maintain our ecosystems and natural resources.” His parents are David and Loma Tsuchiya.

At Pacific University, Kimberly-Ann Vidinha will use her $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship award to major in Business Administration with an emphasis on Marketing. She hopes to use her skills to help local businesses and non-profits that focus on St. Hope. Her parents are Harold and Wendy Vidinha.

Keana Viqueira will attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to pursue his major of Electrical Engineering. He was a recipient of the $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship. Kanale would like to move back to Kaua‘i and one day work at the Kaua‘i Island Utility Cooperative. He is the son of Levi (class of 1994) and Gezmynn (class of 1998) Viqueira.

Chariz Visacion, who will attend the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo to major in Computer Science, received a $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship. His career goal is to become a web or game designer. He is the son of Arnel and Alicia Viscacion.

The $1,000 KF Scholarship for a student pursuing an engineering degree and $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship were both awarded to Areek Yamamoto, who will pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Nevada, LV. He hopes to obtain dual degrees in Electrical and Biomedical Engineering, which will allow him to discover solutions for sustainable electricity and nerve stimulation-based medical technologies. His parents are Vance (class of 1981) and Anne Yamamoto.

Tevai Yorkman, who plans to pursue a degree in Education, was awarded the Misae Tokushige Takanishi Scholarship, established by the children of Ms. Takanishi, who taught at Waimea High School. The $5,000 award will be distributed over a period of 4 years. Tevai will be attending Utah State University to pursue a degree in Early Childhood and Special Education. She is the daughter of Joshua (class of 1994) and Ulanli Cor-Yorkman.

Haley Zina was awarded a $1,000 EZ Street Scholarship, coupled with the Yuso and Lillian Ishida Health Professions $1,000 Scholarship. She will attend Oregon Institute of Technology to study Pre-Medical Imaging Technology. She hopes to return home to Hawaii to work as a radiologic technologist or production worker on Kaua‘i. Haley is the daughter of Paul and Mariles Fernandes (class of 1996). Zina.
IN THIS ISSUE

MAHALO to Jon Kobayashi and Richard Jim for installing the new scoreboards in the Clem Gomes Gym.

MAHALO to the community for supporting our Pancake Breakfast, Silent Auction, and Plant Sale.

MAHALO to our local businesses who generously donated towards the Silent Auction.

MAHALO to the WHS alumni and friends for their donations and new memberships.

The 2023 WAFF Spirit Awards Luau and General Membership Meeting has been postponed again to a later date in 2024. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to be Covid conscious.

Visit us at our website www.waffkauai.org

2023 WAFF Board Members

L/R sitting: Russ Hasegawa, Blanche Izumi Suga, Katie Okihara Hardwick, Alvin Kyono

Row 2: Janice Nitta, Brenda Yoshimoto Denny, Michal Kanahele Nakashima, Lisa Sueyasu Hiraoka, Naoko Ho, Placido Valenciano, Lynne Hashimoto Tamashiro, Irene Iwai Muraoka, Roy Miyashiro

Row 3: Leo Anguay, Jerry Nishihira, Tommy Muraoka, Alice Hayselden Brown, Pua Mundon Gonsalves, Basilio Fuertes, Jeff Emoto, Clayton Sakahashi