It was only about 4:30 p.m. and yet the sun seemed to be going down as the group gathered to take a tour of UH Hilo’s Farm Laboratory, located up along the Panaewa stretch, only five miles away from the main campus. The tour led by College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management (CAFNRM) Assistant Professor of Horticulture, Norman Arancon, PhD, was part of the Ag Senior’s Awards Night and Alumni Reception, held by UH Hilo’s Alumni and Friends Association.

The air was cool on that December 14th afternoon as guests got a chance to see the farm’s bee garden, hydroponics house, and horticulture garden plots. It was a great opportunity for members of the community to experience a little of the myriad of activities going on with CAFNRM.

The tour group gathered together in the hydroponics house. There were rows and rows of greens being grown hydroponically as well as thick juicy green tomatoes hanging like stately jewels on their well-kept vines. Arancon explained to the group that much of what was growing in the hydroponics house were student projects. He went on to explain that the farm is a really unique aspect of the college and it gives the students the much-needed hands on experience they need to supplement their classroom and lab work. The farm laboratory sits on 110 acres of land,
on which students can experience practical learning in a variety of areas such as anthuriums, ornamental foliage, hydroponics, floriculture plants, orchids, forestry, vegetables, sustainable agriculture, livestock production, equine science, beekeeping, tropical fruit and aquaculture.

The wind kicked up a bit as the sun continued to travel westward, away from the farm laboratory. Some in the group zipped up jackets, some cozied up to each other to fend off the December air as they made their way to the Māpuhonehene Bee Garden. The word māpuhonehene refers to the wafting fragrance of honey. The garden has water features and plants that were deliberately chosen to ensure year round nectar for the bees. The group was treated to a delectable taste of honey right off the comb and a short talk about the Adopt-a-Beehive program started by Entomology Professor Lorna Tsutsumi and world-renowned chef Alan Wong.

Small wisps of smoke rose out of the open imu, earthen oven pit, as the group made their way from Māpuhonehene to the Farm Pavilion. Members of UH Hilo’s Alumni and Friends Association were already at the pavilion greeting guests and writing out name tags for everyone. The guests were treated to a selection of cheeses and fruits, time to catch up with old friends and time get to know new ones better as they waited for the speakers to present and the incredible feast of Puna Beet Salad, Ahi Poke, Kalo and Sweet Potato Chips, Pan Roasted Roots, Hawaiian Kalua Pork, Veggie Lūʻau and Roasted Pumpkin Haupia Pie to be served. Most of the ingredients for the meal were grown on the farm.

Each in their turn, members of the CAFRNM Faculty shared highlights of the different academic programs offered by the college.

“How is agriculture going to be important in the future?” Chancellor Staney asked the audience. “We know how important it was in the past. The College of Agriculture, Forestry Natural Resource Management holds the future of the island in its hand.”

Holding the future of the island, the state and the world at large in their hands, the graduating Ag Seniors were recognized and each given new machetes to blaze new trails in the world. Two seniors were given extended recognition for their achievements in the college, Gilbette Blais for Highest G.P.A and Collin Saxby received the Service Award.

For Blais, “It makes all the hard work worth it. It was the getting the high grade in specific classes that was important to me, rather than the overall average.” For Saxby, “It feels good to help out the Ag Club with whatever I can do. Plus it’s what I love to do.”

Recent graduate Rachel Malani had already secured a position with the USDA Agricultural Research Service and Natural Resources Conservation Services even before she graduated because of work she had done with the USDA as a CAFRNM student. “It was because of people I knew and the lab and field work experiences that I had gotten,” said Malani.
Dedicated to Innovation & Growth

With long-term visions of launching off into the skies with an aviation and aerospace program featuring a flight school as well as an Aerospace Operation Management program, The College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management (CAFRNM), which will soon be renamed the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, continues to keep itself grounded with its goal of finding new and innovative ways to create a more sustainable and food secure place to live. CAFRNM is at the forefront of grabbing onto the potential of having the Big Island and the State of Hawai‘i stand as a world leader in renewable energy technologies and scientifically based precision agriculture.

Along with the long-term goal of bringing an aviation and aerospace program to the university, CAFRNM is setting itself up to house a general engineering program.

According to CAFRNM Acting Dean Bruce Mathews, “The preliminary draft for a General Engineering program in CAFNRM has already received solid support from the Big Island engineering community. On October 16, 2012 nearly 100 engineers attended an engineering program planning briefings in Hilo and Kona. It is projected that the island will need approximately 39 engineers per year over the next decade and it is hoped that locally trained hires will enhance employment retention and reduce industry-training costs.

CAFRNM also runs the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center (PACRC), housed in two separate locations; partially at the 110-acre Panaewa Farm Laboratory and also on a 12.5-acre coastal site in Keaukaha. One of the many highlights being done at PACRC was a project led by Associate Professor of Aquaculture, Maria Haws, PhD, to save the oyster production industry in Willapa Bay, Washington. Because of increasingly corrosive ocean water, the oysters of Willapa Bay were not hatching properly, threatening to destroy production in the area. Dave Nisbet of Goose Pointe Oysters, which produces several million pounds of oysters a year and sells them across the globe, got the help of Professor Haws in developing a way to hatch the oysters in Hawai‘i, the tiny larvae are then sent by mail to Washington, where Nisbet and his team oversee the rest of the multiyear growing cycle in Willapa Bay.

“It would have been much easier and cheaper to start a hatchery here [Washington],” said Nisbet in a 2012 Seattle Times article. “But we just saw the hatcheries having failures, the larvae dying in the tanks and just decided to sidestep the issue completely.”

Another exciting project CAFRNM has been involved with is the Veteran to Farmer Program. One of the key goals of the program is to enable veterans to develop the necessary skills to farm. The initiative is designed for U.S. military veterans only and is funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. UH Hilo and CAFRNM have been working closely with Rivertop Energy Solutions, LLC as well as with other partners which include Hawai‘i Community College, the State Department of Agriculture, the Hawai‘i Island Economic Development Board, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Mealani Research Station, the Pu‘ukapu Agricultural Community Facility, Native Hawaiian leaders and organizations, several community-based groups, and local farmers in Waimea on the Big Island.

“The first non-credit group is working the project now, but we’re hoping to get it to be a college credit program through the university where they could get 18 credits of college credit to learn how to be successful farmers. And if they wanted to go on to get a degree, they have 18 credits towards that degree,” said Dean Mathews.

“Our students are really concerned, even more so than my generation, about sustainability and food security here in Hawai‘i and we’re trying our best to move that direction forward,” said Dean Mathews.

Cross culturally, farmers are rarely featured as the heroes in stories and myths. Yet their very lives of digging into the earth to produce the vital food needed to sustain a society are heroic. In a world that has become very transient they dig in, toil with the earth, bravely ride the waves of a fickle economy and have the faith that the gods will bring life out of the soil. These young graduates are truly heroic in their willingness to shoulder the weight of exploring ways to create a more sustainable and food secure world.

As the night carried on, the sound of music and laughter rose up above the UH Hilo Farm Laboratory to meet a waxing crescent moon traveling playfully across the sky as graduates, family, friends and alums experienced the simple joy of great food, great company and being with each other.

“The College of Agriculture, Forestry Natural Resource Management holds the future of the island in its hand.”

– Chancellor Straney
Kim Wasierski recently joined the ctcLink team as the Financial Aid Module Project Lead, overseeing the implementation of the Financial Aid/Student Financials portion of the Student/Academic software module.

For the past five years, Kim has been a Financial Aid/Student Management Systems Support Consultant at SBCTC Bellevue, supporting colleges in the use of the Financial Aid Module (FAM). She also played a key role in the migration from the legacy (COCO/SAFERS) system to FAM.

Thirteen years ago, Kim started her financial aid career at Tacoma Community College’s financial aid office before moving on to Highline Community College where, in six years, she moved up to senior associate director of financial aid.

Since graduating from UH Hilo, Olivia Lee completed internships with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Midway Atoll and the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program in Sarasota, Florida. She started a graduate program in 2005 that allowed her to conduct research on sea otters in Prince William Sound Alaska, and northern fur seal pups from Bering Island, Russia. In 2011, she received her PhD in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University and then moved to Virginia where she started working as a Knauss Sea Grant fellow at the National Science Foundation. She drove cross-country to Fairbanks, Alaska in late 2012 to start a postdoctoral fellowship with the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. She and her husband currently live in Fairbanks with two dogs and the occasional moose.

Alex – A Lot of Firsts

E lawe i ke a’o a mālāma, a e ‘oi mau ka na’auao
Those who take their learnings and apply them increase their knowledge
— University of Hawai’i at Hilo 2020 Vision Statement

Associate Professor of Marketing Tom DeWitt, PhD, will help lead the University of Hawai’i at Hilo on a new Applied Learning and Experiences Program (ALEX).

“The Office of Applied Learning and Experiences is designed to address the desire to create more applied learning experiences for students as outlined in the university’s strategic plan, which places a heavy emphasis on greater involvement in the community and providing real world learning experiences for students,” said DeWitt.

“We’re doing a lot of firsts,” said DeWitt. On November 15, 2012 the ALEX program offered the university’s first Internship Fair, which was part of a three-part program for obtaining a Professional Development Certificate (parts 1 and 2 included a resume writing workshop on October 25 and interviewing skills workshop on November 7). The fair attracted 39 employers and 98 students. On February 9, 2013 the ALEX program will be sponsoring the first Multi-Disciplinary Student Research Conference, channeling student research for presentation along with workshops for faculty on how to integrate research into their curriculum. The ALEX program along with UH Hilo’s Alumni and Friends Association is launching the university’s first mentorship program. DeWitt is hoping that businesses and organizations will take on the university’s mentorship programs as a benefit for employees helping foster personal growth and develop greater leadership skills.

Our 2013 Leadership

Officers
Jennifer Zelko-Schlueter (’00), President
Brooks Bancroft (’99), Vice-President
Jim Kelly, Treasurer

Michelle Araki (’97), Secretary
Carol VanCamp, Past President

Board Members
Adams Agtarap (’95)
Lee Barnette-Dombroski
Jason Hayashi (’96)
Howard Higashi (’74)
Ka’iu Kimura (’00 & ’09)
Kapena Lum (’02)

Tom Raffipiy (’91)
Audrey Takamine (’01)
Dale Tokuuke (’73)
Sandy Tokuuke (’71)
Yu Yok Pearring (’85)
According to University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Chancellor, Donald Straney, PhD, “The Strategic Plan sets us on a course of working together across disciplines and diverse perspectives to prepare students to thrive, compete, innovate and lead in their professional and personal lives. One of the ways to accomplish this is to engage every student in applied learning that links theory with practice, connects to the distinctive natural and cultural environments of Hawai‘i, and promotes skilled participation in a global society.”

Chancellor Straney went on to say, “Applied learning can include activities such as internships and practica with local businesses and agencies, greater student involvement in faculty research, and artistic and creative endeavors. Students can also gain applied learning experiences through service learning, student employment, and participating in student leadership organizations on campus such as the UH Hilo Student Association, the Student Activities Council and the Board of Student Publications.”

Some examples of current applied learning activities happening at the university include performing arts students producing and performing in a show as a “capstone” experience that integrates what they have learned, university students’ working as “consultants” for community agencies to address a community problem or goal, or as assistant teachers for K-12 classes.

Also at the beginning of April, the ALEX program will host an Applied Learning Conference, inviting faculty from other universities around the state as well as educators from the Department of Education to participate in the conference which will highlight work instructors are doing in applied learning.

DeWitt points out that one of the bigger challenges in getting students good internships is the perception some employers have of interns. “Interns are often seen as just free labor or someone that needs babysitting. But really you’re bringing skill sets to the organization that can have a positive impact. These are kids that have done marketing plans; they have done work that translates well in the workplace. Research has also shown that internships are a great tool to identify prospective employees. Employees that come out of internships stay longer, employee retention goes up,” said DeWitt.

For DeWitt the ALEX program will help students, “make the educational experience more relevant. The fun thing about ALEX is that it’s in its infancy and there is so much potential.”

According to DeWitt there is a lot of opportunities for the alumni to get involved with ALEX through sponsoring internship or mentorship programs. “In the busyness of daily life, to play a role in the development of a young person’s life, to develop a relationship and guide them through the process can be extremely rewarding,” said DeWitt.
The University of Hawai‘i at Hilo is proud to announce the completion of its new $4 million state-of-the-art College Campus Store and the ongoing progress of the Student Services Center Extension Building Project, Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikolani College of Hawaiian Language building, and the University Village Phase I.

Campus Store

The campus store is a one-story addition to the Campus Center spanning 8,500 square feet with a configured layout that includes textbook, computer, apparel, and café areas. It has replaced the existing Bookstore located near the Old Gym as the primary outlet for the sale of textbooks, materials, school supplies, various merchandise including Vulcan logo clothing, sundry items, snacks, computers, and computer accessories. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 3:30 p.m., with extended seasonal hours. The store offers a variety of amenities ranging from contemporary furniture to computers with free Internet access and a big screen television featuring university news, public information, and merchandise offerings. The store is quickly becoming a popular gathering place to relax, work, study, and socialize.

Facilities Report – Exciting Changes

The University of Hawai‘i at Hilo is proud to announce the completion of its new $4 million state-of-the-art College Campus Store and the ongoing progress of the Student Services Center Extension Building Project, Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikolani College of Hawaiian Language building, and the University Village Phase I.
Student Service Center
The 35,000 square-foot, three-story Student Services Center Extension will provide a one-stop shop to complete all the activities needed to become a full-fledged student at UH Hilo and complete registration for classes under one roof. The center will also house all of the programs that students need to support their college success: Admissions Office; Office of the Registrar; Financial Aid Services; and the Cashier’s Office will be located on the first floor. The Advising Center, Career Development Services, Disability Services, Counseling Services, the Women’s Center and the new Health Promotion Program will be located on the second floor while the Offices of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Students and other student support staff will be located on the third floor.

Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language
The new Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke’elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language building will be a two-story structure spanning 37,000 square feet residing on a three-acre parcel and with six classrooms, including a Performing Arts Auditorium that can be sub-divided into three spaces. Special-use rooms will include a library, curriculum and media resource room, tutorial, archive and telecom conference rooms, a computer lab, student and faculty lounges and 30 offices. The building has already won critical acclaim by capturing the 2010 American Institute of Architects (AIA) Honolulu Design Award in the category of “Commissioned Work to be Built.” The design by WCIT Architects of Honolulu features spectacular landscape, mountain and ocean views, and designs which reflect Native Hawaiian culture and the Big Island’s natural resources.

University Village
The University Village Phase I is a student housing project located on 33 acres fronting the University’s main entrance on Kawili Street, and will feature approximately 300 student-housing units in apartments and suite-style residence halls. The new units are the first to be built on campus since 1989, and are being financed by a $32 million appropriation of G.O. and Revenue Bonds approved by the legislature. UH Hilo currently has just 600 housing units on campus serving an enrollment in excess of 4,100. Phase I will be housed in a 105,500 square-foot complex occupying approximately five acres. The building will feature a trio of three-story residential wings comprised of two-bedroom units housing 302 students and a one-story Resident Life common area that interlocks with two exterior courtyards. Other amenities will include a new parking lot and bike storage for residents. The standard residential units measure 324 square-feet with a pair of 84 square-foot bedrooms, bathroom and shower facilities, and an entry lounge. A modified, standard two-bedroom unit that complies with ADA standards will also be available. The Resident Life component will provide a “home away from home” where residents can lounge and mingle with each other as well as tend to their day-to-day activities. Key features include a laundry area, mailing facilities, study/conference rooms, computer lab, and pantries.
New Beginnings

Gray overcast skies with a hint of a drizzling rain greeted friends, family and degree candidates as they made their way from the filled parking lot to the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s New Gymnasium for the 2012 Fall Commencement Exercises.

The relatively small size of the gymnasium made for a more intimate feel as friends and family walked out of the morning mist into the warmth of each other’s company and the greetings of ushers wearing red silk lei.

The dissonant buzz of human conversation filled the air in eager anticipation of the harmonizing notes of Pomp and Circumstance and the beginning of the processional.

One after another, the degree candidates entered the space. Some were purely focused on finding their seats others anxiously scanned the audience hoping to find someone familiar in the sea of faces, but all, in their hearts and minds, held onto a unique story of how they got to be there on that special morning.

After Chancellor Straney’s Welcome Address, Dr. Kalena Silva, the faculty and students of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Keʻelikōlani College of Hawaiian Language performed the mele oli Ua Ao

A Message from the Chancellor

Donald Straney

Aloha,

Welcome to the Spring 2013 issue of Ho’ohui. It is always a pleasure to share the fun and memorable highlights from the past few months with our alumni ‘ohana.

Last year, we welcomed over 700 proud graduates into the UH Hilo alumni ‘ohana. There are more than 13,800 UH Hilo graduates worldwide and many generously volunteer their time, expertise and resources to benefit the campus, its students and programs. Mahalo to all of our alumni for their continued support, dedication and commitment to UH Hilo.

As we continue to build and strengthen alumni connections, the UH Alumni Association (UHAA) offers many ways to stay in touch. Attend alumni events hosted by the UH Hilo Alumni & Friends Association to reconnect with old friends. Become a mentor and share your knowledge and experience with current UH students or fellow alumni. Make a donation and help repair campus facilities, fund scholarships for deserving students, or enhance student life programs. Keep in touch and let us know how you’re doing.

Being a paid member of the UH Hilo Alumni & Friends Association is another way to show your support and stay connected to what’s happening at UH Hilo. The UH Hilo Alumni & Friends Association offers members exclusive benefits such as invitations to social events, networking opportunities, and discounts to a number of member benefit partners. Its mission is to serve its members, to encourage the interest of all alumni and friends in the University and in each other, and to contribute to the quality and progress of UH Hilo.

To join, please sign up online at uhalumni.org or call the UH Hilo Marketing & Alumni Office at 974-7501.

The outstanding achievements of our alumni are captured in our Alumni Check-In on page 4. Thank you to those who have shared their photos and stories with us. It is really wonderful to hear from so many UH Hilo grads from all corners of the world. We would also like to recognize those who have supported UH Hilo with donations of time, money and resources. Your contributions play an essential role as we work toward taking UH Hilo to the next level of excellence.

Also included in this issue are stories about the important initiatives of our students, faculty, alumni and staff. Among them is an article which features our recent UH Hilo College of Agriculture, Forestry & Natural Resource Management (CAFNRM) alumni and student graduation event held at the Panaewa farm called “Growing UH Hilo: Seeding the Future of Agriculture in Hawai‘i”. Alumni and friends were treated to farm tours, enjoyed presentations from CAFNRM faculty, and had the opportunity to engage in conversations about future plans for the College.

One of the key ways our alumni can help UH Hilo is through our Applied Learning Experience program, which you’ll learn more about in this issue. Organizations or members of the local community can help facilitate UH Hilo student applied learning experiences through internships, community based projects, and mentorship programs. We hope that you’ll get in touch and consider hosting a student at your place of business.

We hope you enjoy browsing through the articles and photos captured in the following pages and join us in celebrating all that we have accomplished. Thank you for your continued support of UH Hilo and for helping to shape our world and build the future of Hawai‘i. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mahalo nui loa,

Donald Straney

Chancellor
Hawai'i. The mele oli, which begins with the line, “Kau e ka wena o ke ao i ka lani,” speaks of the coming of a new day, of new beginnings and the potential it holds. As if on cue, the clouds and rain that had settled around most of the morning dispersed, and streams of sunlight could be seen flowing in through the gymnasium doors, new beginnings.

The student speaker was Tifeni Kanoe Elvinia, a 2009 graduate from Kamehameha Schools-Kapālama who majored in Hawaiian Language and Communication. She maintained a 3.8 GPA while being incredibly active in campus affairs. She served as UH Hilo Student Association Vice President, Senator for Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikolani College of Hawaiian Language, student assistant at Hale Kuamo‘o, and the Hawaiian Language Editor for Hohonu. She also served as Neighbor Island Executive Delegate for the University of Hawai‘i Student Caucus, and was a representative of the UH Hilo Intercollegiate-Athletic Advisory Council. She plans to attend graduate school in the fall.

Keynote Speaker State Labor Director Dwight Takamine reminded the graduates that, “Today is your special day. Celebrate with those that made it possible.” He went on to encourage them to make significant contributions to the community, describing the Big Island as a place with fertile ground that has tremendous opportunities for all of them. Takamine himself grew up in the plantation community of Honoka’a and was valedictorian of the Honoka’a High School Class of 1971. He served 23 years as state representative and state senator for the Island of Hawai‘i.

Before the degrees were conferred to the graduates Chancellor Straney called up retiring University Relations Director, Gerald DeMello, to be recognized for his years of service and incredible contributions to the university, Hawai‘i County and the state. As Director of University Relations for 21 years, DeMello is credited with helping to bring about some of the most significant capital improvements in UH Hilo’s history.

In the glow of all that had been said and by the light shone by people like Gerald DeMello, one by one the names of the graduates were called out as they made their journeys across the stage to receive diplomas. Perhaps for some their stories answering the hows and whys that brought them to that moment sounded out in their hearts as they smiled for the cameras.

The oli mele performed at the beginning of the ceremony, ‘Ua Ao Hawai‘i, ends with the lines, ‘O ka‘u nō ia ‘o ka pūlama
My sole duty is to embrace and to cherish.
A pa‘a ma ka ipu o ka ‘ike ê.
So it may be firm in the repositories of enlightenment.
‘Ae ua ao ê.
Yes, day has arrived.
He mele no Hawai‘i ua ao.

This poem is for Hawai‘i which has seen the light of day.

Friends and families gathered outside of the gym to celebrate with the new graduates who all seemed well fitted to embark on a new phase of life’s journey. The sun stretched out its long warm fingers and dug them deep into the earth, chasing away any remnants of the cold rainy morning.

‘Ae ua ao ê—Yes, day has arrived.
“[Our ancestors] didn’t create their lo’i system for their generation alone...they created it so it would last for many generations to come.” – Kulia Kauhi Tolentino

As director of Pohaha I Ka Lani, Kulia Kauhi Tolentino is continuing the Hawaiian tradition of passing on knowledge through the preservation of the cultural and natural resources at Napo’opo’o, in Waipi’o Valley. Aloha for the land, as well as aloha for others, inspired Kulia Kauhi Tolentino to create Pohaha I Ka Lani; a non-profit organization striving to restore the historically significant lo’i at Napo’opo’o.

Established by Kulia and her father, Pohaha I Ka Lani’s mission is to not only sustainably cultivate the land, but also to provide a welcoming environment for people to get intimately involved in Hawaiian culture. The program’s name conveys its purpose. Pohaha I Ka Lani describes the action of lightning and thunder rolling forward to take care of the land as well as the people. This is a traditional belief that can be confirmed scientifically. Nitrogen in earth’s atmosphere is not available to plants. During storms, when lightning strikes, nitrogen is ‘fixed,’ and combines with water to create ammonia and nitrates; which fall to the ground with precipitation and are subsequently assimilated by plants. By naturally providing nutrients to plants, lightning indirectly provides sustenance for people. Also, the fact that the sun continues to rise is considered pohaha i ka lani. As the sun is sure to rise, Kulia’s program will continually cultivate Napo’opo’o.

As a child, growing up in Honoka’a, Kulia would frequent Waipi’o Valley with her family to cultivate kalo. It was during these trips that Kulia’s father and grandfather made a lasting impression on her with their eagerness to help others without expectation and reverence in stewardship of the land. “If you are going to take (or harvest), you are going to have to give back (or cultivate),” says Tolentino. This reciprocal commitment can be applied to all types of relationships.

Napo’opo’o is the first and last place sunlight touches in the morning and evening. It also was the seat of government for Hawai’i island in ancient times.

After graduating from the University of Hawai’i at Hilo with a BA in Hawaiian Studies and Anthropology in 2001, Kulia began teaching at Ke Ana La’ahana Public Charter School. “I wanted to offer my students more,” expresses Kulia. So she began scheduling weekend camping excursions to Waipi’o Valley. Kulia and her students explored the valley, working occasionally on different farms. The students would hike the valley’s trails, learning Waipi’o’s history, as well as its original Hawaiian place names.

Kulia’s program began to expand with help from her father – who would transport bags for large groups. She began hosting outside schools and colleges. Groups were sometimes as big as one hundred.

“As I look back, I don’t know how I did it!” exclaims Kulia in astonishment.

With the Edith Kanaka’ole Foundation’s blessing, Kulia began to focus the trips on restoring Napo’opo’o. Located just below Hi’ilawe Falls, the highest waterfall on the Big Island, this area of Waipi’o is special. Napo’opo’o is the first and last place sunlight touches in the morning and evening. It also was the seat of government for Hawai’i island in ancient times.

Napo’opo’o is one of the last places in Waipi’o that still has original rock walled lo’i estimated to be between 800 to 1200 years old. There are also forty three house sites, most of which are overgrown with both native and invasive species like coffee, African tulip, and kukui nut trees. During the Agriculture Club of UH Hilo’s recent trip, two lo’i were cleared and planted. Napo’opo’o’s terrain and remote location make it almost impossible for heavy machinery to be used; so nearly all of the work is done by hand.

In 2007, Kulia obtained the lease to Napo’opo’o from the Bishop Estate Trustees. This has created a stable foundation for Pohaha I Ka Lani’s vision of restoration and its subsequent ability to provide sustenance. Over the years, Pohaha I Ka Lani has welcomed groups from all over the state of Hawai’i, the mainland, and even from other countries.

With well over 500 helpful people volunteering in 2012, the work is hardly done. One of Kulia’s goals for Pohaha I Ka Lani is to restore the entire lo’i system of Napo’opo’o, so that the land is sustainably productive. Volunteers are the reason Pohaha I Ka Lani is able to grow and move forward, participants get the privilege of working in one of the oldest and most significant lo’i systems on Hawai’i island.

Groups or individuals interested in lending a hand and receiving the gift of knowledge and experience are encouraged to contact Kulia Tolentino at kauhikoa21@aol.com.
President’s Message – Be Part of the Impact

Aloha Alumni & Friends of the University of Hawai’i at Hilo,

As President of the University of Hawai’i at Hilo Alumni & Friends Association, and on behalf of our Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Alumni & Friends for your continued support and aloha. We also welcome you to the first issue of Ho’ohui for 2013.

As a proud graduate of UH Hilo’s Class of 2000, I want to emphasize that it is never too early to get involved with the Alumni Association. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities this involvement has afforded me to meet and work with fellow alumni, friends and the faculty at the University of Hawai’i at Hilo. We are proud of the success of our University, and it is because of the caliber of our students, our alumni and our outstanding faculty and staff, that the University of Hawai’i at Hilo will continue to prosper and be a #1 choice in higher-education for those within the Pacific region and beyond.

One of our Association’s proudest achievements is the fact that we have provided 27 scholarships to deserving students over the last 9 years. The funds for these scholarships are made possible through two of the Alumni Association’s larger annual events. The first is our Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Dinner. It is a way that we honor those alumni and friends who have made UH Hilo what it is today, and continue to make our University proud. We also host an Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament in the fall of every year. It is a wonderful way for our alumni and community to interact with one another.

I invite all of you to participate and get involved in the Association, as your input on the Board, or on one of its committees would be indispensable in helping us to accomplish our goals. We have recently welcomed the following individuals to our Board of Directors, Audrey Takamine, Vice-President and Co-founder of Takamine Construction (Class of 2002), Ka’iu Kimura, Executive Director of ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai’i (Class of 2000 & 2009) and Adams Agatrap, Wealth Associate at First Hawaiian Bank (Class of 1996). We are honored to have these wonderful alumni as part of our team.

The impact Alumni can have on prospective and current students is enormous! It is because of the generous support of alumni and friends of the University of Hawai’i at Hilo that we are where we are today. Let it be by our generous support that current and future students have the same opportunities. If you would like to join the Board, please contact our Alumni office 808-974-5701.

I ask that you use the Alumni and Friends Association as the portal through which you stay connected to the University. The Alumni & Marketing Department sends out weekly e-newsletters in order to keep our Alumni informed of the happenings around UH Hilo, and provides updated news about our Alumni. We also have a Facebook page that provides the current events and news of UH Hilo. It is not only a way to stay connected to the university, but a way to network.

If you would like to receive our electronic communications, please email us at alumni@hawaii.edu or call the Alumni office at (808) 974-7643. Please also visit our Alumni website at http://hilo.hawaii.edu/alumni and “like” us on Facebook. We welcome you all!

Again, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to hearing from you!

Aloha,

Jennifer L. Zelko-Schlueter, Esq.,
Class of 2000
President, Alumni & Friends Association
University of Hawai’i at Hilo
Thanks to a generous award from the Laila Twigg-Smith Art Fund of the Hawai‘i Community Foundation UH Hilo’s Art Department under the leadership of department chair, Michael Marshall will sponsor the first Summer Art Institute Hilo 2013, Summer Ai-Hilo.

SummerAi-Hilo is an intense six-week for-credit studio art program, on campus at UH Hilo, which will be offered to a limited number of intermediate and advanced level art students and teachers. According to Marshall, “The Summer Art institute-Hilo will provide an advanced studio offering available to qualified UHH Art majors, college art students returning home to the islands for the summer who wish to gain additional studio experience, and for art graduates, especially those teaching art in the K-12 system who wish to be refreshed in their studio practice.”

“From a professional and instructional standpoint the Summer Ai program significantly extends the scholarly benefits of the department's regular Visiting Artist program,” said Marshall. The department typically hosts one or two visiting artists during the regular academic year in connection with the Campus Center Gallery exhibition program. The typical fall and/or spring term residency is limited to seven days (including travel) with the artist locked down much of this time in the print studio creating a work for the department collection. “The time frame obviously limits student, faculty, and community interaction,” said Marshall.

Studio specializations for the inaugural 2013 Summer Ai-Hilo program include Drawing, Painting, and Small Sculpture plus a Humanities component that will focus on Hip Hop Culture. “Students will be engaged in 12 hours of course instruction and required to pursue a minimum of 24 hours of independent research each week; total of 36 hours immersed in making and creative reflection to earn three advanced studio credits,” said Marshall.

Work by Summer Ai-Hilo faculty and students will be the feature exhibition at the Wailoa Center in Hilo during the month of July. The faculty will engage in additional community outreach by providing a series of public presentations at the Donkey Mill Art Center in Holualoa, Kona.

“The program also hopes to attract a share of off-island, national and international exchange students who will have the option of housing through UHH Island Summer Package program. To date inquiries about the program have been come to the department from across the continental United States, Australia, and Japan,” said Marshall.

“The visiting faculty is very excited and looking forward to this extended opportunity to teach, create new work, and to experience a cultural immersion. The collaborative teaching model also affords the visiting faculty much more time to experience Hawaii and to create new work, said Marshall. He went on to say, “With the time and circumstances moving in the right direction, who can resist the opportunity to spend a summer in Hawai‘i, on the “Big Island” creating art?”

**2013 SUMMER AI FACULTY:**

Khalid Kodi of Sudan, Africa (Institute of Polytechnic Colleges, Khartoum, 1987; MFA Massachusetts College of Arts, Boston, 1993; adjunct professor of fine arts at Boston College, Massachusetts College of Art and Design; resident artist in the African American Master Artists in Residence Program; Department of African American Studies, Northeastern University; Kodi will teach painting.

Jenifer Wofford, MFA, summa cum laude, University of California at Berkeley (2007); Bogliasco Fellowship, Liguria Study Center/Bogliasco Foundation, Bogliasco, Italy (2010); artist-in-residence, Kino Kino, Sandnes, Norway (2011). Wofford will teach drawing from a multicultural perspective.

Wendy Yothers: Guldsmedehojiskolen, MGH; Copenhagen, Denmark, Design for Gold and Silversmithing, cum laude (1987). Her works are included in the permanent collections of the Vatican; Victoria and Albert Museum in London; the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Renwick Gallery, in Washington, D.C. Yothers relocated to Hawaii last fall and has committed to assist the department in establishing a sculpture program. Yothers will teach small sculpture.

David Goldberg, lecturer, University of Hawaii at Manoa, will teach a humanities course unit on hip-hop culture.