

Subject: This Week at UH West O‘ahu - Week of Dec. 14, 2020
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A BULLETIN FOR UH WEST O‘AHU FACULTY AND STAFF
This Week at UH West O‘ahu
Week of Dec. 14, 2020

Bulletin No. 31 from Chancellor Maenette Benham

**E ala! E alu! E kuilima!
Awaken! Come together! Join hands!**

This is that time of year where the reverence of Hanukkah candles, the colors of Kwanzaa, the ringing of jingle bells and the clinking of coins in the red buckets, and the hub-bub of the holidays brings cheery humming of familiar songs! But, this year is very different. I find myself feeling sad, every once in a while wiping away tears. I noticed there’s not a lot of holiday music around us—perhaps I haven’t been listening. But just yesterday I heard the song, “My Grown-up Christmas List” sung by Kelly Clarkson or if you prefer Michael Buble. Do you know it? The lyrics are so very appropriate today. The [full lyrics are attached](#) but here are a few lines that are deeply impactful:

So here's my lifelong wish
My grown up Christmas list
Not for myself but for a world in need
No more lives torn apart
That wars would never start
And time would heal all hearts
And everyone would have a friend
And right would always win
And love would never end, no
This is my grown up Christmas list.

Please take a listen -- here are versions by [Kelly Clarkson](#) or [Michael Buble](#).

I am deeply grateful to our UH West O‘ahu ‘ohana! Everyone is doing their part to ensure the success of our students. Mahalo! Mahalo! Mahalo! Your commitment to excellence in the face of our financial challenges give us the energy to keep paddling toward our north star!

Aloha Kalikimaka! E mālama pono!
Maenette Benham, Chancellor

NOTE: Although the weekly bulletin will be going on a two week hiatus (December 21 and December 28 issues), we will keep campus informed of budget and planning issues through our faculty and staff listserves.

Update COVID-19

During this holiday season we ask that you and your ‘ohana continue to be vigilant. COVID-19 is extremely contagious, so, health and safety precautions help to keep you and your loved ones healthy as well as slow the spread. To learn more

please go to our [campus COVID-19 page](#). To learn more about how [COVID-19 vaccines will travel to distribution points](#) see [this The Conversation article](#).

Update from the UH West O‘ahu’s Pueo Stewardship Task Force: Reframing & Budgeting

The [Task Force's](#) second Report of Recommendations has been completed and submitted to campus leadership. Currently, campus leadership is reviewing and will provide feedback and next steps prior to the end of the year. Please check the [Pueo Planning Website](#) for more up-to-date information.

Virtual Commencement

Mahalo to those who participated in the creation of the 2020 Virtual Commencement Ceremony, which you can [view here](#). Special thanks goes out to Jarrett Lucero (IT) and Brian Miyamoto (Communications), along with Jeffrey Galicinao, ByungJu Lim, Therese Nakadomari, Leslie Lynn Opulauoho, Lynn Reyes, Stacy Sawa, Zenaida Serrano Arvman, and UH Communications. Thank you to the faculty and staff who participated in the congratulations session in the video’s finale.



University of Hawai‘i COVID-19 resources

Remember to visit the [UH West O‘ahu COVID-19 page](#) and [University of Hawai‘i System COVID-19 site](#) for information and updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

COPING THROUGH COVID

How are you maintaining your mental, physical, and emotional well-being while practicing social distancing? We'd like to hear about your coping mechanisms or personal stories of how you are managing as we navigate these challenging times. Have unique tips to share? Fun activities? Email uhwocomm@hawaii.edu to submit your survival strategies.

Here's a submission from Katherine Aumer, Assistant Professor of Psychology:

I have been inspired by the many posts I have read when it comes to how our UH West O'ahu 'ohana are coping with the pandemic. When I was given the opportunity to contribute, I was honored, but it also took some reflection. I spend much of my time running from one task to the next, I sometimes forget to recognize and appreciate what is making this all work. I have a wonderful family who I love dearly, and who miraculously, loves me. I have friends and colleagues who are willing to Zoom with me and call me; apparently my personality is manageable both in person and through technology. I have students in my classes who make my work joyful, who leave me feeling inspired and part of a community. My situation through this pandemic could be worse. I count my blessings every day. I wear my mask, I wash my hands constantly, and I quietly pray every night that if we suffer any more loss of life or sickness that we be granted the strength, grace, and wisdom to endure and the opportunities to continue to learn.

I have gone through many challenges in life. I grew up in Iowa, where money was tight and the weather was fierce. I remember living through many floods in Iowa and one of the things my Dad made sure us kids did during these floods was go out to the warehouses and help the community fill up sandbags. As a small-kine kid, filling sandbags half my size with sand that made them weigh more than me, I realized that no matter how terrible things got, no matter how little we have, we always have each other and that many hands can make light work. Through this pandemic, how we are together may look different, may feel different, and the work may involve something we aren't used to or feel comfortable with, but we are together. And together, we can endure and prevail. This idea, this belief is how I cope with COVID-19 and I thank all of you for being together with me in all the different ways.



Photo courtesy of Katherine Aumer

This Week to go on holiday hiatus

This Week, our bulletin for UH West O'ahu faculty and staff, will go on hiatus for the holidays. There will be no bulletins on

Dec. 21 and Dec. 28. The next bulletin will be sent out on Jan. 4. See you next year!

Governor announces state worker furloughs

This message was shared with the faculty and staff of the 10-campus University of Hawai'i system on December 9, 2020.

Aloha UH employees,

Today, Hawai'i Gov. David Ige announced that the state will start implementing two furlough days each month for state employees, beginning on January 1, 2021, to address the severe budget shortfall caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Gov. Ige's full message can be read in his press release](#). The state is projecting a \$1.4 billion general fund shortfall for each of the next four years, and the Governor stated that, even after taking many other fiscal measures, including borrowing a large sum of money, the furloughs are necessary to achieve a balanced budget.

See the rest of the message here: <https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2020/12/09/governor-announces-state-worker-furloughs/>

Winter break closures, schedule changes for services at UH West O'ahu

During the winter break, which runs from December 21 to January 1, the UH West O'ahu campus will be closed to all but faculty and staff. Please note the following closures and other schedule changes for services at UH West O'ahu:

- [UH West O'ahu Bookstore](#) will be closed Dec. 14-16, but will be participating in book buybacks with Leeward Community College at the Leeward CC Bookstore, which will be open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on those days. The UH West O'ahu Bookstore reopens Dec. 17 for in-person appointments.

The UH West O'ahu bookstore will be closed for winter break Dec. 22-Jan. 3 and will reopen Jan. 4.

- [James & Abigail Campbell Library](#) will be open under its regular fall 2020 schedule* until Dec. 18. The library will reopen for the spring 2021 semester on Jan. 4.

Email uhwolib@hawaii.edu should you need assistance while the building is closed.

As the library continues to operate during the pandemic, its system to determine library hours and capacity aligns with [the City's tiered reopening strategy](#). In Tiers 1 and 2, only the first floor is open.

Tier 1

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Tier 2 *current schedule

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday

Tier 3 (second floor opens)

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday

Tier 4 (second floor opens)

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday

- [UH West O'ahu IT Help Desk](#) winter break hours:

Dec. 14-Jan. 8, excluding holidays

Online hours 8 a.m.-5pm Monday-Friday (chat on the [IT website](#) and phone support)

Dec. 14-18 and Jan. 4-8

In-person support hours 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday

(Dec. 21-24 and 28-31 online hours only)

- [Mental Health Clinic at UH West O'ahu](#) remains open throughout the holiday season. All enrolled students may access free and confidential mental health services during and between semesters. Please email uhwotalk@hawaii.edu to make an appointment.
- [University of Hawai'i Federal Credit Union](#) remains closed.
- Da Spot remains closed through the spring 2021 semester.

Fire alarm and suppression systems inspection/testing, Dec. 15-18

UH West O'ahu fire alarm and protection systems inspection and testing will take place 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting on Dec. 15 through Dec. 18. The audible alarms, visual alarms, and smoke detectors on the second floors and elevators of all buildings will be tested. During fire alarm testing, the audible alarms will sound very loudly and the visual alarms will strobe intermittently. Audible testing will be announced to building occupants prior to activation.

Contractors Johnson Controls and Kone Elevators will be escorted by the UH West O'ahu Environmental Health and Safety Office throughout the buildings. The audible and visual testing will be conducted one building at a time.

Automatic sprinkler systems and FM200 fire suppression systems in all buildings will be inspected. Silent inspection/testing will be conducted throughout the week. There should not be any disruption to campus operations during the silent inspection/testing. The Environmental Health and Safety Office encourages you to review fire evacuation procedures during the testing. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Beverly Orillo at uhwoehso@hawaii.edu or 689-2529.

Yearlong webinar series celebrating stories of all UH campuses continues at UH West O'ahu with 'Christmas in the Islands,' Dec. 23

He Ukana Aloha Kā Kīlauea is a special yearlong webinar series celebrating the stories of our islands and our campuses. The series features music, dance, and storytelling from the ten University of Hawai'i campuses.

Next up is UH West O'ahu's Christmas in the Islands with Aaron Salā, Jon Magnussen, and special guests, noon to 1 p.m. Dec. 23. Join us as we celebrate the successful close of an extraordinary semester with music! Featuring students, staff, and faculty from our campus, along with a few special guests, we invite you to come celebrate Christmastime with us.

The webinar link is <https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/91499916950> (password: ukana). The He Ukana Aloha Kā Kīlauea series, which kicked off Sept. 23 and 30 from UH Maui College, is presented by the [Hawai'i Papa o Ke Ao Committee](#) at UH. Please see attached flyer for more information.

Island Flex FSA reminder: Extended grace period ends Dec. 31

A reminder from System Office of Human Resources (OHR): Employees who participated in Island Flex FSA during the 2019-2020 plan year (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020) have until Dec. 31 to incur expenses and file claims under the 2019-2020 plan year account. Any amount up to \$500 remaining in the medical expense account after Dec. 31 will still be allowed to carry over into the 2020-2021 plan year. Pursuant to IRS rules, dependent care funds cannot be carried over to the next plan year.

National Benefit Services (NBS) is expecting to send out an email notification to participants who still have funds remaining in their 2019-2020 account that are subject to be forfeited if they are not spent before the extended deadline of Dec. 31. Participants are encouraged to log in to their account at my.nbsbenefits.com or via the NBS Mobile app to check their 2019-2020 account balance.

For more information regarding Island Flex's 2019-2020 funds and claims processing, please visit the Island Flex FSA

benefit tile on the OHR website (<http://go.hawaii.edu/ABS>).

For questions regarding Island Flex, visit their website at www.nbsbenefits.com/islandflex or contact NBS at 808-465-2284 or 855-399-3035.

Deadline for teaching awards nominations extended until Jan. 15

Students, staff, and faculty are welcome to nominate any faculty member — full-time or part-time — or librarian for the 2020-2021 University of Hawai'i Teaching Excellence Awards. The deadline for nominations has been extended to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15. You may nominate more than one person but use a separate form for each nominee and do not nominate the same person more than once. The name of the awards are: Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching and UH West O'ahu Lecturer Excellence in Teaching Award. For more information about the awards or to submit nominations, go to <http://go.hawaii.edu/9Q3>. The [OPDAS microsite](#) also has a page that has more information about faculty and staff awards. All questions should be emailed to tawards@hawaii.edu.

UH West O'ahu Zoom accounts will move to UH ITS Zoom

All UH West O'ahu Zoom users will receive new Zoom invitations from the UH ITS Zoom administrators. All UH West O'ahu Zoom users will join the UH System Zoom tenant by the spring semester. This move will accomplish two things: We will save money on our Zoom licenses and we will be able to communicate better with our UH colleagues. Please do not set up your Zoom meeting sessions for the spring semester until after you accept the Zoom invitation from UH ITS because those meetings will not transfer. You will also need to set up your Zoom virtual backgrounds again after you accept the UH ITS Zoom invitation. Also, please download all of your current Zoom recordings before Jan. 31. If you need assistance with the downloading or have questions, please email therese@hawaii.edu.

PIKO Outdoor Learning Space construction barricades

Multiple construction deliveries continue for the PIKO Outdoor Learning Space project. When there are deliveries, please expect temporary disruptions to pedestrian access at the roundabout and entry ramp. Also, the plywood fencing around the PIKO Outdoor project has been removed and replaced with more transparent fencing and/or caution tape. Regardless of barrier type, all persons in the vicinity of this project are advised to respect all construction barricades and all posted safety/detour signs. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the UH West O'ahu project manager at 689-2546.

Keone'ae (UH West O'ahu) Station update

Images courtesy of Nan, Inc.:



An artist's rendering of Keone'ae (UH West O'ahu) Station (pre-construction).



A recent photograph of Keone'ae (UH West O'ahu) Station.

Distance Learning Tip of the Week – Share Your iOS Screen on Zoom

Now that remote instruction is the norm, many of us have looked into methods to transform our humble surroundings with various virtual backgrounds. However, sometimes an instructor wants to share on-site visual elements with students. For example, a bird's nest, a natural setting, or science project. In a Zoom call, link your MacBook to an iPhone (or iPad) camera with iOS screen mirroring. This screen sharing option requires no computer cable. A flexible tripod can be used to keep your iPhone steady. For details, see [Sharing your screen \(iOS\) with the Zoom Desktop Client](#).

UH West O'ahu in the News

goKapolei Magazine (Winter 2020): "A Game-Changer." Story about UH West O'ahu's new Creative Media facility. See attached article.

UH News (Dec. 2): "[New online teaching studio motivates students, teachers](#)." UH West O'ahu's new Synchronous Online Studio provides a positive learning experience for students in the shift to online instruction.

UH News (Dec. 8): "[Committee on basic student needs building clearinghouse of resources](#)." UH System Basic Needs Committee Chair Albie Miles, who is also Assistant Professor of Sustainable Community Food Systems at UH West O'ahu, shares that many students are struggling and that it is critical the university begin to address student basic needs insecurity in more systemic ways.

UH News (Dec. 9): "[Distance education made easy through UH West O'ahu](#)." The distance education leader provides support for students and faculty, near and far, for a smooth transition to online learning.

UH News (Dec. 9): "[Contact Tracers provide Essential Outreach to Pacific Islanders](#)." Program graduates from the University of Hawai'i–Hawai'i State Department of Health (UH–DOH) [Contact Tracing Training Program](#) have been providing critical outreach to communities throughout the state, especially those in Pacific Islander communities who were hardest hit in the state by the COVID-19 pandemic. The third contact tracing training cohort was offered at UH West O'ahu.

UH News (Dec. 11): "[Decade to diploma, UH West O'ahu mom perseveres for her children](#)." Tasha Dela Rama, a student, wife, mother, and business owner, hopes her graduation can teach her children the value of perseverance and the power of change.

News from [Ka Puna O Kalo'i](#)



[Monthly Mental Health Moment – Clinic honors resiliency and sacrifice of UH West O‘ahu ‘ohana](#) - Clinical psychologists Dr. Steven Taketa and Dr. Analu Sing, with the [Mental Health Clinic at UH West O‘ahu](#), offer [monthly mental health tips](#) to students, faculty, and staff to cope through COVID-19 and these trying times.

[Distance learning ‘part of UH West O‘ahu’s identity’](#) - From his home in Kīlauea, Kaua‘i, Marvin Jake De Peralta has adjusted to taking courses at the University of Hawai‘i–West O‘ahu.

[Virtual commencement honors over 700 grads, including mom who is ‘a great example’](#) - University of Hawai‘i–West O‘ahu student Tasha Dela Rama wants to be an example for her three children.

[Winter break closures, schedule changes for services at UH West O‘ahu](#) - During the winter break, which runs from December 21 to January 1, the UH West O‘ahu campus will be closed to all but faculty and staff. Please note the following closures and other schedule changes for services at UH West O‘ahu.

The deadline to include your item in the next This Week is Thursday night. Please submit your item using the Communication Department’s [Communications Request Form](#).

WESTOAHU.HAWAII.EDU



University of Hawai‘i - West O‘ahu
[91-1001 Farrington Highway, Kapolei, Hawai‘i 96707](#)
ph: 689-2800 | [westoahu.hawaii.edu](#)

My Grown-Up Christmas List

Songwriters: Linda Thompson / David Foster

Do you remember me
I sat upon your knee
I wrote to you with childhood fantasies
Well I'm all grown up now
And still need help somehow
I'm not a child but my heart still can dream.

So here's my lifelong wish
My grown up Christmas list
Not for myself but for a world in need
No more lives torn apart
That wars would never start
And time would heal all hearts
And everyone would have a friend
And right would always win
And love would never end, no
This is my grown up Christmas list.

As children we believe
The grandest sight to see
Was something lovely wrapped beneath the tree
But Heaven only knows
That packages and bows
Can never heal a heartached human soul

No more lives torn apart
That wars would never start
And time would heal all hearts
And everyone would have a friend
And right would always win
And love would never end, no
This is my grown up Christmas list

What is this illusion called
the innocence of youth
Maybe only in our blind belief
can we ever find the truth

No more lives torn apart
That wars would never start
And time would heal all hearts
And everyone would have a friend
And right would always win
And love would never end, no
This is my grown up Christmas list
This is my only lifelong wish
This is my grown up Christmas list



HE UKANA ALOHA KĀ KĪLAUEA

The Inter-island Steamer Kilauea is Freighted With Aloha



In the spirit of Kamehameha V,
we celebrate community through
song and storytelling from the
10 UH campuses. Please join us
for this webinar series.



Presented by
University of Hawai'i
Hawai'i Papa o Ke Ao

ALL WEBINARS ARE 12PM TO 1PM

September 23 and 30 (UH Maui College)

October 14 and 28 (Hawai'i Community College)

November 4 and 25 (UH Mānoa)

December 9 and 23 (UH West O'ahu)

January 13 and 27 (Kaua'i Community College)

February 10 and 24 (UH Hilo)

March 10 and 24 (Honolulu Community College)

April 14 and 28 (Windward Community College)

May 12 and 26 (Kapi'olani Community College)

June 9 and 23 (Leeward Community College)

Webinar link:

<https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/91499916950>

Password: ukana

'A Game-Changer'

The new Creative Media facility at UHWO is helping to foster our youth in the content production that is the future of the industry

Entertainment at home has never been more important than now, so the timing is especially sweet for the opening of UH West O'ahu's brand new Creative Media Facility to serve as the home for their already popular Academy for Creative Media (ACM). The \$37 million addition to the grounds of UHWO has even its progenitor and Hollywood veteran Chris Lee impressed.

"The new building is a game-changer for the state, the university and for the campus, it is offering facilities that otherwise you would have to go to the mainland for," says Lee, who oversaw such Academy Award-winning movies as *Jerry McGuire*, *Philadelphia* and *As Good As It Gets*. "We have done our best to future-proof it, but it has every toy I could want if I was going into content production. The West O'ahu campus has very much been on the cutting edge of all the changes that have happened in creative media, in terms of production and the platforms that are available."

The 33,000-square-foot building is a departure from the film school at the Mānoa campus, which focused more on traditional movie making. This facility was not built for what has come before, but rather what is yet to come. It features an ESports arena with 24 gaming stations where students can try each other's creations out and fellow students can watch and cheer them on. There are emerging media classes to teach students how to create content for social media sites and most of the classes involve project-based learning and problem-solving on the fly, which for program director, Sharla Hanaoka is even more valuable to her students than knowing how to splice a film together.

"You learn the skill stuff like how to run a camera or how to do graphic design, but how to apply those skills is what is important, how do you problem-solve," says Hanaoka, who has been with the program since 2008. "A lot get media

PHOTOS: COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII - WEST O'AHU



This facility was not built for what has come before, but rather what is yet to come.

jobs, but they end up using their thinking skills more than their hands-on skills. They tell me how if they hadn't done our project-based learning they would not have been able to think out of the box. That is the secret sauce that we teach them to think on their feet.

"Our students are getting hired because they have this X factor, they can do the graphics, run the social media, etc. Most of our students here on the West side are looking to get a job right away, so it's important to give them the skills to get a full-time job and benefits and then figure themselves out and work on their passion. It's important that they be able to do both, to not lose who they are but also be able to do the work to pay the bills."

Bringing the ACM into one striking building was key for making sure these students can get a four-year degree that really matters. In the past, the community colleges would teach many classes that wouldn't transfer or were redundant; with this academy even residents on neighbor islands can attend ACM online. This year the academy counts 250 students, with 15 of those learning online from other islands. However, expectations are that the program will double in size in the coming years once students see what they have going on.



PHOTO: COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII - WEST OAHU

"Most of the community colleges had two-year degrees like media arts, communication arts, TV pros, but students had a hard time articulating from their campuses to Mānoa," says Hanaoka, who explains that the creative arts were in the Humanities department before this year. "Now we offer our own BA degree which works in the best interest of the students who need these skills and tools to hit the ground running when they graduate."

The centerpiece of the academy is the 100-seater Dolby Atmos screening room, which Lee says is comparable to what big studios use for mixing their films. In the center of it is a sound mixing board that allows them to produce films like the pros. There are also four picture suites, one color suite and a sound suite to allow them to work on all the components of movie making. There is a mill room for creating the sets with laser cutters and 3D printers and eight Foley pits, which is where all the human sound effects you hear in a film can be made. Picture the swishing of dresses, the turning of a doorknob or the crunching of feet walking in the sand, those are all created artificially and now can be duplicated on campus.

They also have an industry-standard 3,000-square-foot soundstage, emerging media lab where students can work with VR/AR technologies and an incubator space where the students can begin the hard work of starting their own businesses with the support of fellow students and teachers.

"We really encourage the kids to form their own LLCs and their own IP and start their own companies, that way they aren't starting them in their bedrooms or garages, but in a space where there are other students, it'll be an accelerator," says Lee.

There is even an outdoor amphitheatre featuring a giant LED screen with a grassy sitting area that can be a gathering place for our community and a space to showcase our young filmmakers' work.

"It is kind of like when you go to Times Square or Japan and you see those really giant advertising walls," says Lee. "But we have built a grassy seating area for up to 300 people to show the screens at night and have the community come and gather."

Giving locals with a desire to work in all the media fields a chance to learn here at home has been a long time coming. Movies have been shot here dating back to the 1930s, and the first TV show landed here in 1959 with "Hawaiian Eye." Social media production is everywhere now and coding for video games, VR experiences and web sites are jobs that can be done on your laptop allowing our community to shift away from the ravaged tourism industry and perceive some light at the end of the tunnel. ●