

Subject: This Week at UHWO News Bulletin - Week of May 6
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THIS WEEK AT UHWO

a bulletin for UH West O'ahu faculty and staff



Week of May 6

UH West O'ahu celebrates spring commencement

UH West O'ahu's first spring commencement at the Kapolei campus happened on a warm Saturday, May 4. Chancellor Emeritus Gene Awakuni presided over his last commencement ceremony and Chancellor Rockne Freitas conferred degrees. The UH Board of Regents' James Lee and UH System President M.R.C. Greenwood addressed the graduates. Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui gave the keynote address and encouraged UHWO graduates to "find their passion." UHWO student speaker Kailene Nihipali gave a moving speech about being raised by a single mother with a father in prison, overcoming homelessness, and achieving the dream of a college degree. Proud family and friends of UHWO graduates congratulated their loved ones in the courtyard following the ceremony. The spring commencement was streamed live on the UH West O'ahu [website](#). View the Honolulu Star-Advertiser commencement images [here](#).

Communication is key

In January of this year, a UH West O'ahu Communications Committee, comprised of students, faculty and staff members, was created to address communication at the university. As part of the WASC Educational Effectiveness Review (EER), the committee worked over the past few months to conduct focus group discussions and an online student survey to gather data and assess the communication needs of campus constituents. The committee would like to send a great big thank you to all students, faculty and staff who participated in the focus groups for your valuable feedback and insights on communication at the university. The committee is currently analyzing the data to include in a report for WASC that will offer recommendations for improvements to communication systems at UH West O'ahu. The report will then be shared with UH West O'ahu Administration for future assessment and implementation of recommended strategies.

UH West O'ahu's Ho'oulu Pacific places in UH Business Plan competition

Congratulations to Ho'oulu Pacific, UH West O'ahu's student and faculty team, for their fourth place finish in the UH Business Plan competition. UHWO student David Walfish, Dr. Keith Sakuda and UH Manoa student Ilima Ho-Lastimosa, along with other teammates, competed against more than 50 teams from across the UH System, including teams of MBA students, graduate students, UH professors, and business professionals. They were the first UHWO team to get to the semi-finals and the only social entrepreneurship team in the competition to make the final round. Way to go, UHWO!

Spotlight on UHWO

Missed the [Sustainability in Higher Education Summit](#) in April? Check out this great [video](#) by UH System, featuring an interview with UH West O'ahu's own Director of Sustainability Aurora Winslade titled "Sustainability initiatives unify UH."

Upcoming Events

Hawaiian Grown Kitchen will be closed May 7 - 27 and will re-open on Tuesday, May 28 from 10 a.m - 1:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

UH West O'ahu Library Summer Hours: May 4 - 19 closed (UHWO Library staff will be working from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

during these two weeks and will be conducting library-related projects including taking inventory of the library print collection). May 20 - August 16 open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed on Saturdays during the summer.

Summer Session I begins on May 28.

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