

PRESIDENT'S

# REPORT

B R I G H A M Y O U N G U N I V E R S I T Y - H A W A I I



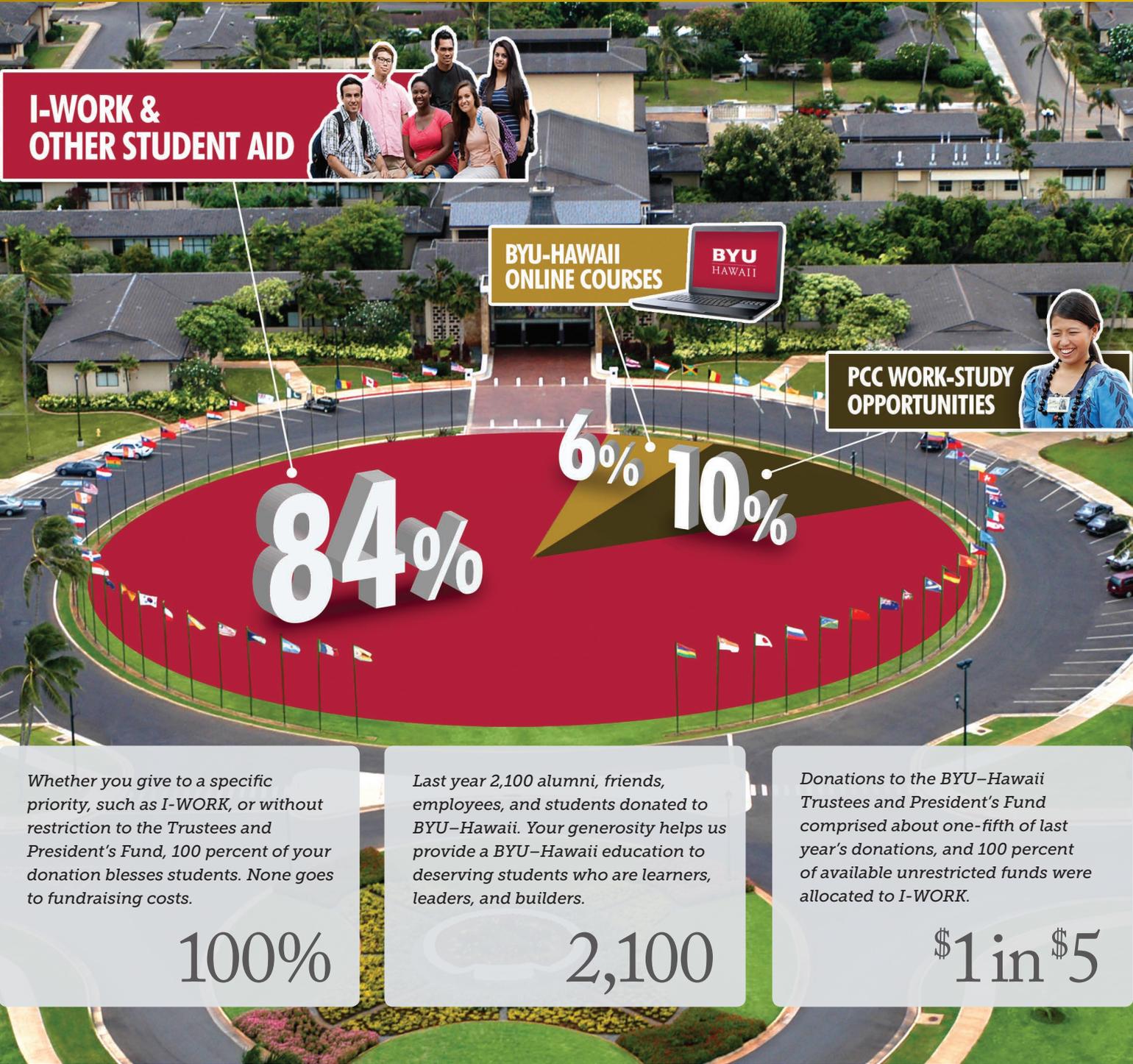
MAKLEN KAPALU'S  
**FAITH-FILLED**  
JOURNEY

PAGE 3

2013-14

Your donations to BYU–Hawaii bless students and assist the university in fulfilling its mission.

LAST YEAR YOU PROVIDED



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President's Report outlines efforts and spotlights accomplishments related to fundraising at Brigham Young University–Hawaii. This newsletter is sent to donors and friends who support the university. It is published by LDS Philanthropies in conjunction with the Office of the President and University Communications. For more information on giving to BYU–Hawaii, contact your donor liaison, visit [giving.byuh.edu](http://giving.byuh.edu), or call 800-525-8074.

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## THE POWER OF ONE : Faith guides lone student from Vanuatu

**B**YU–Hawaii student Maklen Kapalu is from Vanuatu. Her country isn’t well known, even here on this culturally diverse campus. Though the university’s students come from more than 70 countries, the number from any given place can be few. Kapalu is the only Ni-Vanuatu here.

But she is not alone.

“Even if I don’t know anyone, I feel like everyone on campus is my best friend,” she says. “I feel the aloha spirit.” Kapalu speaks seven languages and is a sophomore at BYU–Hawaii studying to become a teacher. She is a recipient of I-WORK student aid and works in the Polynesian Cultural Center kitchen. Oh, and she is the Relief Society president in her young single adult ward.

“Things are really hard here. I work every day, I have classes and assignments, and I try to help the sisters in my ward,” says Kapalu. “But Heavenly Father really helps me, and I appreciate that. If there is any secret to life, it is faith.”

She feels that heaven guided her here. After she served as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in New Zealand, her mission president encouraged her to come to BYU–Hawaii, and I-WORK made it possible. Donations from

alumni and friends of the university fund the I-WORK program.

“I am grateful to those who helped me get here and for the I-WORK program,” she says. “Without it, I don’t think I could be here.”

### BE AN ANSWER TO PRAYER

When Kapalu first arrived on campus, she was homesick and in culture shock—everything was so different. “I missed my family,” she says. “I didn’t know anyone here, so I just stayed in my room. I didn’t even do my laundry; I didn’t know how to and didn’t have money. I didn’t want to ask anyone for help. It was really hard.”

Then one dark night she prayed: “Heavenly Father, I know that you are doing your best to help me. I know you answer prayers. And so I’m asking for your help.”

The next morning Kapalu went to class, and when she returned to her dorm, she found laundry supplies, quarters, and toiletries on her bed. It brought tears to her eyes then and still does now. “No one heard me pray,” she says. “No one saw me pray.”

She searched for her good Samaritan, but her hall mom told her to “forget about it and serve others.” Kapalu later learned that it was this same friend who had left the supplies. “Heavenly Father answered my prayers,” says Kapalu. “He’s been there every step of my life.”

### FAITH IN EVERY FOOTSTEP

Kapalu’s journey to BYU–Hawaii began nearly 10 years ago when she, her father, and her brother first encountered the missionaries. Her dad, a leader in another church, initially declined, but when Kapalu’s brother persisted, the missionaries set an appointment. In the family home, after receiving a lesson on the

Restoration, Kapalu accepted the challenge to read the Book of Mormon.

“I knew that this was the truth,” she says. In time her father gave permission, and she was baptized. Six months later the rest of her family joined too. Her dad is grateful for Kapalu’s faith and endurance, which brought the gospel to their family.

Kapalu was the first full-time missionary called from her branch. After returning home she moved forward with plans to attend BYU–Hawaii but stayed home an extra semester while her family prepared to travel to the temple in Fiji to be sealed. They are grateful for the promise of eternal families. Kapalu’s brother and sister are now serving missions.

### THE NOBLE ROLE OF EDUCATOR

Before her mission and as a missionary, Kapalu learned that she loves to teach. “My first calling in the Church was as a seminary teacher, then as a Sunday School teacher, and then as a missionary,” she says. “I just love teaching, interacting with different people and looking at things in different ways.” To further her teaching qualifications, she is studying to be a physical education teacher. “At home we need teachers,” she says, “specifically exercise and sports teachers.”

Kapalu will make a difference in the world. She is a learner, a leader, and a builder. She is a pioneer and the “genuine gold” for whom BYU–Hawaii exists. Thank you for what you have done to aid her journey.

*ABOVE: Maklen Kapalu is just one person, but she is a blessing to her family, friends, and community. She loves being at BYU–Hawaii and is eager to return home after graduation.*

*Student Maklen Kapalu is from Vanuatu. Home to about 250,000 people, Vanuatu is an independent island nation in the South Pacific. (It was known as New Hebrides until 1980.) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been proselyting in Vanuatu since the 1970s, and about 4,500 Church members call Vanuatu home.*

## Home in Hong Kong, recent alumna is grateful for Career Connect

Fion Lau graduated from Brigham Young University–Hawaii in April 2013. She has returned home to Hong Kong and is working full-time and serving in the Church. Her life has begun.

Her journey from Hong Kong to Laie and back has been one of repeated surprises, occasional frustration, and reward. Not even a year after her return home, she looks back with appreciation for her BYU–Hawaii experience and how it prepared her for the future.

Born and reared in Hong Kong, Lau and her family are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Lau first heard about BYU–Hawaii as a young teenager when recruiters came to Hong Kong. After serving as a missionary in Hong Kong, she thought about other schools but settled on BYU–Hawaii with the idea that she would start there and transfer after a year. At first she didn't really like Hawaii—the newness of everything and her urgency to get in, get done,

and get home seemed at odds with the mix of people and activities around her.

She went home during the first summer and prayed to know what to do next. “I felt strongly that I should stay in Hawaii, even though I didn't want to,” she says. She eventually chose to remain.

The next spring she heard about a Career Connect excursion to Hong Kong. “At first I was interested just because it was a chance to go home for a cheap price. But it ended up being more than that. Joining that program changed my life.”

Career Connect is a program led by BYU–Hawaii's Career Services Office. It brings together groups of students with career interests in a geographic region. The students are prepared and chaperoned to that place where they meet with professionals in small group sessions and on company tours. “We help students develop relationships, access resources, and leverage opportunities,” says Jodi Chowen, director of Career Services. Career Connect is funded largely by the Yamagata Foundation.

### CHANGING DIRECTIONS

As a Career Connect participant, Lau realized that she loved working with and helping

people. So she changed her major to human resources. Lau says she also came to understand what kind of employees companies are looking for and what skills she needs to be successful.

When she got back to campus, she was a different student. “I used to not want to waste time on activities but focused only on my studies. When I came back I became president of the Hong Kong Club. It gave me chances to be a leader and learn about leadership skills. I organized activities. I even got to make a presentation about my Career Connect experience to two visiting General Authorities.

“Through all of this I learned how the Lord helps me find what fits for me. I enjoyed my classes more and learned more both academically and spiritually.”

After graduation Lau returned home and began looking for a job. A connection through Career Services was the key. Lau emailed Chowen who provided a list of the companies visited during the 2013 Career Connect in Hong Kong. Lau followed up and was hired by one of the companies. “I want to continue to grow and learn. BYU–Hawaii opened doors for me, and I am grateful for those who made it possible.”

*BYU–Hawaii Alum Fion Lau is at home in Hong Kong. Her BYU–Hawaii experience, especially participating in Career Connect in Hong Kong (inset right), helped her prepare for life.*





# Your generosity —

## Benefiting students and advancing BYU–Hawaii

by President Steven C. Wheelwright

It is a great privilege to associate with the wonderful students at BYU–Hawaii. They are strong, righteous, and dedicated men and women who see in themselves a divine potential to be learners, leaders, and builders.

Just like the new buildings we're adding to campus, our students have a strong foundation to build on throughout their lives. We are grateful for your generous support of our wonderful students.

### REFINING GENUINE GOLD

What connects you with BYU–Hawaii? I have asked this question and found that its answers usually relate to a personal connection, a personal experience, or a deep-felt desire to help others—often a mixture of the three. Perhaps you or your child attended school here, perhaps you visited campus or served a mission here, or perhaps you support students at several universities. Whatever your reasons for giving, your generosity to BYU–Hawaii benefits students—and we and they are grateful.

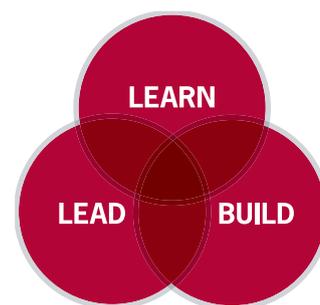
When President David O. McKay broke ground for what would become BYU–Hawaii, he said that students of integrity would come from this school. He called them “genuine gold” and said they would bless the world. Today you are helping us to educate and train these young men and women of destiny.

### SEEING BEYOND TODAY

As we expand our student body, upgrade our campus, and nurture our culturally diverse student body, there will be more needs and more opportunities for you to help. On this subject a few years ago, Elder M. Russell Ballard said to those who donate to BYU–Hawaii:

*We have a tremendous opportunity and obligation to love and appreciate what is occurring and what can occur in Hawaii. You must understand your role in preparing, raising up, training, and teaching a corps that will go out and do the work. This vision is far beyond what perhaps any of you will be able to see when you see them as struggling students. . . . You need to start looking at these students who come from these far-off parts of the world not as students but as Relief Society presidents, elders quorum presidents, high councilors, bishops, and stake presidents. I think developing these leaders is one of the great destinies and responsibilities that BYU–Hawaii has, and I'm so grateful for all that has been done to that end. [Something Wonderful, BYU–Hawaii, 2012, 108–9]*

You understand who these students are and what they must do in a world that desperately needs learners, leaders, and builders. You help us. Thank you for your aloha and your generosity. Mahalo!



The mission of Brigham Young University–Hawaii is to integrate both spiritual and secular learning and to prepare students with character and integrity who can provide leadership in their families, their communities, their chosen fields, and in building the kingdom of God.

*ABOVE: The Heber J. Grant Building, dedicated September 8, 2013, is home to the College of Business, Computing, and Government and a stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It facilitates student collaboration and learning.*

## Fijian prepares to be an *ACCOUNTANT*

I-WORK made attending Brigham Young University–Hawaii possible for more than 550 students last year. Part loan, part scholarship, and part work-study, with an emphasis on personal responsibility, I-WORK is all about training learners, leaders, and builders.

I-WORK is in large part funded by donors. Your support changes lives and shapes the future for individuals, families, and communities around the world.

Josaia Moimoi grew up in Fiji. He served as a missionary in the Marshall Islands, and then he came to BYU–Hawaii because of the availability of scholarships. He is a grateful I-WORK student who is quick to say that without financial assistance neither he nor his family could have afforded an education at a private university in the United States.

“I-WORK has helped tremendously,” he says. “As an I-WORK student there are rules I have agreed to live by, including limiting travel, not driving, and keeping the honor code. I also agree to work 19 hours each week and keep my grades up. It can be hard, but I am grateful and my family is reassured knowing that I have a roof over my head with good food to eat and am being educated and gaining work experience. It is a great program.”

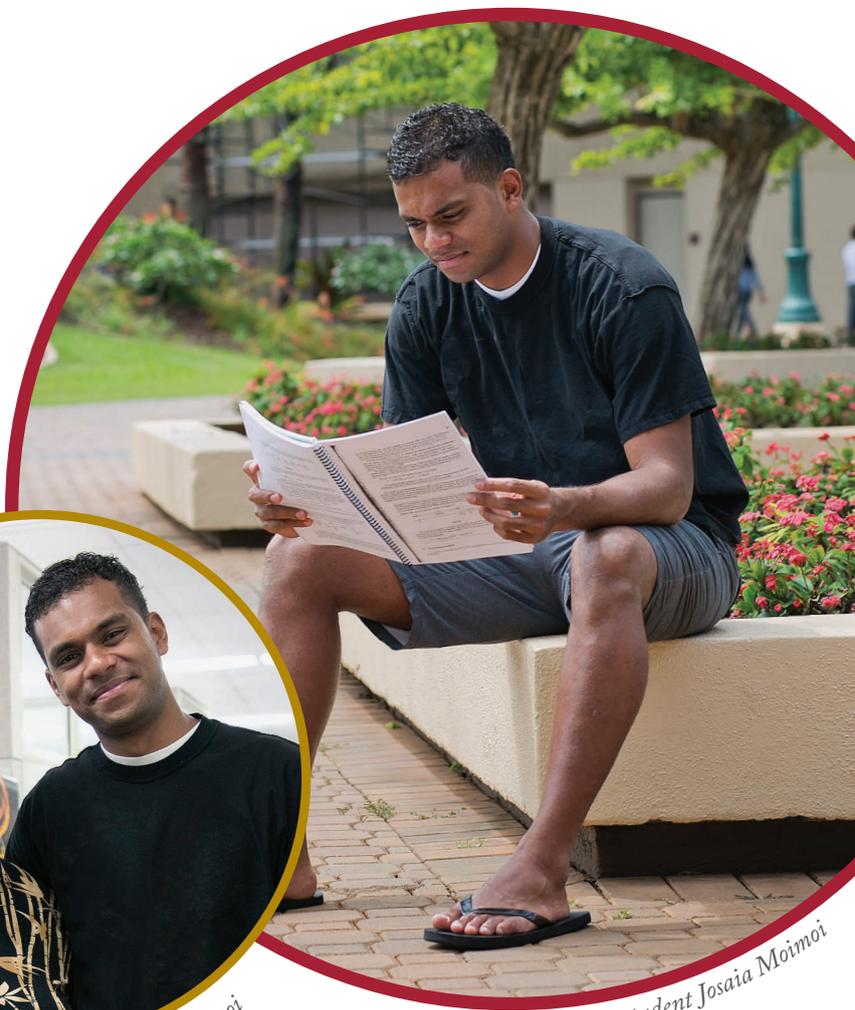
Moimoi is preparing to be an accountant. He plans to graduate from BYU–Hawaii and return home to contribute to the growth of his community. Like most I-WORK students, he works at the Polynesian Cultural Center, and his first year he danced in the night show. “Working the night show, it’s like a huge family,” Moimoi says. “The practicing and performing are very physical, but it’s fun.”

Now in his second year at school, he works in the accounting office at PCC—a work opportunity more aligned with his major. “I know this will be helpful experience for my future career,” he says. “It’s a different side of PCC, but I love it.”

Lindy Tufaga, Moimoi’s supervisor in PCC’s Accounts Payable Office, says, “Josaia has been with us a little more than a month. He is eager to learn and catches on very fast. Our student employees are a great asset in our work, and we hope that we help them too.”



*Lindy Tufaga and Josaia Moimoi*



*Fijian student Josaia Moimoi*

### **MAKING FRIENDS, LEARNING TO SWIM, AND PREPARING FOR LIFE**

One of the things Moimoi enjoys about BYU–Hawaii is the diversity of his fellow students’ cultural backgrounds. “I get to mingle with people from all over the world. This place is so diverse and interesting,” he says.

“I have met so many great people and made so many friends here,” says Moimoi. For example, as a freshman Moimoi met Ezra Peterika, a Samoan from New Zealand. He and Moimoi became fast friends.

Also an I-WORK student, Peterika says of the program: “I-WORK has opened doors of opportunity for me. It lets me pursue a college education on this campus, and I love it here. English is my second language. My professors have been helpful, and I’ve learned so much. I also met my soon-to-be wife here, so BYU–Hawaii will always be a special place for me.”

Students say they are grateful for their BYU–Hawaii experiences for many reasons—great friends and diverse cultures are common reasons. Another is a great faculty.

Moimoi shares this example of an instructor interested in students: “As a new student I took a beginning swimming class. The water was ice cold, and I had no swimming skills. The instructor would jump into the water and show us what to do. She considered our needs and wasn’t a robot. During that semester I

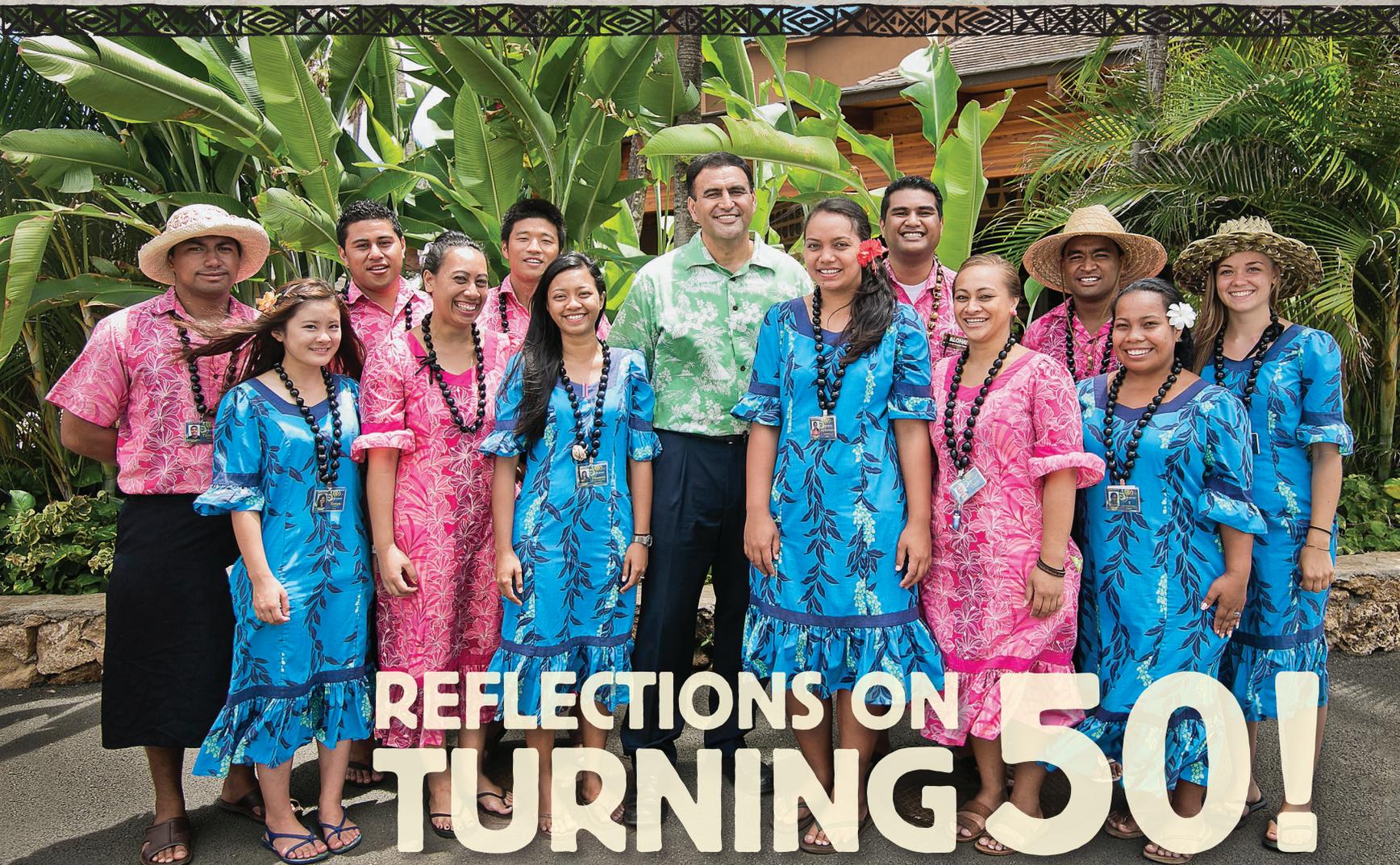
went from being unable to finish one lap to being a capable swimmer.”

The future is bright for Josaia Moimoi. He plans to use what he learns here to bless other people—starting with his parents and siblings. He is also looking forward to establishing his own family.

“The university and I-WORK program have been so generous to me,” he says. “I want to return to Fiji and strengthen my country. I want to contribute and help lift others. My experience and that of thousands of others wouldn’t be possible if it weren’t for kind-hearted donors like you. *Vinaka vaka levu!* [Thank you very much.]”



*Josaia Moimoi and Ezra Peterika*



# REFLECTIONS ON TURNING 50!

by Alfred Grace, PCC President and CEO

## BYU-HAWAII & PCC: JOINED AT THE HEART

In describing the Polynesian Cultural Center and Brigham Young University-Hawaii, we often use the phrase “joined at the heart.” Indeed, the same wonderful students are and always will be the heart of both institutions. These wonderful young men and women are changing the world. Thank you for the role you play in helping prepare them as learners, leaders, and builders.

At the core of what PCC is all about is promoting true brotherhood—appreciation based on familiarity and mutual respect. In 1963, at the dedication of the center, President Hugh B. Brown prayed that brotherhood would be our goal and our daily work. I believe PCC has strengthened the brotherhood of man, not only for our guests but also for our student employees.

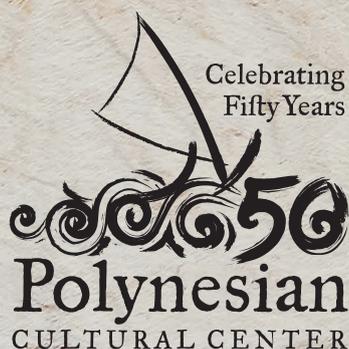
We are grateful for you. Your support for BYU-Hawaii’s I-WORK program blesses these wonderful students. PCC, a living laboratory, lets students apply the academic and spiritual lessons they learn at school. Learning to work, listen, and lead in a customer-centric environment prepares our student employees to enter the workforce with confidence. We, like you, love them and are pleased to be a part of their Laie experience.

As you know, this year marks 50 years that PCC has provided educational opportunity for deserving students. More than 18,000 students, including myself, have benefited from PCC employment since the center first opened.

I have been a part of PCC for more than 25 years, first as a student employee and now as the center’s president and CEO. I am honored to be the first BYU-Hawaii alumnus to serve in this position and excited to be a part of PCC’s progress at this momentous time. Personally and on behalf of our student employees—past, present, and future—I’m grateful for friends and supporters of BYU-Hawaii like you.

This year, as we celebrate our first 50 years, we recognize the faith, vision, and hard work of so many, including you, who have made PCC what it is. To learn more go to [www.PCC50.com](http://www.PCC50.com), where you can share stories and pictures.

*ABOVE: Alfred Grace, center, was named president of PCC in February 2013. Each year PCC employs hundreds of BYU-Hawaii I-WORK students to assist in operations as well as to host and entertain visitors.*





## CCH alumna and BYU–Hawaii retiree loves and helps students

**N**apua Baker’s friendly face and warm aloha are familiar on campus. Even though she is not here daily, she remains close. Baker first came to the Church College of Hawaii as a student in 1959, and when she retired from Brigham Young University–Hawaii in 2008, it was after 27 years of full-time service to the university and its students.

“The students here amaze me. They always have,” she says. “A BYU–Hawaii education is designed to be spiritual, academic, and practical. These young people are leaders who bless the world in China, Mongolia, and everywhere. I appreciate what that means more now than ever.”

At the time of her retirement Baker was the university’s vice president of advancement, a position she helped to create and served in for 17 years. She was the first woman and the first Polynesian to serve as vice president in the Church Educational System. She was also a pioneer in the university’s fundraising efforts.

“I see myself as an example of the value of education,” she says. “My parents and grandparents were not highly educated in terms of degrees, but they were hard workers and entrepreneurs. They taught me, my sister, and my brother the importance of hard work and faith. They encouraged lifelong learning.”

As a young woman Baker attended CCH (now BYU–Hawaii) for two years. Then after

*Napua Baker retired from BYU–Hawaii in 2008. “Looking back I see clearly the Lord’s hand not only in my life but also in the development and advancement of this university,” she says.*

earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Brigham Young University in Provo and rearing her family, she returned to Laie to build its continuing education program.

“I’ve been involved here almost since the beginning, and I’ve gained a broad perspective of the importance of this school and its students in the Lord’s plan. This university prepares leaders to build the kingdom,” says Baker.

### NOT FAR FROM THE TREE

Baker is native Hawaiian and a sixth generation member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “I saw the blessings of the gospel in my parents’ and grandparents’ lives. They are great examples to me,” she says.

“My grandmother showed me faith and obedience,” says Baker, who spent a lot of time with her *tutu* on the island of Molokai. “I remember seeing her kneeling by her bed. She would pray from the depths of her soul in Hawaiian. I couldn’t understand what she was saying, but I knew she was speaking to our Heavenly Father, and that she knew Him.

“She was obedient; for example, she had a whole room filled with bottled food—fruit,

vegetables, and even poi. She taught herself to do that because Church leaders had counseled members to be prepared.

Baker serves in the Church. She recently returned to Laie from a full-time Church mission at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City. As a missionary, among other efforts, she worked to preserve the records of those who lived in the leper colony known as Kalaupapa on Molokai. “It was such an honor,” she says. “I learned to understand and perform Heavenly Father’s work in family history as I never had before.”

Her service to BYU–Hawaii continues. She is currently a volunteer leader of the Matthew Cowley Society, a group of university friends and alumni who each have made a gift to the university in their estate plans.

In her estate plan Baker has outlined a scholarship to bless BYU–Hawaii students in honor of her grandmother. “She was an inspiration to me,” says Baker. “She will always be a beacon of light to me and our family.”

*To learn more about the Matthew Cowley Society visit [ldsp.org/legacy/cowley](http://ldsp.org/legacy/cowley) or call 800-525-8074.*



*“Let me express my love, my aloha, to you who donate to BYU–Hawaii. We are grateful for what you do for BYU–Hawaii, for what you do for other institutions of this Church, and for what you do in service to the kingdom of God. . . . To you faithful Saints we say, ‘Thank you, thank you.’ Thank you for who you are. Thank you for what you do. Thank you for the lives that you bless. Your influence for good is immeasurable.”*

—Elder Donald L. Hallstrom  
speaking to BYU–Hawaii donors on April 8, 2013