

Learning on the go

by Katherine Palmer
Ka 'Ohana Co-Editor in Chief

It's 5:30 a.m. The rain is coming down in buckets as the traffic report blares its unwelcome news: It's slow going for commuters this morning.

How many students have been in this situation in their academic careers? Many would have rather crawled back under the covers and skipped class.

This is where distance and online learning has rescued many a weary student from missing out on important lessons.

By offering classes through the Internet or television, UH campuses can provide a range of flexible courses — from mathematics to sociology.

But students say the biggest challenge is keeping up with assignments and not getting sidetracked by distractions at home.

"You have to know yourself well enough so you can stay self-disciplined, even without a class to go to," said Brian Richardson, dean of academic affairs at WCC, who offers some important advice

to students as they consider whether or not to take these courses.

"I think that online learning works for some people and not for others," said Richardson.

"It's crucial that students take classes that fit their goals and understand their own strengths and weaknesses when it comes to learning. Regardless of the course, they can also work on improving their study skills because that will help them throughout their time at school."

Online learning is gaining popularity as people in the workforce migrate back to enhance their degrees or to continue the education that may have been interrupted due to life's circumstances.

For students uneasy about whether they can succeed in an online course, the WCC Online Learning Web site offers many links to assess readiness.

And once students have registered for a class, they are not left out in the cold to handle glitches on their own.

There is a whole slew of help available, including Laulima learning guides and finding access to computers



Burt Lum instructs the ICS 121V Social Web Toolkit using the Internet and its resources. His WCC students live throughout O'ahu.

and technical advice.

Instructors are always available to students through an email or phone call. Some even offer online office hours through Laulima chat or Facebook pages. Burt Lum, instructor for WCC's ICS 121V, Social Web Toolkit course likes the flexibility of online learning.

However, the biggest complaint heard throughout the online learning community is the lack of social interaction.

"What I don't like about online is the lack of face-to-face interaction with students," said Lum. "The 'social' part of social media relies heavily on the personal interaction, and I think any course needs that. I encourage my students to come to a meet-up that I hold so we can at least get some face-to-face time."

WCC and the other UH campuses plan to expand their online offerings for students juggling busy schedules

or facing long commutes. "For people who have kids, jobs, or an illness that prevents them from coming to an actual campus, online classes provide means of receiving an education," said Kelia Kawahara, a WCC political science student.

"Even though online classes might not be the perfect substitute for an actual class, it's definitely beneficial and should be expanded."

Drowning in plastic bottles? UH has a solution

by Manjari Fergusson
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

It's the rule of threes: you can live for three weeks without food, three days without water and three minutes without air. Staying hydrated is something that's essential to life; that's why it's critical what you keep hydrated with.

People are willing to shell out money for bottled water. Why? If you look at the numbers, according to the consumer advocacy group Food & Water Watch (FWW), it can actually cost anywhere from 240 to 10,000 times more than tap water.

FWW said in their "Take Back the Tap" report, "A quick calculation comparing the average cost of one gallon of tap water to one gallon of commercial bottled water comes out to: Tap water: \$0.002 per gallon. Bottled water: Ranges

from \$0.89 to \$8.26 per gallon."

Some schools are offering new ways to keep you hydrated. Last October, UH Mānoa installed a Flo Water Service on campus. The Flo Water machine is a water refill station, starting at 25 cents per fill — considerably cheaper than buying a bottle of water from the vending machine next to it.

"It (Flo Water Service) has been quite a success; since



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New Flo Water station at UH Mānoa.

its installation during the middle of October it has saved close to 3,000 bottles from being purchased," said Sam Wolff, vice president of Sustainable UH, and a driving force behind getting the service installed. The installation of the water system is considered a pilot project, and at the end of the year it will be determined whether it resulted in students using fewer bottles of water or not.

and at the end of the year it will be determined whether it resulted in students using fewer bottles of water or not.

As for the possibility of one being installed at WCC, Cliff Togo, vice chancellor of administrative services, said "The college can certainly look into the possibility of having a Flo-Water dispenser on campus. This has potential benefits to our students, faculty, and staff and, more importantly, for the environment." Once the campus knows if it was successful at Manoa, WCC will be able to decide if the idea is feasible on our campus.

It's important to remember that bottled water companies are businesses. The first bottled water marketing campaign was based on scaring the consumer into believing tap water wasn't clean enough. Apparently it worked. Americans actually buy bottled water to the tune of half a billion bottles a week.

But is bottled water re-

ally cleaner? A test done by The Environmental Working Group showed that 10 popular U.S. bottled water brands contained 38 different contaminants, including bacteria, fertilizer, Tylenol and industrial chemicals, some at levels the same as tap water.

Many of the labels on these bottles display pristine mountains and icy glaciers, implying that the water comes from a beautiful spring in a lush countryside.

In fact, the bottled water may come from tap water. The Natural Resources Defense Council reported that around 25 percent of bottled water is "really just tap water in a bottle—sometimes further treated, sometimes not."

CNN reported in 2007 that PepsiCo Inc. was going to label its Aquafina bottled water with the words "Public SEE BOTTLED WATER PAGE 11

Free energy audit training for students

by **Hengyao Han**
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

Students can learn to save energy and money at a free energy audit workshop Tuesday, March 13 at Hale Akoakoa 107 from 1 to 2 p.m.

The workshop, sponsored through the UHCC-Johnson Controls Partnership, is for students interested in learning about sustainability and energy usage and how to use simple equipment to perform a basic energy audit of appliances, lighting and air conditioning.

Leading the workshop will be energy consultant and

sustainability leader Shanah Trevenna.

Students will also learn what the ideal temperature of classrooms should be. Trevenna commented that for "every two to three degrees deviance from one's comfort level, student's mental ability decreases by 15-20 percent."

She believes that Hawai'i will be a model for the world in sustainability. Back in 2007, Trevenna started conserving energy at Saunders Hall, a building at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

This building, also known as Sustainable Saunders, is where Trevenna and the mem-

bers of Help Us Bridge (HUB) team started promoting campus sustainability. At the time, students and faculty members had complained that their classrooms were too cold, and that their rooms were too bright.

By turning the AC system off at night and raising daytime temperatures a few degrees, Trevenna's team of students reduced the building's energy consumption by 26 percent, saved the campus an estimated \$150,000 and satisfied its shivering population. They also delamped over 2,000 light bulbs from the building and replaced 113 old bulbs with

CFLs, which saved the campus more than \$54,000.

WCC seems to have similar issues. Some students complain about the coldness of the air conditioning system, others wonder why they can't adjust the temperature since the control panels are always locked. The workshops are being held to provide energy-saving strategies for students, faculty and staff.

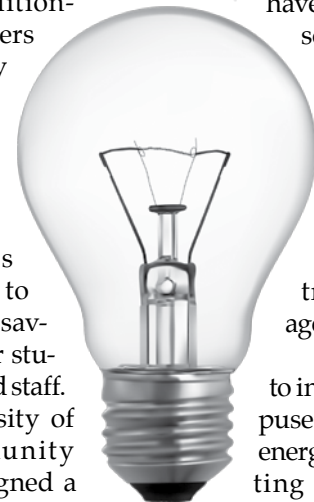
The University of Hawaii community colleges have signed a contract with Johnson Controls last April to reduce energy use at its various campuses. The community colleges expect to slash their energy use by nearly one-quarter and save a combined \$58 million

over the next 20 years due to conservation measures they are adopting.

All O'ahu campuses in the community college system have started installing solar water heaters, retrofitting lighting, and replacing ventilation and air conditioning systems. The steps are expected to cut electricity, water, sewage and gas use.

Trevenna hopes to influence other campuses to preserve their energy resources by cutting out unnecessary usage, while increasing comfort and productivity for the campus communities.

Trevenna can be contacted at trevenna@hawaii.edu for further information or questions about sustainability.



Fish in strawberries: should it be labeled?

by **Manjari Fergusson**
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

What do strawberries and fish have in common? More than you might think. Scientists have taken the gene of an Arctic flounder and put it into strawberries to try and make them frost resistant. It may sound like science fiction, but it's today's reality.

Foods like this are called Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's). This means the food or animal has been modified and changed at the DNA level by scientists. Genes from one species are inserted into another to achieve a certain trait or quality. These foods are also known as genetically engineered, bio-engineered, or biotech crops.

There are pros and cons to having genetically modified foods. They were introduced to produce crops that were disease-resistant, such as papayas, which are susceptible to the ringspot virus.

However, people have expressed concern about the possibility of long-term effects. The Grocery Manufacturers Association has reported that 80 percent of processed foods in the U.S. are genetically modified.

The only way to know if you are not eating GM foods is if the food is labeled certified organic.

In Hawai'i, the most re-



MANJARI FERGUSSON

Signs left outside the State Capitol by protestors against GMO's.

cent GMO controversy involves bill SB2279. It would require whole foods (like papayas) that are genetically modified, grown in Hawaii, and sold locally, to be labeled as such. The only food at this time that the law would apply to is the Rainbow papaya, which make up about 80 percent of papayas grown and sold in Hawaii and is also exported to different countries, including Japan. The Rainbow papaya is genetically engineered to be resistant to the ringspot virus.

"What the bill is aiming to do is to let consumers

make informed choices about what they eat. Without these foods being labeled, how are we to know whether we are eating GMO's or not?" says Mark Fergusson, chief vegetarian officer of Down to Earth, a leading all-vegetarian organic food store that advocates non-GMO and is a supporter of the bill.

However, Ken Kimya, president of the Hawaii Papaya Industry Association disagrees. "This bill seems to be targeting the papaya industry. Labeling is not required for food that USDA-FDA listed as safe for consumption and

not inherently different from other regular foods. If it is not dangerous, harmful or different, why label it?"

Despite a rally on Feb. 21, where around 300 supporters of the bill showed up at the State Capitol to lobby, Sen. Clarence Nishihara, who is chairman of the Agriculture Committee, decided not to schedule a hearing, so the bill has not advanced.

Nishihara said that since the FDA has not said that GM foods are harmful to consumers, he doesn't feel that the bill has any health basis and therefore there is no need for it to proceed.

Dr. Melissa Yee, the driving force behind Seeds of Truth, a citizen's organization working to educate people about the risks of genetically engineered foods, says, "The FDA has been co-opted by corporate interests intent on selling more chemicals and controlling food policy. The term 'substantial equivalence' was coined in

the 1980s to claim that the biotech foods are no different from other foods and do not require labeling before sufficient animal studies had been done.

These studies showed a disturbing pattern of damage to digestive and reproductive organs, infertility and weakened immune system."

Farmers are afraid it will make consumers less likely to buy their products if they are labeled as a GMO. These concerns are well-founded, as there have been studies in Europe and Japan that show a majority of consumers are suspicious of GMO foods and don't want to buy them.

The United States is actually one of the only developed nations that doesn't have mandatory labeling for GMO foods.

Alicia Maluafiti, executive director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) says, "Over a decade of scientific studies

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Ka 'Ohana

(The Family)

EDITORS IN CHIEF
Jessica Crawford
Katherine Palmer
STAFF REPORTERS
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Palikū Arts Festival set

Free entertainment and art for the whole family

by Hengyao Han
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

WCC's 2nd Annual Palikū Arts Festival, featuring creative activities for people of all ages, will be held Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in and around the grounds of Palikū Theatre.

Former drama professor Ben Moffat sees the festival as a "taste of college for people of all ages." WCC's instructors and students will provide hands-on activities—from painting, drawing, and sculpting to acting or making music, prints, masks, poetry and prose.

With an attendance of 4,000 last spring, Moffat is organizing the event again this year with help from WCC art teacher Rob Molyneux and other WCC faculty and students.

He described it as a safe way to explore one's creative

potential. "It's like an entrance into an art adventure," Moffat explained.

"I thought the art festival last year was really cool," said WCC student Samantha Bocchieri. "I think it's a great opportunity for the community to get together because it's a family-friendly event."

Food booths featuring everything from shave ice to crepes and curry will also be available.

Palikū Theatre will feature two free performances at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. of "How I Became a Pirate," directed by Ron Bright, a musical version of the popular children's book.

At Gallery 'Iolani an exhibit of Wayne Levin's photos of Kalaupapa, Moloka'i will be on view; his new book of photographs of the Hansen's disease settlement will be published in 2012.

Attendees can observe art with demonstrations in open studios—painting, piano, ceramic and photography labs—in Hale Pālanakila.

The Hōkūlani Imaginarium will be showing a family-friendly fulldome show for a nominal fee.

On stage, a variety of musical acts will perform, including the Royal Hawaiian Band, 111th Army Band, Hawai'i Army National Guard Band, rock band Alice Neel, as well as other Windward musical and stage talent.

The festival is free to the public and open to all ages. Attendees are encouraged to come in costume or festive clothing.

HANDS-ON CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Printmaking with the Honolulu Printmakers
- Ukulele workshops with Ron and Pomai Loo
- Music with Sojin Kimura
- Getting Started on Garage Band with Renee Arakaki
- Raku Firing with Paul Nash
- Camera Obscura with Mark Hamasaki
- Open Drawing Studio with Snowden Hodges and Norm Graffam
- Poetry with Janine Oshiro
- Stage Combat with Nick Logue
- Mask making with Yukie Shiroma
- Screen printing with Rob Molyneux—bring your own shirt to be printed or buy one
- Tie dye squares with Toni Martin
- Glass blowing demonstrations with Dustin Hart, and much more!



PHOTOS BY PETER TULLY OWEN

Above: WCC art students work with families on print-making and other creative art projects.



Left: WCC religion student Haley Ortega did henna tattoos to help support her fellow students going to India for the Jain studies program last summer.

Eschenberg welcomed at Student Affairs

by Hengyao Han
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

"Education is empowerment," says Ardis Eschenberg, WCC's new vice chancellor for student affairs. "It is also the vehicle for social mobility in our society."

For Eschenberg, educational empowerment isn't just a catch-phrase, but something she lives and works to accomplish.

As a member of the chancellor's senior leadership team, Eschenberg provides leadership for programs and services that contribute to student development, learning and success.

Her role is to focus on enhancing the student experience at WCC, as well as ensuring that the student perspective is accounted for and heard by administrators in their decision-making.

Eschenberg has been described by many students as "hardworking and caring" and makes sure everything is going smoothly.

She also oversees school programs such as the supplemental instruction and peer mentoring and considers them useful and valuable for students.



HENGYAO HAN

The new vice chancellor of student affairs ensures that student perspectives are heard. Her office is located in Hale 'Akoakoa 202.

So how did Eschenberg start her career in higher education?

After getting her B.S. degree in Russian and psychology, she focused on linguistics at the University at Buffalo for her master's and doctoral degrees.

She had enjoyed teaching, so she accepted her first field job at the Omaha reservation

in Nebraska. That was the beginning of her career in education.

She believes strongly that when we educate one person, we are actually bringing up their whole family, and even the generation.

Eschenberg was WCC's dean of academic affairs until she decided to accept the interim position of vice chancellor

of student affairs.

"By being up here (at Hale 'Akoakoa), I saw how committed all the faculty and staff are—even senior-level staff and faculty who are constantly growing their skills. I don't think you find that everywhere.

"I ended up really liking this position since I didn't get to work with students as much as I am right now," she explains.

Eschenberg is multilingual, with the ability to speak English, Polish, Ukrainian, French, Russian and Omaha.

Because the Omaha Siouan dialect is an old Native American language spoken only by a select number of people, Eschenberg created an Omaha language program at the tribal college with Alice Saunsoci, an Omaha elder and Eschenberg's adoptive mother. The goal was to keep the language alive.

Her own blend of ethnicities (Eschenberg is German, Irish, Jewish and Choctaw), reflects her diversity. With her light skin, blonde hair and brown eyes, she radiates both youthfulness and optimism.

Eschenberg treats different cultures with respect,

especially Hawaiian. She is committed to supporting the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians.

She also sends her own son and daughter to Hawaiian immersion school to learn more about culture, language and society.

So how does she handle all this work as a single parent of two small children?

"I always try to balance my family and work," says Eschenberg, "My children are like medicine. They push me to do more, and they also make us a part of the community."

"Besides spending time with my family, I like to go to the beach to relax, and I'm also learning Tahitian dancing to expand my knowledge of other cultures."

Eschenberg thinks that the biggest issue at Windward Community College is resource shortages, whether it is lecturers to teach more classes or lack of space for WCC's increasing enrollment.

"I'm really thankful for being able to work at WCC with the students," she says.

"My door is always open. We're always looking to improve and suggestions are great."

Troubled life leads to fulfillment

by **Tasha McMillian**
Ka 'Ohana Writer

Covered in tattoos and towering over most people, some might assume Genji Lamansky has had a rough life. But despite the many lows he's faced, Genji is a determined 4.0 student with clear career goals.

A few months after Genji began college in fall 2010, a classmate of his suggested he tutor at TRiO. Genji had been helping his classmates, and it was obvious he had a knack for teaching. Once he got the job, he was hooked.

"I loved it. It was fun and I had a blast," Genji said. You can find him, Monday through Thursday, in Hale Na'auao, tutoring math and Japanese.

A couple of semesters ago, Genji decided to volunteer at Aikahi Elementary School. Working with the fifth grade, he was assigned to a troubled student. Genji was up for the challenge. The student's teacher praised Genji's work with the child. They wanted him to come back and help again.

Genji returned but chose to work with special education children. He said, "Right now, I'm loving it. These kids... they're special." Genji feels that the children he works with teach him something new every day he's with them.



WCC student Johnnelle DeJesus works on her math problems with the help of TRiO tutor Genji Lamansky.

"Helping them and seeing that look on their faces or the big bright eyes like 'I get it'...the light bulb goes on. That feeling is awesome." Genji feels he can make an impact in the lives of these children.

After tutoring, he knew he wanted to teach, and the children he helps have, in turn, helped him discover whom he wants to teach.

Life wasn't always so clear for Genji. His family moved around a lot and after losing everything in a fire, they bounced around between homelessness, relatives and cheap hotels. Genji remembers those times well. A common meal would be crackers and ketchup.

He said, "Every now and again we'd go to McDonald's. It was a treat for us." They would take advantage of the free condiments and cutlery.

Genji was around eight or nine when they relocated to Japan. Tragedy struck the family when Genji's older brother was diagnosed with lung cancer that he'd gotten from second-hand cigarette smoke.

He'd also been diagnosed with germ-cell cancer, which forms from the cells meant to become sperm and eggs in the reproductive system. Tumors were also found in his brain and on his spine.

Genji looked up to his brother, who worked while

keeping up his 4.0 grade-point average. He'd never done drugs and he didn't drink. Genji thought he was perfect.

When he passed away, Genji spiraled out of control. He began doing drugs and drinking. He said, "I didn't care anymore."

Genji spent the rest of his teenage years confused and lost. About a year after graduating from a high school in Japan, he moved to Hawai'i to go to college. He didn't give it much effort and was still doing drugs. As a result, school didn't work out.

In the back of Genji's mind, he knew he was headed down the wrong path. He had want-

ed to change and the military helped him do that.

Genji had always wanted to be G.I. Joe, and on a whim, while high on drugs, walked into an Army recruiting office. He remembers that he didn't even have a shirt or shoes on. After being told to come back when he was dressed and sober, Genji did just that and his life took a dramatic turn for the better.

He enjoyed his seven years in the Army but the stresses of war took a toll. "I was tired of seeing friends hurt, friends dying...you become a family. I was tired of it...just tired," Genji said.

He finished his contract and started preparing for life as a civilian. Genji started working as a manager at a "mom and pop" convenience store in May 2008, the same day he was officially out of the military.

He found out that the store would be closing October 2010 and decided he would use the money provided for education by the military.

Genji began college at WCC in the fall of 2010. He's been drug-free for years. He's quit smoking and dipping tobacco and plans to get his bachelor's degree in education.

He's done a 180 and doesn't let his past control his future. "Things are very good," Genji said, smiling.

Ka Piko: Great tools for students

by **Hengyao Han**
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

For most students, Hale Ākoakoa is where you go for food, to buy books or visit counselors. However, there are more services to be found, especially the Ka Piko Centers that were launched last fall.

"We're here to assist students with any kind of help at no cost," says Akiona, the supplemental instruction supervisor, "so why not visit when you need it?"

The Writing Center is in Hale Ākoakoa 132, for help with the writing process (brainstorming, drafting, revising)—whether they are on-campus or distance education students, or members of the community.

There is also computer access for students during the Writing Center's office hours,



WCC counselor Loea Akiona works with student Scyntha Humbert at Ka Piko.

which can be found at <http://bit.ly/w6KJia>.

The Career Center is located at Hale Ākoakoa 130. Ryan Ferreira, career and workforce development counselor, is always around to help bridge students' lives with meaningful careers in the future.

Students can use the SECE Internet service at the Career Center that links with occupations, majors, schools, and even live job searches. The center also helps students to look for part-time work on or off campus.

"Ka Piko helped me with my time management as well

as my homework," said student Nicol Cheek.

Lastly, the Study Center, located on the 2nd floor, Room 232 (the lounge) offers informal tutoring, supplemental instruction, academic advising and a quiet place to study.

Besides the free printing service for students, peer mentors are also available to help with registration, website navigation, campus tours, and new student orientation.

Students can enjoy the comfortable couches while reading and studying, Mondays through Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Seamless transition

by **Chris Ogawa**
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

Are you one of those who received the UH auto admissions email? Congratulations, you have been identified by the STAR online system as having 50 or more credits and are a step closer to graduating with your liberal arts degree.

Auto admissions was created by the UH system as a seamless transition for UH community college students about to earn their AA degree who plan to go on to UH Manoa, UH Hilo, or UH West Oahu, said WCC counselor Lokelani Kenolio.

The criteria for students to qualify for auto admissions include those who have earned more than 50 credits at the 100 level and above, a GPA of 2.0 and above in an AA degree program, 93 percent completion of the STAR graduation requirements and 96 percent completion of the STAR core requirements.

"Many UH schools use the STAR Web site to review your transcript, among other things, so it's good to familiarize yourself with the program," says Ku'ulei Lessary, WCC's transfer coordinator.

The benefits of choosing auto admissions to transfer to a four-year campus are 1) UH application fee is waived, 2) no UH application is required, 3) students receive priority registration (after current students and before freshmen), 4) more time to focus on your specific program application.

For those ready to transfer to a four-year college, auto admissions is a quick and no-hassle way to apply.

After receiving the email, you log in to MyUH and on your home tab, click "STAR Degree Check" or simply go to www.star.hawaii.edu. After entering the STAR site, you will respond to the offer by clicking the 'From your Advisor' tab and the Auto Admit button. Select a campus and program, then confirm your information and accept the offer.

For questions, see a counselor. Fall admission deadline for student acceptance is March 15, spring admission is October 15.

English teacher Jean Shibuya reflects on changes around campus

by **Jessica Crawford**
Ka 'Ohana Co-Editor in Chief

It's the fall of 1972 when WCC opens its doors to students for the first time. Two buildings, 12 teachers, about 500 students. The Vietnam War is near its end, and the school sees an influx of veterans coming back to school using their GI bill.

Jean Shibuya was there from day one. She has seen the campus evolve and students change over this 40-year span.

"My very first day of teaching was scary," Shibuya recalls. "I had my course outline, which our dean went over because we were such newbies.

"It was scary because, during that semester, I was taking a 'how to teach' composition course, so I was really one week ahead of my students. But the students back then were really good; they saw school as an opportunity and it was very rewarding.

"I think the older students coming back were more prepared. High school was more rigorous and the work ethic was different; people applied themselves. There are a lot of students today who elect not to do their homework. Even if it's an easy assignment, they choose not to do it."

Of the campus's expansion, Shibuya has been most excited for the theater and art gallery, and can't wait for the opening of the new Library Learning Commons.

When asked how she has changed, she says, "I think over the years I have evolved so that I have my own standards of teaching. I have my own internal 'crap detector.' I have become a really good editor; I think I'm an OK teacher."

**TWO TEACHERS
 CELEBRATE
 FORTY YEARS**

Shibuya likes to see things from a student's perspective, where she can learn something new. She says this semester she's taking an art class from Snowden Hodges.

"It's a beginning drawing class," she explains. "I can see so many connections between being a beginning writer and being a beginning artist or drawer. (Professor Hodges) has a very good technique of teaching."

She says she tries to analyze what makes one a good teacher and apply those things to her classes. "I love taking jazzercise. I've been doing it for several years; I go three times a week. I try to analyze why (the instructor) is a good teacher, and I try to transfer those things to my class."

Shibuya continues, "I'm also taking a swimming class. I can see how it is being a student. You really don't want to take swimming, but it's a good thing to do."

As for other hobbies, she says, "My favorite thing to do is read. I read at least two hours a day for fun. I have many favorite authors. I enjoy mysteries and have found that I like mysteries from women authors, perhaps because they're not as violent. The protagonist isn't always threatened, although I do like to read Patricia Cornwell."

Shibuya didn't always have her eyes set on teaching. "I actually wanted to become an airline stewardess," she says, laughing.

She applied at Pan Am shortly after serving as a fair guide for the U.S. Pavilion at Expo '70 in Japan. She says Expo '70 was one of the high points of her life. Having a diplomatic passport allowed her to travel and experience much of Southeast Asia.

Over the years, Shibuya has grown to love her work and the rewards of seeing students succeed. However, she's also concerned about how students handle challenges today.

"I think students today may face the anxiety of not knowing whether they'll have a job, whether they'll be employable in the future. It's up to the student to develop critical thinking skills, because that will always help you, no matter what kind of career

you go into.

"Students also have to be more disciplined. The tenor of the times is such that parents and teachers enable them too much, and that really isn't a kindness. I think everyone needs to struggle a little bit. The earlier you struggle, the more you learn about yourself."

Shibuya offers some words of advice for students: "Experience the world a lot. One shouldn't be fearful of trying and failing. We put a premium on being successful. But what I see more and more, is we learn more from our failures. People who are resilient and learn from hard knocks, go on."

Jean Shibuya (left) and Janice Nuckols on a road trip in Point Reyes, California in 1976.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
**WINDWARD
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

After 40 years of teaching, professor Janice Nuckols contemplates retirement

by **Angela Jenners**
Ka 'Ohana Writer

Although she never envisioned herself as a teacher, 40 years later Janice Nuckols finds herself happier than ever as a WCC history professor. She was one of the first faculty members when Windward opened its doors in 1972. But as the year goes on, she finds herself contemplating retirement.

Nuckols was born and raised primarily in Texas but also spent time in Southern Ohio as a child. Her mother was a teacher and, as she grew up, she saw how much paperwork was involved and swore she would never become a teacher.

At age 12, she saw a film titled "The Hawaiians" and said to herself, "What a fabulous place; I'm going to live there one day."

After receiving her bachelor's degree from Marietta College, she was accepted into Columbia University in New York City and planned on attending that fall.

Meanwhile, she had applied to the East-West Center in Hawai'i thinking she wouldn't get in, but shortly before school started she was offered a grant to the Center and was not going to let this opportunity pass her by.

Nuckols withdrew from Columbia and accepted the East-West Center grant. In 1968, Janice finally found herself in the land of her dreams, Hawai'i.

"I remember standing with my feet in the water in Waikiki thinking, this is paradise; these are the best days of my life. How did I get so lucky?" she says.

She went on to study in Asia for about nine months, focusing on Southeast Asian history. She worked in Singapore for a tourist association and applied to immigrate to Australia, but found herself homesick for Hawai'i so she decided to return to the islands.

After she returned to Oahu she finished her master's degree and shortly after got a job working for Customs and Immigration at the airport.

"I really hated the job," she says, laughing.

So the day before the University of Hawai'i's semester started, she called the history department and asked if there were any job openings. Sure enough, she was hired as a group discussion leader for a world civilization class.

She had never taken world civilization, but she accepted the job anyway. She started at UH running eight discussion groups and says she absolutely loved it.

A year after working at UH, Nuckols volunteered to teach for free at New College, a college based on reading, writing and discussion, rather than exams and tests. She led seminars and discussion groups on top of having her job at the university.

After three years of teaching at UH, she applied for a job at WCC, which was opening as a brand new campus. She, along with a few others were hired as the first faculty of the new community college.

"There weren't many of us, but it was exciting," she recalls. "We were like an extended family."

Forty years later, Nuckols looks back and can't figure out where the time went. She has seen old buildings torn down and new buildings constructed, student diversity increase, and third-generation students walk through her classroom doors.

For Nuckols, this is has become not only a job but a home, with family ties through her husband and daughter, who both received their associate in arts degrees at Windward.

Although she has plans to retire, a date has not yet been set. As the time for retirement gets closer, Nuckols finds herself considering her timing due to her continued love for her students and the anticipated opening of the new library on campus.

"I won't miss the grading, but I will miss my students, and I would hate to leave before the new library opens," she explains. She wants to be there to encourage her students to use and experience the new facility for all it will have to offer.

Besides traveling, Nuckols has no long-term plans for life after retirement. Until then you can find her sitting on her desk, feet dangling, with a jovial smile, telling stories of history with passion and showing the love and dedication she has for her teaching career.

"I'm going to miss being in the classroom and getting to know students," she says. But even though she may leave WCC soon, she will be part of the college forever.

**"I won't miss the grading,
 but I will miss my students."
 -Janice Nuckols**

SPRING BREAK ON A DIME



by Naomi Anderson
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

Short on cash? Not to worry! There's still plenty you can do during spring break on your "staycation." You don't have to spend a lot of money to have fun.

YOU COULD:

- Have a movie/TV show marathon! Pick your favorite genre and don't forget the popcorn, candy and sugary drinks.
- Go hiking! Travel down Pu'u Pia trail in Mānoa. This trail takes you through a beautiful rainforest that leads to the summit.
- Go to the beach! Visit the crystal clear waters of Alan Davis Beach near Makapu'u Lighthouse in Waimanalo. Do a 15-minute hike down to the cove and "Pele's Chair." This spot is known only to locals.
- Organize a park potluck day! Gather friends and family and have everyone bring a favorite dish. Have a water gun fight or try Slip & Slide.
- Have a barbeque in your backyard with friends and family! Instead of just hot dogs or hamburgers, try cooking yakiniku (grilled meat) like they do in restaurants such as Gyu-Kaku.
- Go camping! Kahana Valley State Park near Ka'a'awa is a great spot to camp. You can also hike up Kapa'ele'ele trail to overlook Kahana Bay and valley.



Adventure-seekers explore the wilderness around Kualoa Ranch on ATV 4-wheelers as part of the "Experience Tours" package.

Unforgettable experience

by Ally Irving
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

I've seen the waters of the North Shore countless times, but I've never seen it from 15,000 feet up in the air.

The full impact of what I was about to encounter didn't hit me until my name was called to put on my harness.

My tandem instructor went over the procedure with me, which seemed almost too easy.

Then we joined the rest of the jumpers headed towards the plane.

As about 12 people filed onto the smallest plane I've ever been in, I somehow managed to be

the first one in position to jump out of a perfectly good airplane.

As I enjoyed the scenic view, I heard, "You're up!" My instructor hooked my harness to his. I waved farewell to the other jumpers.

We waddled over to the door, and I hung my head out for a few seconds before we jumped. It felt as if I were in a dream.

Jumping felt natural. The urge to finally do something I've always talked about doing was overwhelming. There was no turning back.

In a matter of seconds, I felt like a bird soaring through the clouds. I

was weightless. About a minute into the jump, my instructor pulled the cord.

We quickly descended, and I was steady enough to see where we were.

I couldn't believe my eyes. I felt very small compared to the vastness of the ocean and island.

The strangest part was I knew we were moving fast towards the ground, but it looked as if we weren't moving at all.

It wasn't until we got a few thousand feet above ground that I noticed how quickly we were heading towards it.

Thinking back, I'm glad I said yes to skydiving. It's an experience I'll never forget.

DISCOUNTS

Kualoa Ranch Adventure and Experience Tours

Experience 4,000 acres of stunning natural beauty and Hawai'i's movie "backlot" just up the road from WCC. \$10 off kama'aina rates for "Adventure Tours" (ATV and horseback)

50% off regular rates for "Experience Tours" (Movie Site, Jungle Expedition, Secret Island etc...)

For more information, visit website: www.kualoa.com

Glo-Putt

\$1 off per game, per person

Get Wet at Windward Mall

20 percent off regular-priced items

Skydive Hawaii

Regular price \$225; Current Internet Special \$150

Student discount \$140

www.skydivehawaii.com

(Discounts valid March 24 through April 1 with current WCC student ID)

EVENTS

Ziggy Marley "Wild and Free" World Tour Live

Five-time Grammy award-winner Ziggy Marley and chart-topping reggae veterans Inner Circle will land on Oahu during his World Tour.

Saturday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Aloha Stadium

Tickets: General admission \$45-65

Na Ali'i of Comedy

Hawai'i's legends of comedy come together on one stage for the first time, Starring: Frank De Lima, Mel Cabang, Andy Bumatai, Ed Kaahea and Augie T.

Saturday, March 31 from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Blaisdell Concert Hall

Tickets: General admission \$23-30

Get your Groupon!

by Heather Stephenson
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

There is so much to do in Hawai'i, so why is it that most people stick to their daily grind?

"Finances," said college student Bri Bourlier. "Between paying for school, my car, gas, credit cards, rent, and groceries, it's getting way too expensive to spend money on anything else."

But what if there were a way to do things without spending a ton of money? There is — and it's called Groupon.

The Web site, launched in Chicago in 2008, started out as a simple idea which rapidly grew into a billion-dollar success.

"I had no idea what this app was until one of my best friends grabbed my iPhone and downloaded it. Now I'm hooked!" Bourlier said.

Once the app is downloaded, Groupon will automatically text daily deals with fun discounts. "So far, I've gotten a manicure and pedicure combo for \$25," said Bourlier.

Groupon is one of the most well-known applications downloaded on cell phones and emails worldwide. It has provided many people with ideas of activities to experience, as well as give local discounts for their favorite things to do.

Recent deals have included a snorkeling cruise for \$20 and 50 percent discounts on outdoor apparel, Zumba classes and parasailing. For more information, visit www.groupon.com.



The Hunger Games (opens March 23)

Based on the hit book series by Suzanne Collins, "The Hunger Games" is an action-packed thriller about a young teen named Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) who becomes a gladiator in a reality show. It is a battle-to-the-death against other teens from across the 12 districts in the former United States.



Mirror Mirror (opens March 30)

"Mirror Mirror" is a dark twist on a classic fairy tale. The evil queen (Julia Roberts) takes over a kingdom and exiles the princess, Snow White (Lily Collins). Snow White enlists the help of seven dwarves to help reclaim her kingdom and win back her birthright.



Wrath of the Titans (opens March 30)

"Wrath of the Titans" is about how Ares (Edgar Ramirez), the godly son of Zeus (Liam Neeson) and Hades (Ralph Fiennes) switch loyalties and make a deal with Kronos to capture Zeus.

The Titans grow stronger and hell is released on Earth. Perseus (Sam Worthington) travels to the underworld to overthrow the Titans and save mankind.

Murphy's welcomes thousands

by Jason DeLuca
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

Walk into Murphy's Bar and Grill in downtown Honolulu and you'll see something more than the headquarters for St. Patrick's Day.

Sure, there's the long koa bar and the sign that says, "Guinness is good for you!"

Owner Don Murphy not only manages and runs his own restaurant, but also organizes long-standing events like the "Pigskin Pigout" and the massively popular block party on St. Patrick's Day with live music and endless beer and food.

But look closer and you'll see there's history behind the faded brick walls.

According to murphyshawaii.com, the restaurant at the corner of Nu'uaniu and Merchant started as the Royal Hotel in the 1870s and was one of only five places with a liquor license at the time. Now, only Murphy's and Two Jacks on Hotel Street remain.

Murphy's originally was a hotel for merchants, ship captains and royalty to have drinks and stay the night. King Kalākaua visited the hotel and so did Robert Louis Stevenson.

It went through many different owners and name changes until 1987

when Murphy bought the Royal Hawaiian Saloon and it became Murphy's Bar and Grill.

"I wanted a downtown saloon that catered to the business lunch crowd, evening cocktail crowd and weekend sports crowd. If all else failed, it would be somewhere to drink," he said on their Web site.

Once a year, he hosts the "Pigskin Pigout," which raises money for the UH football team, and the St. Patrick's Day block party with portions of the profits donated to the Hawaii Children's Cancer Foundation.

According to a UH Web site, the "Pigskin Pigout" last year was the 15th annual event to start the college football season. Merchant Street was closed off for a gathering of people to enjoy suckling pig, fresh fish and oysters.

"The event has raised more than \$1.5 million for the UH Warrior football team," Murphy said.

This year on March 17, Murphy again will host the St. Patrick's Day block party, where thousands gather to drink and eat Irish food.

"At the very first event 24 years ago there were only 100 people. Now we bring in about 10,000 or more!" he said.

On that day, Murphy's opens at noon for lunch. But when the sun goes down, the celebration really begins.



COURTESY MURPHY'S HAWAII.COM

People gather in front of Murphy's in downtown Honolulu, preparing for the celebration.

Merchant and Nu'uaniu streets close down and Irish food is constantly cooked in the parking lot to accommodate the growing crowds.

"We usually go through about 2,500 pounds of corned beef and 3,000 oysters, and for every pound of corned beef sold we donate two dollars to the Hawaii Children's Cancer Foundation," Murphy said.

Other food options will include steamers, shrimp, fish and chips, "blarney burgers," Guinness braised lamb shanks and crab cakes.

For the sweet teeth, one can enjoy homemade Irish whiskey cake and

bread pudding with whiskey sauce made by Mrs. Murphy herself.

A stage will also be set up in the middle of the street where Doolin' Rakes and Elephant, a local band, will perform for the masses.

At stations outside, beers are poured from kegs and a sea of people in green t-shirts bump drunkenly into each other across the entire stretch of blocked street.

So, if you like crowds, corned beef and cabbage and beer, beer, and more beer, then join the island's biggest St. Patrick's Day party. But be sure to have a designated driver.



BRAD FROEHLE FROM FLICKR

Every year Chicago deposits 40 pounds of dye in its river in honor St. Patrick's Day.

Prince Kūhiō: the last prince of Hawai'i

Heather Stephenson
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

Thanks to his place in history, students in Hawai'i have the day off on Monday, March 26 in observance of Prince Kuhio Day — but why?

Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole was the first native Hawaiian to serve as a delegate to the U.S. Congress, representing the Territory of Hawai'i.

He is best known for his success in convincing Congress to approve the 1920 Hawaiian Homes



COURTESY OF HAWAII MAGAZINE

requested Hawai'i be recognized as a state — the first attempt in a long road until Hawai'i became the 50th state in 1959.

"Because of Prince Kūhiō's efforts in trying to preserve our native land, we can keep our traditional values and grow our local foods without people trying to change our ways," said Ed Joseph, a local Hawaiian businessman.

Since his death in 1922, Hawaiian venues such as street names, schools, and statues were created in his honor, but most commonly the holiday, Prince Kūhiō Day.

Slavery to sainthood

by Hannah Marquez
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

Every year on March 17, people around the world wear a wee bit of green and channel some Irish to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

St. Paddy's Day celebrates Irish heritage, named after a British subject who helped spread Christianity to Ireland in the late 4th century A.D.

The holiday consists of much more than pubs and shamrocks. From a beginning in slavery to a legacy in sainthood, the story of Saint Patrick has endured through the ages.

Patrick, whose real name was Maewyn Succat, was kidnapped by pirates during a raid on his family's estate. Sold into slavery in Ireland, he lived for six years with the Celts, learning their language and culture. Alone in a strange land, he wrote in his "Confession": "I did not, indeed, know the true God, and I was taken into captivity. . . . I would wake up before daylight to pray in the snow, in icy coldness. As I now see, the Spirit was burning in me."

The young man wrote that he heard a voice telling him to walk 200 miles until he reached the shore, where he found a boat waiting for him to take him back to England. Succat reunited with his family and began studying theology.

He was appointed a bishop in the Catholic Church and bestowed with the name of Patrick. However, the story goes that he was troubled by dreams of the Irish calling to him.

Patrick returned to Ireland, eager to preach the gospel, despite the mistreatment he suffered by the hands of the Irish people. For the next 50 years, Patrick converted and baptized thousands and set up many rustic churches.

He founded many monasteries that were unconventional; they were places of study, where the graduates would often marry and start families. He also brought education to Ireland, much of Celtic mythology and culture was preserved in books written by the monasteries.

It is believed that St. Patrick passed away on March 17, with a simple stone marking his grave.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY TRIVIA

- The first St. Patrick's Day parade was in New York on March 17, 1762.
- It was a religious holiday until 1970, and Ireland's pubs were closed on this day.
- Patrick used the shamrock to explain the three parts of the Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- The color originally associated with St. Patrick was blue; green became associated with the holiday during the 19th century.
- There are more Americans of Irish origin than there are Irish in Ireland.

Kagawa sisters share their medley of hope

by Kellie Wedemeyer
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

For the first time ever, Paliku Theatre was filled last month with melodic voices from Kagawa Junior College, WCC's sister school in Japan.

Students from Kagawa arrived on Feb. 27 to visit WCC classes and tour the island in a visit coordinated by professor Toshi Ikagawa.

The KJC chorus was composed of 20 students, accompanied by their professor Rika Watanabe, a well-known soprano in Japan. The concert had special meaning for the students, who wanted to share a heartfelt presentation of traditional and modern choral music.

Since 1989, Kagawa students have visited WCC as a part of their education program. Three days after arriv-



JESSICA CRAWFORD

Led by professor Rika Watanabe, the Kagawa Junior College chorus performs for a crowd in Palikū Theatre.

ing home from last year's visit, a devastating earthquake and tsunami hit the coast of Japan.

The Japanese National Police Agency confirmed 15,850

deaths, 6,011 injured and 3,287 people missing across 18 prefectures, as well as over 125,000 buildings damaged or destroyed.

Through the gift of song, the Kagawa students found a way to show their love and appreciation for their homeland. In a message to the WCC 'oha-

na, the KJC chorus expressed their appreciation and pleasure in being able to share a bit of their culture.

"We greatly appreciate that WCC has given us this opportunity to perform on your campus," said one of the KJC chorus members.

During their time here, the Kagawa students were able to visit several classes on campus. Japanese 202 instructor Akiko Swan said her students welcomed the chance to practice the language with native speakers.

"They were able to learn about Japanese culture and the people as well," said Swan. "Last year the Kagawa students came to my classes, and they spent time with my students in and outside of class."

"My students told me that they really enjoyed the experience."

'Violence-Free WCC' April 18

by Kellie Wedemeyer
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

If you're a good planner or coordinator, or if you need volunteer and service-learning credits, "A Violence-Free WCC" needs you.

The WCC Sexual Violence Prevention Awareness Committee will present the event, Wednesday, April 18, on campus.

The event will include entertainment, food and community booths.

Its goal is to raise awareness about the issue of domestic and sexual violence on college campuses and provide education and outreach resource materials.

"A Violence-Free WCC" is Psi Beta's service-learning project this semester. Psi Beta

is the national honor society in psychology for community colleges. "Our mission is professional development of psychology students through promotion and recognition of excellence in scholarship, leadership, research and community service," said Falisha Herbic, Psi Beta chapter advisor.

"There are many reasons students should volunteer to help with the event," she said.

"It's an opportunity to serve their campus and community, to learn more about a serious issue, to gain knowledge through research, marketing, design, development, leadership, and to be a part of something huge and spectacular on our campus."

Psi Beta at WCC was started in 2002 by current chapter advisor and professor Frank

Palacat. He wanted to offer WCC students national opportunities in the field of psychology. The society functions as an association of chapters operated by Psi Beta student members and faculty advisors and coordinated by a national office.

"Students should join to gain opportunities for scholarship, leadership, research, and community service," said Herbic.

"Additionally, students have the opportunity to meet with and develop networking relationships with students and others interested in the same field."

For details, contact Psi Beta president Kathy Hanson at kathyislandgrl@yahoo.com, or co-advisor Falisha Herbic at falisha@hawaii.edu.



Shauna Leake views the memorial of a domestic violence victim at "An Empty Place at the Table", an event held on Feb. 14 in the Hale 'Akoakoa cafeteria.

The event was sponsored by the Sexual Violence Prevention Project, a collaboration of WCC and UH Manoa.

GMO ISSUES

have concluded that there is absolutely no difference in the health and safety of biotech and non-biotech foods.

"To suggest that biotech foods require a special label would mislead the consumer into thinking otherwise."

People against GMO's, which include grassroots organizations, Native Hawaiian groups, natural foods companies, organic farmers, and concerned citizens, say there is no evidence to show there aren't possibilities for negative long-term repercussions.

Allegations have also been made that the cause for a growing percentage of

consumers developing allergies is due to the genetic modification in foods.

Says Yee, "Until the FDA changes its stand on 'substantial equivalence,' it will be difficult to implement mandatory federal labeling, no matter how many more studies are done or how many people develop allergies and diseases that could be caused by consuming GMO foods..."

"Because the Rainbow papaya has been approved for export to Japan, consumers believe it is safe to eat, but I am seeing in my practice patterns of digestive problems and allergic reactions to pa-

paya and to antibiotics where people are eating papaya on a regular basis."

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service in 2011, 88 percent of corn grown in the U.S. is genetically engineered.

They also reported 94 percent of soy, 95 percent of sugar beets, 90 percent of canola oil, 90 percent of cotton (hence cottonseed oil), and about 80 percent of Hawaiian papayas are genetically engineered.

One thing is for certain: Americans are consuming a lot of GMO's.

from page 2

Campus Calendar

Monday, March 12
Dr. M.R.C. Greenwood, UH president
4 - 5 p.m., Hale 'Akoakoa 105

Wednesday, March 14
Ilima Ho-Lastimoso
God's Country Waimanalo
1 - 2 p.m. Hale 'Akoakoa 105

Thursday, March 15
Windy Keala McElroy
Keala Pono Archaeological Consulting
4 - 5 p.m., Hale 'Akoakoa 105

Monday, March 19
Chris Campbell, artist
11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., Hale 'Akoakoa 105

Wednesday, March 21
"What's Really in Your Food"
Dr. Frank Williams
1 - 2 p.m., Hale 'Imiloa

Saturday, March 31
Paliku Arts Festival
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Palanakila courtyard area

Monday, April 9
Online registration starts for continuing students.



A student talks with a Sea Life Park staff member at last year's College and Career Fair.

Monday, April 16
Counselor registration appointments begin
Call 235-7413

Tuesday, April 10
WCC College and Career Fair
9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Hale 'Akoakoa

Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15
Talks by the Dalai Lama
1:30 p.m., Stan Sheriff Arena at UH Manoa.
www.pillarsofpeacehawaii.org

Forbidden stairway still lures hikers

by **Hannah Marquez**
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

Sarah Kujimoto and her friends stride through the dead of night, 2 a.m., climbing over fences and onto the forbidden Haiku Stairs.

They snake up what is commonly called the Stairway to Heaven, conquering all 3,922 slippery metal steps to reach the ridge of the Ko'olau Mountains, overlooking Windward Community College.

Perched over 2,800 feet above sea level, it's too dark for them to enjoy the spectacular view. Besides, they have to head back down and reach the bottom to beat the sunrise and the guard's rebuke.

"The hike was very long and sore, but you felt like you accomplished something afterwards," explained Kujimoto.

The "Stairway to Heaven" has continued to attract visitors, although it has been officially closed for years. The "off-limits" nature of the site hasn't deterred avid hikers, and it has become one of the most popular illegal hikes on O'ahu.

Now, House bill 2246 and Senate bill 2524 have been introduced this legislative session to transfer land in Haiku Valley to the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, giving the state access to the trailheads to the stairway.

Concerns regarding safety, liability, and disturbance of neighboring communities remains an issue.

Meanwhile, the City and



BY FOREST WELTON

WCC student Akela Newman stands on a Ko'olau peak, part of the hike known as the Haiku Stairs or Stairway to Heaven.

County of Honolulu doesn't want to be held responsible for anyone injured on the Haiku Stairs while it's closed and has spent about \$50,000 each year on security. The guards are there every morning from 4 a.m. until about noon, and police officers monitor the stairway access road regularly and randomly each week.

Ken Rose, who lives right by the trail access said, "I think it should be open ... it's a popular attraction and beautiful spot. But people are up on the weekends all the time from 3 to 6 a.m. in the morning, walking around and talking as they go up."

Another resident also commented, "People don't care if it's illegal. They are constantly violating the laws. They park all up and down the streets, often

blocking the trash cans set out for pick up."

The stairs were originally wooden — built in 1942 during WWII for the U.S. Navy Haiku radio station. By 1952, the Navy replaced the wood with metal, but 20 years later the stairway was rusted and dangerous.

The Coast Guard took over operations in 1972 and allowed approximately 200 hikers a day from 1981-1987, the few years it was open to the public. However, in 1987, the stairway was shut down for vandalism when the staircase was damaged.

Former Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris spent \$875,000 on repairs in 2003 with the intent of reopening the stairs, but other issues surfaced about access to the trail because of land usage rights among various landowners.

Meanwhile, the Friends of Haiku Stairs have been faithfully maintaining the stairs, clearing out invasive species and weed-whacking overgrowth for almost 25 years. They hope one day their diligence will help reopen the site.

Why do people keep flocking to the stairs? Some want to enjoy the view; others want to check it off their bucket list. Ironically, many go for the thrill of doing something illegal.

"I went mostly because my friends went, but also because it was kind of exciting knowing that the hike was closed," Kujimoto said.

John Flanigan of the Friends of Haiku Stairs said, "It's one of the most popular hikes in Hawai'i and it's great for education. We have all kinds of testimonies from geologists

and Hawaiian culturists saying how you could see the native plants and the ahupua'a (region from the mountain to the sea)."

The neighborhood residents and the city say a separate access to the stairs and designated parking away from the neighborhood need to be established.

Some also think the city should capitalize on the popularity of the hike and charge a fee to fund the maintenance of the stairs and to help cover liability costs.

While there may be no stopping the hikers, residents just don't want their neighborhood disrupted.

As one resident said, "How can you reopen the hike if you don't even follow the rules now?"

'The Eddie'

by **Joshua Rossen**
Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

Of all the big wave contests in the world, The Quicksilver in Memory of Eddie Aikau is the most prestigious.

"To be out here, just invited, is the highest honor...it has exceeded all my expectations and it's an absolute dream for me.

"The amazing day that we had out here, the last hour—I wouldn't change it for anything in the world," said 2009 champion Greg Long minutes after his final heat.

So why do these big wave surfers literally risk life and limb to ride these giants?

"You get this adrenaline rush," explained Jamie O'Brien after his heat in the most recent 2009 Eddie. "It's not really like fear. There's nothing like it in the world — competing against

Mother Nature . . . you're just trying to survive. When you do survive, you're stoked."

For The Eddie to even be held, the waves must be a consistent minimum of 20 feet high "Hawaiian," which is judged by the back of the wave (or about 40-foot plus faces).

There can be no set date for the Eddie. The waiting period starts Dec. 1 with opening ceremonies and goes through the end of February.

Because of the rare conditions needed, the competition has been held only eight times in the last 27 years.

The event was created to honor Eddie Aikau, a Hawaiian waterman and the first lifeguard at Waimea Bay, whose name has become synonymous with bravery and courage. He was aboard the Hokule'a, a replica of an ancient double-hulled

Polynesian voyaging canoe, in March 1978 when it capsized, leaving the crew stranded in the Molokai Channel.

Aikau, being the extreme waterman and type of person that he was, went to paddle for help. He was never seen again, but there is no doubt that his memory will live on forever.

"When you talk about surfers, it's like Eddie's the pinnacle," said current 11-time world champion and previous event winner Kelly Slater.

It doesn't matter if you surf or not; it's almost certain that growing up in Hawai'i you have heard his name, if not his amazing and tragic story of courage and selflessness.

The past champions of the event include Denton Miyamura (Hawai'i), Keone Downing (Hawai'i), Clyde Aikau (Hawai'i), Noah Johnson (Hawai'i), Ross Clark-Jones (Australia), Kelly Slater (Florida), Bruce Irons (Hawai'i) and defending champion from California Greg Long in 2009.



COURTESY OF QUICKSILVERLIVE.COM

2009 Quicksilver Eddie Aikau honorary invitee Kohl Christensen sitting pretty comfortably in a place most would not even dare to go.

What is your view of online classes?

I have taken a few online classes. Generally, writing intensive and liberal arts are good choices. It seems that math and science classes are not ideal because the need for instruction and interaction is so great in these classes.

I'm taking a biology course online and it's difficult to learn despite (recorded) videos and a book. Sociology, on the other hand, worked out great because you can write based more on opinion.
—Sara Coates

For me, I think that human contact and group environments are an important educational forum.

I think that a student could learn more with the combination of hearing, reading and applying material within the classroom. It enables questions and clarifications of material being learned. I think that online courses decrease the quality of education for students overall.
—Kathy Hanson

Online classes are very helpful and useful. They help with changing schedules and relieve the stress of a classroom. Some students may have a hard time getting to class and others just can't make it. Working in the comfort of your home is the perfect solution.
—Peter Bessonass

I am a victim of online classes! I have failed EVERY online class I have taken. This is not because I am not a bright student, it is the experience, or lack thereof, that keeps students like myself from succeeding in online classes. Students need personal experience in college.
—Angel Thomas

BOTTLED WATER from page 1

Water Service" due to the fact that it is made with tap water. It boils down to this: you're really just paying for the bottle and the pretty packaging.

Wolff says that the Flo Water stations deal with every aspect of why people drink bottled water rather than tap:

- Distrust of the purity of tap water, and the taste - "Flo Water stations use a 5 times filtration system which includes a carbon filter, sediment filter, reverse osmosis, coconut carbon filter, and ultra-violet light. The water is also dispensed at a perfectly chilled temperature of 42 degrees."

- Sanitation - Some people are concerned about the cleanliness of public water fountains; the Flo Water service is clean and easy to use.

- Appeal - "The company's graphics, bottles, and station are visually stunning and make it 'cool' for people to embrace sustainability," says Wolff.

- Convenient and timely - "Refilling a bottle at the Flo Water station can be done in eight seconds."

Another factor to consider is the number of water bottles that end up

in landfills or oceans. According to the Container Recycling Institute, 90 percent of bottles end up in landfills, where they take between 450 and 1000 years to break down.

Says Wolff, "This vast amount of plastic has built up in the oceans throughout the globe and the closest one to Hawai'i, known as the Great Pacific Ocean Garbage Patch, is around three times the size of Texas." The Flo Water service has a helpful digital tracker at the top that shows the number of bottles that have been saved from the landfill.

The Container Recycling Institute reported that 86 percent of plastic water bottles used in the United States simply become trash or litter, and the San Francisco Chronicle reported that more than 1 billion plastic water bottles end up in California's trash alone each year.

A good way to be environmentally friendly is to consider no longer buying, and subsequently discarding, bottled water.

For more details, go to <http://bit.ly/wTQJof>.

Should WCC ban the sale of bottled water on campus? What about water stations to fill up your own bottle?

I absolutely love this idea! There's nothing to lose. UH at Mānoa has a refill station and I use it all the time. That alone is great, but banning the sale of plastic bottles encourages people to use more durable bottles like glass or hard plastic, things that don't get thrown away or recycled as often.
—Malia Kahauolopua

If WCC and other UH campuses ban the sale of filtered water, I believe that students will not be encouraged to bring their own bottles. Rather, I think that the sales of soda and other beverages will increase. Many times I intend to bring my own water but it usually gets left at home. I appreciate having water for purchase at school. I do try to conserve resources and will refill that bottle throughout the day and recycle it as well. I think that a ban of bottled water would be a big mistake.
—Kelia Kawahara

I think this is a terrible idea because at any time tap water can become contaminated because of a slight mistake in the process. With the selling of bottled water, it allows the school to make money and provide a safe water source, just in case the tap water somehow gets contaminated.
—Jason Kang

Why don't they just set up these stations and see if the students prefer these stations over buying bottled water instead of cutting out options? I do not know enough about this situation, but it seems like a way of monopolizing the sale of water.
—Francisco Hadley

I think a ban on the sale of bottled water is great. I always bring my own bottle to fill up. It's much more economical and Hawai'i has one of the best, most pure water sources available, so it makes sense.
—Jaimee-Linn Shaw

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Chad Owens: Heart overcomes all

by **Matt Terukina**

Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

At 5 foot 8 with cleats on, former UH Warrior Chad Owens has always had something to prove. "I had to prove I could hang with the big boys," he says.

Owens established himself as a three-time prep all-star at Roosevelt High School, but he still had no college scholarship offers and no scouts knocking on his door.

He went on to become the featured receiver for coach June Jones' run-and-shoot offense and was drafted by the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars.

In the last two years, Owens has bounced around to different teams and leagues due to injuries. He has had to learn to adjust to different offenses and various league rules.

But now Owens has found a home with the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts and has become the "spark" of the team, just as he was in his UH Warrior days.

He was named the most outstanding special teams player in the CFL for the past two seasons and recently turned down an offer to rejoin the NFL to remain with the Argonauts.

"It excites me to be able to provide that rush for my fans and my teammates," says Owens. "I live for these moments."

Now when Owens goes out in public, heads turn and people ask for pictures and autographs.

But those who know him best say he's still the same determined player he's always been.

What he lacked in size he made up for in heart and tackling challenges head-on.

Owens' drive to succeed started when he was a high school freshman.

"He set goals for himself and was very capable," says Lester Parrilla, who was Owens' high school football coach. "He was very dedicated."

Parrilla couldn't recall a time when Owens had a lazy moment. "Everything was full-speed with Chad," he adds.

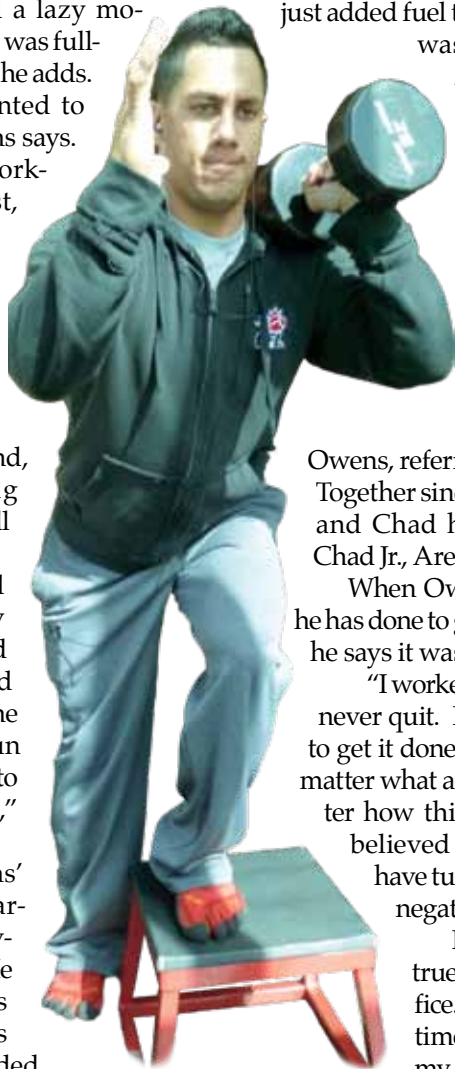
"I always wanted to be the best," Owens says. "If you're not working to be the best, you're wasting your time."

In his senior year, Owens, who received the nickname "Mighty Mouse" from a close friend, showed that big things come in small packages.

"He would make all the key plays. It would be 3rd and 20, and Chad would get the first down and run over a bigger guy to get that extra yard," Parrilla says.

During Owens' time as a UH Warrior he earned everything he had. He joined the team as a walk-on and was the last player added to the roster as a redshirt freshman in 2000. After a huge freshman season, Owens made a name for himself when the Warriors demolished the undefeated BYU Cougars in 2001.

Since then, Owens has racked up the numbers and made the fans go wild with his unbelievable touchdowns.



So where did this drive come from? "I was competitive at a young age," Owens explains. "I just love the challenge." Owens also says there were always doubters around him but that just added fuel to the fire. Because he wasn't a typical 6-foot, 200-pound receiver, people were always telling him that he wouldn't make it in football.

Another motivation is Owens' family. They play a big part in supporting him and his dreams. "This is a true team," says Owens, referring to his wife, Rena. Together since the 7th grade, Rena and Chad have three children: Chad Jr., Areana, and Sierra-Lynn.

When Owens reflects on what he has done to get to where he is now, he says it wasn't easy.

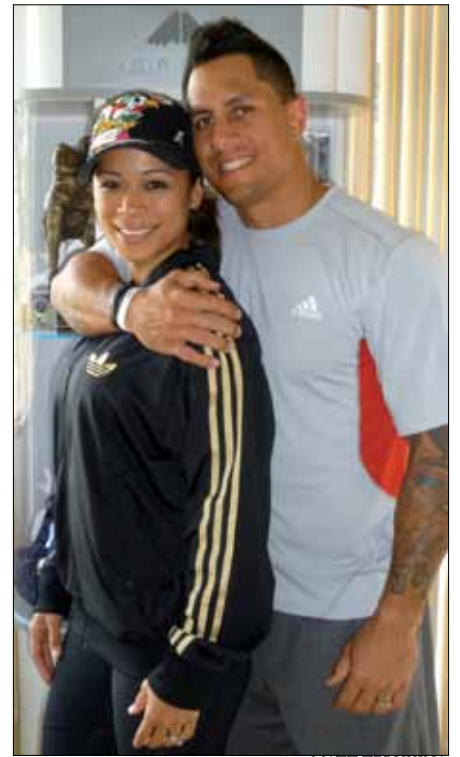
"I worked extremely hard and never quit. I did whatever it took to get it done," he maintains. "No matter what anyone said or no matter how things looked, I always believed in myself. I had to have tunnel vision to tune the negative stuff out."

He added that it takes true dedication and sacrifice. "I sacrificed a lot of time with my friends and my family," Owens says.

"You need a good support system," Rena adds.

So what does the future hold for Chad Owens?

He explains that he will continue his career as an Argonaut as long as he can and would like to stay in shape for the rest of his life.



MATT TERUKINA

(Above) Chad Owens with wife Rena, a vital part of what he considers his "true team." (Left) Chad shows his focus during his workout to prepare for his 2012 CFL season.

As a part-owner of Hawaii Optimum Performance, he wants to train his kids for sports as long as he can.

"Also, I want to try and act, like 'The Rock,'" Owens says. "Whether it be a football movie or an action movie, I definitely think I can be successful because I've got the work ethic. I want to be the best."

It has been a roller coaster journey for Owens as he has gone up, down and around throughout his career.

But the motivational fire he holds inside his small, muscular frame is burning brighter than ever.

With his 2012 season coming up, you can find Owens working out and living up to his motto: "You can't let them outwork you."

Anime convention 'Kawaii Kon' invades Hawai'i

by **Maria Harr**

Ka 'Ohana Staff Reporter

Prepare to see some oddly dressed folks at the Hawai'i Convention Center March 16 through 18 because Kawaii Kon, Hawai'i's only anime convention, is back.

Anime, a form of animation from Japan, is growing more and more widespread in the United States. With it come conventions for fans to get together and celebrate their favorite storytelling medium.

Hawai'i, with its strong connections to Japan, has been surprisingly late to the fan convention scene, but for the last six years Kawaii Kon, with an estimated 5,200 attendees at its 2011 show, has filled that gap.

The role of a fan convention can be a confusing thing to explain to someone who has never been to one. Fan conventions came into the public eye back in the days of Star Trek, when fans would gather to discuss their beloved TV show.

Much the same, an anime conven-

tion like K-Kon (as fans call it) offers a place for fans to get to know each other, meet and get autographs from voice actors, hear new information from companies, compete in contests and attend panels on all sorts of anime-related things.

The convention caters to a specific crowd, though Roy Bann, also known by his Internet handle "Buma," the video art showcase director, stresses that it is not at all exclusive.

"Geeks and nerds can all go together (to the convention) because everyone around you is a geek and a nerd. It's a much safer environment." The convention has a reputation for being family-friendly as well.

Bann suggests the Cosplay Showcase for a first time Kon-goer to go see. Cosplay, or "costume-play," is a form of costuming that involves creating or buying accurate reflections of a character's costume from anime, manga and even video games and TV shows.

While cosplaying, many cosplayers can be found not only going to great lengths to look like a character, but to



YOJI EGUCHI

A 2011 'warrior' poses in her costume.

act like one as well.

Other Kon-goers suggest cosplay as a major draw of K-Kon.

"It's a gathering of like-minded people," Lisa Kinoshita, former WCC

student and avid cosplayer, says of the convention.

"Then there's the costuming. . . which is a big thing."

At the Cosplay Showcase cosplayers who have made their costumes themselves compete, posing on stage and sometimes performing short skits to catch the judges' attention. Bann says you'll get to see the "best of the best get judged."

The Karaoke Competition, Cosplay Theater, Moonlight Magic Ball, Animega Mix Dance-Off, five different concerts and the Anime Quiz Wiz Challenge help fill out the overflowing list of events to enjoy at the convention.

Kawaii Kon plays up its opening ceremonies, making it a main event, which few other conventions do. Bann says it's well worth going to for everyone, not just the first-timer.

Every year there is some sort of surprise at the opening ceremonies, including a video made by an award-winning anime music video artist.

Tickets will be available at the door. For further information visit www.kawaii-kon.org.