# INEET THE REPORT RS







Sponsored by







An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

#### YP HI SCHOOL MENTOR PROGRAM

The Young Professionals (YP) HI School Mentor Program is meant to help YOU (our students) grow professionally, personally, and academically. YP's (ages 21–39) are a community of leaders working to better Hawaii through working in various industries. In this program, the YP's have come together to help high school students by nurturing your leadership and future. We hope that this program gives you a mentor for life!

#### WHAT IS YOUR COMMITMENT?

Students in the program must commit to the following:

- Be mentored from October 2025 December 2025 (can go beyond this date as agreed by mentor and mentee)
- Meet virtually at least twice a month and periodically meet inperson at their school
- Working on one of the following Academic Projects:
  - Academy / CTE Capstone
  - STEM Capstone
  - AVID Service Learning Project
  - o American Savings Bank KeikiCo Competition
- Willing to grow in their leadership and professional skills
- Willing to learn about an industry they are passionate about
- Open to college and career readiness advice and skills
- Open to a mentor for LIFE!

Sponsored by





### **HOW THIS WORKS**

#### **STEP 1: REVIEW THE MENTORS**

Find a mentor that best fits you by reviewing their industry and bio. Think about which mentor(s) would be the best support for your own professional growth, personal growth, and academic project. For an easier search, download the document and use control/command + F and enter in your industry of interest.

#### **STEP 2: APPLY TO BE MENTORED!**

Once you think you found a preference of mentor(s) that would be a great fit, apply to be mentored! Remember to be as detailed as possible in your application to help us fit you with the best match.

### APPLY TO BE MENTORED

TINYURL.COM/YPMENTEEF25

Due on Wednesday 9/24 for Oahu students







# Canul I E N T STORM RES



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association



### Jeffrey Aglanao



#### **HR Specialist**

Kumabe HR

#### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Business, Education, Hospitality and Tourism

#### **About Jeffrey**

Jeffrey Aglanao was born & raised here in Honolulu, Hl.

As a graduate of Farrington High School, he enjoys giving back to the community. After graduation, he moved to Seattle for a couple years to play volleyball at Green River Junior College. After it was time, he decided to move back home and transfer to the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. He was able to obtain his Bachelor's of Business Administration in Management and received his Master's of Human Resources Management degree several years later.

Jeffrey's 10+ years background in human resources allowed him to work in various industries, such as the private & federal sector, and the non-profit industry. During his free time, you can find him at the beach, on the volleyball courts, and traveling.

He currently serves on the Lanakila Pacific Board as a Young Professional and is looking forward to giving back to the community and being a resource to the upcoming generation.







### Donna Agtarap



#### **HR Generalist**

Aloha Air Cargo

#### **Best Match Industries**

**Business** 

#### **About Donna**

Donnabelle Agtarap, also known as Donna, is a proud graduate of Waipahu High School and the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. At Waipahu, she was active in band throughout her intermediate and high school years and served in student council during her final two years. She went on to earn her degree in Human Resource Management from the Shidler College of Business, where she was an active member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Aloha Chapter. Through SHRM, she connected with HR professionals, gained valuable insight into the industry, and grew both personally and professionally.

Donna began her career in human resources as an HR Assistant at Pearl City Nursing Home and is now an HR Generalist at Aloha Air Cargo. In her current role, she oversees recruitment across all company locations and supports a wide range of HR functions.

Beyond her professional life, Donna enjoys supporting local small businesses, whether shopping online or exploring weekend markets. She also finds balance by staying active at the gym and winding down with puzzles. With her positive spirit, dedication to growth, and passion for connecting with others, Donna looks forward to continuing to learn, contribute, and build meaningful relationships through her mentorship journey.







### **Jacob Aki**



#### Senior Public Affairs Manager

Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines

#### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Government and Policy, Hospitality and Tourism

#### **About Jacob**

Jacob Aki is the Senior Public Affairs Manager for Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines, leading state and local government affairs across Hawaii and the Pacific. With nearly a decade of experience in the Hawaii State Senate, he is a trusted strategist in legislative affairs and political communications.

A respected Native Hawaiian leader, Jacob serves on the Board of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement and has held leadership roles in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and Hale O Nā Alii O Hawaii. He also advocates nationally for AANHPI communities through his service on the Asian American Action (AAA) Fund Board and the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS).

Jacob is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools, the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, and The George Washington University. In 2024, he was named one of Pacific Business News' "40 Under 40." He lives in Honolulu with his wife and two children.







### **Mokihana Aki**



#### Business Development Manager

PBS Hawaii

#### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication

#### **About Mokihana**

Mokihana Aki is the Business Development Manager at PBS Hawaii. Originally from Kauai, she is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools – Kapalama and earned her Journalism degree from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. She began her career as an intern at KHON2 News in Honolulu, where she worked her way up to become an award-winning news producer, earning two Edward R. Murrow Awards.

In 2022, she joined PBS Hawaii as a producer, working on Home is Here, Nā Mele, INSIGHTS and KĀKOU: Hawaii's Town Hall, before moving into business development in 2025 to strengthen partnerships with the local business community. She continues to freelance as a live producer, most recently on the 2024 Molokai Hoe and Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational, both recognized with regional Emmy Awards.







### Kailani Amine



#### **Program Manager**

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA)

#### **Best Match Industries**

**Health Services** 

#### **About Kailani**

Kailani Amine lives and works on Oahu but is a Maui girl at heart. She graduated from Lahainaluna High School in 2012, where she was active in student leadership, played tennis for two years, and volunteered for Relay for Life, a cancer charity walk.

In her role as program manager at HMSA, Kailani supports the organization's corporate strategy and government relations teams. She's responsible for managing various special projects that have a direct impact on key corporate initiatives or operational goals from design through implementation.

Before joining HMSA, Kailani worked at the Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WCAAP) in Seattle as a director, where she oversaw the Washington Child Health Improvement Partnership (WA-CHIP) with key partners to advance the health and well-being of all children in the state. She earned a bachelor's degree in public health at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and a master's degree in health administration from the University of Washington.

In her free time, Kailani enjoys reading, trying new places to eat, volunteering, drinking matcha, and giving lots of affection to her Frenchie named Koda.







### **China Andrade**



#### Community Engagement Specialist

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA)

#### **Best Match Industries**

Government and Policy, Health Services

#### **About China**

China Andrade is a community engagement specialist at HMSA, where she supports initiatives that foster meaningful connections between members, partners, and the community. Her work focuses on promoting health education, access, and equity across Hawaii through collaborative outreach and engagement.

As an active mentee in the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Mentor Hawaii Program, China continues to grow her leadership and professional development skills. Mentor Hawaii is a sixmonth mentorship program that connects young professionals with mentors in their field. Before joining HMSA, China worked at Hawaii Pacific Health with Hawaii Health Partners, where she contributed to improving care coordination and health outcomes across the state.

China earned her bachelor of science in public health from Portland State University and a master's in public health from Oregon Health & Science University. She also earned her certified in public health credential from the National Board of Public Health Examiners. Her seven years in Oregon opened her horizons to diverse cultures and communities, deepening her commitment to giving back and serving others through public health.







### **Mia Bautista**



#### E-Commerce Operations Specialist & Owner/Amazon Consultant

Brutus Broth & Shunli LLC

#### **Best Match Industries**

**Business** 

#### **About Mia**

Mia grew up in Oregon and attended St. Mary's High School, where she fell in love with sports — playing volleyball, basketball, and competing in track as a pole vaulter and relay sprinter. She also enjoyed being a leader on student council and challenging herself on the math team. She attended college at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, earning a double major in International Business and Finance, along with a minor in Chinese. She served as the President of the Hawaii Student Entrepreneurs's club for two years in Shidler's College of Business.

Since graduating, Mia has built a career working with over a dozen consumer packaged goods (CPG) brands, helping them grow on Amazon and other e-commerce platforms. She has also gained experience in traditional retail, helping open and run two jewelry stores in Waikīkī, managing customer service, employees, inventory, and fulfillment. In addition, she worked as a project manager for skincare YouTuber Hyram, assisting in the development and launch the Selfless by Hyram skincare line in Sephora stores worldwide and managed a team to produce content across three content channels.

Today, Mia is the E-Commerce Operations Specialist for Brutus Broth, where she manages everything Amazon and e-commerce related, from listing creation and inventory handling to customer service and crisis management. She also runs her own Amazon consulting business, where she enjoys supporting brands in building and growing their Amazon stores.







### Zoë Brooks-Jeffiers



#### **Chief of Staff**

Family Promise of Hawaii

#### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Government and Policy, Nonprofit, community engagement

#### **About Zoë**

Zoë is currently the Chief of Staff at Family Promise of Hawaii, a local nonprofit dedicated to preventing and ending family homelessness across the islands. Prior to this role, she spent three years with Hawaii Children's Action Network, supporting children and families through legislative advocacy and grassroots community organizing.

Originally from rural Kentucky, Zoë attended college near Cincinnati, earning a B.A. in International Studies, a B.F.A. in Theatre Acting, and a minor in Organizational Leadership. Throughout high school and college, she was actively involved in extracurriculars such as theatre, film, The National Honor Society, choir, the National FFA Organization, and a variety of community service initiatives.

While pursuing her collegiate degrees, Zoë worked at the Newport Aquarium where she handled animal safety, guest experience, and promoting conservation awareness. After graduation, she shifted her focus at the aquarium and began volunteering with the WAVE Foundation, an oceanic conservation organization, as a scuba diver to assist with animal care and tank maintenance. During this time, Zoë began her new role as an admissions counselor at Xavier University where she focused on international, multi-cultural, and first-generation students. Once it was time for a change, Zoë relocated to Hawaii to complete her AmeriCorps VISTA service term, where she immersed herself in her passion for community development and focused on building a career rooted in driving positive social change.

Outside of academics and work Zoë enjoys spending time outdoors—whether she is diving, hiking, beaching, or working in the land. She believes strongly in the power of mentorship, especially for students navigating high school and preparing for life beyond graduation. Zoë is excited to be part of this program and looks forward to supporting students as they explore their goals, overcome challenges, and build confidence in their future paths!







### Nainoa Campbell



#### CTE Pathway Specialist

Hawaii P-20

#### **Best Match Industries**

Education, Health Services, Kinesiology/Sports Medicine

#### **About Nainoa**

Nainoa K. Campbell is an education leader dedicated to strengthening Hawaii's workforce through innovative pathway programs that connect students from high school to college and career. He currently serves as a Program Specialist with Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education, where he leads initiatives focused on addressing Hawaii's teacher shortage. His work emphasizes creating "grow-your-own" teacher pipelines, expanding early college opportunities, and building sustainable pathways that support students from neighbor island and rural communities to become future educators.

Nainoa brings over a decade of school leadership experience to this work, having spent more than 13 years at St. Louis School, including five years as Vice Principal. During his tenure, he championed programs that advanced both academic achievement and character development, particularly for student-athletes.

A graduate of St. Louis School, Nainoa earned his bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from Mesa State College, where he competed on a football scholarship. He later completed a master's degree in Instructional Leadership at Chaminade University and earned certification as a Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA). These experiences shaped his lifelong commitment to education, athletics, and the holistic development of young people.

Beyond his professional career, Nainoa is deeply engaged in coaching and mentoring youth. He is entering his 16th season as the Saint Louis Defensive Line Coach while also coaching his children's youth sports teams. An avid golfer, he enjoys time on the course as a way to recharge and find balance.







### T.C. Campbell



#### **President**

Pioneer Design Group - Hawaii, LLC

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Industrial and Engineering Technology, Civil Engineering & Development

#### **About T.C.**

Mr. Campbell is the President and one of the principals at Pioneer Design Group – Hawaii. A proud Native Hawaiian and Kamehameha Schools graduate, he played both baseball and football in high school before heading to Oregon for college. Mr. Campbell received a B.S. in Physics from Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon before receiving his Masters of Engineering from the University of Portland.

After living and working in the Portland Metro area for 5 years, he returned home to Oahu in 2019 with the goal to work on projects that help preserve and improve the land in Hawaii to create a better future for the next generations. Mr. Campbell has over 11 years of diverse experience in land development, civil engineering, master planning, land use planning and project management, including stormwater management, utilities and roadway design, grading and erosion control. His wide skill set has allowed him to be involved in completing a variety of land use applications in different jurisdictions and completing the civil engineering design for residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial projects.

Mr. Campbell thrives in a team environment where collaborating with others is vital in accomplishing the final goal. This plays a crucial role in managing the many pieces that must come together in completing a project. He is a licensed professional civil engineer in the State of Hawaii and Oregon.







### Ryan Catalani



#### **Executive Director**

Family Promise of Hawaii

#### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Business, Government and Policy, Social Services

#### **About Ryan**

Ryan Catalani is the Executive Director of Family Promise of Hawaii (FPH), a nonprofit dedicated to transforming the lives of families with children experiencing homelessness by providing housing, resources, and support. Founded in 2005, FPH serves thousands annually on Oahu and Maui with a \$5 million budget and staff of over 30. Ryan joined FPH in 2022 and oversees all aspects of the organization, including program development, fundraising, communications, and advocacy.

Ryan can trace the roots of his current job back to his experiences in high school. His mentors and teachers at Punahou School helped him develop fundamental building blocks for his career, including his passion for social change, storytelling, and entrepreneurship. In high school, he helped start a campus-wide student film festival, led a team that created a student planner iPhone app, and researched ways to address Hawaii's homelessness crisis. He also played clarinet and was the designer for several student publications, including the yearbook, student newspaper, and literary magazine.

After high school, Ryan co-founded Bookzingo, a tech startup that created local marketplaces for used high school and college textbooks. He majored in visual and media arts at Emerson College in Boston, where he helped develop art and storytelling projects with immigrants and displaced communities. He turned those projects into his full-time job after college by co-founding a nonprofit, Mobility Movilidad, to grow the work.

Later, Ryan moved to Delaware and worked at Family Promise of Northern New Castle County. He moved home in 2019 and worked at Hawaii Children's Action Network, a nonprofit focused on public policy and advocacy. Today, Ryan also volunteers with other nonprofits by serving on several Boards of Directors, including the Hawaii Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO), KEY Project, and the Association of Fundraising Professionals Aloha Chapter.







### Jessica Chang



### Assistant Director of Food and Beverage

Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach

#### **Best Match Industries**

Hospitality and Tourism

#### **About Jessica**

Jessica is a hospitality professional with a diverse and dynamic background spanning the travel and service industries. From an early age, she demonstrated a passion for collaboration, actively participating in her high school's tennis team, speech and debate team, and yearbook committee. These experiences laid the foundation for her strong interpersonal skills, teamoriented mindset, and collaborative leadership style.

She studied Travel Industry Management at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, combining academic theory with hands-on experience. Jessica's career has included roles across respected organizations such as Apple Inc., Starwood Hotels, Hyatt Hotels, Delta Air Lines, and Hawaiian Airlines. Her adaptability, empathetic leadership, and commitment to excellence have consistently made her a leader in high-pressure and transitional environments.

Outside of work, Jessica is naturally curious and open to new adventures, whether exploring a new destination or learning something new. At the same time, she also enjoys quiet moments at home and finds value in meaningful connections with family and friends.

Jessica is passionate about delivering exceptional guest experiences, fostering strong team cultures, and embracing continuous growth, especially after a good cup of coffee. She approaches every role with a people-first mindset, operational precision, and a calm, solutions-oriented leadership style. These qualities help drive success for her teams and the organizations she serves, all while staying grounded enough to find humor in the day to day and laugh at the occasional chaos.







### **Kelli Chinen**



#### **Contract Specialist**

U.S. Air Force

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Government and Military

#### **About Kelli**

From a young age, Kelli has been internationally driven. Born in Honolulu and raised in several Asian countries before returning to Hawaii at age eleven, she graduated as a Valedictorian from Kaiser High School and earned the Hawaii Seal of Biliteracy in Japanese and Chinese. Active in leadership and extracurriculars, she was involved in National Honor Society, Key Club, Japanese Club, Marching/Symphonic Band, and volleyball.

Kelli earned her B.B.A. in Finance and Human Resource Management from the Shidler College of Business at the University of Hawaii. As one of seven Shidler Global Leaders, she also served as President and Director for the Business Executive Society of Tomorrow and Inter-Business Council. Her passion for global experiences led her to study abroad at the National University of Singapore and Ewha Womans University in Seoul.

She is currently a Contracting Officer with the U.S. Air Force, supporting contracts for services and supplies across the PACAF theater. Previously, she interned at Kumabe HR and American Savings Bank in human resources and recruitment. Beyond her career, Kelli serves on the Shidler Alumni Association Board and is Vice Chair of the Membership Committee for the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii Young Professionals program.

Kelli is excited to expand her involvement with the Young Professionals program and looks forward to mentoring the next generation of high-achieving students.







### Sherman Chum



#### Home Loan Consultant

Hawaii Mortgage Group

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Real Estate and Finance

#### **About Sherman**

Sherman was born in Los Angeles, spent part of his childhood in Hong Kong, and moved to Hawaii at age eight. This multicultural upbringing fostered his deep appreciation for diverse communities and the value of meaningful connections. Sherman is fluent in Mandarin and Cantonese. He holds a BA in Organizational Management and an MBA from the University of Arizona. Sherman Chum is employed as a Home Loan Consultant at Hawaii Mortgage Group.

Active in the community, Sherman serves as President of the Rotary Club of Kahala Sunrise and the Engagement Committee Chair of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii's Young Professional Program.









#### Managing Partner

Chun, Cordasco & Associates

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Entrepreneurship, Science, Insurance, HR, and Consulting

#### **About Edward**

Mr. Cordasco is an experienced entrepreneur that has leveraged his skills in biomedical research, tech start-ups and corporate organizations. As an early employee of multiple start-ups, Mr. Cordasco understands the need to balance swift growth with quality client servicing. Although he may not have some of the skills necessary to solve client issues that may come up, Mr. Cordasco will need to leverage his ability to delegate, teach, and hire high-quality employees in order for the firm to succeed. As a former college athlete, Mr. Cordasco welcomes adversity and failure. The firm understands they may not be the perfect solution for all clients, and through hard work, grit, and determination to help his clients grow; Mr. Cordasco will be laser-focused on learning how he can improve the consulting company for the benefit of his clients.

As a board member of Dreamhouse Ewa Beach Public Charter School and active committee member of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii and Oahu Country Club; Mr. Cordasco cherishes the importance of community-building and relationships. Mr. Cordasco earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry, and his Master of Business Administration in Science, Technology, and Innovation from Chaminade University of Honolulu. During High school, he was lucky to earn a 4.17 GPA while being involved with Varsity Soccer, AP Chemistry Club, AP Physics Club, and Mu Alpha Theta Honors Club.







### Kira Diehm



## Associate Director of Development, Mānoa Athletics

University of Hawaii Foundation

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Arts and Communication, Marketing

#### **About Kira**

Kira Diehm is the Associate Director of Development for UH Mānoa Athletics at the University of Hawaii Foundation. In this role, she supports all 21 UHM sports teams by fundraising for their operations, student scholarships, and NIL opportunities.

Her career experience includes producing for KITV4 Island News, managing internal communications for Warner Media in Los Angeles, California, and most recently leading the communications and marketing for the University of Hawaii System Alumni Office.

Kira graduated from Indiana University (IU) with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism. During her time in Indiana, she played club volleyball, assisted in the production of the IU Podcast, and reported on local stories for the school newspaper.

Kira is originally from Oahu, but moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in middle school. In high school, Kira was the editor of the school newspaper and the captain of the varsity volleyball team. She enjoys an active lifestyle, watching Steelers football, and traveling.







### Joshua Domingo



#### IT Specialist, Emergency Manager

**FEMA** 

#### **Best Match Industries**

Government and Policy, IT, Law and Public Safety

#### **About Joshua**

Joshua Domingo is a dynamic young professional dedicated to growth, service, and mentorship. A 2017 graduate of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management Information Systems, Joshua has built a career that bridges technology, community, and public service.

His professional journey reflects a deep commitment to adaptability and problem-solving. Beginning in IT support at Puuhale Elementary School, Joshua gained firsthand experience in managing technology solutions for educational environments. He later served with the Peace Corps in Uganda, where he applied both technical and interpersonal skills to support local development efforts, fostering resilience, and cultural exchange. Returning home, he joined Jas. W. Glover, Ltd., gaining exposure to the private sector and strengthening his versatility across industries and later transitioning to FEMA, contributing to disaster response and recovery amidst a very dynamic work environment in the recent administration.

Beyond his professional roles, Joshua is known for his active, hands-on lifestyle. Whether cycling through challenging routes, fine-tuning cars, or experimenting with electronics and DIY projects, he thrives on curiosity, creativity, and constant learning. These passions translate into his mentoring style, where he encourages others to pursue growth through exploration, discipline, and resilience.

Joshua's journey demonstrates that career paths need not be linear but can instead be built through diverse experiences, service, and a passion for lifelong learning. Through mentorship, he aims to inspire the next generation of professionals to embrace challenges, seek growth, and make meaningful contributions in their communities.







### **Brianna Dung**



### Marketing and Events Coordinator

Market Advantage

#### **Best Match Industries**

Food & Beverage, Events and Marketing

#### **About Brianna**

Brianna Dung, born and raised on the island of Oahu, is a graduate of Saint Francis High School, where she was an accomplished student-athlete, competing in cross country and track. During her time there, she was also an active member of the Recruitment Club and served as president of the Art Honors Society.

She went on to earn a degree in Communications with a minor in Studio Art through the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, distinguishing herself through involvement in several student organizations. Brianna held leadership roles with the American Marketing Association, the Public Relations Student Society of America, Spoon University, and the American Institute of Graphic Arts. She also participated in the prestigious Disney College Program in Orlando, Florida.

She brings a diverse background in marketing through internships with Anthology Marketing Group, BAMP Project, and Aoki Group, gaining valuable experience across various sectors of the industry.

Currently, Brianna serves as the Events and Marketing Coordinator at Market Advantage, an events and marketing agency that promotes sales for beverage brands through activations across the Hawaiian Islands.







### Kat Duran-Higa



#### Product Design & Experience Manager

**Terranox** 

#### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Business, IT

#### **About Kat**

Kat is a Kalihi native and a McKinley High School alum with a BA in Business Administration from the University of Hawaii at West Oahu. She works primarily remotely as the Product Design & Experience Manager at Terranox, where she leverages design and data to improve how organizations work, from streamlining operations and enhancing client services.

With over a decade of experience in digital services, design, and strategy – and a past life in marketing within the financial services industry – Kat specializes in identifying workflow patterns, resolving operational bottlenecks, and building scalable systems that empower organizations to better serve their customers and communities. Her approach makes it easy for teams to measure progress and understand impact without the tech overwhelm.

While Kat wasn't big on sports or school clubs growing up, she discovered her passion for community engagement as a young adult, and now sees her volunteer work as the extracurriculars of adulting. She still wouldn't call herself "sporty," but she's recently taken up running half marathons and is a fan of calisthenics, and sometimes catches herself eyeing random street poles and thinking if she could invert on that. She cofounded UXHI, a community elevating Hawaii's UX profession through education, community engagement, and professional development. She serves on the Advisory Board for Farrington High School's Creative Arts & Technology Academy, co-chairs the Emerging Technologies Sub-Committee under the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii's Young Professionals Program, and is a board member of the Filipino Community Center.

She's also a recent participant of the City & County of Honolulu Office of Economic Revitalization's pilot Idea2Biz startup business incubator, where she began developing a Filipiniana capsule wardrobe brand that blends modern Filipino cultural attire with traditional Philippine weaves.







### Cassandra Joy Ecraela



#### Manager, Talent Sourcing & Research

The Walt Disney Company

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Hospitality and Tourism

#### **About Cassandra**

Born and raised in Ewa Beach, HI, Cassie is a proud alumna of James Campbell High School and the University of Hawaii at Mānoa where she received her BBA in International Business, Human Resources and Business Management with a Minor in Philippine Language and Culture. Over her career, Cassie has had the opportunity to work in a variety of industries before taking a leap of faith to work for The Walt Disney Company (TWDC) in Burbank, CA. Since then, she's had the great fortune to build her expertise across TWDC's Corporate, Television, and Hospitality teams.

Now back home in Hawaii, she works remotely as a leader on the Talent Sourcing and Research team, partnering with Disney's businesses to implement data-driven talent acquisition strategies, inclusive hiring practices, and targeted business solutions. She is personally passionate about volunteering, opening doors for others, finding new ways to enrich Hawaii's workforce, and championing a community of genuine belonging.







### Charmaine Ecraela



#### **Registered Nurse**

University Health Services Mānoa

#### **Best Match Industries**

**Health Services** 

#### **About Charmaine**

Charmaine Ecraela is a Filipino-American woman who was born and raised in Ewa Beach, Hawaii and is an alumnus of James Campbell High School. As a young girl, she was determined to find a path that would not only create a successful future, but also provide her with opportunities to help her community. This is what inspired her to enter higher education with the intention of pursuing a career in healthcare.

Charmaine attended the University of Hawaii at Mānoa for 2.5 years, where she took prerequisite courses for nursing school and simultaneously worked at the school's health center (University Health Services Mānoa) as a medical assistant. She then transferred to Hawaii Pacific University due to her acceptance into their 2-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. As a nursing student, she was selected to participate in a preceptorship program that allowed her to work one-on-one with a registered nurse (RN) at Pali Momi Medical Center to provide care to patients on the Medical-Surgical unit. This experience taught her many valuable life skills, including how to build strong professional relationships, effectively communicate with peers, and stay focused under pressure. These skills enable her to be a successful healthcare professional in both independent and team settings. After obtaining her BSN degree, she returned to University Health Services Mānoa as a COVID-19 Response Team Specialist while working towards her RN license. This team was responsible for assessing the risk of COVID-19 infection spread throughout the community and assisting the university's physicians and nurses with monitoring patients' health throughout quarantine. She would work there for four months before being eventually offered her current job as a full-time clinic nurse. Today, she works closely with other licensed physicians to maintain the health and wellness of UH Mānoa's diverse population of students and faculty.







### Joshua Fujino



#### **Data Analyst**

Hawaii Dental Service

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Government and Policy, IT

#### **About Joshua**

In high school Joshua was involved in Orchestra and the School Newspaper. In college, Joshua majored in Math and Economics. Since college, Joshua worked at Bank of Hawaii, First Hawaiian Bank, Google and most recently Hawaii Dental Service.







### Matthew Galarneau



#### **AVP & ALM Officer**

First Hawaiian Bank

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Finance

#### **About Matthew**

Matthew attended Punahou School, where he was a participant in sports such as basketball, volleyball and cross country. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Oregon State University and a Master's in Financial Mathematics from Columbia University. He currently works in Asset Liability Management at First Hawaiian Bank. Prior to that, he has worked in various roles as an actuary and hedge fund quant in New York and Connecticut. He enjoys watching and playing basketball, traveling and spending time with his wife and two children.







### **Matt Gozun**



#### **Associate Attorney**

Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Law and Public Safety

#### **About Matt**

Matt Gozun is an Associate Attorney with Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert, a law firm in Downtown Honolulu. Matt works with local, Mainland, and international clients with regard to business, estate planning, and immigration matters.

Matt is originally from Mililani and is a graduate of Damien Memorial School. While in high school, he was involved in the school newspaper, yearbook, and Leo Club. Matt attended Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he double majored in Biology and Economics. Before beginning law school, Matt served as a high school English teacher for the JET Programme in Tokushima, Japan. Matt earned his J.D. from the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law in 2023 and became a licensed attorney that same year. During his time in law school, Matt participated in an international moot court competition and interned at a law firm in Tokyo.

Matt is bilingual, having learned how to read and speak Japanese during his time in Japan. His hobbies include photography, hiking, reading, and playing musical instruments.







### Gabriella Gualano



#### Project Administrator

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA)

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Health Services, Admin

#### **About Gabriella**

Gabriella Gualano is a project administrator for the Account Management and Sales department on HMSA's well-being and health plan education team. Gabriella has a diverse professional background in agriculture, film, financial services, and hospitality, which has shaped her adaptability, creativity, and strong people skills.

Gabriella is passionate about helping others grow and succeed. She looks forward to inspiring students in the YP HI School Mentor Program by sharing her experiences and encouraging them to explore their unique paths with confidence.







### Norvin Gulmayo



### Recruiting and Retention NCO

Hawaii Army National Guard

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Government and Policy, Health Services, Law and Public Safety

#### **About Norvin**

Norvin Gulmayo is a dedicated leader, recruiter, and community advocate with a strong foundation in athletics, education, and service. A graduate of Waipahu High School, he was actively involved in sports—particularly track and field—where he developed discipline, teamwork, and a competitive spirit that continue to shape his career.

He went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration, where he deepened his understanding of organizational leadership and community service. His professional journey has spanned healthcare and public service, including roles as a Client Services Manager with BAYADA Home Health Care and as a Psychiatric Assistant at Queen's Medical Center. These positions strengthened his ability to work with diverse populations and reinforced his belief in servant leadership.

Norvin currently serves as a Recruiting and Retention Noncommissioned Officer in the Hawaii Army National Guard, where he leverages his passion for mentorship and community outreach to guide the next generation of Soldiers. He has built a reputation for connecting with young people —especially student-athletes and college students—by highlighting the opportunities the Guard provides for education, career development, and leadership growth.

Outside of uniform, Norvin is entrepreneurial and creative, building brands such as NRG.PNG Photography and Primal Instincts, where he combines his love for design, athletics, and local culture. His work reflects his values of discipline, creativity, and commitment to uplifting his community.







### **Anastasiya Hewett**



#### Regulatory Operations

Olivine Inc.

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Government and Policy, Natural Resources, Renewable Energy, Finance

#### **About Anastasiya**

Anastasiya Hewett loves solving problems and helping people discover new opportunities. With a background in finance, regulatory analysis, and utility rate-making, she has built her career around finding creative solutions to complex challenges and connecting people, numbers, and ideas in meaningful ways.

Her leadership and teamwork skills were shaped early on through athletics, especially lacrosse, which she played competitively throughout high school and into college - experiences that taught her collaboration, discipline, and how to think strategically.

Anastasiya earned a Bachelor of Science in International Business with minors in Accounting and Finance from the University of Colorado, followed by a Master of Business Administration from Louisiana State University. Professionally, she has worked in consulting and with utilities, contributing to regulatory cases, cost-of-service modeling, and rate recovery strategies. She frequently partners with engineers, finance experts, and project managers to connect technology investments with regulatory approvals and long-term business planning.

Beyond her career, Anastasiya is passionate about supporting women in STEM. She has led initiatives to encourage women in math and engineering, mentoring students and creating opportunities for growth. Known for thinking outside the box, she takes pride in being resourceful and helping others navigate financial and career decisions—especially those who may be looking at unconventional paths.







### Kelly Imada



### **HR Associate**

**HEMIC** 

### Best Match Industries Business

#### **About Kelly**

Born and raised in Honolulu, Kelly is a graduate of Iolani High School where she played Varsity Softball for the Raiders. After High School, she attended Whittier College in California before transferring home to study Biology at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa.

During college, Kelly had the pleasure of interning at a local boutique hotel in Waikiki. While the internship focused on business, it allowed her to begin narrowing down the career path she wanted. When not at her internship or classes, Kelly took on several different jobs in the service industry. This is where she discovered her passion for working with people. With new vision in sight, Kelly utilized the relationships she had built and embarked on her career in the Human Resources field at ProService Hawaii. She held various roles within the organization so that she could further expand her knowledge in the industry.

Kelly takes her experience and continues her journey as a Human Resources Associate at HEMIC. Under great leadership, she embraces the opportunity of continuous learning of HR compliance, company culture, and creating an amazing workplace for everyone.

Kelly believes that every day is an opportunity to learn, build relationships, and make a difference in one's life. She believes all paths taken have driven her to discover a passion for Human Resources. Kelly is excited to share her knowledge on the importance of building genuine relationships and finding the path to your future career.







### Kaya Ishimine



Manager, Marketing & Assistant Executive Director, Young Professionals Program

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Marketing, Arts and Communication

#### **About Kaya**

Kaya Ishimine currently serves as the Manager of Marketing and the Associate Executive Director of the Young Professionals Program at Chamber of Commerce Hawaii. In her role, she leads strategic communications across digital marketing platforms and programming that connects and empowers young professionals.

Kaya graduated from James Campbell High School in 2020, where she served on student council for all 4 years. She went on to graduate with a double BBA in Business Management and Marketing from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, where she was recognized as Outstanding Student in Management in 2024.

Prior to her current role, Kaya gained valuable experience in customer relations interning at the Marriott Grand Chateau in Las Vegas, NV. Later, she expanded on her marketing and communications skills as a digital marketing intern at American Savings Bank. In 2025, Kaya was awarded Pacific Business News' Inno Under 25, an award recognizing her leadership and contributions to Hawaii's business community.







### Susan Iverson



### Team Engagement Specialist

Catholic Charities Hawaii

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Non-Profit, Social Services

#### **About Susan**

Susan is a graduate of President William McKinley High School, where she was part of the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism. During high school, she was involved in extracurricular activities such as Judo, soccer, and the Japanese Club. After graduation, she spent two years living in San Diego before returning to pursue higher education.

She earned dual associate degrees in Hospitality Management and Travel & Tourism Management from Kapiolani Community College, where an internship with the Hawaii Tourism Authority sparked her interest in Human Resources. Building on this passion, she transferred to the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and completed a double major in Human Resources Management and International Business.

Alongside her studies, Susan gained hands-on experience working part-time in the restaurant industry and with Red Bull, while also interning with organizations such as Breast Cancer Hawaii, First Hawaiian Bank, and PetSmart in Arizona. These opportunities allowed her to explore different industries and strengthen her skills in communication, teamwork, and business operations.

She is currently a Team Engagement Specialist with the Human Resources team at Catholic Charities Hawaii. Passionate about giving back, she enjoys helping others discover their passions and develop their strengths, and looks forward to mentoring by sharing her experiences and insights.







### Dan Kaneko



## Marketing & Communications Specialist

Hawaii Dental Service (HDS)

#### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Business, Health Services

#### **About Dan**

Dan Kaneko is a marketing and communications professional who helps tell the stories of local businesses and organizations in Hawaii. He currently works as a Marketing and Communications Specialist at Hawaii Dental Service (HDS), where he creates campaigns that connect with people and support the mission of Hawaii's first and leading dental benefits provider.

Dan is a proud Kamehameha Schools "lifer" and stays closely connected to the campus as an assistant coach for the cross country and track teams. For him, coaching is about more than running. It's about helping students become strong, disciplined and thoughtful leaders, both on and off the track.

During his time at Kamehameha, Dan was involved in a wide range of activities including athletics, student publications, video production and academic clubs. After graduation, he attended the University of Miami in Florida, where he completed both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees through an accelerated program. This accelerated program helped him save time and money, allowing him to jumpstart his career and focus on his professional goals.

Before joining HDS, Dan held roles at Kamehameha Schools, the YMCA of Honolulu and Hawaiian Electric. His decision to work for these organizations has been guided by the impact they make in strengthening Hawaii's communities.

He is excited to mentor students who are ready to grow, challenge themselves and build a brighter future for themselves and their communities.







### **Tori Kawahara**



#### AVP & Commercial Loan Officer

Hawaii State Federal Credit Union

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business

#### **About Tori**

Tori is a Commercial Loan Officer at Hawaii State Federal Credit Union, with a background in commercial underwriting and lending. She earned her degree in Business Administration with a minor in Economics from the University of Oregon. Tori is originally from upcountry Maui and graduated from King Kekaulike High School, where she was actively involved in sports like basketball and volleyball.

Tori's career in banking has taught her meaningful lessons—about professionalism, resilience, and personal growth. She's excited to share these experiences with her mentee and help bridge the gap between school and the working world. There's so much that school prepares you for, but also so much that's only learned through real-life experience. She hopes to offer honest insight and guidance to help her mentee navigate that transition with confidence.

Mentorship is a two-way street, and she's looking forward to learning more about herself through this journey. Learning is lifelong, and she's excited to grow together.







## Elizabeth Kim



## Care Transitions Specialist

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA)

### **Best Match Industries**

**Health Services** 

### **About Elizabeth**

Elizabeth Kim grew up in Kaneohe and graduated from Castle High School in 2007. After high school, she initially considered law and then psychology. After her first year at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, she decided to follow in her grandmother's footsteps and pursue a career in nursing.

Elizabeth went on to attend UH Mānoa's school of nursing and received her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in 2013. She is now a Registered Nurse (RN) Care Transitions Specialist at HMSA, where she works to ensure that patients are discharged home safely. Before her current role, she held various RN positions in long-term care nursing, home health, and cardiac outpatient care.

In her free time, Elizabeth enjoys traveling, exploring new restaurants, and spending quality time with her family at the beach.







## Kalena Kimura



### **Sales Lead**

Goodmerch Supply

### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Fashion Design

### **About Kalena**

Kalena Kimura has always been drawn to creative opportunities and finding new ways to grow. In high school, she served as Commissioner and Secretary in the leadership program all four years, planning events like prom and class activities. She was also part of the first group of students to participate in the University of Hawaii at Mānoa's Running Start program, earning college credit before graduation.

Kalena attended the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, where she double-majored in Communication and Fashion Merchandising. During college, she interned with Course Hero and Cricket Wireless and worked as a Social Media Manager for Beach Wahine and Cameron Hawaii, gaining early experience in branding and digital marketing. She also served in the American Marketing Association as Vice President of Advertising and later Vice President of Alumni Relations.

After graduating, Kalena joined Goodmerch Supply, a creative branding company that works with clients such as Hawaiian Airlines, Westin properties, Billabong, Vuori, and other brands nationwide to bring their merchandise visions to life. She began as a Creative Assistant, moved into a Sales Representative role, and is now the Sales Lead, helping guide projects from concept to completion.

Kalena looks forward to mentoring students and hopes to share how exploring different paths, staying curious, and embracing creativity can lead to meaningful opportunities.







# Mahina Komeiji



### **ELA Teacher**

HIDOE, Radford

### **Best Match Industries**

Education

### **About Mahina**

Mahina Komeiji is an educator and lifelong learner with a heart for community and creativity. Her journey began at Mid-Pacific Institute, where she cultivated a passion for writing and leadership as President of the Open Mic Club and Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper. This led her to Boston, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Writing, Literature, and Publishing from Emerson College and a Master's in Education from Lesley University.

Returning home to Oahu, Mahina taught English Language Arts at Moanalua High School and continued to mentor students as the advisor for the school newspaper. Now teaching at Radford High School, she continues to inspire her students. And even leads a unique literary cooking class for elementary students during the summer. Mahina is dedicated to helping people learn and grow, and she is working toward her career goal of moving into Learning and Development and adult education. Outside of her professional life, she's an accomplished powerlifter and the creative force behind her own small business making workout apparel.





## **Marina Kraus**



### Senior Sales Executive

Hilton Grand Vacations

### **Best Match Industries**

Hospitality and Tourism, Sales/Real Estate

### **About Marina**

Marina Kraus is a real estate agent who has been working in sales/marketing for a decade. She is a country girl who graduated from Kahuku High school. She got her first job as soon as someone would accept her at the age of 15 and has worked in lunch trucks, Starbucks, restaurants, catering, various hotels, private homes, etc. After high school she went into a trade school for culinary arts, she is a foodie and loves Oahu's diverse palette. She believes in trying it all. She wants the next generation to know it's possible to stay in Hawaii and create the work life balance they desire. She loves surfing, any outdoor activity, and time with the Ohana. She wants to give back what she was given when figuring out her path, the priceless mentoring that we all appreciate and will always remember. She looks forward to meeting you!

"The little choices we make every day—how we treat others, what we prioritize, where we find joy—shape the mosaic of a truly wonderful life." — Anonymous







# **Ethan Landy**



### EV Customer Specialist

Hawaiian Electric Company

### **Best Match Industries**

Industrial and Engineering Technology, Renewable Energy, Transportation

#### **About Ethan**

Ethan Landy is an engineering and project management leader with over a decade of experience driving projects that enhance how communities move, live, and thrive within their built environment. He is passionate about using innovation to transform cities into more enjoyable, equitable, and environmentally-friendly places to live.

As Senior Program Manager - Commercial Strategy & Innovation with Hawaiian Electric's Electrification of Transportation Division, Ethan leads strategic initiatives and partnerships to accelerate electric vehicle adoption and grid integration. He also founded and leads Pride Power, Hawaiian Electric's LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group.

Ethan's diverse professional experience spans energy efficiency and renewable energy project development, institutional construction project management, and operations management in agricultural technology.

Born and raised in Vancouver, Canada, he played trumpet in his high school's R&B band and jazz ensemble, and was heavily involved in his community through roles in student government and other volunteering activities.

Ethan earned a Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a focus on Sustainable Design and Construction from Stanford University, and a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from McGill University. He is also a Certified Energy Manager and LEED Accredited Professional.

Outside of work, Ethan enjoys spending time outdoors, learning languages, travelling and discovering new music.







# Kiana Langer



### Internal Marketing Coordinator

Premier Restoration Hawaii

### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Marketing

### **About Kiana**

Kiana Langer is a marketing professional with over six years of experience in brand strategy, CRM development, and analytics-driven campaigns. Born and raised in Roseville, California, she was actively involved in student leadership throughout high school, planning orientations, rallies, homecoming dances, and senior prom. She also played competitive soccer and was part of her school's Health Academy, completing internships in Med Surge and ICU that shaped her goal-oriented approach.

Originally pursuing nursing in college, Kiana quickly transitioned to political science with a pre-law focus before adding a second major in communications after discovering her passion for marketing. After graduation, she chose to pursue marketing full-time, putting law school on hold. She began as Marketing Manager at The Law Offices of Rhoda Yabes Alvarez, later worked in operations and social media as a Custom Orders Manager at House of Diamonds, then pivoted back to marketing as Sales & Marketing Manager for Defend Hawai'i. Building on this experience, she launched her own agency, HAPA Marketing, before moving into her current roles — leading statewide marketing initiatives for Premier Restoration Hawai'i and developing the marketing program from the ground up at Cleaner's Warehouse.

Beyond her career, Kiana has been dedicated to community service from a young age, beginning with St. Baldrick's Foundation and Keaton's Child Cancer Alliance. She currently serves on the Make-A-Wish Hawai'i Young Leaders Board, is active in HLTA, HISHE, and IREM, and contributes to the Young Professionals Chamber of Commerce as part of its Events Committee.

Through her career, volunteer work, and association involvement, Kiana has grown into a collaborative, forward-thinking professional who thrives in team environments and approaches challenges with creativity and out-of-the-box solutions — always striving to make a meaningful impact in both her work and community.







## Julian Larimer



## Senior Manager, Mission Operations

**Anduril Industries** 

#### **Best Match Industries**

Defense Technology

### **About Julian**

Julian is a senior manager at the defense startup Anduril Industries. He grew up in Carmel, California and graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point. While at West Point he pitched for four years for the baseball team. Before working in tech, he served as an Army Armor Officer, leading both heavy and light cavalry units.

Today, he helps the U.S. and its partners use drones, sensors, and software to support real-world decision making in national defense. He's especially interested in helping others learn about careers in frontier technologies, public service, or playing sports at the collegiate level.

In his free time, he enjoys surfing, playing guitar, and spending time with his family.







# **Buddy Leong**



# Strategy, Tech, and Marketing Consultant

Bubble tea supply

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, IT

### **About Buddy**

Buddy Leong was raised on Oahu and attended Punahou School where he helped to lead multiple entrepreneurial programs including Virtual Student Experiences, a program that enabled students to gain insights on career paths that they were interested in from people working in those fields. After graduating from Punahou during a covid year, he went to Babson College where he studied business, the college's only major. At Babson, he gained experience in creating and shutting down a startup, consulting for venture capital firms, and helping found the campus pickleball club.

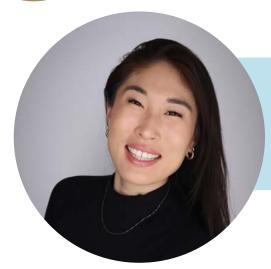
Since graduating, Buddy now works as a consultant to companies helping them integrate AI into their business with a specialty in the areas of technology and marketing. Some of his past clients include Builders VC, Autotech Ventures, Pacific Edge Magazine, Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center, University of Hawaii, Bubble Tea Supply and more. Since moving back to Hawaii, you can find Buddy at the beach collecting seashells, playing pickleball, and at home working late at night.







## Cerina Livaudais



## Lead Education Technologist

Purple Mai'a Foundation

### **Best Match Industries**

Education, IT, Technology & Al Project Management

### **About Cerina**

Cerina Livaudais is the Lead Education Technologist at Purple Maia Foundation, where she combines her background in education leadership and passion for technology to create empowering and culturally-grounded educational products, including curricula and professional development experiences. She earned her B.A. in Economics from the University of Southern California, where she also walked on to the Division 1 rowing team, and later completed her M.S. in Education at Johns Hopkins University.

Her value for people and equity led her to become a teacher with Teach for America, where she taught math and computer science. Several years into her teaching journey, she had the opportunity to help build a public charter school in Hawaii, serving as a founding teacher and administrator before moving into nonprofit work.

High school Cerina was an ambitious, slightly nerdy, social, and well-rounded athlete. Varsity basketball was always the focus, but she cheered, played softball and ran cross-country on the side just for fun. One of her core high school memories was staying up all night with her classmates and decorating the entire school purple (their class color). She started several clubs and also served as class vice-president.

These days, you can find Cerina spending time with her ohana (husband and 4 year old), mālama āina, running a marathon, or exploring new places and cultures through food.







# Lord Ryan Lizardo



## Vice President of Education

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Education

### **About Lord Ryan**

Lord Ryan has been involved in education all his life. Lord Ryan attended James Campbell High School and started his journey into the world of education as a Big Brothers and Big Sisters Mentor. In high school, he also served as the Student Council President, National Honor Society President, and Editor-in-Chief of the high school newspaper.

He found passion in teaching others and decided to major in Integrated Educational Studies at Chapman University. In college, he was the Speaker of Senate for Student Government, a Lead Resident Advisor, and New Member Educator for his fraternity, Delta Tau Delta. After earning his Bachelor's of Arts in Education, Lord Ryan returned home to teach at James Campbell High School for six years as a Social Studies teacher. Lord Ryan served as a student council advisor for the Class of 2020 and the Academy of Public and Human Services Lead. During that time, he also earned his Masters of Science in Education from Johns Hopkins University.

After teaching for six years, Lord Ryan entered a new role with the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii where he connects businesses with local schools for students and educators to experience work-based learning opportunities. This includes field trips, mentorships, internships, etc. This has enabled Lord Ryan to connect his love for education and learn the world of business. Lord Ryan's strengths are in his ability to connect others, program & event planning skills, and navigating social networks. He was recently awarded Pacific Business News 40 Under 40.

Lord Ryan is excited to mentor the next generation of leaders and hopes to impart as much knowledge as he can to his mentees.







## Joshua Lorica



# Software Engineer / Incoming Cyber Officer

DataHouse / Hawaii Air National Guard

### **Best Match Industries**

Industrial and Engineering Technology, IT, Military

#### **About Joshua**

In high school, Josh was involved with a few sports including basketball, volleyball, and cross country. He also spent all four years in Interact Club under the Rotary Club of Honolulu volunteering at various local events.

At the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, he earned a B.S. in Computer Engineering (December 2023). During college, he served two years on the Atherton YMCA Student Board—including one year as president—organizing youth programs and service projects and joining volunteer trips to Molokai and the Philippines. During this time, he was invited to join the YMCA of Honolulu Atherton Branch Board of Managers and has served in that role since.

Josh began working during his senior year of high school as a group leader at the Nuuanu YMCA, supporting after-school and intersession programs for elementary students. In college, he worked two jobs: as a tutor for middle school students with the Atherton YMCA, and with the UH Mānoa College of Engineering as an Engineering Student Ambassador, representing the college at outreach and recruitment events and assisting with planning and logistics for engineering showcases and workshops.

Today, Josh is a Software Engineer at DataHouse, a Hawaii-based IT consulting firm, where he builds solutions for public-sector clients. He has also been selected for commission in the Hawaii Air National Guard as an incoming Cyber Operations Officer and is awaiting training dates. Across roles, he's motivated by service, mentorship, and using technology to strengthen his community.







# Christopher Lum Lee



**CEO** 

TriSec, Inc.

### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Government and Policy, Security

### **About Christopher**

Christopher Lum Lee is the Founder and CEO of TriSec, Inc., a Hawaii-based security services and workforce development company. A graduate of the University of Hawai'i-West Oahu with a B.A. in Public Administration and MBA from Chaminade University, Christopher has built his career at the intersection of public service, community leadership, and private enterprise.

Before founding TriSec, Christopher served in positions with the State of Hawai'i and the City & County of Honolulu, where he gained extensive experience in government operations, policy, and community engagement. Christopher currently serves as Chair of the Oahu Workforce Development Board, where he collaborates with business leaders, government agencies, and nonprofits to create pathways for employment and economic growth. He also contributes to statewide initiatives as a member of the Hawaii Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

His past leadership roles include serving as President of the Hawai'i Cyber Lions Foundation and Vice President of the Hawaii Public Health Association, reflecting his commitment to service, health, and technology in building stronger communities.

Christopher's roots in leadership began early, with active involvement in his high school newspaper, yearbook, JROTC, Speech and Debate, and Computer Club — experiences that shaped his drive for teamwork, communication, and service. Today, he continues to embody those values by supporting community organizations, including nonprofits such as the Lucky Paws Animal Foundation.

Through his professional, civic, and volunteer roles, Christopher strives to create opportunities that empower individuals, strengthen communities, and reflect his lifelong commitment to education, service, and leadership.







## Brian Madamba



# Content Creator / Organizational Development Specialist

Self-employed & HawaiiUSA FCU

### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Business

### **About Brian**

Brian Madamba, recognized online as Brevenchym, is a Hawaii-based social media creator and organizational development professional whose work bridges digital influence and community growth. With a dynamic presence on platforms like Instagram and TikTok, Brian has cultivated an engaged audience by blending humor, relatability, and cultural insight — making him a trusted voice for both local businesses and global brands seeking authentic connections with island communities.

A proud graduate of Waipahu High School, Class of 2014, Brian's leadership journey began early as an active member of the student council. He later pursued his passion for business and people development at Leeward Community College, where he earned a Certificate in Business Essentials. These formative experiences built the foundation for his dual career path: advancing employee learning within Hawai'i's financial sector while growing a personal brand that entertains and empowers.

Professionally, Brian serves as a Learning & Development Specialist, designing innovative programs that strengthen leadership, communication, and resilience across diverse teams. He is deeply committed to nurturing employee potential and has contributed to strategic initiatives that align learning with organizational success. His work reflects a belief that professional growth and personal well-being go hand in hand, and he has championed programs that integrate mindfulness, inclusivity, and collaboration.

As Brevenchym, Brian amplifies his mission beyond the workplace. His digital storytelling not only showcases the vibrant culture of Hawaii but also sparks conversations about leadership, identity, and community building. By merging his expertise in organizational learning with his influence online, Brian embodies a new kind of leader: one who develops people in the boardroom and inspires audiences worldwide with authenticity and humor.







## Jasper Jay Marcelo



## **Industrial Agent**

NAI CBI

### **Best Match Industries**

**Business** 

### **About Jasper**

Jasper Jay D. Marcelo is a Marine Corps veteran and commercial real estate agent specializing in industrial properties across Oahu. During his time in the U.S. Marine Corps, he developed the leadership, discipline, and teamwork skills that continue to guide his professional career today.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a double major in Accounting and Finance, followed by a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Hawaii Pacific University. His strong financial background, combined with real-world business experience, allows him to provide clients with data-driven strategies for leasing, acquisitions, and investments.

Jasper has held leadership positions with several professional organizations, including the Urban Land Institute (ULI), NAIOP, and the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii Young Professionals Sponsorship Committee. He recently joined the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce, further deepening his community involvement and professional network. Dedicated to continuous growth, he is actively pursuing the Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation, reflecting his commitment to always learning and delivering industry expertise at the highest standard.

Known for his relationship-driven approach, Jasper works closely with manufacturers, distributors, contractors, and operators, helping them navigate the competitive Honolulu industrial market. He is passionate about the critical role industrial real estate plays in Hawaii's economy, from supporting trade and construction to strengthening local business operations.

Beyond brokerage, Jasper remains engaged in cultural and community initiatives, including supporting the Filipino Community Center's annual festivals and gala. With a foundation of service, leadership, and business expertise, he is committed to making a lasting impact on both the industrial real estate industry and the broader Hawaii community.







## Marcus Mau



## **Project Analyst**

SMX

### **Best Match Industries**

**Business** 

### **About Marcus**

In high school, Marcus ran cross country and kept the bench warm for his basketball and volleyball teams. He was also part of his class council and the National Honor Society, Interact Club, Japanese club, and Filipino club (he's not Filipino). He graduated from the University of Hawaii with a major in Finance, Management Information Systems, and International Business, and a minor in Economics.

While in college he participated in business clubs: Business Executive Society of Tomorrow, Delta Sigma Pi, International Business Organization, and Information Technology Management Association. He was also able to do internships at companies such as American Savings Bank, Central Pacific Bank, Omnitrak Group, and SMS. He is currently working for a defense contractor, but is transitioning into a new role in data analysis. He's very nerdy, but loves trying new things since life is meant to be lived and hopes to help people find that same balance!





## **Jake McCool**



## Director of Business Systems

Koa Capital Partners

### **Best Match Industries**

Business, IT, Technology

#### **About Jake**

Jake McCool is a business systems leader with a strong academic background, a history of athletics, and a commitment to community service. In high school, he was actively involved in soccer, tennis, football, and the Interact Club, developing teamwork, discipline, and leadership skills that continue to guide his professional career.

He attended the University of California, Los Angeles, graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. Jake later earned his Global MBA from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa's Shidler College of Business, graduating with distinction while balancing full-time work and study.

Professionally, Jake began his career as a Real Estate Development Analyst Intern at Related Companies in Los Angeles, where he built a strong foundation in finance and analytics. He then transitioned into project management with H2O Process Systems and Koa Process, driving digital transformation initiatives and improving operational efficiency. From there, he advanced to Special Projects Manager at Koa Restoration & Maintenance, where he leveraged automation, low-code systems, and data analytics to streamline operations for small and mid-sized businesses. Today, as Director of Business Systems at Koa Capital Partners, a Hawaii-based private equity firm, Jake leads IT strategy, systems integration, and enterprise-wide innovation initiatives that support the growth of local businesses.

Beyond his career, Jake is actively engaged in the community. He serves on the Hawaii Advisory Board for Vision to Learn, a nonprofit that provides free eye exams and glasses to children, and is an active member of the Young Professionals (YP) Professional Development Committee with the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii. In his free time, Jake enjoys golf, pickleball, hiking, swimming, tennis, and spending time with his goldendoodle.







## **Breeze-Lyn Morita**



## Marketing Associate

Chaminade University

### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Education

### **About Breeze-Lyn**

Breeze is a 2016 graduate of Mid-Pacific Institute, where she played softball and participated in the School of the Arts dance program. She earned her bachelor's degree in Marketing with a specialization in Advertising and Social Media from the University of Mount Saint Vincent in New York. While at UMSV, Breeze was a member of the softball team, dance team, and Model United Nations club.

During her time at UMSV, Breeze gained extensive professional experience. As Head Tour Guide of Social Media in the Admissions Office, she managed a team of 30+ guides and oversaw the university's social media presence. She also worked as a Public Relations intern at The Brooks Group in Manhattan, working with clients such as Guy Fieri, Chrissy Teigen, and Emeril Lagasse—an experience that deepened her knowledge while giving her a firsthand look at the pace and culture of NYC.

After graduation, Breeze returned to Hawaii, where she has worked across several industries. At Aligned Mortgage, she built a social media presence for a team of loan officers and created real estate marketing materials. At Arcadia Family of Companies, she served as Marketing and Sales Coordinator, managing social media, assisting with media coverage, and supporting the sales process. Currently, Breeze works as the Marketing Associate at Chaminade University, where she manages the institution's official social media accounts, assists with public relations, and builds, maintains, and expands brand awareness to support the university's mission."

Throughout her career, Breeze has often been the youngest in the room, a role that has inspired her to mentor students entering the professional world with confidence and authenticity. She is passionate about empowering others through creativity, self-expression, and compassion.

Outside of work, she enjoys dancing, taking barre classes, and embracing life as a proud dog mom.







## **Emanuel Moura**



## Sr. Growth Marketing Manager

Lights On

### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Hospitality and Tourism

#### **About Emanuel**

Emanuel Moura is a growth marketer, entrepreneur, and community mentor who believes in using his skills to help the next generation succeed. Raised between the Azores and California, Emanuel grew up playing competitive soccer and staying active in student rallies and multicultural events — experiences that taught him the importance of teamwork, resilience, and celebrating diverse perspectives.

He earned his degree in Business Administration with a focus in Marketing from California State University–Monterey Bay and has since built a career across startups, global companies, and local businesses. His journey has taken him from launching growth campaigns at Monterey Drone and Portugal.com, to leading international marketing at 99designs. Today, Emanuel serves as Senior Growth Marketing Manager at Lights On in Honolulu, helping boutique hotels and resorts thrive through digital strategy.

What drives Emanuel most, however, is giving back. Guided by his core values of sustainability, authenticity, empathy, and fun, he is passionate about helping local students discover their unique strengths, create opportunities, and build confidence to pursue their goals.

Outside of his professional work, Emanuel enjoys gardening, hiking Hawaii's trails, and exploring music and creativity. Fluent in English and conversational in Portuguese and Spanish, he thrives in multicultural spaces and brings a global perspective to mentoring. He looks forward to supporting students in charting their paths and contributing to a stronger local community.







# Seiichi Nagai



Founder, CEO

**CivicNexus** 

### **Best Match Industries**

Government and Policy, IT, Al & Civic Technology

### **About Seiichi**

Seiichi Nagai is the Founder and CEO of CivicNexus, a civic technology startup that helps organizations track legislation and engage with policy using Al-powered tools. He previously served as Vice President of Engineering at Shifted Energy, a Honolulu-based renewable energy startup.

Seiichi shamelessly reports graduating high school with a 2.7 GPA. During a gap year program volunteering in Argentina, Japan, and South Korea, he discovered his drive and sense of purpose. Carrying that forward, he went on to earn a B.S. in Software Engineering and an A.F.A. in Music, graduating Summa Cum Laude in both. He shares this story openly to encourage students who may not have the strongest grades, but who believe in their potential as leaders and changemakers.

He now serves as Co-Chair of the Young Professionals Emerging Technologies Committee. In addition to his professional work, he has served on the Seattle Composers Alliance board of directors and founded Lunch Money, a nonprofit that uses art and music to create healing spaces for youth and promote empathy-driven approaches to conflict.

"It's okay if you don't know exactly what you want to do. The thing that matters most is understanding your why. Once you know that everything else will follow."







# Kyna Nakama



# **Membership Coordinator**

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

**Best Match Industries**Business

**About Kyna** 

Kyna Nakama is born and raised from Mililani where she spent most of her years playing soccer and golf. Kyna attended the University of Mary in North Dakota on scholarship to play Division 2 soccer where she earned a BS in Business Marketing. Prior to working at the Chamber, she worked at Pearlridge Center and Title Guaranty on a variety of different aspects of sponsorship, marketing, and event planning.





# John Nguyen



## **Software Engineer**

Southwest Airlines

### **Best Match Industries**

Industrial and Engineering Technology, IT

### **About John**

With nearly 10 years of experience working with youth, John is honored to contribute his experience as a mentor to the YP HI School Mentor Program.

Since high school, John helped and taught students privately, guiding elementary, middle, and high school students to prepare for standardized tests, competitions, and scholarships. His students have become National Merit Finalists, Fulbright Scholars, Goldwater Scholars; secured admission into Columbia University, University of Southern California, Rutgers University, Chaminade University; and received full ride scholarships to University of Texas at Dallas, and University of South Alabama.

After graduating magna cum laude in computer science, John returned to his alma mater as a program consultant for the Out in Tech at UT Dallas chapter. In this role, John piloted a 1:1 mentorship program with Samsung Electronics America for LGBTQ+ youth, a program that continues to receive outstanding ratings today. He later founded and led the alumni association in building an annual leadership retreat, coordinating tech professionals across Dallas to host skill-building workshops, share life experiences, and provide career guidance to LGBTQ+ students. These programs have fostered long-term professional success, graduating software engineers, researchers, and UX designers who now work at Fortune 500 companies and startups across the nation.

Today, John works as a software engineer for Southwest Airlines and as a programs and data specialist at Surfrider Spirit Sessions. In his spare time, John enjoys competing in hackathons and solo flute competitions.







# Shari Nishijima



### Communications Director

State of Hawaii - Office of the Lt. Governor

### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Government and Policy

### **About Shari**

Shari Nishijima was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, but grateful to call Hawaii home for the past nine years. She currently serves as Communications Director for the State of Hawaii, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, where she oversees strategic communications and develops messaging focused on building public trust and strengthening community engagement.

A proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Shari earned degrees in Political Science and Communications. During her time at UH, she was involved with the Rainbow Warrior Marching Band & Color Guard as well as the Public Relations Student Society of America.

Shari has previously worked at the Hawaii State Legislature and at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, where she continues to volunteer. She is an active member of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce (HJJCC) and volunteers for the Cherry Blossom Festival, previously serving on the 70th court.

In high school, Shari was color guard captain and editor-in-chief of the yearbook. As a mentor, Shari hopes to encourage students to take risks, and explore their passions.







# **Darian Pang**



# **Marketing Consultant**

Kaiser Permanente

### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Health Services

### **About Darian**

Darian Pang is a graduate of Hawaii Baptist Academy and earned her Bachelor's degree in Marketing from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. She began her career at the advertising agency MVNP as an Account Executive, where she led campaigns for major local brands including First Hawaiian Bank, Foodland, and Ward Village.

She then joined International Market Place as a Marketing Specialist, where she managed digital advertising, social media, public relations, and developed signature events that successfully attracted both residents and visitors to the center.

Currently, Darian serves as a Marketing Consultant at Kaiser Permanente. In this role, she focuses on creating strategic marketing materials and campaigns aimed at engaging and acquiring small business clients.





# Kelsey Joy Sablan



## Director of Development

**Armed Services YMCA** 

### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Business, Non Profit Sector, Fundraising

### **About Kelsey**

Kelsey Joy Sablan is a 23-year-old Guam native now living in Mililani, Oʻahu. She currently works as the Director of Development for the Armed Services YMCA, where she focuses on donor stewardship, building fundraising strategy, and managing fundraising campaigns to support military families.

Her leadership journey began in high school as a class council officer, where she planned large-scale events and discovered her passion for project coordination. In 2020, she moved to Hawaii to attend Chaminade University, graduating in 2024 with a B.A. in Communications: Integrated Marketing and minors in Business Administration and Marketing.

She gained hands-on experience in communications, marketing, and public relations through internships at M.Dyer Global, Summit Media, the Office of Economic Revitalization, and AARP Hawaii. These opportunities confirmed her interest in the nonprofit sector and passion for working in her community.

During her time at Chaminade, she served as a Resident Assistant, Hogan Entrepreneurial Student Worker, and Program Coordinator for the Women in Leadership Development program. She also competed in the Silversword Business Plan Competition as marketing manager (1st place) and the IACBE National Business Case Competition (3rd place).

Kelsey recently received her M.A. in Strategic Communication at National University. She serves as the executive advisor for Regal Sapien, a lifestyle brand dedicated to inspiring others. In the YP Program, she also serves on the communications committee. Outside of work, she enjoys the outdoors, reading romance novels, and going to the gym.

She hopes to grow as a leader in the nonprofit sector, expand her skills in fundraising and strategic communication, while giving back to communities in Hawaii and Guam.







# Dedrick Sakuma



## Assistant Mechanical Engineer

**Burns & McDonnell** 

### **Best Match Industries**

Industrial and Engineering Technology

### **About Dedrick**

Dedrick Sakuma is a Mechanical Engineer who enjoys designing and solving problems. He graduated from Kamehameha Schools Kapalama in 2019, where he was involved in an internal engineering internship, the diving team, the math club, and Hawaiian ensemble where he had the opportunity to dance and share the Hawaiian culture in many different places for various purposes.

After high school, Dedrick attended the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and earned a bachelors of science degree in Mechanical Engineering. During college, he served as a EngineeringHI tutor at Castle high school, a design team member on the rover team, and an Engineering Student Ambassador. These roles helped him develop technical skills, leadership experience, and the ability to work effectively on diverse teams.

He currently works at Burns & McDonnell, where he assists in designing for large projects across various topics. Outside of work, Dedrick enjoys to fish, surf, work on cars, and spend time with his family.







## Segundo-Justin Sarce



### FP&A Finance Administrator

Hawaiian Electric Company

### **Best Match Industries**

**Business** 

### **About Segundo-Justin**

Segundo-Justin Sarce is a seasoned finance professional based in Honolulu with experience spanning banking, investment management, utility, and public sector projects. As FP&A Finance Administrator at Hawaiian Electric Company, Justin develops budgets, conducts financial analysis, and supports internal controls to align with corporate goals. In parallel, Justin serves as Portfolio Manager and Senior Trader at Akamai Capital, managing quantitative trading strategies, monitoring global markets, and providing mentorship to students of the AKAMAI Finance Academy Program.

Earlier roles include FP&A analyst at Bank of Hawaii, project controls analyst for Honolulu's rail transit authority, and a commercial real estate lending underwriter at Central Pacific Bank. Justin holds a Master's and a bachelor's in finance from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, where he earned top honors and scholarships. Known for analytical rigor and a collaborative approach, Justin brings a strong track record of supporting financial operations and driving process improvements.







## Eleanor Schwartz



# Founder + Creative Director

Of the North | Digital Marketing -Social Media Agency

#### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication

### **About Ellie**

Ellie Schwartz grew up deeply involved in both athletics and leadership at her high school, earning varsity letters in volleyball, basketball, and softball while also serving as a peer listener and student ambassador. Recruited at the Division I level in three sports, she chose Augsburg University in Minneapolis, Minn., where she played Division III volleyball and basketball and studied Communication Studies.

Even as a student, Ellie was eager to explore creative opportunities, taking on internships in the action sports industry that introduced her to brand storytelling and design. Those early experiences and accomplishments sparked her passion for helping young people (especially young women) see that their interests can grow into meaningful careers.

Her professional journey has taken her from working as a social media manager at Wahine Media, to marketing manager at Hello Media, to joining the global brand team at Caribou Coffee. She later served as Director of Brand for Bad Ass Coffee of Hawaii, leading national brand marketing initiatives for the company.

Today, Eleanor is the founder of Of the North, a digital marketing and social media agency that works with clients across Hawaii and the mainland. She is passionate about mentorship, creativity, and teamwork, and is excited to support the next generation as they discover their own strengths and opportunities.







# Lynn Shibuya



## Sr. Strategic Communications Specialist

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA)

### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Health Services

### **About Lynn**

Lynn Shibuya is a senior strategic communications specialist at HMSA, the most experienced health plan in the state covering more than half of Hawaii's population.

In this role, Lynn supports internal and external communications for the company. She's also a contributing writer for HMSA's Island Scene magazine and islandscene.com.

Lynn has been with HMSA for eight years. She previously worked for REHAB Hospital of the Pacific, Anthology Marketing Group, the Hawaii State Bar Association, and Pacific Business News.

Lynn graduated from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, where she majored in journalism and minored in American studies. She was an editor for Ka Leo O Hawaii, the student newspaper, as well as a Society of Professional Journalists intern for Honolulu Civil Beat and the Honolulu Star-Advertiser.

Lynn and her husband Chad last traveled to Austin for a wedding and enjoyed good food, music, and museums. Lynn enjoys running, reading, attempting to sing, and self-improvement.







# Tyler Spruill



# Manager, Accounting and Operations

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

#### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Business

### **About Tyler**

Tyler is the Manager of Accounting and Operations at the Chamber. Her focus is supporting the team and functions of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii. Tyler grew up in Salt Lake and graduated from Moanalua High School. She then received her bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa Shidler College of Business. During her time in school, she interned at Kamehameha Schools in their operations department.

Once she graduated, Tyler worked at Island Insurance company for several years helping local people with their insurance needs. She has a passion for working with companies and organizations that care about Hawaii's needs and give back to the people and community. During her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, and drawing. She also spends ample time finding new places to eat around the island and sharing a meal with her friends. Her goal in life is to travel to as many different places as possible.





## Jillian Tamaru



### Senior Catering Sales Executive

Kyo-ya Hotels and Resorts, LP

#### **Best Match Industries**

Hospitality and Tourism

### **About Jillian**

Learning the many different facets of a particular company is a large part of demonstrating business excellence. "Jillian is a motivated self-starter since she joined our team 11 years ago," says Stuart Kotake, Jillian's direct report, and Director of Catering Sales for owner Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts' four Waikiki hotels. "After Jillian's graduation from UH TIM school, she started at the front desk and helped with finance to learn the ropes. She joined us in catering shortly thereafter and was promoted to sales manager in 2017, and once again last year in 2024 to her current position."

As a senior catering sales executive, Jillian is part counselor and part cheerleader when working with companies and non-profits with their specific event needs. Some may need ideas with themes, while others need suggestions on how to celebrate milestones and/or increase donor engagement. For her efforts, Jillian was awarded Platinum Level recognition for Golden Circle as one of the top performers for Marriott within the Hawaii & French Polynesia region. She surpassed all of her catering goals at the four Marriott Waikiki Collection hotels, ending 2024 with more than \$5 million in total catering revenue, and is on track to set more records.

In her relatively young career, Jillian is one of only 12,000 people in the world who hold a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) certification from the Events Industry Council (EIC). She also is one of the few thousands globally with a Digital Event Strategist (DES) certification from the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA). For her contributions to the success of Kyo-ya/Marriott, the company nominated Jillian as Manager of the Year (large hotel category with 450+ rooms) for the Hawaii Lodging & Tourism's Na Poe Paahana Awards in 2025.

Jillian's spirit to serve is exemplary – one that clearly distinguishes her from her peers. As a Turquoise Ambassador, Jillian helped raise more than \$22,000 in critical, lifesaving funds for the American Lung Association (ALA). Consequently, she was recognized by Honolulu's City Council for her efforts with ALA. Jillian's team was one of the top fundraising teams in a recent Jingle Rock Run to benefit Make-A-Wish Hawaii. The run attracted more than 30 team entries and the Sheraton Waikiki Team with Jillian placed in the Top 10 for donations collected at about \$2,500. Throughout the year, Jillian serves as an incredible ambassador for Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts and Marriott International to students at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. She donates much of her time after hours participating in speaking engagements and presentations to the Shidler College of Business. Jillian is also the 2024-2025 Treasurer for the Oahu Wedding Association. As Membership Committee Chair, she was able to double the membership within the organization.







## **LiAnne Tasato**



# Digital Content and Social Media Specialist

East-West Center

### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Business, Hospitality and Tourism

### **About LiAnne**

LiAnne Tasato is a Digital Content and Social Media Specialist at the East-West Center, where she helps share stories and connect with audiences around the world. Her work focuses on creativity, communication, and making a positive impact through digital platforms.

LiAnne's career started in hospitality at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, where she learned the importance of service, teamwork, and creating memorable experiences. She then worked at Kō Hana Rum Distillers, supporting their social media marketing efforts by creating content, ads, and campaigns that helped the brand stand out. She later became the Marketing and Events Manager at the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, planning events and campaigns that supported Hawai'i's business community. Today, at the East–West Center, she brings together those experiences to help an international organization connect with students, professionals, and leaders.

LiAnne earned her degree in Tourism Industry Management from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. In high school, she was active in basketball, marching band, and honor societies, where she gained teamwork and leadership skills that continue to guide her today.

As a mentor, LiAnne hopes to share her career journey, inspire confidence, and help students see that with curiosity and dedication, they can build a future that reflects their passions.







# Naomi Uyeno



### **Donor Relations**

University of Hawaii Foundation

#### **Best Match Industries**

Education, Non-Profit

### **About Naomi**

Naomi's interest in education and service began in her teenage years. In high school, she participated in community service activities through her high school's Key Club and took on part-time jobs teaching and assisting elementary school students. These early experiences inspired her to consider different career pathways and ultimately helped shape her long-term goals.

Naomi earned her undergraduate degree from Pepperdine University in Liberal Arts with a Math Emphasis, preparing her for a career in teaching. Wanting to expand her impact and support students beyond the classroom, she later pursued her master's degree in School Counseling at the University of Southern California.

Her career has been guided by a commitment to supporting students' academic, career, and social-emotional growth. She began in the University of Hawaii Community College system, where she supported nontraditional students in reaching their academic goals. From there, she transitioned to the Hawaii Department of Education, working directly with a diverse population of students and saw firsthand the importance of education, guidance, and support in their lives. Today, Naomi works at the University of Hawaii Foundation in donor relations, where she helps connect donors to meaningful opportunities that support students and programs across the university.







## Shasta Yamada



# Director of Development

American Diabetes Association

### **Best Match Industries**

Nonprofit Fundraising and Development, Arts and Communication

### **About Shasta**

Shasta Yamada is a committed leader with over 15 years of experience in nonprofit fundraising, development, corporate partnerships, and community engagement. A graduate of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa with dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Creative Media and Communicology, Shasta's passion for communication and creative outreach began early. She attended Kaimuki High School, participating in band, theatre, leadership, and interning at Ōlelo Community Media. After graduation, she oversaw youth afternoon programs across Oahu, managed the statewide Ōlelo Youth Xchange Video Contest, and expanded media education opportunities for students.

Professionally, Shasta has built an extensive career supporting mission-driven organizations. At Special Olympics Hawaii, she coordinated inclusive events empowering athletes with disabilities. At Hawaii Foodbank, she contributed to major fundraising campaigns raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to combat hunger. In senior care homes and affordable housing programs, she improved resources and quality of life for residents. At Ōlelo Community Media, she strengthened youth programs and mentored future content creators. Today, she serves as Director of Development at the American Diabetes Association, leading initiatives to raise awareness, build partnerships, and secure funding to fight diabetes.

Deeply committed to service, Shasta is an active member of the Koko Head Lions Club, where she made history as the youngest and first female president. She currently serves as Zone Chair, Trustee for the Hawaii Lions Foundation, and is a certified instructor through the Lions Clubs International Faculty Development Institute. She also founded the Young Professional Lions Program and created the Bite Back Against Diabetes initiative. In recognition of her leadership, Shasta received the Lions Clubs International President's Award.

Passionate about connecting people, building leaders, and creating impact, Shasta brings energy, creativity, and dedication to every role she takes on.







## Brianne Yamada Nitahara



## Sr. Project Manager

Hawaiian Electric Company

### **Best Match Industries**

Industrial and Engineering Technology, Renewable Energy

#### **About Brianne**

Brianne Yamada Nitahara grew up in Honolulu and graduated from Kalani High School, where she was involved in sports, music, and student activities. She went on to earn a degree in Mechanical Engineering, with minors in Music and Japanese, from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. While there, she stayed active in student leadership and the marching band. Outside of school, she danced Okinawan Taiko with Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii all throughout grade school and college.

Brianne works at Hawaiian Electric, where she has held engineering and project management roles supporting energy infrastructure and community development. She also enjoys giving back through volunteer work, including with the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Child & Family Services, and the Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals.

Outside of work and community service, she loves spending time with her husband and their two golden retrievers, Puka and Lani, and enjoys being outdoors and playing golf.







## Jessica Yamamoto



# Communications and Social Media Manager

Zippy's

### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Business, Hospitality and Tourism

### **About Jessica**

Currently leading communications and community relations at FCH Enterprises, Inc. (aka @Zippys on the Internet), Jessica is a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, specializing in storytelling, community connection, and being chronically online.

With a background spanning entertainment, events, and digital marketing, she thrives on bringing big ideas to life. Whether it's launching a campaign, hosting a community event, or shaping a brand voice that resonates — if it brings people together with purpose and passion, she's all in.







## Dayna Yogi



### Founder, Leadership Coach

Lifeworks HI

#### **Best Match Industries**

**Business** 

### **About Dayna**

Dayna attended Punahou School where she was involved in many extracurriculars including cheerleading and starting her own community service club. She then went on to receive her Bachelors degree in Business from the University of San Francisco, graduating both schools with honors. She had a successful career in San Francisco working for Yelp and a Fortune 500 company before moving back home in 2021. She now runs her own leadership coaching business, which aims to bridge the skills gap to help build stronger teams and better companies.







## Jadyne Yomono



#### Talent Acquisition Outreach Program Manager

Hawaiian Airlines

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Hospitality and Tourism, Human Resources, Project & Program Management

#### **About Jadyne**

Jadyne Yomono is a Hawaii-born leader dedicated to people, programs, and community impact. A graduate of Pacific Buddhist Academy, she was actively involved in student council, athletics, and extracurricular activities that fostered her early interest in leadership, teamwork, and service.

She continued her education at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, earning both her bachelor's degree and a Master of Human Resource Management from the Shidler College of Business. These academic experiences equipped her with the skills to merge strategic thinking with a people-first leadership style.

Professionally, Jadyne has built a career at the intersection of program management, human resources, and talent development. At Hawaiian Airlines, she launched and scaled more than ten workforce and talent pipeline initiatives, connecting local students and professionals to meaningful aviation career pathways. She also played a key role in expanding ambassador and volunteer programs that have engaged hundreds of participants across Hawaii. Prior to her current role, she gained experience in account management and project management, broadening her expertise in operations, partnerships, and organizational growth.

Beyond her career, Jadyne is a deeply engaged community leader. She serves on the Family Promise Hawaii Board of Directors, contributes as an Executive Committee Member of the Child & Family Service Guild, and supports numerous volunteer-driven events and philanthropic initiatives throughout the islands.

Through her professional work and community service, Jadyne remains committed to building programs that create opportunities, strengthen connections, and leave a lasting impact on Hawaii's people.





# IVOUVI LENT EN RS



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association



### Jared Sam Agtunong



#### **Executive Assistant**

County of Maui, Office of Councilmember
Tom Cook

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Government and Policy, Law and Public Safety, Government, Policy, Writing, Communications, Etc.

#### **About Jared**

Jared Sam Agtunong works as a legislative aide for Maui County Councilmember Thomas Cook. His day-to-day includes supporting the Councilmember's policy making agenda and providing constituent services to individuals seeking assistance with County of Maui agencies. Born on Maui, and raised in Kahului, Jared is a 2013 graduate of Maui High School. During his time as a Saber, he served as the school's Student Body Vice-President, Representative to the Hawaii State Student Council, member of the Pacific & Asian Affairs Council Club, and completed his CTE pathway in the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism.

In 2017, when earning his Bachelor of Arts in History & Political Science, Jared was selected by his peers as Vanguard University's Commencement Speaker. He served as a federal policy intern at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health working on initiatives focusing on rural and minority health. For his Master of Public Policy program at Pepperdine University — paralleling research to experiences growing up on Maui, he co-authored his capstone thesis on how policy making decisions can create or bridge gaps of equity and community resiliency in socioeconomically vulnerable populations.

Jared's professional career is in serving his island home through local government. Since returning home, Jared has worked as an Elections Officer for the Office of the County Clerk, Federal Grant Writer for the Office of Economic Development, and Digital Media Manager for Mayor Michael P. Victorino's Administration. During election cycles, he has supported the grassroots organizing for varying county council, mayoral, and congressional political campaigns. His political involvement includes serving as Maui County Chair for the Democratic Party of Hawaii and former membership director for Young Democrats of Hawaii. Digital Contact Card: lingapp.com/jared\_agtunong







### Shermila Beauvais



## Director of Guest Services

Hilton Grand Vacations

#### **Best Match Industries**

Hospitality and Tourism

#### **About Shermila**

Shermila was born and raised in the Philippines and moved to Maui, Hawaii in 2011. She is currently the Director of Guest Services at Maui Bay Villas, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club. She's part of the opening team since 2021 and oversees guest services resort operations including front desk, bell services, and night audit.

Prior to moving to Maui, Shermila was an undergraduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management at University of Santo Tomas. In the beginning of her new life in Maui, Shermila joined the United States Army Forces and is now a Veteran. As a civilian, she continued her studies and pursued her Associate of Science in Hospitality and Tourism at University of Hawaii Maui College. While pursuing her degree, Shermila had exposed herself to multiple internships both domestic and international to further determine her passion. Approaching the end of her Hospitality degree, Shermila pursued her Liberal Arts degree as well which led to her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration (Distance Learning) at University of Hawaii West Oahu.

Shermila had exercised her leadership early on her high school year to college. In high school, Shermila was the President of the student body and the Corp Commander of Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC). In College, she was the Distance Learning Senator to bridge the gap and assist her fellow distance learners. She is also currently part of the Hospitality and Tourism Committee representing Alumni at University of Maui College. Shermila had always enjoyed giving back to the community especially supporting future leaders and continuing education. In her almost a decade of experience in Hospitality and Tourism, Shermila wants to inspire others who have the same passion in the industry.

Outside of her professional time, Shermila believes in a work - life balance. Shermila loves to travel, an adventurous "foodie" and spending family quality time.







### **Adam Buechler**



## Director of Financial Planning & Analysis

Alpha Inc.

#### **Best Match Industries**

**Business** 

#### **About Adam**

Adam is a values-driven professional who enjoys blending direct communication with a warm, approachable style. As the Director of Financial Planning and Analysis at Alpha Inc., a fast-growing company headquartered on Maui, he puts these values into practice every day.

In his current role, he focuses on helping teams work better together and use data to make smart choices. His leadership has helped the team navigate a period where the company doubled in size over the last three years. He is now leading the financial strategy for a simultaneous expansion to Oahu, the Big Island, and Kauai.

Adam's belief that clear communication and community engagement are the foundations of success drives his passion for serving on the leadership team for the Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals and were proud to help pilot this High School Mentor Program on Maui last year. He is excited to share his experience and help students turn their ambitions into actionable career plans.







### **Ashley Cooper**



#### **Principal**

Ashley Cooper Consulting

#### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Business, Graphic or Web design

#### **About Ashley**

Ashley is an independent marketing consultant primarily serving small to medium businesses across Maui. She works across multiple industries, and additionally is a cofounder of a boutique tech consulting firm that serves larger clients on the mainland. She specializes in integrated marketing—which is basically making sure that brands understand the most effective ways to spend their marketing resources and making sure that everything they communicate to their customers is all aligned.

She was born and raised on Maui and attended Seabury Hall. In high school, she was very involved on campus as varsity volleyball team captain, student body president, a member of the spirit committee, art club, and more. When she was in high school, she had a lot of different interests that seemed pretty contradictory (like taking both AP Calculus and AP Art) and was not sure what she wanted to pursue in college.

Because of this, she thought that attending a liberal arts school with flexible programs could be helpful in figuring out what to major in. She ended up attending Chapman University in Southern California and triple majored for 3 years until she had a clearer idea of what she wanted to do in her career. Her three areas of study included Strategic and Corporate Communication (basically integrated marketing) which was in the business school, Graphic Design which was in the arts school, and PR & Advertising which was in the film school.

Needless to say, Ashley understands what it is like to be multi-passionate and a little confused about which direction to stick with when it comes to navigating the transitions from high school to college to career. She has been working in marketing on Maui since 2018 with companies like Koholā Brewing (now Lāhainā Brewing), Ulupalakua Ranch, and Maui Ku'ia Chocolate to name a few.







## Naomi Cooper



#### **Deputy Director**

Maui Hotel & Lodging Association

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Government and Policy, Hospitality and Tourism

#### **About Naomi**

Naomi Cooper is the Deputy Director at MHLA. She graduated with honors, from Hawaii Pacific University with a BSBA in Corporate Communications and a minor in theater and writing. She has since gained professional experience in the industries of publishing, tourism, building development, wholesale and retail, sporting, wellness, events, advertising and public relations, film and commercial production. A fourth generation Hawaii born and mother of three, she is passionate about Hawaii's unique culture, youth education and creating a self-sustaining economy.

Naomi was raised in Haiku, Maui and went to Doris Todd, Seabury Hall, Kalaheo High and Baldwin High before college. She briefly attended UNLV for a semester before returning to HPU. Skipping junior year in high school, her modeling career began before adulthood, contracting brands like Taco Bell, Coca-Cola Japan, Disney Aulani, VRBO, Fairmont Kea Lani, and Hilton, NBC's Hawaii, Fox's North Shore, HBO's White Lotus and Magnum Pl. However, her greatest joy was outside the spotlight, uplifting others. At 22, she became the number one requested talent coach at Susan Page Modeling School. In her mid-twenties, Naomi became a mother and shifted her direction to family wellness, starting a small essential oil business which grew over 200 clients, and a lifestyle brand called Babes With Oils.

During the Maui wildfires, Naomi stood up communications helping to coordinate transport, food hubs, missing persons lists, missing items lists, national and international government and media inquiries, and the evacuation of approximately 12,000 tourists from West Maui along with her team at Maui Hotel and Lodging. Despite the loss her island has faced, she is determined to support Maui's future and believes empowering the leaders in their youngest stage is crucial in securing an economy that can produce healthy families. Beyond her work, Naomi loves beach days and hiking with her children, barre, good food, wine, musicals, travel and all forms of art.







## Christian Galapon



#### Business Development Consultant

Tanaka Galapon Consultants

#### **Best Match Industries**

**Business** 

#### **About Christian**

Christian Galapon is a business development leader, consultant, and community advocate based in Maui, Hawaii. He is the founder of Tanaka Galapon Consultants, where he has helped launch and grow over 15 companies by establishing scalable sales, marketing, compliance, and administrative systems. Christian currently serves as Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at Star Energy Systems, where he leads a landmark \$2 billion initiative to deploy solar PV, battery storage, and EV charging infrastructure across Hawaii. In this role, he forges partnerships with government agencies, negotiates equitable Power Purchase Agreements, and advances the state's renewable energy goals while ensuring community benefits and long-term energy security.

Christian's career spans roles in operations, marketing, and strategic development, including with Tiffany & Co. and Oao Sushi Group, where his contributions supported multimillion-dollar revenue growth. He has also advised nonprofits and small businesses, bringing a systems-driven approach to organizational success and sustainability.

Beyond his professional work, Christian is deeply engaged in civic life. He participates in leadership programs such as the APAICS National Leadership Academy and actively serves on advisory boards addressing economic development, workforce training, and community resilience. Guided by a vision of "cooperative economics," he advocates for diversifying Hawaii's economy beyond tourism through high-tech industries, renewable energy, and place-based partnerships.

Christian is recognized as a bridge builder who connects the private sector, government, and community to deliver solutions for Hawaii's future. Whether advancing renewable energy, supporting small businesses, or championing cultural preservation, he remains dedicated to building an affordable, prosperous, and resilient Maui Nui.







### **Shantel Hartzell**



## **Accounting Supervisor**

Performance Food Group

#### **Best Match Industries**

**Business** 

#### **About Shantel**

Shantel was born and raised in the state of Wisconsin. Her family lives in the country, and she has one sister. Throughout high school she played varsity sports including volleyball, basketball, and track and field, serving as team captains in her senior year. Off the court, she held leadership positions in various student organizations such as Student Council, FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America), Spanish Club and National Honor Society.

After high school, she spent her first year of college at UW-Madison before transferring to UW-La Crosse where she majored in accounting and finance. Throughout university, she had various professional internships for public and private accounting and worked as an intramural (IM) sports supervisor while playing many of the IM sports herself. Outside of her work and school schedule, she also became heavily involved in her campus Beta Alpha Psi chapter (professional fraternity for accounting, finance, and information systems majors).

After graduating, she took time off to study for and pass all parts of the Certified Public Accountant exam before accepting a full-time role at Performance Food Group (PFG). PFG offers a rotational program which has allowed her to experience multiple positions including staff roles on both Cash & AR and Inventory teams as well as her most recent position as Accounting Supervisor over the Cash & AR team. Through PFG, she has been able to pursue an MBA degree as well as be involved in various social engagement and professional development opportunities. Outside of work and education, Shantel loves to travel, camp, yoga, be active in the outdoors, paint, ski, and a myriad of other hobbies. Mainly, she likes to step back and enjoy all the things that bring joy in life.







### Lia Ikeda



#### Strategic Partnerships Manager

Workstream

**Best Match Industries** 

**Business** 

#### **About Lia**

Lia was grew up in Lahaina and Kahului, graduating from Kamehameha Schools Maui in 2016. During high school, she was on the swim and water polo teams, served in student government, and mentored with Big Brothers Big Sisters. She went on to study Business at the University of California, Irvine— highlights of her college experience included a study abroad program in Italy and summer internship in New York. Through internships at big tech companies like Samsung and Shutterstock, she developed an interest in the business side of the tech industry. After graduating, Lia moved to San Francisco and worked at LinkedIn in Marketing. Wanting to step away from big tech and into a more entrepreneurial environment, she transitioned to the startup world and joined Workstream, a San Francisco—based tech startup where she leads the Sales and Partnerships team. In 2024, Lia had the opportunity to go fully remote with Workstream and return home to Hawaii, where she is now based in Honolulu. She's excited to share advice, mana'o, and more!







## Stephanie Liu



#### **Project Manager**

Ohana Health Plan

### Best Match Industries Health Services

#### **About Stephanie**

Originally from Southern California, Stephanie has always been passionate about leadership, education, and service. In high school, they were a dedicated member of student government and colorguard for all four years, while also actively participating in service-focused clubs such as LEOS, Interact, and Key Club. As an honors student, they balanced academics with extracurriculars, setting the stage for a meaningful career in education and public service.

Stephanie earned their bachelor's degree in Sociology with a minor in Education from the University of California, Santa Barbara. They launched their career through Teach For America, teaching kindergarten on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Their passion for student development led them to New York, where they earned a master's in Higher Education from New York University. While at NYU, they worked as both an academic and scholarship advisor within the College of Arts and Science and the Business School.

Returning to Hawai'i, Stephanie joined the founding team of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Hawai'i Pacific University, serving as Director of Operations. In a bold career pivot, they transitioned into healthcare project management. They have since worked with MDX Hawai'i, a Medicare organization, and currently serve at Ohana Health Plan, supporting Medicaid initiatives.

Stephanie brings a unique blend of education, operations, and healthcare experience to every role, with a commitment to equity, systems improvement, and community impact.







### Donna Paz



## Special Projects Officer

MauiFed (Maui Federal Credit Union)

#### **Best Match Industries**

Arts and Communication, Business, IT

#### **About Donna**

Donna Paz was raised on the island of Maui and is currently a Special Project Officer at Maui Federal Credit Union, where she leverages her technical, marketing, and business expertise to spearhead various projects. After starting out her career in the financial services and information technology sector on the continental United States, Donna has returned to her home island of Maui to invest back into the community that raised her.

She is a proud Maui High School graduate and was actively involved in student government, serving as Class President and as Student Body President during her senior year. She also held leadership roles in Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) and Interact Club. HOSA continues to be an organization she participates in regularly as a judge, mentor, and as IT support for past regional and state events. In addition to her leadership roles, she was in air riflery for two years, volunteered with the Maui Lions Club and her church, and worked at a non-profit organization. These experiences instilled in her valuable lessons in leadership, time management, and teamwork that continue to influence her professional journey.

After graduation, she moved to Omaha, Nebraska to attend Creighton University for two years. While there, she was a Bluejay Campus tour guide for prospective students, held a position with Inter Residence Hall Government, and was a tutor at Creighton's Educational Opportunity Center. She later moved to Texas and graduated with honors from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Business with a minor in Mathematics. While there, she worked for the National Football League (NFL) as an IT intern before starting her career in the financial industry.

Outside of her professional responsibilities, Donna enjoys staying active, continually learning new skills, exploring new places, and spending quality time with loved ones.







## Isaiah Ragasa



#### Aviation Security Analyst II

Port of Oakland

#### **Best Match Industries**

Business, Hospitality and Tourism

#### **About Isaiah**

Isaiah Ragasa graduated from St. Anthony Jr. Sr. High School in 2013, where he was fortunate to serve as President of the Associate Student Body. He also participated in Marching and Concert Band and was a member of Key Club, experiences that taught him the value of teamwork and community service.

After high school, Isaiah attended the University of Portland, earning his bachelor's degree in Operations and Technology Management in 2017. Wanting to deepen his understanding of the aviation industry, he continued his studies at Embry–Riddle Aeronautical University, where he completed a Master of Science in Aviation and Aerospace Sustainability in 2021 and a Master of Business Administration in International Business in 2024.

Isaiah began his career with Hawaiian Airlines as an Operations Manager at San Jose Mineta International Airport, where he learned the complexities of airline operations. He later joined the Port of Oakland – Oakland International Airport as an Airport Operations Specialist, gaining broader experience in airport management and operational procedures.

Currently, Isaiah works as an Aviation Security Analyst, where he has the opportunity to analyze potential threats and develop strategies to safeguard aviation infrastructure. He finds purpose in protecting passengers and airport/airline personnel while supporting the critical systems that keep air travel secure. Each day brings new challenges in risk assessment and security protocol evaluation.

Throughout his journey, Isaiah has been grateful for the mentors and colleagues who have guided him along the way. He continues to learn from each role and remains committed to growing within the aviation field while contributing to its safety and efficiency.







## Jade Rojas-Letisi



# Executive Assistant & Economic Development Specialist

County of Maui, Office of the Mayor

#### **Best Match Industries**

Government and Policy

#### **About Jade**

Born and raised on Maui, Jade Rojas-Letisi serves as the Director of the County of Maui Office of Economic Development (OED), where she leads efforts to strengthen kamaaina industries, support small businesses, and build a more diverse and resilient local economy. Appointed by Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jade's leadership is grounded in aloha, innovation, and a deep belief that sustainable self-reliance begins with empowering local people and local industries. In her role, Jade works across government, business, and non-profit sectors to cultivate the workforce of tomorrow—expanding opportunities in technology, construction and trades, healthcare, agriculture, and the creative economy. She helps guide the development of a strategic roadmap for a circular, community-centered economy that celebrates local talent and fosters collaboration across sectors. Before becoming director, Jade served as Executive Assistant and Economic Development Specialist in the Office of the Mayor, where she led workforce initiatives and co-created the Kamaaaina Economy framework to strengthen Maui County's local economic base and promote long-term resilience. She also served as a Council Aide to Council member Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, supporting legislation that strengthened the foundations of community life—housing, infrastructure, local jobs, environmental stewardship, fire prevention and mitigation, and workforce equity. The role gave her a front-row seat to how policy decisions ripple through daily life, inspiring her commitment to shaping a Maui where growth and community values move hand in hand. Her background includes time in the private sector as Marketing Coordinator at Queen Ka'ahumanu Center, where she managed major community events and strengthened business partnerships during the tail-end of the COVID pandemic. A proud alumna of Saint Anthony High School, Jade serves on the school's board, is a graduate of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii's Mentor Hawaii program (now serving on its committee), and is a Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows alumna. Guided by aloha and inspired by her two sons, she remains committed to ensuring the Maui that raised her continues to nurture the next generation.







## Chloé Yap



#### **Program Manager**

Maui Economic Development Board, STEMworks Program

#### **Best Match Industries**

Non-profit, Education, Healthcare, Technology

#### **About Chloé**

Aloha! My name is Chloé Yap, I was born and raised on Maui. I returned home 3 years ago to help support my 'ohana. I am the middle child of my 3 siblings.

I am a proud Baldwin High School graduate (go Bears!). I participated in Student Council, National Honor Society, and Soccer during my time there.

I went to Pacific University for college (in Oregon), and pursued my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, and a minor in Sociology. I was a Resident Assistant for my junior and senior year of college. I loved my time learning and exploring during those years. I cherish my friends from that time.

After college I have worked in a Bakery, Tech Company, Customer Service in a Pediatric and OB GYN clinic.

I now work at Maui Economic Development Board, helping to support our Education and Workforce needs here in Maui County.

I love my island home. I love spending time with my 'ohana. I love reading. I love a good cup of coffee.

I look forward to chatting about the things you love and how to support your future. Mahalo!







### **THANK YOU**

### Thank you to the Committee



Lord Ryan Lizardo Chamber of Commerce Hawaii



**Jeffrey Aglanao** Kumabe HR



Naomi Cooper Maui Hotel & Lodging Association



Edward Cordasco Chun, Cordasco & Associates



Mary de la Torre Hensel Phelps



Jasper Jay Marcelo NAI CBI



Kat Duran-Higa Terranox



Cassandra Joy Ecraela The Walt Disney Company



Sophia Wibholm Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

Apply to be mentored

### TINYURL.COM/YPMENTEEF25

To learn more about the program or for any questions, email Lord Ryan Lizardo

Vice President of Education, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii Irlizardo@cocHawaii.org

**Sponsored by** 



