ten years

of developing the next
generation of Hawaii's leaders

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

odo scholarship

Since 2014, the volunteers, sponsors, and supporters of the Jordan & Cara Odo Scholarship Foundation have been working hard to develop

the next generation of Hawaii's leaders.

It's been surreal to reflect on the past decade. We started the Foundation to bring our friends together and do something positive for our community. In our first year, we organized a small karaoke fundraiser and raised just enough money to award a $500 scholarship to an amazing high school student. Ten years later, we have a lot to be proud of -- we awarded more than $85,000 total in scholarships and organized multiple Hops & Higher Ups leadership talk stories, two school supply drives, five Next Gen Leaders Program cohorts, and one Lilo Mentorship Program cohort. Our goals are still to bring friends together and do something positive. Just this time, we're proud that we have an army of friends with us.

The work of our volunteers and supporters is still as crucial as it was ten years ago. For the past seven years, Hawaii has experienced a net outmigration, with a disproportionate number of Gen Z residents leaving the state. We need to encourage our talented, young people to stay and invest in Hawaii. However, they won't do that if the community is not, in return, investing in them.

Year after year, we are so inspired to find young leaders who want to make a positive impact in the community. They are bright eyed, energetic, and willing to do the hard work. That is why our mission remains critical. We look forward to the next ten years and beyond, as we continue to **develop a sustainable scholarship endowment**, **recognize the contributions of young leaders**, and **empower future difference makers**. Come join us as we look to make a wider and deeper impact in our young leaders' lives!

Jordan Odo
President

Thank you to our awesome sponsors:

THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM
OAHU ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
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Mail a check to Jordan & Cara Odo Scholarship Foundation
726 A 11th Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

Jennifer Lu
Jordan & Cara Odo Leadership Scholarship recipient

Ariel Medeiros
Clara Onishi Educator Scholarship recipient

John Barayuga & Bryce Au
Next Gen Leaders Program Individual Merit Award recipients

At our Scholarship Luncheon & Celebration on August 3rd, we awarded

$14.5K in scholarships.

This year, our Scholarship Committee awarded the Jordan & Cara Odo Leadership Scholarship to **Jennifer Lu**, a graduate of Waipahu High School. Aside from her academic achievements, Jennifer has demonstrated a commitment to improving access to health care in Hawaii. Growing up in a largely immigrant community, she has seen firsthand the challenges that some families faced trying to navigate the health care system. She hopes to pursue a medical career and give back to her community.

"This scholarship not only provides me with financial assistance but also encourages me to continue striving harder in my educational journey," said Jennifer. **"I will make use of every opportunity given to me to develop into a valuable member of the Hawaii community."**

Our Scholarship Committee also selected **Ariel Mederios** as the Clara Onishi Educator Scholarship recipient. Ariel is graduate of Castle High School and currently attends the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she is majoring in special education and general education (K-6). She is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment for all children, where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of ability.

Both Jennifer and Ariel received $1,250 to put toward their college education. We wish them well and can't wait to see them transform the health care and education systems in Hawaii!

At the Scholarship Luncheon, we surprised twelve students who completed the Next Gen Leaders Program with a $1,000 scholarship, courtesy of a generous donation by The Queen's Health System. Program Director **Ivy Li**, a senior at USC, also received a $1,000 scholarship for her hard work in setting up a successful program.

Thanks to Accuity LLP, we were able to recognize two Next Gen participants for their personal growth and individual contributions to their team projects. **John Barayuga**, a senior at Chaminade University, led a strong team project, which received extremely positive feedback from the executive team at Aloha United Way. **Bryce Au**, an MBA candidate at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, worked alongside Radiology Department staff at The Queen's Health System, and successfully presented his proposal to Queen's executive leadership.

Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients!

This summer, we hosted our 5th annual Next Gen Leaders Program, with the primary goal of developing

service-oriented leaders.

Over the course of eight weeks, 12 college undergraduate and graduate students received leadership training and one-on-one mentorship, and worked in teams to develop a business plan using generative artificial intelligence (AI) to solve a community issue. The student teams also gained practical business experience by working with and presenting their proposals to executives at four important organizations in Hawaii: The Queen's Health Systems, American Savings Bank, Aloha United Way, and Kamehameha Schools.

"Participating in the Next Gen Leaders Program has been an incredibly enriching experience," said Kelvin Ku. **"The team projects allowed us to apply innovative solutions using generative AI, offering practical, real-world experience. The program's structure fostered essential skill development, from conducting thorough research to delivering impactful presentations. Additionally, the opportunity to network with peers and industry leaders was both inspiring and beneficial."**

Outside of the core components of the program, the students also volunteered their time with Malama Maunalua, participated in a book exchange, networked with business leaders, and spoke with AI experts and community stakeholders.

Congratulations to the following students for completing the program:

- **Anna Lambert**, senior, University of Denver
- **Brian Kim**, senior, UH Manoa
- **Bryce Au**, MBA candidate, UH Manoa
- **Ceri Matsuda**, junior, George Washington University
- **Chris Prendergast**, junior, UH Manoa
- **Jamie Hirano**, junior, UH Manoa
- **John Barayuga**, senior, Chaminade University
- **Joseph Peters**, PhD candidate, UH Manoa
- **Kelvin Ku**, senior, UH Manoa
- **Lauren Saunders**, junior, University of Washington
- **Micah Morikuni**, master's candidate, Purdue University
- **Taryn Nakagawa**, master's candidate, UH Manoa

In celebration of our tenth year developing the next generation of leaders, we recognized seven of our own

uplifting leaders.

These outstanding volunteers and supporters have contributed substantially to the growth of our Foundation and have inspired and directly helped young leaders.

Jonathan Alarcio has served on our Scholarship Committee since 2016 and currently is the committee chair. "He has kept us on top of it and kept us organized," said Cara Odo, vice president of the Foundation. Under Jon's leadership, we have refined the selection process for our two scholarships. When he's not helping our foundation award scholarships, he works as a certified athletic trainer for the Queen's Athletic Training Program.

Jeff Berlin has been an invaluable member for our Mentorship Committee since 2019. As an executive coach and organizational development advisor, Jeff brings a wealth of experience, helping us organize our Next Gen Leaders Program. "In my years of knowing Jeff, he has always been one who has graciously spent his own time and effort in watering the seeds in ordinary people like me," said JJ Bernardo, a Next Gen Leaders Program alumnus.

Jason Chang is the president and CEO of The Queen's Health Systems. He has been an important supporter of our Foundation's Next Gen Leaders Program. Because of Jason and Queen's generosity, we have been able to award scholarships to every single student who completed our Next Gen Leaders Program in the past five years. Additionally, he has given participants of the program the opportunity to strengthen their collaboration and presentation skills by working closely with them. "We are extremely grateful to have leaders like Jason in the community," said Jordan Odo, president of the Foundation. "He has inspired me so much, as I know he cares so much about young leaders and the people of Hawaii."

John Doyle has been a core member of our Mentorship Committee since 2019 and an early supporter of our Foundation. Under John's leadership, students participating in our Next Gen Leaders Program have been able to learn about and work with stakeholders to solve significant community issues, such as affordable housing, access to health care, and economic diversification. "I can only hope that I can emulate the mentorship, patience, and encouragement that John has shown me," said Ivy Li, a Next Gen Leaders Program alumnus.

Sarah Guay is the president and CEO of the Hawaii Employers Council. She has served in multiple important capacities for our Next Gen Leaders Program, including as a sponsor and mentor. "Sarah has taught me that leadership is really a way to connect and be a bridge for others," said Chelsea Cagaoan, a former Next Gen participant.

Paul Higa has been a member of our board of directors since day one. His experience, organizational skills, and forward thinking are huge assets to our Foundation. He has always been willing to extend a helping hand whenever we needed it (and didn't know we needed it). "Paul lives the Foundation's motto of giving back to the local community and empowering the next generation of leaders," said Chris Uyehara, a former Scholarship Committee member.

Alysa Tomasa is the longest serving member of our Scholarship Committee and has been involved in the selection of every single recipient of the Jordan & Cara Odo Leadership Scholarship and Clara Onishi Educator Scholarship. She has also recruited current and past colleagues from Kailua High School and Windward Community College to volunteer and support the Foundation. "Alysa has made this world a better place with her example and leadership," said Tanya Sasaoka, a former Scholarship Committee member.

We are very thankful for the many people who selflessly gave their time, effort, and heart to help develop young leaders. We are proud to know that our foundation and programs are

bringing the community together.

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Jonathan Alarcio (Chair), Athletic Trainer, Queen's Athletic Training Program • **AJ Cabradilla**, Recruiter, Hawaii Dept. of Education • **Kaimi Gample**, Early College Counselor, Windward Community College (WCC) • **Clint Mederios**, AVID Teacher, Kailua High School • **Jacqui Noa-Cameron**, Early College Counselor, WCC • **Alysa Tomasa**, Upward Bound Dir., WCC • **Sharon Tsutsui**, Early College Counselor, WCC • **Karen Wong**, Civil Engineer, NAVFAC Hawaii

NEXT GEN LEADERS PROGRAM LEADERSHIP TEAM

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NEXT GEN LEADERS PROGRAM SPEAKERS

Rebecca Cai, Chief Data Officer, State of Hawaii • **Bob Everson**, Solutions Delivery Manager, HMSA • **Prashanth Ganapathy**, Sr. Solutions Architect, Amazon Web Services • **Ian Kitajima**, President, PICHTR • **Keith Matsumoto**, Programs Director, PICHTR • **Todd Nacapuy**, CIO & Director, Technology Consulting Services, Accuity LLP • **Constancio Paranal III**, fmr. Marketing Faculty, UH Manoa • **Rep. Amy Perruso**, Chair, House Committee on Higher Education & Technology • **Marty Ramseck**, Talent Optimization Advisor, PI Midlantic • **Patrick Sullivan**, CEO, Oceanit