

University of Hawaii
Candidate Advisory Council

**PRESENTATION
OF BOARD OF REGENTS' FINALISTS FOR
THREE (3) CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU SEATS
AND ONE (1) STUDENT SEAT**

February 7, 2014

FINALISTS

CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU SEAT (currently filled by John Holzman)

- Peter Adler
- Russel Nagata
- Stanford Yuen

Peter S. Adler, PhD

Dr. Peter Adler is a planner and mediator and a principal in an international network of professionals specializing in consensus building and cooperative problem solving. From 2002 to 2012, he served as President and CEO of The Keystone Center, an international organization specializing in the resolution of complex regulatory and policy energy, financing, natural resources, and public health problems. During his tenure at Keystone, he led teams that helped resolve major disputes over mining issues in Papua New Guinea and fishing challenges in the Baltic Sea.

Dr. Adler holds a PhD in interdisciplinary social science from the Union Institute and a Masters degree in sociology and community development from the University of Missouri. His prior executive posts include Executive Director of the Hawaii Justice Foundation, founding Director of the Hawaii Supreme Court's Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution, and first Executive Director of the Neighborhood Justice Center, now the Mediation Center of the Pacific. He served as Assistant Director of the Hawaii Bound School on Hawaii Island and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in India for two years.

Dr. Adler has worked in the government, business and NGO sectors and teaches advanced negotiation courses in the Department of Urban and Planning at the University of Hawaii. In addition to numerous academic and popular articles, he is the author of three books, the most recent being *Eye of the Storm Leadership*.

Dr. Adler and his wife, Carolyn Watanabe, have three daughters and two grandsons and live in Honolulu.

Russel S. Nagata

Russel Nagata graduated from Iolani School in 1969. He spent his freshman year at Occidental College in beautiful Eaglerock, California; then transferred to Tokyo to study in a year-abroad program at Waseda University. He returned home and graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1972.

From 1971-1974, he was a member of the Third Arm Community Center, which was an activist multi-services organization serving the needs of the residents in downtown Chinatown. Perhaps the most significant action he participated in was the organizing of immigrant and indigent residents to fight for their rights during the various urban redevelopment projects. This eventually resulted in the construction of low income and elderly housing for them.

In May, 1976, Mr. Nagata graduated as a member of the inaugural class of the William S. Richardson School of Law despite the dust and traffic surrounding the portable classrooms of Lower Campus Road. He then went on to work as a deputy attorney general until 1979.

From 1979 until 1986, he worked for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. He started off as the youngest state civil service chief heading the Business Registration Division. From there, he headed various divisions within the department until Governor George Ariyoshi appointed him to become Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs in 1982.

In 1986, Governor John Waihee appointed him as the State Comptroller (Director of the Department of Accounting and General Services). His most rewarding experiences there were overseeing all state capital improvement projects and the repair and maintenance of state facilities including the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii.

From late 1970-1990, he served as a member of the Family Services Center in Kalihi. This preschool specialized in early childhood education for children of needy families. During the 1990's, he served as a board member and past president of Palama Settlement. His early childhood education experiences expanded to those of teenagers and sub-teens.

In 1992, he was sworn in as a District Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. During his nineteen years in District Court, he also served in a dual administrative capacity as chief Deputy Administrative Judge. During those years, he also served as District Court legislative liaison because of his executive department legislative experience.

Mr. Nagata retired at the end of December 2011. During 2012, he served two days a week as a pro bono judge and presently serves as a regular per diem judge.

Stanford B.C. Yuen

Stanford Yuen is the former Special Assistant to the Navy Region Hawaii Commander (Admiral), culminating a professional career of over 40 years in engineering, management, business, and intergovernmental roles in the private and military sector. He is currently the president of SLC Consulting, specializing in strategic engagement in engineering management and intergovernmental affairs.

As the Special Assistant to the Admiral, his primary area of responsibility included working with the congressional delegation, local state and municipal government leaders, legislature, city council, other military services, special interest groups, and business community, on major projects affecting the Navy and the State of Hawaii. Mr. Yuen's involvements included a broad range of complex issues: intergovernmental affairs; military construction program; Ford Island bridge and development; engineering and land use; alternate energy initiatives; public-private venture housing; Kahoolawe cleanup; Barbers Pt. closure and conveyance; USS Missouri Battleship Memorial; Pacific Aviation Museum; NOAA relocation to Pearl Harbor; Pro Bowl-National Football League; Marines relocation from Japan; strategic and community engagement.

The late U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye recognized Mr. Yuen for his major role in coordinating efforts with Congress and the Pentagon, and making important contributions to the security and welfare of our nation while enhancing the social and economic well-being of Hawaii's citizens.

Mr. Yuen was also an engineer with Boeing and Lockheed, an account executive with Dean Witter, and taught engineering economics at the University of Hawaii. He began his federal professional career as an engineer at Hickam, then transferred to the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, before joining Navy Region Hawaii.

Mr. Yuen's current and past community service spans national and local organizations including: Commissioner on the Honolulu Ethics Commission; President, Mun Lun School, the state's largest and oldest language school; Downtown Neighborhood Board; National Director, U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Assn; Director, Hawaii Arts Alliance; President, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (Hawaii); Director, Chinese Chamber of Commerce; Director, Honolulu Quarterback Club; Chair, Mayor's Task Force for Downtown-Chinatown master planning and infrastructure projects; and positions in numerous civic, cultural, ethnic, educational and athletic organizations. Yuen is an advocate of gender equity and civil rights, having served as a counselor for the Federal Women Program and is active in organizations whose mission is to prevent racial discrimination.

A graduate of St. Louis High School and the University of Hawaii with a BS degree in mechanical engineering, Mr. Yuen also earned a MBA degree from Pepperdine University, and a MS degree in industrial engineering from the University of Southern California. He holds professional engineering licenses in mechanical engineering and industrial engineering.

Mr. Yuen has been the recipient of numerous major awards and recognition including: Engineer of the Year, Hawaii, 1998; Dept of the Navy Sustained Superior Performance (1996-2012) and four Meritorious Service Award; Hawaii Federal Manager of the Year, 1980; U.S. Air Force Engineer of the Year in a worldwide competition, 1981. Recently, he was selected as the 2013 Model Citizen of the Year by the United Chinese Society of Hawaii; and the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies.

Mr. Yuen and his wife, the former Lynette Leong, reside in downtown Honolulu. They have three daughters and nine grandchildren, all residing on the mainland.

FINALISTS

CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU SEAT (currently filled by James Lee)

- Walter Kirimitsu
- James Lee
- Lee Putnam
- Keith Vieira

Walter S. Kirimitsu

Walter Kirimitsu graduated from the University of Hawaii with a B.A. in 1962 and received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan.

Mr. Kirimitsu served in the U.S. Air Force as a Judge Advocate. He returned to Hawaii and practiced law as a civil litigator for 20 plus years. His last law firm was Shim, Tam, Kirimitsu, Kitamura and Chang, where he was a partner for 20 plus years.

Mr. Kirimitsu was appointed by Governor Cayetano as Judge of the State Intermediate Court of Appeals. Mr. Kirimitsu also served for eight and a half years as University General Counsel/Vice President for Legal Affairs for the University of Hawaii system. He served under three consecutive Presidents Kenneth Mortimer, Evan Dobbelle and David McClain; and also served as legal counsel for the Board of Regents.

Upon retirement from the University of Hawaii, he was appointed as President of Saint Louis School, a Catholic Marianist middle and high school, with a history of 168 years in the State. At the end of this school year 2013-14, he will have served as President for eight years.

Global experiences include: Panelist at Osaka Gakuin University Law School's Symposium, "Legal Education in Japan in the 21st century"; Director on the Board of Japan American National Museum, Los Angeles, California; former member of Japan-America Society and the Japan-Hawaii Lawyers' Association; and former director of Nippon Travel Agency of the Pacific, Inc. and Kawakami Sangyo, Inc.

Other leadership experiences include President of the Hawaii State Bar Association; election as fellow in two national trial lawyers' associations: American College of Trial Lawyers and American Board of Trial Advocates; and President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii.

Mr. Kirimitsu is married to May Kirimitsu, a University of Hawaii graduate, and has three adult children and six grandchildren.

James H. Q. Lee

James H.Q. Lee is a partner in the law firm of Devens, Nakano, Saito, Lee, Wong & Ching.

He is currently a Vice Chair of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents, the Chair of the Independent Audit Committee of the Board of Regents, the Chair of the Advisory Task Group for Research and Innovation and Vice Chair of the Student Affairs Committee. He also serves on the Personnel Committee and the Presidential Selection Committee.

He has served as the managing director of Aloha Harbor Brewing Company, LLC and is the managing director of the K.B. Lee Corporation, a real estate development company.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, he graduated from Iolani School in 1974. He graduated from the University of Hawaii with a Bachelors of Business Administration in accounting in 1978 and from the Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii in 1981. He is a licensed CPA as well as a licensed attorney.

He has served as president of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Honolulu and also as chair of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Foundation. He is very involved with school activities at Iolani School and has chaired the school's fair on numerous occasions.

He is married to Vickie, a school teacher and has two children, Charles and Jamie.

Lee Putnam, Ph.D

Dr. Lee Putnam retired as an Emeritus Specialist after a long career at the University of Hawai'i, serving in a variety of administrative and leadership positions — Associate University Librarian, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Specialist in the Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity.

Dr. Putnam attended the University of Minnesota High School, Grinnell College, the University of Colorado (B.A. in anthropology), the University of Chicago (M.A. in library science), and the University of Maryland (Ph.D in library and information science).

As a community volunteer, Dr. Putnam tutored at Halawa, serves on the Hawai'i Veterans Memorial Fund, and chaired a Blue Ribbon Panel for the Board of Education.

Her favorite pastime is reading. Since retiring, she has been taking classes at UH-Mānoa in literature, history, and music. Last year, she enjoyed a six-week stay in England, exploring London and hiking solo for 8-10 miles a day in the southwest countryside.

Keith M. Vieira

Keith Vieira is a principal of KV and Associates, Hospitality Consulting. He formerly served as senior vice president, director of operations, Hawai'i and French Polynesia for Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. He had regional responsibility for Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. - Hawai'i and French Polynesia that encompasses overseeing the operations for Starwood's eleven properties in Hawai'i under the brands of Sheraton, Westin, Luxury Collection and St. Regis, in addition to three properties in French Polynesia. He had been with the company for 29+ years and was previously director of travel services handling the wholesale and retail travel, director of communications for Sheraton Hotels in Hawai'i, vice president-director of development and assistant to the director of operations for Sheraton Hawai'i/Japan Division, vice president-director of marketing for ITT Sheraton Hotels in Hawai'i responsible for the largest private marketing budget in the state and area manager for the islands of Kauai and Hawai'i.

Vieira has worked in the visitor industry for over thirty-five years. Born and raised in Hilo, Vieira graduated from the University of Hawai'i-College of Business Administration with a degree in personnel and industrial relations.

He has served two terms as a member of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. Prior to his appointment to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, he served for many years on the Hawai'i Visitors & Convention Bureau, the O'ahu Visitors Bureau and the advisory board of the Hawaii Convention Park Council and YMCA of Hawai'i. He currently serves as a board member of the Blood Bank of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Business Roundtable, the University of Hawai'i Shidler College of Business, Catholic Charities Hawai'i, Ahahui Koa Anuenue, Friends of Hawai'i Charities, chair of the Ho'okako'o Corporation and school board chair for Kualapu'u School, Waimea Middle School and Kamaile Academy. He has worked with Kapiolani Community College and Leeward Community College in an advisory capacity.

He served as chairman for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's 2003 fundraising campaign and the Aloha United Way's 2000 campaign fundraiser. He was also named the 2003 Salesperson of the Year by Sales and Marketing Executives of Honolulu.

He is a key member of many travel industry organizations including Hawai'i Hotel & Lodging Association, American Society of Travel Agents, Hotel Sales & Marketing Association International, Japan Association of Travel Agents and Travel Industry Association of America.

FINALISTS

CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU SEAT (currently filled by Jeffrey Portnoy)

- Brian Panik
- Jeffrey Portnoy
- Eric Seitz

Brian Panik, D.O.

Dr. Brian Panik, DO, FAAEM, FACOEP, FACEP, is a Board Certified Emergency Physician and MBA candidate with extensive leadership and health information technology experience.

Dr. Panik is a multifaceted professional who enjoys working hard in the State's Emergency Departments, community's boardrooms, University's classrooms, and playing in the warm Hawaiian waters. Brian trained in Emergency Medicine in the rigorous Urban and Suburban Detroit area through Michigan State University. In 2006, Brian moved to Hawaii to work as an Emergency Physician and to be closer to his family. He achieved Board Certification in Emergency Medicine in 2007 and has since been made a fellow of all three of the major Emergency Medicine organizations; AAEM, ACOEP, and ACEP.

Dr. Panik currently serves on the Board of Directors for The Hawaii Chapter of The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) as well as The Hawaii Island Beacon Community (HIBC). As Vice President for the HIBC, he cooperatively managed the \$16 million dollar grant from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. Brian's strong background in Health Information Technology (HIT) led to his appointment as Chairman of their Health Information Technology Committee. Subsequently, his technical and professional skills led him to be chosen as one of three Physician Champions for the Hawaii Health Information Exchange and he continues to be active on their Physician Advisory Group.

Dr. Panik is an active researcher with particular interest in volcanic gas emissions (VOG) and HIT. His most recent VOG grant was approved January 23, 2014. His research has been nationally recognized and presented in Washington D.C. at both The National Health Policy Conference and The American Public Health Association's Conference.

Dr. Panik is an advocate for education and personal excellence. While in Detroit, he served as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine, and has resumed this role for the John A. Burns School of Medicine in Hawaii. He is also an Alumni Ambassador for his medical school and a mentor for those interested in pursuing a career in emergency medicine. As a life-long learner, Dr. Panik began work on his MBA through the University of Hawaii's Executive program in 2013.

Dr. Panik is a strong believer in being an active member of the community and in service to others. He has spent a considerable amount of time volunteering in his capacity as a physician both in our state of Hawaii and previously in many other locations such as Haiti.

In addition to his roles as a practicing physician and student, Dr. Panik volunteers as a physician to support local, national, and international athletes. Since 2010, he has been a registered Ringside Physician with USA Boxing and cared for Hawaiian Boxers at local events, including the Hawaii State Championships and the Junior Olympics. In addition to protecting boxers and the Kona Ironman Triathletes, Dr. Panik has been a part of the physician team at professional surfing competitions, including the prestigious Triple Crown Events. An avid surfer himself, in his free time, Dr. Panik can be found in the water on his favorite Glenn Pang surfboard.

Jeffrey S. Portnoy

Jeffrey Portnoy was born in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from Syracuse University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Political Science and a minor in Journalism. Mr. Portnoy also attended Duke University School of Law where he received his Juris Doctorate in 1972.

In June of 1972, Mr. Portnoy moved to Hawaii and began employment as an associate attorney at the law firm of Cades Schutte Fleming & Wright (now Cades Schutte) and has remained at Cades Schutte for forty-one (41) years. He presently serves as chair of the firm's Litigation Department and served on its Management Committee for more than two (2) decades.

Mr. Portnoy is presently a Regent serving an interim term having been selected by Governor Abercrombie in December of 2013. His present term, pending Senate confirmation, will expire on June 30, 2014.

Mr. Portnoy has been selected in "Best Lawyers in America" (Hawaii) in seven (7) legal specialties, including commercial litigation, first amendment insurance, legal malpractice, personal injury litigation, and Bet The Company litigation and was selected as the Hawaii Insurance Lawyer of the Year in 2011.

Mr. Portnoy has numerous law-related accomplishments, including membership in the prestigious "American Board of Trial Advocates"; Chair of the United States District Court Advisory Committee from 1992 to 1996; Chair of the United States District Court Magistrate Selection Panel in 1990, selected by the Judges of the United States District Court to serve as a lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference for two (2) three year terms; selected by the Judges of the Ninth Circuit to serve as the sole Hawaii attorney member to the Ninth Circuit Advisory Board from 2005 to 2008; Elected President of the Hawaii State Bar Association in 2007; Elected as the representative from the Hawaii State Bar Association to the American Bar Association House of Delegates from 1994 to 1996; Appointed by the Hawaii Supreme Court to serve on the Supreme Court Disciplinary Board; and appointed to serve on the Judicial Selection Committee. He is the Vice-President of the Hawaii Federal Bar Association and will become its new President on July 1, 2014.

Mr. Portnoy has served as the first male member of the Hawaii Commission on the Status of Women. He also served as a member of the Honolulu Ethics Commission from 2011-2012; Chair of the Neighbor Commission; President and Chairman of the Board of Manoa Valley Theatre for more than twenty-five years; and is President of The Hawaii Pops.

Mr. Portnoy has been actively involved with the University of Hawaii. He served as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Journalism, teaching media law in the late 1980's to early 1990's. He has taught and continues to teach several seminars at the Richardson School of Law. He also serves as a member of the "Friends of Richardson School of Law" and was a community member of the Law School Dean Search Committee. He has also assisted several University of Hawaii presidents in legal matters.

Former Athletic Director Hugh Yoshida selected Mr. Portnoy to serve as a community member of the Athletic Advisory Board and he also advised the University of Hawaii Athletic Department regarding several legal issues involving athletes and athletics. Mr. Portnoy has been a color analyst on University of Hawaii basketball radio broadcasts for the past fifteen (15) years. He also represented the UH Manoa student newspaper *Ka Leo* and several students in an award-winning lawsuit against the police union and the City and County of Honolulu, and has served as an informal legal advisor to the student newspaper for many years.

Mr. Portnoy and wife Sandi have been married for over 40 years and have a daughter Carrie. Their family also includes a four-year-old dog.

Eric A. Seitz

Eric Seitz graduated cum laude from Oberlin College in 1965, and received a law degree in 1969 from the University of California at Berkeley. After teaching in the Ethnic Studies Program at UH Manoa and serving for four years as a supervising attorney at the Legal Aid Society, Mr. Seitz entered full time private practice in 1979, emphasizing criminal defense, civil rights, employment, and military litigation. He has travelled throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia -- including one trip to Afghanistan -- representing American military personnel in a wide variety of proceedings. He has participated in a range of criminal matters -- trials and appeals -- in the state and federal courts ranging from traffic citations to more than thirty murder cases, successfully pursued civil rights cases involving speech, due process, police misconduct, and prison conditions, including several class actions. In 1989 he first represented a then fourteen year old Maui teenager named Jennifer Felix whose name is now commonly associated with enormous improvements in special education and children's mental health programs and services throughout the State of Hawaii. Over the past twenty-five years Mr. Seitz has advocated for students, parents, teachers, and school administrators in a wide variety of education cases. He also has represented many professionals -- doctors, lawyers, psychologists, dentists, and others -- in licensing and regulatory matters as well as employees, employers, and small unions and labor organizations in many kinds of employment disputes.

In his current law practice Mr. Seitz and three full time associates handle a variety of cases in the fields in which he has practiced for more than forty years. More than half of their legal work is uncompensated. This semester he also is serving as an instructor at the UH School of Law teaching a course in constitutional law.

Mr. Seitz has been married for more than thirty-eight years to Dr. Rae Seitz who is employed as a medical director with HMSA. Their daughter, Juli, manages Mr. Seitz's law practice, and their son, Jeremy, is a high school teacher and soccer coach at Farrington High School. In his spare time, Mr. Seitz competes in tennis tournaments and leagues, plays recreational soccer, and enjoys traveling -- especially to England where he is an avid soccer fan.

FINALISTS

STUDENT SEAT

- Jori-Anne Jasper
- Priya Rashid
- Michelle Tagorda

Jori-Anne J. Jasper

Jori-Anne Jasper graduated with three Bachelor of Business Administration degrees in Marketing, International Business, and Entrepreneurship in 3 ½ years (GPA 3.7) from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Shidler College of Business in the fall of 2012. She was selected as the 2012 Outstanding Student in Entrepreneurship and 2013 Outstanding Senior in Marketing while at the Shidler College of Business. She is currently a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Graduate Student (GPA 4.0) and will complete her Master of Arts degree in Sociology in the spring of 2014. Jori intends to continue her education at William S. Richardson School of Law in the fall of 2014.

Jori was born and raised on Kaua'i and graduated from Kaua'i High School in 2009. During her time at Kaua'i High School she was a three-sport athlete (Softball, Volleyball, Basketball), Student Body President, the Senior Class Scholar Athlete and graduated Summa Cum Laude (GPA 3.98).

Since arriving at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Jori has volunteered in multiple community service projects such as the Ali'iolani Elementary Read to Me Program, Hawaii Pacific Health's Kids Fest, Special Olympics, The Salvation Army, The Samaritan's Feet Project, Weekly Play Days at Hokenani Elementary School, UH Mānoa's Relay for Life, Jump Rope for Heart at Holy Family Catholic Academy, and the Big West Coin Drive.

Jori worked as a 2013 Summer Intern at First Hawaiian Bank's Legal Department. Jori is a licensed Hawaii Real Estate Agent, and the Owner/Operator of her own Company.

Jori is the Student Athlete Representative for 'Ahahui Koa Anuenue (AKA) where she reports on relevant news, initiatives, and programs associated with UH Mānoa Student Athletes.

Jori has been extremely active in co-curricular activities within the University of Hawai'i System. She was a member of the Hale Aloha Ilima Dormitory Community Council, a two-year Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) Senator, a member of the Accounting and Entrepreneurship Clubs, a Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Member, a five year member and current Chairperson of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), the Big West Conference Female SAAC Council Representative, and the Big West Conference's National SAAC Representative to the NCAA. In July 2013, Jori was elected as the only Student Athlete to serve on the NCAA Amateurism Cabinet.

Jori is a four time University of Hawai'i Scholar Athlete Award Recipient and National Fastpitch Coaches Association Softball (NFCA) Scholar Athlete, a three time Chancellor Centennial Scholarship Recipient and National Society of Collegiate Scholar Recipient, a Beta Gamma Sigma Scholar, a Golden Key International Honor Society Scholar, an Eiro and Alice Yamada Endowed Scholarship Award Recipient, a member of the Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society, the 2013 'Ahahui Koa Anuenue UH Pride Award Recipient, and UH Sociology Department Merit Scholarship Award Recipient.

Jori's profound passion for the University of Hawai'i educational system has empowered her to become a staunch advocate for its transformational opportunities. Her absolute loyal optimism constantly facilitates a dynamic vision for the powerful force that is the University of Hawai'i!

Priya M. Rashid

Priya Rashid was born at Fort Polk, Louisiana and raised in an Army family. At five feet two inches and one hundred pounds she became the first female to play on her high school's football team. Along with sports, she completed four years of Junior Reserve Officer Training and Search and Rescue Courses. Because of her physical skill and leadership abilities she became the first female Raider Team Captain. Raider Team competitions simulate Special Forces training and test physical and mental agility in formal testing, obstacle courses, and medical response training. As a female captain of an all-male team, Priya learned to lead in a untraditional setting. She also organized multiple services projects in high school to raise funds for wounded veterans and families of those lost during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The project aided over three hundred families. She was awarded several awards for her efforts including the Presidential Medal of Cadet excellence and the Military Order of the Purple Heart Achievement Award.

Last year, she decided to go to India and to work as a teacher at Navajeevan Orphanage. She was assigned to a classroom of forty children, handicapped and with diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB, or Malaria. Most had been rescued from sweat shops or brothels. Through these experiences, a different Priya emerged. In the rural village of Vijayawada, India, she learned so much more than what she had heard of in her college courses. She learned how to balance a thinning budget for over eight hundred children, how to stitch underwear and how to clean water filters. She learned how to lead community seminars on issues such as the importance of a girl's educational programs and domestic violence. Priya found out what ohana and laulima mean: love, compassion, cooperation and service to others. She learned how important the family unit and education are to a community.

Priya also gained practical skills: how to design and implement large scale educational programs, to work with people of different backgrounds, and to cross language and cultural barriers for the common good of all. She returned to continue her studies at University of Hawai'i at Hilo. When students had difficulty accessing university services, she ran for Student Senate. She won and passed several substantive measures increasing student services and sustainability programs. Priya competed in the International Model United Nations Competition, representing UHH against over four hundred universities from over fifty countries, taking third place in the world. She specialized in global access to education. Priya also volunteered as an intern for the Hilo Downtown Improvement Association, a non-profit organization that encourages local and sustainable growth of the community.

These opportunities honed Priya's leadership abilities even further. She currently attends University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is pursuing an education in Journalism and is in the UH Mānoa Honors Program. She is a Special Issues Editor of Ka Leo Newspaper and the Assistant Editor of Seawords Magazine that focuses on increasing awareness for environmental conservation. Priya recently returned from a research trip to Bangladesh to study socioeconomic politics and violence.

Priya couldn't kick the "football bug" and finds time to play and watch football on the weekends. Her long term plans are to work with the United Nations implementing economic, social and medical reform around the world. Priya Rashid is determined to make a difference in the lives of those facing social and economic disparities.

Michelle Asprer Tagorda

Michelle Tagorda was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. She grew up in the rural district of Puna and is a proud product of the Kea'au community having attended Kea'au Elementary, Middle and High School. In high school she ran track, played a season of soccer, and was an active member of student body government, civic club, math league and national honor society. As a senior, she competed at the 51st Hawai'i State Science and Engineering Fair and received the Best in Category for Senior Research in Environmental Sciences on her project, Phytoplankton and Heterotrophic Bacteria in Hilo Bay. Her passion for science led her to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.

As an undergraduate, Michelle was involved in organizations promoting student development and mentorship. Through her experiences as a New Student Orientation Leader, Access to College Excellence Mentor and Academic Peer Advisor, she dedicated her time to educating fellow students and empowering them toward their academic goals. She believes that mentorship is an important part of not only individual success, but also growth in higher education.

Michelle is a big proponent for giving back to the community. She was an active member of the Pre-Medical Association, Psi Chi Honor Society, Mortar Board Honor Society, and Office of Multicultural Student Services: Bin-1 Program where she volunteered in hospitals, retirement homes, elementary schools, and with large and small-scale service events.

As a member of the Campus Center Board (CCB), Michelle gained leadership skills in policy governance to ensure that all service areas, facilities, and activities of the campus center complex were providing students with the out of class room experience to gather, collaborate, and enjoy student life.

Currently, Michelle is pursuing her Master's in Public Health (MPH) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Having grown up in the small town of Kea'au, she hopes to serve in a similar setting in order to relieve the growing need for rural health care professionals. Her passion is in addressing ethnic disparities and the social determinants of health. She continues her academic advising as the graduate research assistant for the Public Health undergraduate degree program. She is also continuing her mentorship as the Mānoa Peer Advisor Program Assistant where she facilitates and coordinates events to ensure program goals are met.

In addition to her graduate studies, Michelle is part of the Health Behavior Change Research Workgroup, working on the Waipahu Health Action Research Training (Waipahu HART) project. Michelle works with the high school seniors to facilitate classroom activities on physical activity and healthy nutrition as preventative measures for obesity. The program's primary aim is to provide education on health and ultimately increase healthy behaviors to help fight adulthood obesity.

In her spare time, Michelle enjoys playing basketball in community leagues and running at Ala Moana Beach Park. She also enjoys reading a great book and reflecting in journal writing.