

Presidential Award for Outstanding Service

The Presidential Award for Outstanding Service honors UH Mānoa staff members who demonstrate outstanding work performance, service and leadership.

Michelle Myrie, Deputy Chief

UH Office of the Vice President for Administration
Department of Public Safety

Earl Matsushita, Work Coordination Center Manager

Campus Operations and Facilities

Evelyn Mangadlao, Janitor II

Campus Operations and Facilities
Buildings and Grounds Management

Dina Shek, Legal Director

William S. Richardson School of Law
Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i

Jean Takamura Staff Excellence Award

The Jean Takamura Staff Excellence Award was established in 2024 to honor dedicated staff who demonstrate exceptional service and support their advancement. Created in honor of Jean Takamura, a longtime business support staff member, it reflects her commitment to helping the university community succeed.

Karen Harper, Fiscal Officer

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology

Paula MacCutcheon, Operations Coordinator

Native Hawaiian Place of Learning Advancement Office

Roy Suda, IT Specialist

Enrollment Management

Peter V. Garrod Distinguished Graduate Mentoring Award

Established by the UH Mānoa Graduate Division in 2005, the Peter V. Garrod Distinguished Graduate Mentoring Award allows graduate students to nominate faculty for excellent mentoring, one of the foundations of outstanding graduate education.

Merle R. Kataoka-Yahiro, Professor

School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

Outstanding Academic Advisor of the Year

The Council of Academic Advisors recognizes an individual (Pakela Award) who, over the past two years, has demonstrated excellence and/or innovation in advising, and/or has made a significant contribution to the advising community.

Lauren Prepose-Forsen, Director

Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success
Mānoa Transfer Coordination Center

OVPRS Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate

Research & Creative Work

The Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research and Creative Work, established in 2020 by UH Mānoa's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, recognizes two mentors each year—one from a STEM field and one from a non-STEM field. The award honors those who have demonstrated sustained excellence in mentoring undergraduates and made a positive impact on their mentees' academic or professional achievements through research or creative work.

John G. Souza, Jr., Assistant Professor

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Tianlu Wang, Assistant Professor

College of Engineering
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Student Excellence in Research Award

The Student Excellence in Research Award is awarded by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship in recognition of outstanding scholarly research endeavors by students while they pursue a degree at the doctoral, master's or bachelor's level.

Dhvanil Desai, PhD Candidate

Institute for Astronomy

Sophia Rahnke, PhD Candidate

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology

Jannatun Noor Sameera, PhD Candidate

College of Engineering
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Student Employee of the Year Award

The Student Employee of the Year Program was created in 1986 by the Mānoa Career Center to recognize and highlight the achievements and contributions of student employees on the UH Mānoa campus.

Kate Sapigao, Lead Student Mentor

College of Education
GEAR UP Mānoa

Acknowledgements

Board of Regents • Information Technology Services • Kennedy Theatre • KOKUA Program • Mānoa Career Center • Mānoa Honors and Awards Committee • Mānoa Staff Senate • Presidential Award for Outstanding Service Committee • Robert W. Clopton Award Committee • UH Mānoa Commuter Services • UH Mānoa Council of Academic Advisors • UH Mānoa Graduate Council • UH Mānoa Office of Faculty Development and Academic Support • UH Mānoa Office of the Provost • UH Mānoa Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship • UH Communications • UH Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation • UH Office of the President



Scan to read more about the honorees



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

2026 UH Mānoa Awards Ceremony

Recognizing the dedication and service of UH Mānoa faculty,
staff and students committed to enhancing the University's
mission of excellence

Tuesday, May 5, 2026
Kennedy Theatre
3:00 p.m.

Program

Masters of Ceremonies

Grant Nakasone and Josslyn Rose

University of Hawai'i Office of Communications

Oli

Tammy Hailiōpua Baker

Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance

Remarks

Gabriel Lee

Chair, Board of Regents

Wendy F. Hensel

President, University of Hawai'i

Vassilis L. Syrmos

Interim Provost, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Presentation of Awards

Board of Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching

Board of Regents' Medal for Excellence in Research

Frances Davis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Robert W. Clopton Award for Outstanding Service to the Community

Presidential Citation for Meritorious Teaching

Presidential Award for Outstanding Service

Jean Takamura Staff Excellence Award

Peter V. Garrod Distinguished Graduate Mentoring Award

Outstanding Academic Advisor of the Year

OVPRES Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research
& Creative Work

Student Excellence in Research Award

Student Employee of the Year Award

Board of Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching

The Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching is awarded by the Board of Regents as tribute to faculty members who exhibit an extraordinary level of subject mastery and scholarship, teaching effectiveness and creativity, and personal values that benefit students.

Cheehyung Harrison Kim, Associate Professor

College of Arts, Languages & Letters
Department of History

Miyoko Teddy Pettit-Toledo, Assistant Professor

William S. Richardson School of Law

Subhashni Raj, Assistant Professor

College of Social Sciences
Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Eirik J. Saethre, Professor

College of Social Sciences
Department of Anthropology

Tamara Ticktin, Professor

College of Natural Sciences
School of Life Sciences

Kara Noelani Wong Ramsey, Associate Professor

John A. Burns School of Medicine
Department of Pediatrics

Board of Regents' Medal for Excellence in Research

The Regents' Medal for Excellence in Research is awarded by the Board of Regents in recognition of scholarly contributions that expand the boundaries of knowledge and enrich the lives of students and the community.

Nicolas Gaillard, Associate Researcher

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute

Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, Professor

John A. Burns School of Medicine
Department of Native Hawaiian Health

Victor M. Lubecke, Professor

College of Engineering
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Frances Davis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

The Frances Davis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for a faculty and graduate assistant recognizes dedication and demonstrated excellence as teachers of undergraduate students. It was established as a memorial to the late Frances Davis, who taught mathematics at Leeward Community College and UH Mānoa for 19 years.

Lisa M. Vallin, Instructor

College of Social Sciences
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Lolita Perez-Ayala, Graduate Assistant

College of Social Sciences
School of Communication and Information Sciences

Robert W. Clopton Award for Outstanding Service to the Community

The Robert W. Clopton Award for Outstanding Service to the Community recognizes a UH Mānoa faculty member for playing a socially significant role by applying intellectual leadership and academic expertise to the improvement of the community. The award was established in 1977 as a memorial to longtime UH Mānoa College of Education Professor Robert Clopton.

Yoshimi (Shimi) M. Rii, Assistant Specialist

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology

Presidential Citation for Meritorious Teaching

The Presidential Citation for Meritorious Teaching recognizes University of Hawai'i at Mānoa faculty members who have made significant contributions to teaching and student learning.

Ethan Caldwell, Associate Professor

College of Social Sciences
Department of Ethnic Studies

Jane Chung-Do, Professor

Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health
Department of Public Health Sciences

Jeffrey Drazen, Professor

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
Department of Oceanography

J. Lorenzo Perillo, Associate Professor

College of Arts, Languages & Letters
Department of Theatre & Dance

Cathi Schar, Associate Professor

School of Architecture

N. Ha'alilio Solomon, Assistant Professor

Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge
Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language