



Ka Leo O Kalani

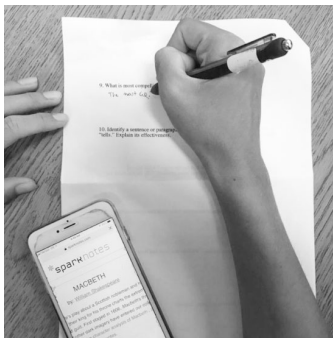
Kalani High School's student-produced publication kaleookalani.org @KalaniLeo

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Wu wins top Congressional Art prize!

by Serena Wong

After losing a previous competition, artist Clara Wu (11) took first place in the Congressional Institute's Art Competition on May 4. The award came with a scholarship and round-trip tickets to Washington, D.C.

The drawing took two-and-a-half months to complete and was made with a white-colored pencil on black paper.

"I was honestly really proud of my drawing when I completed it," Wu said. "However, I personally couldn't see how good it was."

When Wu heard her name called for the top prize in the first district, she was surprised and humbled.

"It just felt so surreal," she said. "It was as if all my hard work paid off."



Junior Clara Wu's drawing "Bubblegum Chums" won first place for the first district in the Congressional Institute's art competition. The artwork will be displayed along with other winners for one year at the U.S. Capitol. Wu also won round-trip tickets to attend the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. and a scholarship offer for up to \$3,000. Photo courtesy of James Mosher.

Climate change is coming: is Hawai'i ready?

by Jett Neeley

The most critical issue of our generation is climate change. The time for debate over. It is now time to discuss solutions to the many problems climate change will bear: rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and economic damage.

The question on the minds of all young Hawai'i residents is how are we preparing for the dangers that lurk in the relatively near future?

Tools such as the Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Viewer provided by the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) show with maps and photos how much we could lose with only half-a-foot rise in the sea levels. The Ala Wai Canal, for example, would overflow, most of Diamond Head beach would be lost, and Hawai'i Kai would

flood as far as a mile inland.

According to PacIOOS, these events are projected to happen as soon as 2030. A one-foot increase in sea level is expected to occur as early as 2050, double the rise just described.

Last year in Hanalei, in just 24 hours, 50 inches of rain fell. The unexpected downpour caused massive coastal flooding, which destroyed people's property and, according to the Huffington Post, "at least 350 people were evacuated." Events like these are only the beginning; extreme weather events will increase as climate change worsens.

According to Tetra Tech, "Chronic flooding would render more than 25,800 acres of land unusable statewide... the state could see \$19 billion in lost land

Climate cont. on p. 2



A surfer rides his last wave before sunset after a swell from a storm surge at Magic Island. Surfers have been enjoying the surf from every beach on the island with some waves rising up 10 to 15 feet. Scientists predict climate change will cause massive coastal flooding and erosion throughout the islands. Photo by Nikki Sakamoto 2019.

Ka Leo Wins at HHSJA

by Ka Leo Staff

Ka Leo O Kalani took home 12 top prizes at the annual Hawai'i High School Journalism Awards on April 17. Editor Jett Neeley (12) and Most Valuable Staffer Serena Wong (12) represented their colleagues at the annual luncheon and ceremony at the Pagoda Hotel.

In the Public School division, Ka Leo won first place in Social Media for its twitter @kalanileo and first in Por-

trait Photography. In the State division, the paper came in 2nd in those two categories to the overall five-time state journalism winner, Hawai'i Baptist Academy.

Overall, Kalani took third place, only one-half point behind second-place Kaiser and 4.5 points behind first-place Mililani in the Public School division.

Jay Hartwell, of the Hawai'i Publishers **HHSJA cont. on p. 2**



Kalani's graduating Class of 2019 stand together one last time at the Stan Sheriff Center on Tuesday, May 21. There are 325 graduates and 41 valedictorians in this accomplished group of students. Valedictorian Winnie Lau and President Steve Dole spoke during the ceremony. Kaitlyn Strandberg won the Principal's Award. Photo by Kaylah Fujimoto 2019.

Fitting out

by Zachary Salas

In today’s society, fitting in is just as important as it was five, twenty, or even one hundred years ago. It’s human nature to try to belong to a group, and it’s why we always form communities in all aspects of our lives.

At school, work, home, and when we are out and about, we are always trying to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. This is usually a good thing, but what do you do when societal norms conflict with your own moral values?

We’d all like to believe we would stand our ground, but I’ll be the first to admit, in most situations, I don’t say anything and let the topic blow over because I don’t want to deal with the scrutiny that comes with disagreeing with the majority.

However, there is one societal norm many of my peers partake in that I refuse to partake in. Smoking, vaping, and drug use are activities I see a little too frequently here at Kalani and, while most of it happens off campus, I’m curious as to when it all became so normalized.

Vaping, in particular, is rampant on and off campus and is an activity many of my peers choose to do. This isn’t an argument about the evils of va-

Climate cont. from 1 and structures — including flooded roadways, 20,000 people displaced, and 550 lost cultural sites.”

The inevitable economic damage due to climate change could devastate our state. Even now, it’s hard to find an extra \$19 billion, or a place for 20,000 homeless citizens, or a replacement for 550 significant cultural sites.

How is Hawai’i preparing for all of this? In 2016 the Office of Climate Change was established. Their goal: “tracking climate change science and potential impacts on City facilities” to “increase community preparedness” and insert “environmental” and “sustainable” programs into city policy.

They also came up with the state’s Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP has four main components: 1. take a local inventory of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; 2. have a series of target emission reduction goals and dates relative to a baseline year or amount; 3. make a comprehensive list of actions to reduce or eliminate carbon pollution



Zachary Salas (12) will attend George Fox University in Oregon in the fall. Staff photo 2019.

ping, but simply a question: why do they choose to do it? Is it an escape or a way to fit in?

I understand that being a teenager is hard and that there is a tremendous desire to fit in, but why does vaping seem to be so high on the list of “ways to look cool” at Kalani?

Being an adolescent is tough — I’ve never met anyone who had it easy — and falling into the trap of doing something to fit in is alluring. It’s hard to stand out and so easy and safe to be like everyone else.

Vaping and smoking are so normal that people have accused me of lying when I tell them I don’t do it. There’s a lot of conformity in doing something that all your peers do.

People spend too much time focused on fitting in that they don’t look at what makes them different. Maybe it’s time we try fitting out instead.

to achieve those emission reduction targets; and 4. plan and develop community outreach programs to build awareness and understand priorities and concerns from a diverse set of residents and stakeholders.

According to the 2019 Annual Stability Report, many of these goals are currently being met. Hawai’i is increasing its use of sustainable energy, we have begun to take inventory on our GHG emissions, and we are working on converting the city’s fleet of vehicles to 100% electric by 2035.

This is just a small sampling from the inaugural annual report, but it paints a hopeful response to grim environmental projections for the state.

HHSJA cont. from 1 Association, organized the event, said that Kalani’s entries stood out among public schools.

“This is an incredible accomplishment considering how strong Kaiser and Mililani’s programs have been,” he said.

To participate in this award-winning publication, students can join the news writing class.

Does Kalani need uniforms?

by Ka Leo Staff

Does the Kalani dress code need to be revisited? Forty teachers seem to believe it does. Some even go so far as to call for Kalani to require uniforms.

These teachers have petitioned Principal Otani for “stricter rules and enforcement of Kalani’s weak dress code.” They believe the current “weak dress code” causes behavioral issues and distracts students.

Kalani doesn’t need uniforms or a new dress code. The dress code is not a big deal, especially when there are other, bigger problems at play that cause actual distractions and behavioral issues.

Also, punishing girls because of what they

wear instead of punishing the boys who can’t keep themselves in check promotes toxic behavior. It teaches boys that they can do what they want without consequence. Teaching boys that the world will bend to their will at the expense of girls shows them that they are more important than women.

A school’s job is to educate its students, not tell them what to wear, not embarrass them or body-shame them. For many students, clothing is a form of expression and to take that away or limit our self-expression makes us feel less in control of our lives than we already do and will lead to more behavioral issues. Many teenagers are going through identity issues and

telling them they should be ashamed of who they are doesn’t help.

Why do nearly half the teachers believe it’s a problem? The only people who actually seem distracted by what students are wearing are teachers.

Dress code is a scapegoat for the real issues — phones. Ask any student what is more distracting: their phones or their peers’ clothing choices and the answer is clear.

If you feel the dress code needs to be changed, voice your opinion to the front office or your counselor. Our view: if students are comfortable in what they’re wearing, it’s none of your business. At this age, it should be a personal matter.

Phones should be OK in class

by Kaden Arias

How many times a day do you look at your phone? Just a quick glance? Chances are it’s an incredibly high number.

While in school, we are told never to cheat and never to use our phones when taking a test. But what would you use in the real world if you had to solve an actual math problem? Is using your cell-phone actually cheating?

We believe cell-phone usage shouldn’t be considered cheating because after high school, in the real world, we’ll all be using our phones to solve problems. If we have to calculate how many square feet of fence to buy at 40-cents a foot with only \$10.47 in our pockets, 99% of the time we are going to use our phones to figure it out.

Your phone is your own personal supercomputer, so why waste it by not looking up things you don’t understand? You’re not gonna go to a foreign country and say, “I know I have my phone and all, but

I’m gonna speak broken Spanish anyway.” Sure, what you learned in high school Spanish class will help, but chances are you’re gonna pull out your phone and type into a translator.

People are becoming incredibly dependent on their phones — and that is a topic for another day — but we’re not going to ignore our phones if we don’t understand something. We’re gonna use it every chance we can get. “Teach me Almighty phone.” OK, maybe we don’t say that, but you get the point.

Most times, we don’t have textbooks in our pockets waiting to teach us. But we do have phones, which are arguably better. If someone wants to look up the history of Hawai’i, they’re gonna pull their phone out and look up what happened and then probably fall into the rabbit hole of history and learn a lot more.

For our generation, there’s something different about reading text on phones versus in books; something about

it makes the information easier to invest in.

However, we students have to know when it is appropriate to pull out our phones. If a student has to write an essay and he is sitting there playing Candy Crush, he should push himself to work on the essay. If you use your phone irresponsibly, that’s on you. However, if you use your phone for class work and get stuff done, you should be allowed to use it as much as you need.

To fix this, we propose that teachers give students the benefit of the doubt and let students use their phones for research and to help them complete assignments because in real life no one will tell us to put our phones away.

Of course, some students may abuse the phone rule and, instead of doing work, they may play video games and watch Youtube, but we propose that students try harder to complete their work and then have fun after.

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Letter to my freshman self

by **Serena Wong**

Dear me,

You probably aren't going to be able to finish reading this letter, but I am writing this to give you advice for High School, so keep reading!

I know the thought of entering High School can be frightening because of the "jocks" and "popular people," but in reality, they are friendly. Just don't do anything to make them mad or they're going to tell you to meet them at alleys at 2:02.

There are a lot of new people who will enter your life, and at the same time, those who you are close with now will exit. Don't be afraid of change and know that it is for the better.

Take school seriously and make it a priority because you will realize that getting bad grades will only hurt and limit you in the end.

Don't believe you are who other people say you are. More importantly, don't become the person people say you are. Have confidence in yourself and know that you are smarter than you think.

If you want the task done, YOU get it done. Don't have expectations and learn to be self-reliant. If you set expectations for other people you will probably be let down, so do everything you want done yourself and don't wait around for other people.

Is fashion about conformity?

by **Vy Ngo**

By following fashion trends, I am a conformist.

If you ask those who know me what kind of person I am, they would say that I'm someone who keeps up with the latest trends. Specifically, fashion trends. They would also slip in something about how nice my outfits are. I was there for the horror that was early 2000s fashion, and now I am here for what might be the best fashion era yet.

In the early 2000s, to stand out, people would wear eye-catching patterns, something big and bold to make them feel big and bold. Some of the bigger trends were athleisure-wear, denim on denim, low-rise flared jeans, animal prints, platform sandals, Uggs, boots, and more. For inspiration, people would go to Britney Spears and NSYNC since they were trendsetters for this particular style.

The typical outfit



Senior Serena Wong was awarded Most Valuable Staffer 2019 at the Hawai'i High School Journalism Awards in April. She will be attending Kapiolani Community College in the fall and plans to study to become an athletic trainer. Photo by Mia Wong 2019.

It's easy to get an A, just do the work. Manage your time so you are able to complete assignments to the best of your ability. Do your assignments at least two days before the due date and see how much better you feel about the quality of your work!

Learn from your mistakes. You will make tons of errors, but the important thing is to understand

and learn from what you did wrong so that you can come back stronger.

Lastly, High School is filled with fun people and unique events, so make the most of every moment because it goes by fast and before you know it, you will be entering adulthood.

XOXO,

Serena Wong

these days consists of basic pieces that can make quite the statement, which I'm all for! For example, solid bright colored shirts, plain cargo pants, high waisted/vintage mom jeans, layering a long sleeve under a short sleeve, and chunky dad sneakers. The reason why these trends may sound familiar is because designers choose to bring them back and sell them in a more attractive way.

Nowadays, most teen girls shop at Brandy Melville, Hollister, PacSun, and Urban Outfitters. These stores are prominent due to the type of aesthetic they carry. I mainly shop at Brandy Melville, Hollister, and Levis—not the most affordable places to buy clothes.

Even with the "one size fits all" controversy, Brandy Melville's stock has skyrocketed over the past three years. Recently, Hollister's stock has also risen due to its size inclusiveness. Lastly, Levis has been around since 1853 and, in

my opinion, won't ever go out of style

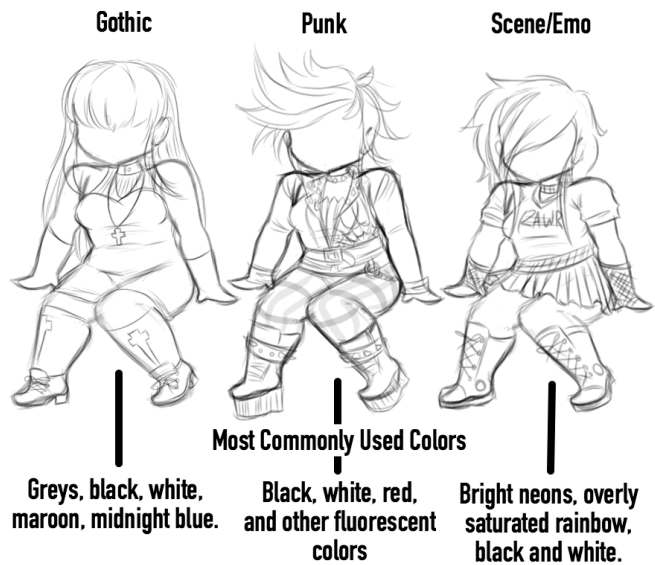
I think people definitely judge you based on how you dress... And that's not necessarily a negative. The way you dress tells people a lot about you; fashion speaks when you can't. You can light up a whole room with fashion.

Many trends that I found "ugly" in the 2000s have made a comeback. Animal print was one of the most confusing trends for me until recently when I saw a 'Beige Snake Print Satin Cowl Neck Slip Dress' online. My immediate reaction was shock and awe. Not only does the print matter but also the material and design.

Trends ebb and flow, and I latch onto bandwagons pretty quickly. Clothes have become one of my biggest interests this year. I can't stop buying them and looking into them more, trying to figure out the hype. Clothes are my passion. In fashion, conformity can be a statement.

ALTERNATIVE FASHION

Learn the differences!



Scene and Emo are early 2000s fashion subcultures that are frequently made fun of and often get mixed up. They are characterized by dark colors mixed with neons and have similar musical inspirations. Scene focuses more on bright colors, while Emo color schemes are darker. Their differences are small but significant. One thing is for certain, though, Scene and Emo kids like *My Chemical Romance*.

Punk started as a music genre. A lot of the imagery is influenced by political activism, and is meant to stand out. Some

signatures of the style are spiky, outlandish and colorful hairstyles, and studs and chains.

Preppy fashion is arguably one of the most unoriginal of all fashion styles. It is inspired by uniforms for schooling and usually has a simple, clean-cut look.

These are only a few of the many fashion styles from all over the globe, and they are all brilliant. They continue to influence each other, all with the motivation to create a particular vibe and aesthetic.

Text and artwork by Sophia Morton 2019.

A universe of stories!

by **Emily Bullock**

For six weeks from June 1 to July 13, the Hawai'i State Library system will be holding its summer reading program for children, teens, and adults. Libraries all over the state will hold programs associated with this year's theme, *A Universe of Stories*.

"We are part of a national initiative to get everybody reading," Jan Kamiya says, the young adult librarian at McCully Moiliili Library. "We're part of a program that follows the same theme all across the U.S."

The program encourages people to read by offering small prizes to those who participate. In the past, prizes such as pencils, pens, erasers, and keychains were given. Additionally, for every 100 minutes read, participants enter for a chance to win four round-trip tickets anywhere that Alaska Airlines flies.

"The more that you read, the more chances you have as an entrant to win the big prize," Kamiya explains. On Saturday, June 1, you can sign up by simply visiting <http://www.librarieshawaii.org> and creating a Beanstack account. This account can be

accessed online or through the Beanstack app. The app keeps track of how many minutes you have read and rewards you with digital badges for different achievements.

"It's a fun, collaborative, cooperative collection of all of the minutes we've read over the summer!" Kamiya says.

Also on June 1, the Hawai'i State Library on King St. will feature a kick-off event from 9:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be interactive programs such as building an outer-space Lego city, crafts, storytime, and a robotics demo by McKinley High School's Robotics team.

"The summer reading program is an ideal way to keep reading during the summer," McCully's adult services librarian, Linnel Yamashita notes.

Even if you don't attend the event, participating in the Program may be beneficial. Kamiya explains that reading prepares students for the next school year.

"If you keep your brain active over the summer, you're that much better of a student when you return to school," Kamiya explains.

Horita swings for San Marcos

by Serena Wong

Cherise Horita signed to play NCAA Division II softball at California State University San Marcos on Thursday, Feb. 28 in a signing ceremony held in the new Kalani Judo/Wrestling room.

“Cal State University San Marcos has been my dream school, and I never thought it could turn into a reality,” Horita said.

Last season, Horita was listed on ScoringLive as the softball DII leader in doubles, home runs, and strikeouts, and was selected by Hawai‘i’s online sports platform as the Oahu Interscholastic Association Division II Player of the Year. She was also named Kalani High School’s 2018 Female Athlete of the Year.

This season, after moving up a division and changing her defensive position from pitcher to shortstop, Horita was again recognized as Kalani’s Female Athlete of the Year. On ScoringLive she’s the team



Cherise Horita (12), two-time Female Athlete of the Year, headed into the 2019 softball season as the team’s go-to hitter and pitcher. She signed to play NCAA Division II softball at Cal State San Marcos on Thursday, Feb. 28. She also participated in paddling and track & field. Photo by Serena Wong 2019.

leader in hits, runs, runs batted in, triples, and home runs. She finished 2019 with a total of six regular-season HRs.

“I would also like to thank my teammates for being such a big reason in why I love the game so much and my family and friends for supporting and being

there for me every step of the way,” Horita said at her signing speech.

She said she’s grateful for her coaches and strong support system and looking to the future.

“I am excited to play ball at the next level and start a new chapter in life,” she said.

Falcons dominate OIA Golf



At the OIA Boys Varsity Golf Championship at Turtle Bay on April 23, the Kalani Boys team won first place, beating out the team from Campbell, who placed third, and Mililani, who placed second. Three Kalani golfers made the top 15: Brayden Miguel (12) placed 13th with a score of 78, Cole Matsueda (12) placed 9th and shot 73, and Curtis Meares (11) shot 70 and won the tournament. Golfers from left to right are: Sung Jae Ko (12), Brayden Miguel (12), Cole Matsueda (12), Curtis Meares (11), Nathan Yoshimoto (11), and Haruki Imanishi (10). Photo by Danny Lau, text by Brayden Miguel 2019.



At States, both the Girls’ and Boys’ Judo teams placed 5th. Fourteen team members qualified for the tournament and eight placed. Photo by K. Wong 2019.



Kalani Boys’ and Girls’ Varsity Track & Field teams competed at Moanalua High School for the Eastern Championship. The girls took first and the boys took fifth place overall. Photo by B. Nasser 2019.

Track goes to Maui

by Ka Leo Staff

Falcons Track and Field had a successful season, with the girls’ varsity team repeating as Oahu Interscholastic Association Eastern Champions for the second year in a row. On the Boys’ team, Nathaniel Balangitao (11) took first in both the discus and shot put at Easterns, while Sheree Tam (12) took first in the 100, long jump and triple jump and second in the 200.

“We had a number of sprinters make it as far as States, which means we have a strong team,” Captain Zach Salas (12) said, who qualified in the 400. “We have multiple people who have improved this year and will

continue to keep the sprinting department strong.”

Sixteen athletes journeyed to Maui for the State Championships on May 3 to 4, with nine athletes competing in individual events.

At States, Balangitao and Taina Tanuvasa (9) both earned 7th in the discus and Tam got 2nd in the long jump and 5th in the triple jump.

Captain Paige Basilio (11), who qualified in the 1500 and 3000, also noted huge improvement throughout the season.

“You could see how much work each runner put in,” she said. “Even with a dirt road as a track.”

ACE! Girls 1st in OIA

by Jett Neeley

In the 2018-19 season, Kalani Girls’ Varsity Tennis was able to achieve the first spot in the OIA East, third in the OIA, and send several representatives to States.

“The girls did very well this season,” Coach Daniel Akemoto said. “From the top to bottom seed on our team, they all worked hard and did very well in their matches. The girls’ attitudes towards practice were the main factor in their success.”

The girls were competitive, as is obvious from their season record, but they also played with great passion and fervor. Coach Akemoto pointed out that what was most impressive about them this season was that they, “grew tremendously.”

“Though they would cry tears when they lost, they learned to look to what they did well,” he said.

This growth will be extremely important looking forward with the departure of graduating seniors Jordyn Tanaka and Ariel Wong, who were described as the “heart” of the team.

“[Tanaka and Wong] will be greatly missed,” Akemoto said. “All the girls have tremendous respect for both of them.”

The Junior Varsity team finished second overall in the OIA and first in the OIA East.

“Our JV girls’ team is strong,” Akemoto said.

Training is going to be a main focus for Akemoto next season.

“There are drills specific to singles players compared to doubles, so when you group them all together it can have varying effects that are not too desirable,” he said. “The schools that consistently win OIA and States have facilities which almost automatically allows them to do this. For us, we need to be a bit more creative.”

Luckily for Kalani, creativity is one of Akemoto’s strengths. If this season’s success was any indication, more is to come for the Kalani girls tennis program under his leadership.

Akemoto was named OIA East Coach of the Year in May.