

KA LEO O KALANI

Winter 2020 • NUMBER 7 • 4 pages • kaleookalani.com • @kalanileo

Satire and humor make their first appearance in Ka Leo!

VOICES

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KAS President Reina Dreyer swims to State Champs.

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KALANI ARTISTS WIN NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

STUDENT LIFE

KEVIN KAMEHIRO Nine Kalani High School students were recognized at the 2020 Hawaii Regional Scholastic Art Awards in February: Karen Oh (10), Rina Robin (12), Colleen Kagawa (12), Clara Wu (12), Shaye Iwanuma (12), Kent Le (12), Natalie Ou (12), Viani Southichack (12), and Maria Tanaka (12).

Only five artists in Hawaii were named American Vision Award nominees, and Kalani's Oh and Robin earned two of the coveted nominations.

Robin did not expect a personal sketch of her mother to earn such a positive reaction.

"I was surprised and didn't know I was gonna win," she said.

The 2020 Hawai'i Regional



Scholastic Art Awards is an event where students from grades 7-12 can show off their talents. The art submissions are judged based on originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or

is in the years of taking drawing and painting," James Mosher said, teachers to both Oh and Robin.

The nominees' work will be displayed at the Hawaii State Art



Left: Karen Oh's illustration earned a Gold Key in the Scholastic Art Awards competition. **Above:** Rina Robin also earned a Gold Key for her drawing. Both are American Vision Award nominees. Photos courtesy of artists.

vision.

"The preparation

Museum from Feb. 15 to March 14 and an award ceremony was held on Feb. 15 to honor the nominees and their teachers.

"What inspired me to create it was wanting to do a harder portrait to challenge my abilities," Tanaka said, who earned a Silver Key for her work.

FAMED CLIMATE WRITER DRAWS HUGE LOCAL CROWD

LOCAL

LUCY FAGAN Journalist David Wallace-Wells delivered a public address on the global climate crisis at the Kahala Hotel and Resort on Tuesday, Jan. 14. Over a hundred people attended, including Mayor Kirk Caldwell and Lieutenant Governor Josh Green.

"Climate change is a global problem," Wallace-Wells said. "It can only be solved globally and can only be solved by humans. The challenge before us is to secure a livable, prosperous future."

Wallace-Wells is the author of the New York Times bestselling book, *The Uninhabitable Earth*. His local address detailed the facts surrounding global warming and outlined the grim future many scientists believe we face.

He also spoke about his own climate journey and his previous delusions about climate change, using these talking points as a way to share alarming facts.

He predicts there will likely be another two degrees of warming between 2040 and 2050, leading to millions of climate refugees, extreme catastrophes, loss of agriculture, the deaths of many underprivileged people, and many more global issues, he explained. No one is safe, he said.

"I started to see this is not a limited problem," he said.

Wallace-Wells closed off the night with hope by highlighting the efforts of new world leaders that have risen to inspire, like youth activist Greta Thunberg. His final message was to not let the fear of the crises paralyze you but to, instead, use it to push yourself to get involved and promote policies that will make a difference.

ROBOTICS STUDENTS ARE REACH FINALISTS

STUDENT LIFE

KEVIN KAMEHIRO Three Kalani students, Andy Au (10), Zi Tao Li (10), and Codie Nakamura (10) from the school's Robotics Club developed a beach wheelchair prototype to help a motion impaired person travel across the sand for the 2020 REACH Challenge.

They were scored based on an essay and video and were one of Hawaii national finalists from nine different states.

According to the ITEEA's website, the REACH Challenge is a design-thinking project for middle school, high school, and college-level STEM programs. The students use their STEM skills to help a member in their community who has a challenge to overcome.

The Reach Challenge shows the students that their STEM skills can make a difference to the people around them, and encourages them to use their knowledge to have a positive impact on their com-

munities.

Li, Au, and Nakamura started researching around September. Their teacher, Bryan Silver provided them a wheelchair to test in the sand and they figured out that the wheels were not getting much traction. They swapped in bike wheels and decided to use bigger and wider front wheels.

Once they had all the materials, building started in November and carried through December. When they finished their first prototype, they discovered it couldn't support the weight of a person. The team made adjustments to the front wheel using the pieces that connected the footrest. Making one more adjustment, they offset the wheel from the swivel.

It all cost around \$150 since they were able to reuse a lot of the parts.

They are invited to travel to Baltimore, MD on March 11-14 for the 82 annual ITEEA Conference.



Top: REACH Challenge finalists Au, Nakamura and Li pose with teacher Bryan Silver. **Bottom:** The finalists show off their sand-friendly wheelchair at the beach. Photos courtesy of Zi Tao Li.

VOICES

LOWER THE VOTING AGE TO 16 YEARS

LUCY FAGAN & LAUREN VIERRA At 16, youth are expected to take on more responsibility in the push to become independent, productive individuals. They are legally able to work, drive, and pay taxes. But the one thing they can't do, like a legal adult, is vote.

Many high school students will turn 18 during the tenure of a president that they didn't elect; they should have a say in deciding who will lead and govern their futures.

The idea that the president will pass laws that may effect their lives would give them a powerful incentive to vote responsibly; if the student doesn't care when they are 16, they probably won't care later when they turn 18 and can legally vote.

This would allow teenagers who do care to have a voice and feel empowered. Often times, people under the age of 18 feel like they shouldn't care because they don't even have the opportunity to do anything with their opinion. This, however, would inspire them to educate themselves and get involved.

Lowering the voting age would also increase voter turnout. The United States has a notoriously low turnout among the youth and this would help students understand the political process in an authentic and realistic way.

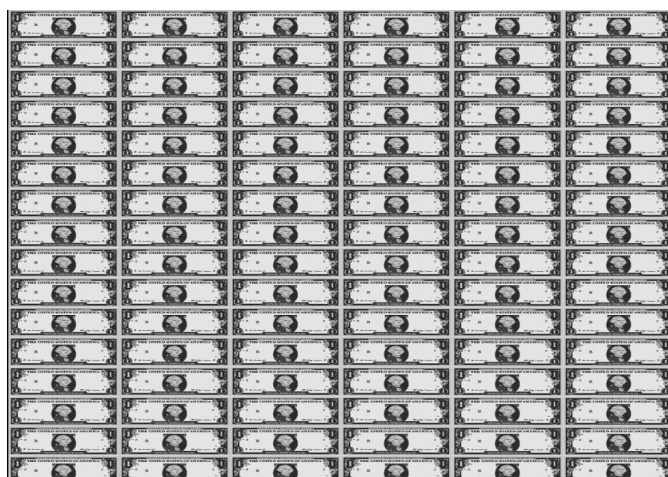
According to census.gov, voter turnout has increased in adults 18-29 by 16% since the 2014 election; this brings the total turnout in this age group from 20% to 36%. While the number has grown, it still does not compare to the 60% voter turnout of 45-64 year-olds in the 2018 election. Letting teenagers vote would inspire a civic duty to get involved and push voter turnout.

One argument against lowering the voting age is that most 16-year-olds have minimal life experience. They have not lived on their own and, in many cases, have not dealt with things such as working, balancing a budget and paying taxes; in short, they are less educated.

By this argument, however, what makes an 18-year-old more qualified than a 16-year-old? Many 18-year-olds have not experienced these situations either. They also lack experience. One could also argue that many 22-year-olds also lack life experience.

Voting is a right. If a student is not educated and does not care, they don't have to vote, but if they do, certain requirements could be put in place to ensure students understand the system and their responsibilities. A voting test could be taken while registering to vote and would be similar to a driving test.

Eighteen-year-olds are not adults — they just happen to be considered that by law. Lowering the voting age will empower students to take an active interest in the issues that will impact their futures.



9.6 million trees are cut down every day, according to the Rainforest Action Network. In this graphic, every pixel that makes up a dollar represents one tree. Each dollar has 100,000 pixels and all 96 dollars represent a day's worth of global deforestation. Made using PixelArt and Canva by Mina Kohara 2020.

SATIRE & LAUGHS

Gay Wedding Interrupted, Couple Convinced to Give Up Homosexual Lifestyle

This fall, former fiances Adam Davis and Steve Miller traveled to Hawaii for a picture-perfect tropical wedding. The wedding had been a product of six months of planning, but even the detail-oriented would-be-groom Adam Davis couldn't have predicted what happened on the long-anticipated day.

Enter Christian Brown, a conservative activist dedicated to stopping people from choosing a homosexual lifestyle. He operates a popular blog, where he asks fans to give him any information on gay couples so he can talk them down from making decisions they might regret, like moving in together or getting married, as well as getting tip-offs from his contacts in the government.

"I just think it's the right thing to do, ya know?" Brown said. "It's obvious to me that they're making a big mistake, and if they can't see that, then I try to help. They just have to choose to give up this way of life."

Usually, Brown gets word of a wedding at least a week in advance, giving him time to visit the couple before the big day. But this time, his government contacts weren't able to notify him until the night before Davis' and Miller's wedding, leaving him no choice but to crash the big day.

He managed to get the two grooms alone before the ceremony and explained to them the error of their ways. It was through his

compassionate speech that Davis and Miller finally came to terms with the truth of their relationship, something which only Brown could see, despite having never met the two men before.

"I can't believe how long it took me to realize that my relationship with Steve is a sin," Davis said. "I've been told that a lot, but I always said that love could never be a sin. I'm ashamed to say that I was just choosing to pretend to be in love with Steve as an act of rebellion."

Davis and Miller have now moved out of their shared apartment. Davis has, on the recommendation of Brown, moved in with his second cousin, Eve, and Miller has moved back in with his parents, who have re-done the basement for him.

"I'm so glad I came to realize the lies I was telling myself," Miller said. "I want to send a big thank you to Christian Brown, and advise anyone in a similar position as myself and Adam to seriously reconsider their choices."

Lucy Dooley Carll

A Guide to A Perfect Society

21st Century society, what a time to be alive! I mean, it's not that hard to love it here, from the expectations and standards to the pressure weighing you so far down you find yourself on the floor crying tears of complete joy. Just take a look at the people, red puffy faces, throats sore after coming back from the bathroom, long sleeves in the middle of summer, look at that beautiful too-big smile.

Fitting into the culture is simple: just be perfect. It's not hard and

it's not like you'll be judged if you aren't good enough. 'Fake it till you make it' as they say. You have so many resources like Photoshop and plastic surgery. You got this!

Also, be informed. Did you hear the tea about those Youtubers?

Or learn the new Tiktok dance?

Why didn't you come to the bathroom with the rest of us? Come on, don't be such a drag! How will you be cool now? Just follow the other kids, go with the flow, and have a good time.

Take a look at the world around you: burnt trees and melting ice caps are a very aesthetically pleasing backdrop for your next Instagram post. You're so close to 1k followers! The wildlife may be dying but your likes are thriving.

So what if women *still* don't have equal rights and people in the LG-BTQ community are *still* being attacked. So what if students around the world are crying themselves to sleep trying to finish their homework and everyone is enveloped in a sense of hopelessness. That doesn't mean society is to blame.

What can you do, you know? Educate yourself? Too hard. Change the way you think? Why would you, the world is still spinning? Try and make a difference? Slow your roll there, buddy. I mean, what can one person do in a world of billions?

But you know, if you're uncomfortable just follow society's motto: scroll past the ugly and uncomfortable to the next pretty thing. It'll be alright in the end.

Starr Asuncion

GLOBAL POLITICAL SPECTRUM



Infographic made by Virgil Lin using MapChart. For a full source list, visit www.kaleookalani.org.

FEATURES

LANGUAGE WHIZ TEACHES AT KALANI

LUCY FAGAN & LAUREN VIERRA

Last month Joe Rodgers visited multiple classes at Kalani High School to introduce himself, share his life story, and explain how he plans to help students.

Rodgers will be available after school on Mondays from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to help students practice a foreign language and learn about career options in fields such as government, education, culture, and international relations.

Rodgers has worked with the United Nations (UN) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and is professionally fluent in eight languages, “decent” in 2-3 more and “semi-fluent” in 10-25 others. Some languages he knows fluently are Spanish, French, Russian, German, Polish and Portuguese.

Rodgers taught French and Spanish at the high school and middle school levels for 15 years before moving east.

When Rodgers began teaching, he recalled a



Linguistics specialist Joe Rodgers works with Kayla Lim (11) after school in the library, helping her to learn Korean, a language not currently offered at Kalani. He is fluent in eight languages and semi-fluent in 10-25 more. Photo by Lucy Fagan 2020.

time when he was asked how many languages he spoke. This was a question he’d never thought about before.

“I had to count them overnight before answering,” Rodgers remarked.

Moving often as the son of a military family, he’s lived in dozens of places, including Switzerland, Brazil, the Philippines, Canada, and Mexico, and has done work in “most Latin American and Asian countries.”

A love of Waikiki brought Rodgers to Hawaii. He often stopped here when his UN career had him traveling to Asia for

work. He loved his time abroad and was able to spend time in the islands after taking more UN missions centralized in Asia.

“As the winters got longer and colder in my NY region, I dreamed of coming here —so now here I am,” he explained.

In Hawaii, Rodgers continues to educate and reach out to students. He contacted several local schools about offering language classes and Kalani was the first to respond with interest.

“I think it’s a win-win,”

Principal Mitchell Otani shared. “He gets to give back to the community and we welcome him for his knowledge and his expertise and his willingness to work with our students.”

After emailing with Principal Otani, Rodgers toured the school and met the students before the partnership began.

Rodgers earned a Bachelor of Arts in Government and International Relations at Columbia College in New York City and a Master of Arts in Linguistics with a specialty in Russian and Polish at the University of Chicago.

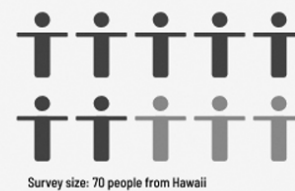
Rodgers said he chose those specialties because he wanted to work in international politics. He knew with a combination of government and language training, he’d have valued skills for his preferred career. Rodgers said preparing early by focusing in school helped him find jobs in all of these specialized areas.

His best advice for teenagers is to be open-minded and tolerant of others.

“It occurs to me now that a teenager who does a few good deeds for others may be doing more good for the world than many a wealthy, powerful person,” he said.

INFOGRAPHICS

COVID-19: What About It?



60% or less informed about COVID-19

Survey size: 70 people from Hawaii

Facts:

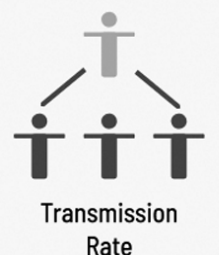
- ❑ 80% deaths are ≤ 60-years-old (China)
- ❑ 2-14 days incubation period
- ❑ < 1% mortality rate ages 10-49



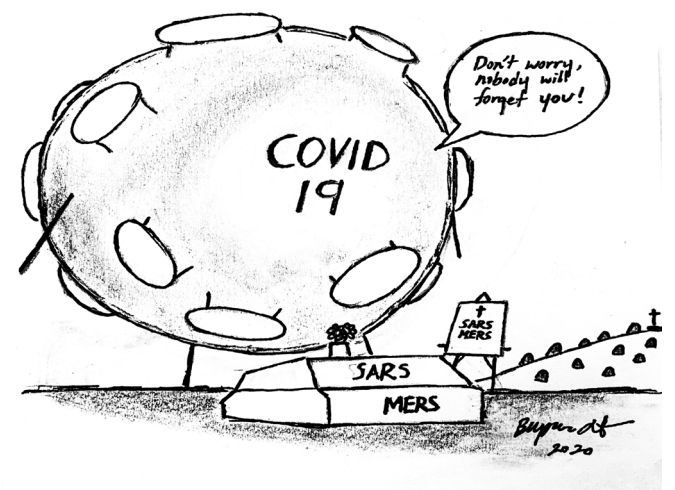
2% national mortality rate

Prevention:

- ❑ Stay at least 3 feet from sickly
- ❑ Wash hands for 20 seconds
- ❑ Avoid touching facial regions



Infographic made using Canva by Saara Nicole Chadwick.



Editorial cartoon by Virgil Lin 2020.



Top left: Victor Siu (11), Jose Siliezar (11), Duke Whitney (11) and Athena Huynh (11) sell nachos to raise money for Chess Club. **Top right:** Michelle Judd (12), Christopher Lei (11) and Nathan Chen (12) sell homemade freeze-dried exploding space candy for Robotics. **Bottom left:** Ashlyn Nii (10), Garry Sasaoka (10) and Joelle Romero (12) sell soda floats to raise money for Japanese Club. **Bottom right:** Jordan Badon (11), George Hammond (10) and Jackson Frifeldt (10) sell lemonade to students Tynesha Ly (10) and Kirra Hartney (10) to support Health and Nutrition. Photos by Annyssa Troy 2020.

SPORTS



Reina Dreyer (12) flexes before OIA Champs. Photo by Lin Meyers 2020.

LIN MEYERS Confident, ambitious, and outgoing: these are three of the many characteristics that describe Kalani senior Reina Dreyer. Dreyer is a top scholar, has a 4.2 GPA, and earned a perfect score on her ACT her junior year. As captain of the Kalani swim team and president of the student body, when does she ever have time to study? What does she do to ease all of her stress?

Dreyer started swimming at the age of 4 and started competi-

tive swimming at 10. She joined Splash Aquatics to learn the fundamentals and is now swimming for a club team, Punahou Aquatics. After years of training and competing in the sport, she has learned to love the backstroke.

Dreyer was part of the Kalani Girls’ team that beat the team from Kaiser on Jan. 25, breaking their 10-year winning record. She won three first-place medals in the 200 Medley Relay, the 400 Free Relay, and the 100 Free (individual). She also placed third in the 100 Backstroke.

At the State Championships on Maui on Feb. 14-15, she earned a silver medal as part of the 200 Medley Relay, a bronze medal in the 400 Free Relay, 7th in the 50 Free, and 6th in the 100 Free.

After three years of coaching her, Victoria Ruelas knows Dreyer as a strong student and swimmer who works hard, is dedicated to what she does, and has a great sense of humor.

“She has the potential to be a great leader,” coach Victoria said.

In addition to swimming, Dreyer is involved in the Kalani Association of Students (KAS), the school’s student-led government organization on campus. She was elected KAS president in her junior year and is now the student body president.

“I really wanted to give back to Kalani,” Dreyer explained.



Ikaika Nishitomi referees a wrestling match on Mat 3 between wrestlers from Mililani (wearing gold on his left shoulder) and Campbell (wearing orange on his thigh) on Dec. 7 at Kalani High School. Photo by Saara Nicole Chadwick 2020.

CALEB DELANIA & DANIEL MELVIN The Kalani High School Wrestling Team participated in the Hawaii State Championship tournament at the Blaisdell Arena on Saturday, Feb. 22-23. Emily Paulino (11) emerged the 2020 Hawaii Wrestling State Champion in the 122 weight division.

Other Kalani wrestlers performed well at the final match of the season; in the boys’ individual events, Kade Okura (10) took 3rd place, Greg Rucilez (12) took 4th place, and Brayden Kamimura (11) and Jayce Kamimura (10) tied for 5th place.

Paulino was proud of herself for making it to the finals and winning the Championship, but to her, it was a group effort.

“It was also my coaches who put in time and my family who supported me throughout everything, and my teammates who work with me,” she said.

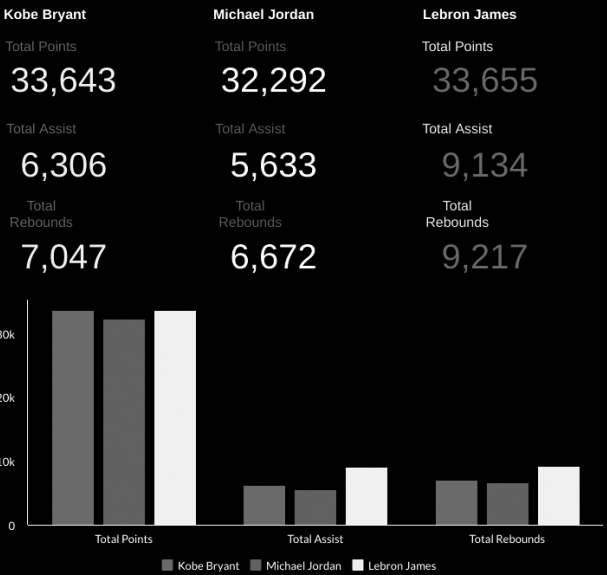
The girls’ and boys’ teams from Kamehameha-Kapalama took home the team titles. Kalani boys finished 10th out of 44 participating schools and the Kalani girls took 18th place out of 42 schools from across the Islands.

Highlights from Girls’ B-Ball Senior Night

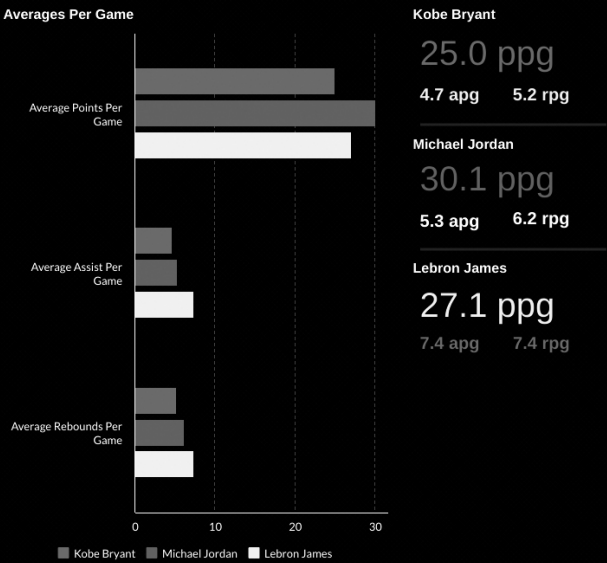


Top: Hallie Birdsong (11) drives for the basket after a Kaiser turnover in the 2nd Quarter. The Varsity veteran earned 9 points for Kalani and made four for four at the line. **Right:** Jennesice Sueing (10) prepares to shoot her final free throw of the game. **Bottom:** Lile Oyama (12) dribbles before sinking her second free-throw to put Kalani above Kaiser 15-14 in the 2nd. Senior Oyama had 11 points and made 3 of her 5 free-throw attempts. Kaiser took a decisive lead in the 4th to eventually win 55-40 and finish ahead of Kalani in the East. Kalani went into the playoffs in 6th place. On Jan. 29, Kalani returned fire, beating Kaiser 43-41 in the playoffs. Photos by Annyssa Troy 2020.

TOTAL STATS AS OF TODAY



CAREER AVERAGES



Infographic made using Canva by Tyler Shugart 2020.