

KA LEO O

WINTER
2021

KALANI

@KALANI_LEO



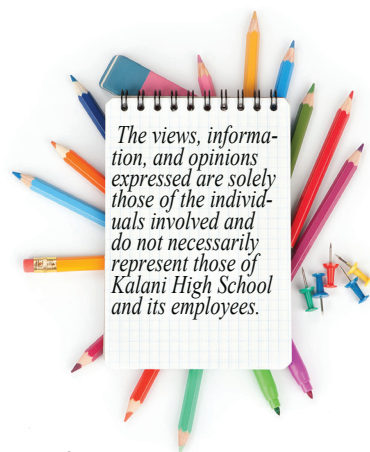
NEWS

ART

CULTURE

LEARNING IN THE YEAR OF COVID

ISSUE 8



Kalani's New Virtual Library is Open!

On Friday, Jan. 23, Kalani's virtual library opened, courtesy of our new librarian Mrs. Miyashiro!

Due to COVID-19, physical books cannot switch from person-to-person. Many students need an accessible place for reading, whether personal or school-related, and the new Kalani virtual library does just that!

You can find Kalani's virtual library on our school website under the Academics tab. It is a Google Slide that features links for any resources you need in your studies. Students must be signed in to their school email account to access these links.

This library version will be temporary as Mrs. Miyashiro is currently redesigning the "official" library website. The new website will have the same links as the virtual library and include other online resources/guides to help students and teachers. There will also be a "Book Recs" form, so students can recommend books for the library to purchase.

"I wanted to create something eye-catching with quick and easy access to the online services Kalani subscribes to," Miyashiro states. "I had selected images from the different services and linked those images to their respected websites. The login information was provided for easy access."

We are so excited for students to have this opportunity for a virtual library as it is a quick and efficient way to find information and personal reading books. Please use this Google Slide as an advantage to help your learning.

NEWS

DECA scores big at 2021 virtual comp & conference in February



Top left: Team Event Participants Riki Watanabe and Dristen Canada; **Top right:** Team Event Participants Logan Wong and Joie Miyashiro; **Bottom left:** Team Event Participants Monica Mau and Jessica Tuquero; **Bottom right:** Lisa Potterton with her students at the 2021 Virtual DECA Competition on Feb. 17.



LAUREN VIERRA Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) Hawai'i hosted it's 2021 Conference and Competition virtually on WebEx on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

DECA Advisor Lisa Potterton said she was "incredibly proud" of the 26 members from Kalani who competed in the first Virtual DECA Career Development Conference. There were two team finalists and four individual finalists.

Team Event Finalists were Joie Miyashiro (10), Logan Wong (10), Monica Mau (12), and Jessica Tuquero (12); the Miyashiro and Wong duo competed in Sports Entertainment Marketing. The second duo, Mau and Tuquero competed in Travel Tourism.

The Individual Event Finalists were Min Seo Kim (12), Katrina Kuo (12), Aiden Cheung (11), and Lauree Tam (11).

The DECA Competition also held a written exam component in which Kuo (Entrepreneurship) took second place.

Kalani's DECA chapter hosted three Trophy Winners, meaning they finished in the top three in their category: Business Services Marketing's Kim won third place; Marketing Communications's Cheung also won third place; and Kuo placed first in Entrepreneurship.

All three trophy winners are eligible for this year's International Career Development Conference (ICDC) — to be held virtually as well.

According to its website, DECA "prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe."

Kalani Welcomes New Faculty!



Kalani welcomed nine new faculty members this year. Here are some of the new faces around campus. **Top left:** Dallas Corea; **Top middle:** Omer Gokce; **Top right:** Daphne Miyashiro; **Bottom left:** Tyson Matsui; **Bottom right:** Chase Sumida Photos by Ka Leo Staff.

TIKTOK BENADRYL CHALLENGE - DON'T BE TEMPTED!

COOPER ENDO The Benadryl Challenge started sometime in 2020 but only began to gain attention in September 2021 when people started falling into comas. The challenge has spread through the social media app Tiktok, used for sharing short videos. It targets teens, daring them to take excessive amounts of Benadryl in an attempt to hallucinate.

Benadryl is an over-the-counter medicine that is most commonly used to treat allergy symptoms.

There have been recorded deaths, multiple kids in comas, and several other hospitalizations due to the Benadryl Challenge.

Tiktok has been removing videos that could influence people to participate in the challenge, so many are unaware of it. When pharmacist and mother Lisa Chiu heard about the new trend, she responded with disturbance.



Two Benadryl tablets. Wiki Commons.

“As a parent and pharmacist, it is really disturbing to know that teens are taking this Benadryl Challenge and risk death to get a fast high or look cool,” Chiu said. “They are being selfish for taking this challenge as they don’t realize how this may impact not only their lives but the lives of others that care about them.”

Others seem to share a similar view, such as Alison Taira, who is also a pharmacist.

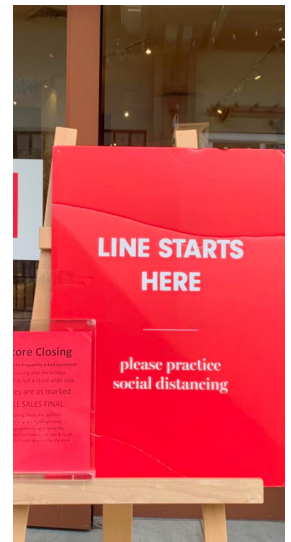
“I’m honestly speechless that people would be willing to put themselves through this unnecessary risk,” Taira said. “I’m just shocked.”

Even those who have heard of the challenge seem to think the same, such as Kawena Adams, a teenager familiar with Tiktok and the Benadryl Challenge.

“As someone who wants to go into the medical field one day, I don’t think it’s responsible for other people to influence others to take large doses of medication, especially for the use of Tiktok, or trying to become a trend,” Adams said. “I just don’t think it’s responsible, and it’s very dangerous.”

A survey of 14 individuals ranging from middle school age to adulthood has shown that none of them condone the Benadryl Challenge and think it is both dangerous and irresponsible.

The Benadryl Challenge is not the first dangerous trend on Tiktok, so Tiktok has been going through the motions of taking down videos that might lead to future injury or death.



COVID-19 arrived in Hawaii in March 2020. Due to the pandemic, we’ve had to follow the proper guidelines to prevent the spread. Anywhere you look, you can see the mark COVID-19 has left. **Left:** The Ala Moana Hawaii Center alerts customers has set guidelines with signs around mall areas and at the entrances to all of the stores. **Middle top:** The Target sign at the entrance lets customers know the store’s guidelines during the pandemic. **Middle bottom:** Anthropologie reopened in May and adheres to CDC and Hawaii State COVID-19 guidelines. **Right:** Williams-Sonoma in Ala Moana Center closed due to the pandemic. Photos and caption by Mina Kohara.

DISTANCE LEARNING REVEALS COMMON STRUGGLES FOR ALL

REYN MACHIDA On Aug. 22, the Hawaii State Department of Education said students would be learning online for the entire first quarter; before Fall Break in October, HIDOE announced Distance Learning would continue through the end of Quarter 2.

From the beginning, distance learning at Kalani was a new experience for both the students and the teachers and presented many challenges.

“I wouldn’t learn as much online as I would face-to-face,” Emily Quach (11) said.

Some teachers struggled with new applications and resources, thus impeding students’ ability to learn, students reported. Distance learning also hindered teachers’ abilities to enforce rules and monitor their activity.

“One of the downsides of distance learning to me is the freedom we get,” Michael Munday (11) said.

Munday further explained how freedom allowed many students to procrastinate. Complacency is a big issue in distance learning, as students feel like

they have too much comfort when learning from home.

“I am comfortable by staying at home, like I can sleep in my bed or watch shows whenever,” Quach explained.

Distance Learning ended at the end of January, four weeks into Quarter 3 when all Kalani students switched to a hybrid learning model. This is expected to remain through the end of the year.

IG Reels gain users as TikTok battles possible ban.

KYLIE TANIMURA In August 2020, when TikTok faced a partial acquisition by Microsoft and a ban in the United States, Instagram released Reels as a direct competitor in more than 49 countries, according to TheVerge News.

Instagram Reels are 15-second clips set to music. According to Instagram, they're a brand-new way to create fun and engaging video content from Instagram stories.

Instagram hopes Reels will draw TikTok users away from their rival, Mashable reports.

Nearly a dozen TikTok creators spoke with TIME, saying they will experiment with Reels while still maintaining their presence on TikTok.

"TikTok, it's like Vine. I don't think it's going to be around forever," Mwaafrika, a TikTok creator said.

From a survey asking 64 Hawaii students which they prefer, Reels or TikTok, most teenagers said TikTok.

"TikTok is like the original app, and Reels is literally the same as TikTok," Kady Ann Okamura (12) said. "People just repost TikToks on there."

TikTok has been around for three years and gained its fame after Vine shut-down in 2016, formerly Musically. Reels was just introduced on August 5.

"I like Reels because you can watch/discover creators that make the content you enjoy," Kailee Gabris (9) said. "There are artists sharing their works and even comedy-type videos that are entertaining. It can also inspire you."

In the 64 students surveyed, some said they couldn't pick a side, liking and using both equally.

"They both put out great content for people to laugh at," Austin Crowell (9) said. "They may be similar in some ways, but both have a different take on things they put out."

FEATURES



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away on Sept. 18, 2020. Her death left a vacancy on the United States Supreme Court that was filled by Former President Donald Trump's nominee Amy Coney Barrett. Supreme Court of the United States, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

LAUREN VIERRA November, and 2020 in general, was chaotic; America held a presidential election on Nov. 4, and the head of the Supreme Court's liberal faction passed away.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, age 87, a trailblazing feminist icon who held immense power in influencing the U.S. presidential election, passed on Sept. 18.

"My most fervent wish is that I not be replaced until a new President is installed," Bader said.

Nonetheless, her spot on the Supreme Court left a power vacuum; former President Donald Trump nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett, a far-right Republican and conservative, to fill it.

These events revealed that some teens don't pay much mind to American politics.

"I have no recollection of who she is [Ginsburg]," Meggan Le (11) said. "I haven't seen her on the news, but maybe that's because I don't watch the news much."

She added disparaging remarks about President Trump and his conservative Supreme Court nominee.

"From what I learned, the supreme court is a judicial branch of government," Le said. "Besides the basics, I hardly recall much about it. Maybe schools should've gone over this for more than a couple weeks."

Other students said they had heard of her but didn't know much about her.

"Who is who?" Ashlee Fong (12) said. "She was an older lawyer lady. I honestly don't know of anything going on in politics. I guess I never cared. Still don't. It's sad she passed away, though."

In the Court's 212 year history, Ginsburg was the second female and first Jewish female justice. She also became the longest-serving Jewish justice and championed to eliminate gender-based stereotyping

in legislation and regulations.

"Yes, I know her. It's disheartening to hear many people don't know of her," Lucy Fagan (11) said. "She did a lot for pushing women's rights, the LGBT+ and such."

Fagan admitted, however, that she didn't know much about her before she passed away.

"I've learned more about her and what she was doing and I think it's scary and sad," Fagan said. "I think it's horrifying what's happening in the wake of her death. Your rights shouldn't be revoked because one person died."

Fagan talked more about Ginsburg's importance.

"She was very important to women's rights and was a liberal icon," she said.

Fagan and Fong are left-leaning liberals and seemed disheartened at Ginsburg's passing.

"It's hard to lose a matriarch," Brady Helsel (11) said. "I'm sure she was a cornerstone of the family."

The Republican-Conservative interviewee seemed sympathetic towards the Ginsburg family, but he was excited about the opportunity her vacancy opened for a more conservative-leaning justice.

He then discussed Trump's policy and his nomination of Judge Barrett.

"On the topic of RBG's death, a bunch of people are bashing President Trump, on his 'not honoring her final wish,'" Helsel said. "It's not up to the dead judge to decide how the next person gets in [elected]. It's got something to do with the constitution or whatever. The government is not a Make A Wish Foundation."

He didn't let his politics, however, tarnish his respect for Ginsburg.

"Although we had differing opinions on a political spectrum, RBG was pretty cool," Helsel said.

STAR THROWER HOPES FOR A SPRING TRACK & FIELD SEASON

SPORTS

A year ago, disks flew high, feet beat against the grass, and athletes talked as competitions went on. Today, athletes run by their lonesome selves and train individually with no place to practice or compete.

All Hawaii public high school Fall and Winter sports were canceled this school year. But some kids are still training; Atlantica-Taina Tanuvasa (11) is one of them. The 17-year-old track and field athlete keeps up with her practices as her coach pushes her forward in her training, preparing her for the next time she competes.

Tanuvasa has participated in Track and Field since she was a freshman. She's loved the sport since day one and made some friends along the way. One of her closest friends, Jennesice Sueing, has been practicing with her for five years.

Since they met, they have done several meets together, including going to States, which is quite an accomplishment.

"States were probably my favorite," Tanuvasa (11)

stated.

It took consistent, rigorous training to get there, but they say they also had fun along the way.

"I like spending time with friends and working out," Sueing (11) said.

Tanuvasa says she enjoys track because it is both an individual and a team sport.

"I stretch and drill with my dad, who is the coach," Tanuvasa (11) declared.

She regularly works out to keep up with her training, which includes stretching, mobility drills, and weightlifting, in addition to throwing. Her coaches describe her as a natural athlete.

Brooke Nasser is the girl's head coach for cross country and track and field. She is also the journalism teacher at Kalani and has known Tanuvasa since she was a freshman.

"For a discus- and shot-put-throwing freshman to make Varsity is quite rare," Ms. Nasser stated.



Taina Tanuvasa (11) has been a Varsity Track & Field athlete at Kalani High School since her freshman year, when she competed at the Hawaii State Championships in both the shot put and the discus. This year she hopes to have a season, and is already training to get ready for it with her dad, who is the Kalani throwing coach. Photo courtesy of Taina Tanuvasa.

SPORTS UNCERTAIN BUT VAN CANTFORT IS "OPTIMISTIC"

LILY WASHBURN On January 5, the Oahu Inter-scholastic Association announced updated public school students on the future of OIA sports.

"The OIA is canceling league play for the Fall and Winter season sports affecting air riflery, basketball, bowling, cheerleading, cross country, football, outrigger canoe paddling, soccer, soft tennis, girls volleyball, swimming and diving and wrestling. League play for all of the JV sports in the Fall and Winter, including (JV softball in the Fall, JV baseball and JV girls tennis in the Winter) are also canceled."

The date for athletics to resume is yet to be confirmed and will depend on when the HHSAA assesses that it is safe.

Kalani Athletic Director Gregory Van Cantfort explained that the decision of when to resume Kalani athletics involves many layers of decision-makers before it gets down to his level.

"As part of Kalani's Administrative Team, my main focus is to work on the steps needed to get our students to return to campus when those above me determine it is safe to do so," he said.

Kalani student-athletes have expressed their concerns surrounding the situation.

"I truly believe athletics at Kalani should resume because it plays such a huge role in the student experience," Kalani volleyball player Ocean Vuong (12) said.

Vuong explained that he's had a great experience playing sports at Kalani and believes that athletics contributes to the overall enjoyment of high school.

Van Cantfort highlighted that sports at Kalani enhance students' school engagement and sense of belonging. However, he explained that the impacts of the lack of sports this year go far beyond the athlete.

"It impacts the socialization of our general student body as they are unable to attend athletic events, our teachers are unable to engage with our students outside of a classroom setting and families lose out on seeing their child excel in a sport," Van Cantfort said.



In the 2019-2020 school year, Aiden Chueng (11) was getting hyped to PR in track. But after the second meet, everything went downhill and the pandemic ended his sophomore season. "I feel disappointed but I hope that track can still go on," he said. "I felt like my Sophomore season got cut short and I hope that I can make the best of my last two years at Kalani." Photo and caption by Gosei Doi.

Tania Tanuvasa (11) explained that if sports failed to re-open this year, colleges would only be able to rely on athletes' performances in competitions from previous years.

"It will significantly affect the athletes, especially the upperclassmen, who are relying on athletics for their educational careers," Tanuvasa stated. "Many athletes would not know their last meet or game would truly be the last chance to really show their capabilities."

Gosei Doi (11), who also expressed the importance of resuming athletics at Kalani, is an example of a student directly affected by this.

"I do cross country and track and I really want to get a scholarship for both of those sports," Doi said.

Tanuvasa emphasized that in this current climate, athletics are needed more than ever because they provide a sense of normality.

"I believe the sense of normality will help the athletes mentally, physically, and emotionally," she explained.

Although students collectively agree that having sports at Kalani is essential, they also understand that the safety of students and staff must be prioritized.

We would have to follow the safety measures and guidelines first," Lin Meyers (10) said.

If Kalani does resume sports in January, we will have to adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19. According to Van Cantfort, the pandemic has forced the DOE to reevaluate their overall budget to meet schools' needs, leading them to restrict the athletic budget.

This will have a direct impact on coaches' payroll, athletic transportation, athletic supplies, and equipment.

Van Cantfort explained that the standard agreement between athletic directors and principals is to make every effort to have a Spring Sports season.

"I do not want to give any false hopes or doomsday projections with so many unknowns," Van Cantfort said. "However, I remain responsibly optimistic!"

Motivation Advice

NATHAN LAI-HAMADA This epidemic has been hard on us physically and mentally, and we need to find ways to stay motivated while stuck at home.

Kalani parent Jasmine Sylva works at the airport for TSA Hawaii. She says that feeling successful in everyday life will help keep you motivated at home during this pandemic.

"I keep myself motivated by keeping logs and check marks on my current goals for the day," Sylva said. "When I complete all of my goals, it feels like a giant weight off my shoulders."

Sylva's technique is something everyone can do to stay motivated. Whether you make the checklists in your head, write them down, or have someone else remember, the feeling of accomplishment will keep you productive throughout your days at home.

"I like to reward myself when I do something while I'm at home," middle school student Elijah LeBlanc said. "I always complete all my homework and do all my classes solely because I want to be able to play video games after. Sometimes I even get ice cream."

This motivation technique is similar to the first and derives from a reinforcement system. After completing all of his tasks, LeBlanc rewards himself, and that reward creates a sense of success.

"To be completely honest, this epidemic is very hard on me mentally," college student Christopher Caspillo said.

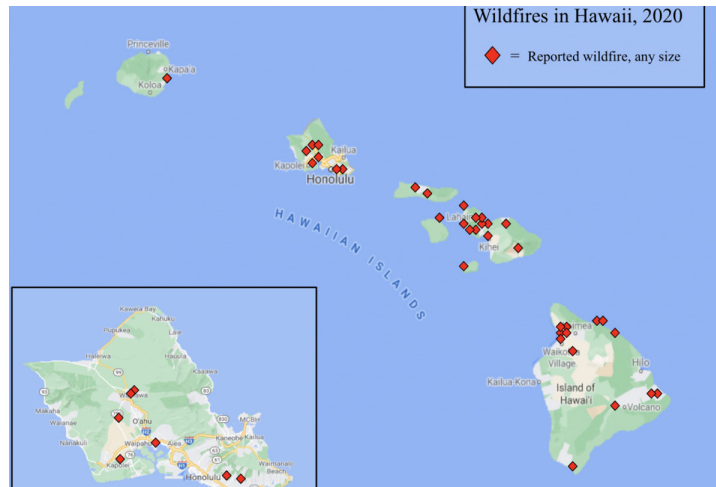
Caspillo suggests using your friends and social networks to help motivate you.

"There is one thing that is keeping me motivated throughout the epidemic — my friends," he said.

This technique is a situational one. You aspire to hang out with your friends or do normal activities again, so you are motivated to make it through this grueling epidemic.

You can make it through this pandemic; all you need is a little motivation.

VOICES



Left: 2020 Hawaii wildfires infographic made using Google Maps by Virgil Lin.

Wildfires on Oahu: A Review

VIRGIL LIN While historic wildfires scorched their way across the West Coast, Oahu entered a period of fire flare-ups. While no official fire season exists in Hawaii, late-September and October are the months most prone to wildfires in the Aloha State.

Already, the two-week period between Sept. 13 - Sept. 26 saw two large brush fires burn in the Honolulu area alone: one on Waialae Nui Ridge on Sept. 18 and the other on Wa'ahila Ridge on Sept. 24.

The causes of the fires are under investigation, but a large amount of dry grass and shrubbery on both ridges undoubtedly contributed to their scale and spread.

These factors underlie more significant problems at play which encourage fire action on Oahu. The immediate problem is an abundance of extremely dry tinder, such as grass and shrubbery fields, a result of land mismanagement and invasive species. The dryness of these starters is brought about by drought and low humidity.

However, the most pressing matter is climate change, the common denominator for wildfires burning in both Hawaii and the mainland.

Though humans start up to 95% of wildfires in Hawaii, climate change ultimately makes starting wildfires easier, fires more frequent, and fueling fires simpler.

And while the relatively small size of the islands does make fires considerably easier to attend to, the damage should they spark are nevertheless detrimental.

In the short term, wildfires on the island result in the release of aerial pollutants/particles, property damage, and on occasion, loss of life. The longer-term effects are much harder to address. Such long-term effects range from soil erosion, damage to native ecosystems, and even impaired natural aquifer replenishment.

It is imperative to reduce the effects of wildfires, which is best achieved by reducing wildfires altogether. Though climate change is a global issue that Hawaii

alone cannot solve, we can take preventative actions to mitigate the severity of immediate causes. Thus, fire management has an increasingly important role in supporting life in Oahu.

Large-scale fire management revolves around prevention and precaution. This is especially true in national forests and other wilderness areas. Debris, brush, and other flammables on the ground are cleared out or thinned, followed by a prescribed burn; by removing volatile sources of kindling and tinder, the chances of fires sparking are significantly reduced.

The same principles apply to smaller-scale fires, such as those for cooking or camping purposes. During dry sea-



Kaimuki Fire Station with a plume of smoke behind it. Drier months and sparse rainfall have made the island more conducive to fire hazards, enabling small sparks and other starters to combust quickly and easily. Photo and caption by Virgil Lin 2020.

sons, do not use incendiary or sparking devices. Also, we must clear brush and other flammable materials from the area before starting fires.

Overall, Hawaii needs to respond more proactively to the growing threats of wildfires. The conditions that enable this phenomenon to occur so readily are already prevalent, and the state shouldn't have to bend to accommodate them at risk of further damage.

GRAPHICS

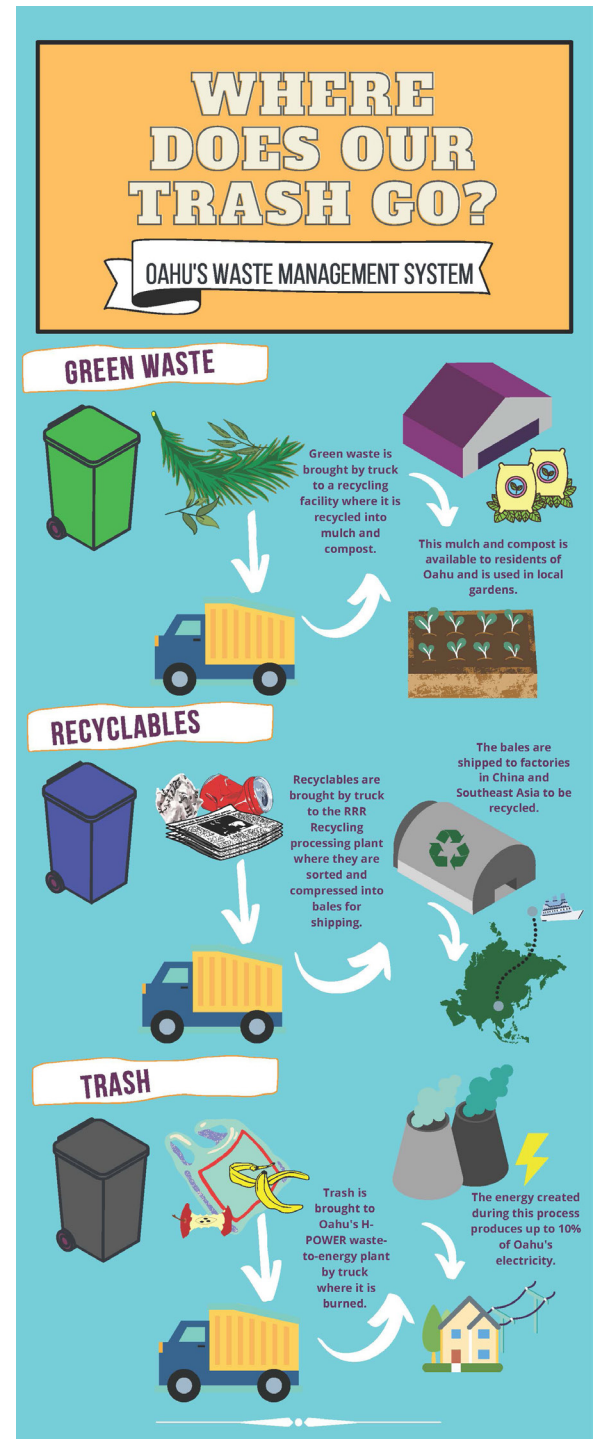


JASMINE ROSSITER Resting, happy, laughing, silly, nervous, tired, confused, sad, frustrated, and angry: these emotions and more play a critical role in how we live our lives, from influencing how we engage with others to affecting the decisions we make. By understanding some of the different types of emotions, you can gain a deeper understanding into how these emotions are expressed and the impact they have on your behavior.

“Emotions are motivational and informational, primarily by virtue of their experiential or feeling component,” Carroll E. Izard wrote in *Emotion Theory and Research*. “Emotion feelings constitute the primary motivational component of mental operations and overt behavior.”



Infographic made using Piktochart by Kylie Tanimura. Sources are: Preproy, Your Teen, My Options, Modern Teen, and Live Career.



Infographic made using Canva by Lily Washburn.



Ka Leo O Kalani logo made in Mr. Mosher's class by Alana Nakafuji.

COUNT YOUR CALORIES

FLASH FICTION

By Jasmine Rossiter

I opened Pinterest for the third time today. Another blonde, skinny model wearing fitted jeans and a dainty bustier top. Her hair was slicked back, with perfect sand-colored skin and high cheekbones. I log onto my calorie-counting app one more time. My list reads, coffee with one tablespoon of milk: 7 calories per 8 ounces. Half a banana: roughly 53 calories. By then, it was already 4pm; I must've lost track of time. I had to get in a workout today, but I felt so nauseous and wanted to throw up. My body told me no; I had to keep pushing. Half of that banana was to keep me going, the other half would be my reward.

I've come to a point where I don't want to recover. Part of me is telling me, just a few more weeks, maybe a few more months, and you will be happy. You will finally look like them. The other part of me knows I'm not okay. But I've been doing this for so long now I don't know what "normal" is. My affirmations used to be, I am loved, I am smart, I am doing this for me. Now my affirmations are taken in by complete strangers on the internet complimenting me on how much weight I've lost or seeing my pants size shrink every couple of weeks, excited to see the day I reach a triple zero because my current single-digit zero is not

enough.

It was a Thursday morning. I went by my daily routine with my almost black coffee and switched up my fruit to 152 grams of diced watermelon, which totaled roughly 46 calories. I took in fewer calories that week and felt ecstatic; things are finally coming together for me. It wasn't until Saturday morning that things took a turn. My hair was falling out more than usual, leaving a bald spot on the right side above my ear. I wanted to feel the same happiness I felt on Thursday. By the time my daily workout came, I had no energy. My heart started pounding faster, but at the same time, everything was slowing down.

Sunday morning, I woke up in the emergency room. I had passed out, which was long overdue, and I knew it was bound to happen, but it still came as such a shock to me. A percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube or feeding tube was attached to my lower abdomen. The doctor who had performed my surgery came in.

"You are at an incredibly high risk for a heart rhythm called torsade de pointes, and sudden death," he said in a serious tone.

My mom and dad were beside me, balling

their eyes out. For the past year, I had been lying to them about my nutrition. Seeing them so hurt made me want to cry with them. Why was I doing this to myself? Where am I trying to get to? Questions flooded my mind, but I ended up with no answers. I hated myself- this time, for who I was becoming and not for my body.

Everyone left the room as a nutritionist/therapist who specializes in eating disorders came in. She replaced the chair my mom had sat in and gave a long, saddened sigh. We talked about everything — from how it started to causes, then a resolution. We were both defeated by the end of the talk.

"It's a long and hard process, I know. I've had this same experience before, which is why I do what I do. My parents tried everything, and nothing seemed to work. I felt alone, and I couldn't get help from

anyone because no one understood me."

So much relief filled my body. I broke down and realized how many people I've impacted and pushed away because of my addiction. I didn't want to think about how selfish I've been, but it's true. I was borderline killing myself and only cared about looking like society's definition of perfection — the impossible.

As cliché as every recovery story sounds, I started eating more and getting better. Obviously, I've had my off days, but I wanted to do better for myself ever since that Sunday morning. I started doing things for myself again and listened to my body. I looked at food as fuel and not a reward. I looked at my body as mine instead of comparing them to someone else's. I deserved more than this, so I strived for it.

Music

by Ranson-Joseph Silva

The presence of serenity
The feeling of joy
The sense of peace
The calming effect so profound
Tranquility being the cherry on top
An escape from reality
To your own personal world of
Indescribable calmness.

A haiku by Lin Meyers.

You pushed me too much,
You told me to be better,
You broke my passion.

Free verse by Lin Meyers

You said I can be a star,
You said I would be the best.
You said I would love it,

You said "try harder"
You said "you can do better"
You said "that was not your best"

You said I would enjoy it
I did

I tried my best,
But my best was never enough,
I broke,
You broke me.

OSCAR ESCAPES

FLASH FICTION

by Cooper Rea

Oscar, the dog, was always bored. His people left for work at 6 am every day and came back at 8 pm. Every day was the same. Oscar despised his man for never walking him and knew something needed to be done.

"Bye, Oscar," said the man as he closed the door.

"Arf!" said oscar. But today was different. As the door was closing, Oscar grabbed one of his toys and threw it in the door's way,

stopping it from closing.

"Yes!" Oscar shouted, "I'm free!"

He waited for the man to drive off and ran out the door. And he kept running across the whole city until he finally reached the dog park on the opposite side of town.

"Oscar!" Oscar jumped.

"Oh no. They found me already? But how-"

"Oscar!" said the voice, "It's me, Andre."

Andre was another dog that Oscar had met the last time he was at the park a few years ago.

"Oh, you scared me," said Oscar. "I thought you were my person."

"Speaking of which," said Andre, "Where is your person?"

"I don't need him," said Oscar proudly. "I'm on my own now."

Oscar looked at him with confusion. "What do you mean 'on your own'?"

"I don't need anyone," Oscar was starting to sound angry. "He didn't care about me then, and he definitely doesn't now. I ran away."

"You what?!!" Andre was in disbelief. "Oscar, you need to go home."

"I'm doing fine. Don't worry about me," said Oscar.

"I really don't think this is a good idea," said Andre.

"Andre!" said Andre's person. "Let's get out of here. It's getting dark!"

"Ha!" said Oscar. "Have fun at home, loser!" And Andre left. Oscar continued to play at the park until he was the only one there.

"No way! I have the whole park to myself!"

Oscar was excited at first but soon realized this wasn't such a good thing. He grew hungry, thirsty, and cold but especially lonely. That night was the worst night of his life.

The next day, Oscar spotted a lady holding a sandwich. He hadn't eaten in 2 days, so he knew what he had to do.

"Give it back!" said the lady. Oscar was sprinting, but the lady was, too.

"Grrrrrrrr," Oscar growled, but she would not give up.

Eventually, Oscar covered himself and had nowhere to run. The lady pounced on him and held him down as she called the dog pound.

"Please, no. I won't do well in the pound—please!" But the lady did not speak to the dog.

Soon enough, the van came to pick up Oscar and take him to the pound. In his cell, Oscar thought in regret.

"I wish I never left home. I miss my bed. I miss my treats. I even miss my person."

"Oscar!" It was him! Oscar leaped to his feet in excitement.

A haiku by Annyssa Troy

The Wolf Inside

She claws at her cage.
Trapped, she howls for freedom.
We wanted freedom.

A haiku by Zach Gonsalves

Emotions

Can make your day bright
Can be the dim to your light
A double-edged sword

Back Cover: original art by Lauren Vierra.

KA LEO O KALANI

