

Kapolei Middle School in the Spotlight

Principal and Librarian receive national honors

If they had followed their first choice of career paths, Kapolei Middle School would not be celebrating Principal Bruce Naguwa's and school librarian Carolyn Kirio's honors. Naguwa was headed for the business world and Kirio had her sights set on being a medical researcher to work on finding a cure for cancer. Fortunately, they discovered their true passion and changed directions to become educators. And it has paid off for Kapolei Middle School.

Leading from the front

In describing Naguwa, Leeward Complex Area Superintendent Heidi Armstrong said, "Principal Naguwa doesn't say 'Go,' he says 'Let's go,' and what a difference that has made." It's this "Let's go" attitude that finds him in the classrooms and out and about on the campus daily.

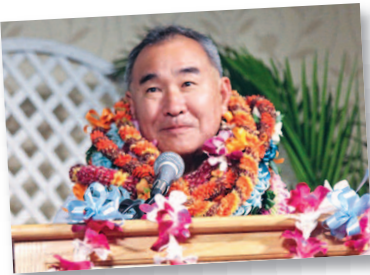
"The best part of my day is when I walk our campus and interact with the students," he said. "Yes, I'm there to monitor behavior, but it also gives me the opportunity to visit with them outside the classroom. As a principal, the paperwork is overwhelming, but the students motivate me to get up every morning!"

Naguwa is constantly evaluating the effectiveness of the school's programs and working with teachers, staff and students to help them be more effective. For example, two years ago, Kapolei Middle School was at the bottom of middle schools statewide on the Strive HI index, which rates school performance and progress. Last year, under his leadership, the school's Strive HI index score climbed, placing Kapolei Middle in the upper 25 percent of middle level schools.

A good part of his work is also his greatest challenge — creating a school culture that challenges everyone to be the best they can be. "A culture of support for both teachers and students is essential in



From left, Naomi Matsuzaki, NAESP State Executive Director; Robyn Conrad Hansen Ed.D., NAESP National President; Bruce Nagawa, principal, Kapolei Middle School; Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi. Photo: Oceanic TWC



Principal Bruce Naguwa, 2016 National Distinguished Principal. Photo: Oceanic TWC

Principal Naguwa has been named the **2016 National Distinguished Principal** by the Hawaii Elementary and Middle School Administrators Association (HEMSAA), and Kirio was selected by The White House as a **great educator** following her nomination by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). Kirio recently attended the White House awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., and Naguwa will travel to the nation's capital in October to receive his award.



Kapolei Middle School librarian Carolyn Kirio has been selected by The White House as a great educator. Photo: Department of Education

producing quality student work," said Naguwa. "As I look back on my career, I have been very fortunate to work with outstanding teachers and administrators who really cared about their students, and who made a positive impact on their lives."

Naguwa's long career has been spent entirely in the public school system. His three sons also attend public school. "I believe in the public education system," he said. "It never crossed my mind to send them to private schools. I truly believe the public schools have afforded my sons the best education possible."

This is Naguwa's second time being named National Distinguished Principal by the HEMSAA, and the first principal to win it twice. He won the award in 2005 when he was principal of an elementary school.

"I am very honored to receive the NDP award on behalf of all of the elementary and middle level administrators in the State of Hawai'i," Naguwa said. "I know that every administrator is doing their best to achieve at the highest level, so to be singled out is an honor. I truly believe that my recognition is the result of the hard work that the teachers put in to move our students to achieve at a higher level. They did all of the hard lifting, and our school is better for it."

Making learning available 24/7

When a school is on a multi-track calendar because of high enrollment numbers — more than 1,400 students at Kapolei Middle School — this means students have limited access to the school library. But to school librarian Carolyn Kirio's way of thinking, a library is more than just four walls. All it takes is some creative thinking and harnessing the power of technology to make its resources available on demand to everyone.

For someone who started out to be a medical researcher, she understands the importance of having quick access to all the research material you need when you need it. Even though she changed her career direction to become a librarian, she found that the basic things that drove her earlier ambition are still drivers today. "Being a librarian combines my love of research, technology and the passion for life-long learning. It's the perfect career."

All these instincts led her to find a solution to the limitations of the bricks and mortar library for a multi-track school. The answer: Take the library online. Working with the teachers and staff at Kapolei Middle School, Kirio made resources, videos and other educational material

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Going to the Movies is a Luxury Experience at Regal Kapolei Commons 12



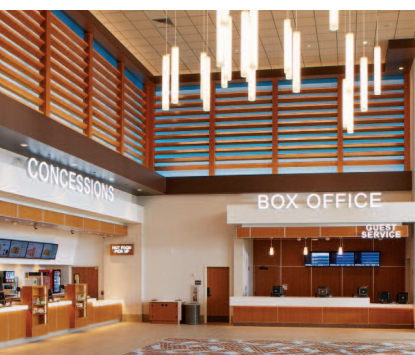
When Hawai'i's first all luxury movie theater opened last month at Kapolei Commons, it quickly became a hot new venue for theatergoers.

What's not to like about fully reclining, oversized seats outfitted with food and beverage trays? And if you're in the mood for a bit more than the usual concession fare, you can step things up with a gourmet hot dog topped with chili, pineapple and bacon, or the "kimchi" dog for an extra kick. You can also opt for specialty sandwiches like the "Vietnamese-French" or the "Hawaiian." Or

you can order up a fresh pizza in one of three flavors — Margherita, Lemongrass Chicken and Kalua Pig. But if a movie is not a movie without popcorn, you can have it drizzled with caramel and chocolate sauce, or in flavors like Jalapeno Cheddar and Coconut Bliss. Of course, the viewing experience is top notch, with the latest in cinematic technology. There are even four 3-D auditoriums.

With all of this on offer, since its opening in April, Regal Kapolei Commons has become the top grossing theater in the state, according to Jeff Dinsmore, director of Development and Asset Management for owners, The MacNaughton Group, Kobayashi Group and Craig Realty Group.

"The community response to Regal Kapolei Commons has been fantastic," said Dinsmore. "Since opening in late April, we have been the highest grossing theatre in Hawai'i. Theatre guests love the wide, reclining seats and the expanded food selection. Kapolei residents appreciate having a first class amenity at their doorsteps."



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available online. She also made on-demand videos for closed circuit TV on campus, along with online resources and e-books for students and teachers. True to her passion for research, Kirio created a video that gives instruction on how to do research on the Internet. Teachers find this a valuable tool in the classroom.

While she appears to be a true techie, Kirio is quick to set you straight. "I am in a way a techie, but not in the same league as our

students," she said. "Technology is second nature to them. They are tech savvy and can easily use new online and app tools to learn, create and produce projects. For me, technology changes and progresses so fast, to be on top of the trends takes constant time and practice."

Ever mindful of the need to stay at the top of her game, Kirio is now working her way towards a PhD in the University of Hawai'i College of Education Learning Design and Technology program.



Checks for \$25,000 each were presented to Make-a-Wish Hawaii, Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii and University of Hawai'i West O'ahu Academy of Creative Media as a result of the Grand Opening Preview event at Regal Kapolei Commons 12.



The MacNaughton Group, The Kobayashi Group and Craig Realty, developers of Kapolei Commons, celebrated the opening of Regal Kapolei Commons 12 with representatives from the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu Academy of Creative Media.



KAPOLEI PROPERTIES DIVISION

Kapolei Properties Division is a division of the James Campbell Company LLC focusing on the development of the City of Kapolei, and on economic development and job creation in the Kapolei region.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON KAPOLEI, PLEASE VISIT: www.kapolei.com or contact Steve Kelly at stevek@kapolei.com

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