

HISE 2026



HAWAI'I INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE EXPERIENCE



GREETINGS

Aloha and welcome to the 2026 Hawai'i International Science Experience! On behalf of our entire Student Board, I am excited to welcome you to HISE. Over the next five days, you will have the opportunity to explore Hawai'i's unique scientific landscape, connect with students from around the world, and learn from researchers, professionals, and community leaders who are making a difference every day.

We hope you leave HISE with new friendships, new perspectives, and the confidence to pursue your own passions in science and beyond. Mahalo for being part of this year's program. We are excited to share this experience with you.

Me ke aloha,

Luke Nohea Gee
Student Board President
Hawai'i International Science Experience





HISE x WHS



Aloha and welcome to HISE 2026.

On behalf of Waiākea High School, I am honored to welcome all students, educators, and partners to the second Hawai'i International Science Experience. HISE 2026 continues our development of long-lasting relationships that will serve as a reminder of what can be achieved through shared vision, collaboration, and the guidance of our next generation of leaders.

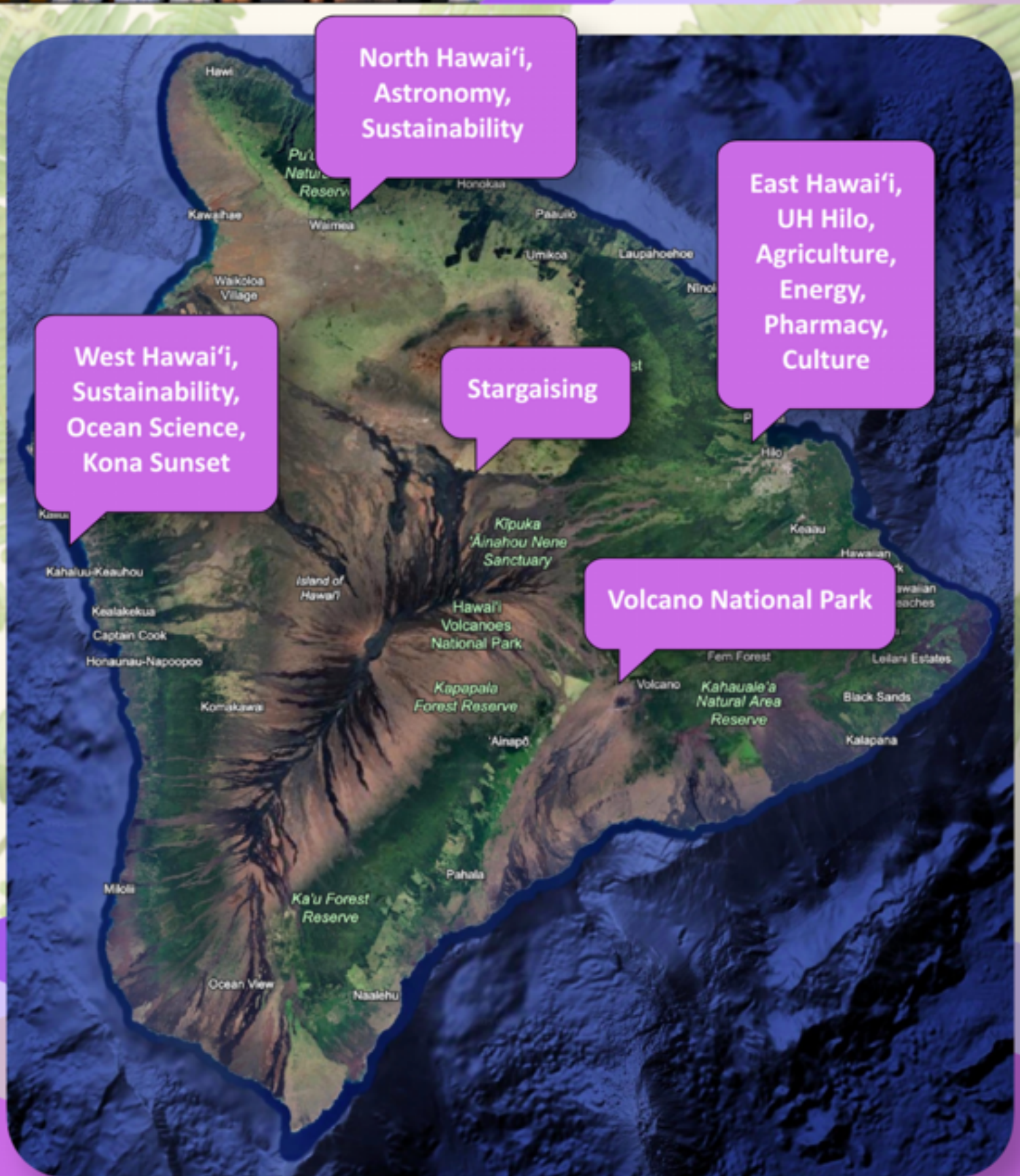
This experience would not have been possible without our partnership with the HISE nonprofit organization and the tireless efforts of students, both past and present, who have helped shape this program through their leadership and experiences at international science gatherings, such as the Japan Super Science Fair. Their legacy of curiosity, innovation, and global perspective continues to inspire and guide our work today.

We are proud to host this experience on Hawai'i Island, a living laboratory rich in culture, science, and sustainability. May this week spark new ideas, foster lasting friendships, and deepen our understanding of our shared world.

Mahalo for joining us on this journey.

With aloha,
Kelcy Koga
Principal
Waiakea High School





HISE 2026 THEME

THE ULUHE FERN

‘Uluhe – Growing Together, Building the Future

The native Hawaiian ‘uluhe fern (*Dicranopteris linearis*) is the inspiration for the Hawai‘i International Science Experience (HISE) 2026. Found throughout Hawai‘i’s rainforests and volcanic landscapes, ‘uluhe is a pioneer species, it slowly strengthens the ecosystems of new forests of ohia trees. Its dense network of stems and leaves captures organic matter, builds fertile soil, retains moisture, stabilizes the land, and creates conditions that allow countless other native plants and animals to flourish. In many ways, the ‘uluhe demonstrates that lasting progress begins with those willing to lead first and create opportunities for others.

This mirrors the mission of HISE. During the five-day, student-led exploration of science, sustainability, culture, and leadership, participants discover how scientific innovation, Indigenous knowledge, environmental stewardship, and global collaboration work together to build stronger communities. Just as the ‘uluhe creates the foundation for a healthy forest, HISE participants develop relationships, ideas, and experiences that become the foundation for Hawai‘i’s future workforce and community leadership. HISE welcomes you and our many scientists, educators, cultural practitioners, community leaders, and students to contribute unique perspectives that strengthen our collective understanding.

Throughout HISE 2026, the ‘uluhe serves as a living reminder that leadership is measured by individual achievement and also by the ability to create opportunities for others to grow. Like the fern that transforms new lava into living forests, HISE students are challenged to explore boldly, build meaningful relationships, honor Hawai‘i’s unique culture and environment, and help create a global and sustainable future for generations to come.



HAWAII ALOHA

E Hawai'i e ku'u one hānau e Ku'u home kula'iwi nei 'Oli nō au i nā pono lani ou E Hawai'i, aloha ʻē	O Hawai'i, o sands of my birth My native home I rejoice in the blessings of heaven O Hawai'i, aloha
E hau'oli nā 'ōpio o Hawai'i nei 'Oli ʻē! 'Oli ʻē! Mai nā aheahe makani e pā mai nei Mau ke aloha, no Hawai'i	Happy youth of Hawai'i Rejoice! Rejoice! Gentle breezes blow Love always for Hawai'i
E ha'i mai kou mau kini lani e Kou mau kupa aloha, e Hawai'i Nā mea 'ōlino kamaha'o no luna mai E Hawai'i aloha ʻē	May your divine throngs speak Your loving people, o Hawai'i The holy light from above O Hawai'i aloha
Nā ke Akua E mālama mai iā 'oe Kou mau kualona aloha nei Kou mau kahawai 'ōlinolino mau Kou mau māla pua nani ʻē	God protects you Your beloved ridges Your ever glistening streams Your beautiful gardens

OLI MAHALO – GRATITUDE CHANT

'Uhola 'ia ka makaloa lā Pū'ai i ke aloha lā Kūka'i 'ia ka hā loa lā Pāwehi mai nā lehua Mai ka ho'oku'i a ka hālāwai lā Mahalo e Ke Akua* Mahalo e nā kupuna lā 'eā Mahalo me ke aloha lā Mahalo me ke aloha lā	The makaloa mat has been unfolded Food is shared in love The great breath is exchanged The Lehua honors and adores From zenith to horizon Gratitude to God Gratitude to our ancestors Gratitude with love Gratitude with love
--	--

E HŌ MAI

E Hō Mai ka 'ike mai luna mai ʻē O nā mea huna no'eau O nā mele ʻē E hō mai E hō mai E hō mai ʻē	Grant us knowledge from above The knowledge hidden in the chants Grant us Grant us Grant us
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SCHEDULE

HISE Day 1 - Sunday, July 19, 2026

Host: Luke Gee

Activity Description	Details
Dorm Check-in	
Welcome	
Island Culture	
Educator Dinner	
Collaboration Challenge	
End of Day	



HISE Day 2 - Monday, July 20, 2026

Hosts: Jiel Jeon, Rafan Rahman

Activity Description	Details
Breakfast - 7:00AM	Indoors - Comfortable attire, covered shoes
Opening Event	
Imiloa Astronomy Center	
Welcome Event	
University of Hawaii - Hilo Exploration	
DKI School of Pharmacy	
College of Hawaiian Language	
Natural Science - Marine Science	
Geography - SDAV Drone Data Analysis	
PISCES Space Exploration	
Geology	
Hilo Bay - Liliuokalani Gardens	
Educator Dinner	
Collaboration Challenge	
Activities	
Lights out - 11:00 PM	

HISE Day 3 - Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Hosts: Keoni Randolph, Luke Gee

Activity Description	Details
Breakfast - 7:00AM	
AES Solar Field Tour	
Welcome to NELHA	Sunny and hot - bring a hat and put on sunscreen
Hawaii Ocean Science & Tech Park	
Ocean Era - Seaweed Cultivation	
Pacific Hybrid- Shellfish Cultivation	
Captura - Ocean Capture of CO ₂	
Akoakoa - Coral Restoration	
Hapuna Beach and Kona Sunset	
Stargazing - Kahele Park	
Lights out - 11:30PM	



HISE Day 4 - Thursday, July 22, 2026	
Activity Description	Details
Breakfast - 7:00AM	

Group A - Vincent Galvan	Group B - Keoni Randolph, Jiel Jeon
Activity	Activity
KECK Observatory	International Gemini Observatory
Lunch	Hawaiian Electric Co.
Guest Speaker - Senator Tim Richards	Lunch
IOLE - Sustainability	OK Farms, Regenerative Agriculture
	Puueo Hydro Plant
	Drive to Shipman Industrial Park
	Pacific BioDiesel
	HPM Building Technology

Activity Description	Details
Dinner	
Educator Dinner	
Collaboration Challenge	
Cultural Exchange	
Lights out at 11PM	

HISE Day 5 - Friday, July 23, 2026

Luke Gee, Keoni Randolph

Activity Description	Details
Breakfast - 7:00 AM	Volcano National Park is often cooler then Hilo and rainy.
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park	
Guide: Dr. Simon Kattenhorn, UHH Dean of Natural and Health Sciences	
Lunch	
Closing Event	
Guest Speaker - Allen Murabayashi	
Awards and Appreciation	
Mahalo nui loa. A Hui Hou	





PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS



Kanu o ka 'Āina



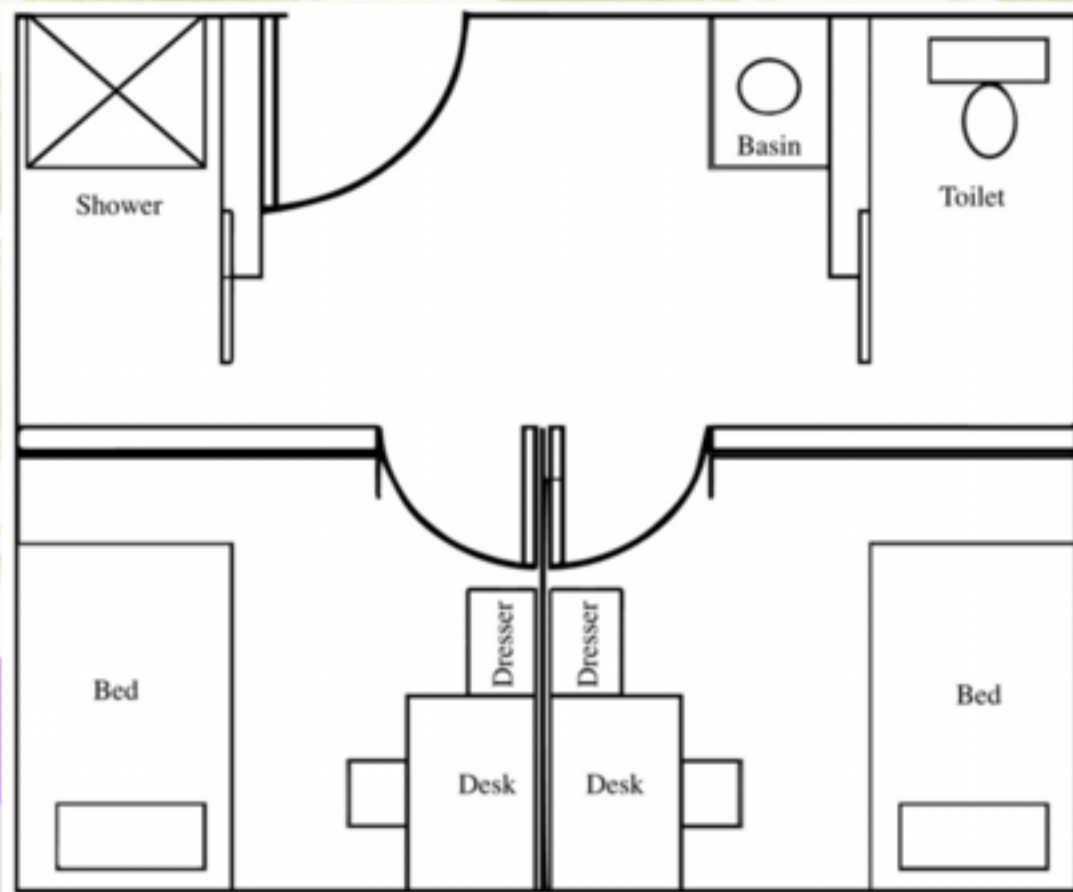
DORM RULES

DORM RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

Please read the UHH Dormitory Rule and inform your school advisor that you have read this document and acknowledge your understanding and acceptance of the rules by signing a form with your advisor.



LINK



Floor Plan



HISE 2026 CODE OF CONDUCT

To ensure a respectful, safe, and enriching experience, I agree to:

1. Show respect to all people, places, cultures, and traditions.
2. Follow all laws, safety protocols, and adult directions.
3. Remain with the group unless given permission otherwise.
4. Use technology appropriately and respectfully.
5. Honor Hawaiian and partner cultural protocols.
6. Be drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free.
7. Report concerns or unsafe behavior immediately.
8. Accept responsibility for my words, actions, and choices.

CONSEQUENCES:

I understand violations may result in removal from the program at my (or my guardian's) expense.

DORMNIGHTWATCH

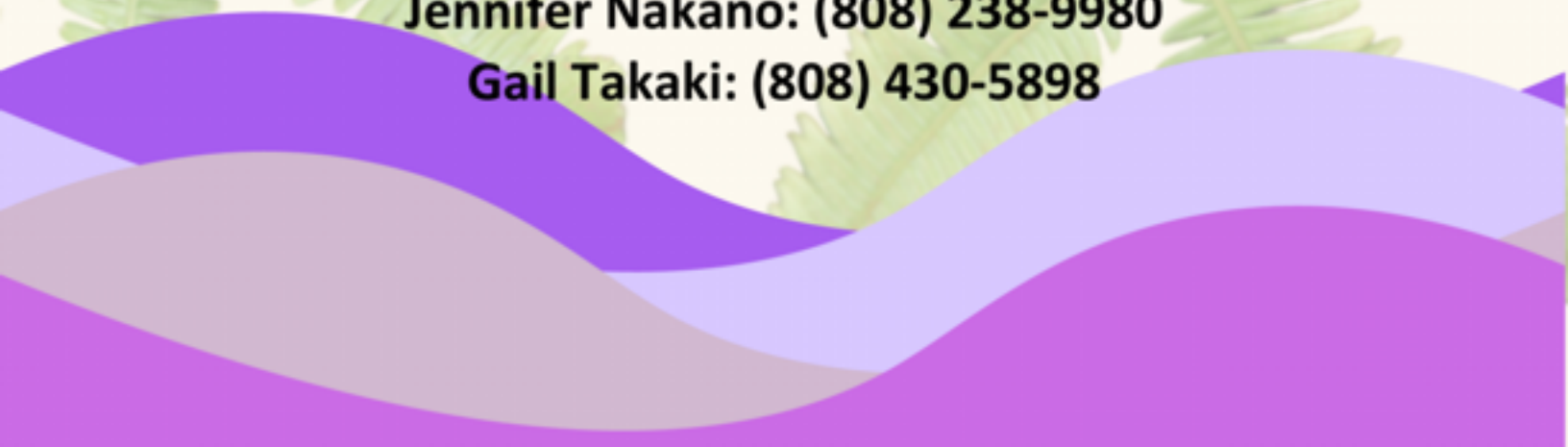
Adults will be present from lights out at 10pm to wake up at 6am in the dorms to ensure student safety and enforce the code of conduct.

Emergency Information

Emergency Services: 911

Jennifer Nakano: (808) 238-9980

Gail Takaki: (808) 430-5898



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MAHALO SPONSORS!



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Keith Marrack



DAY-LUM reality

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Andrew Richard Hara

Brittini Kuwahara
Cody Yamaguchi
County Council Members
Jenn Kagiwada
Heather Kimball
James Hustace
Chair Dr. Holeka Inaba



SPECIAL THANKS

Imiloa Astronomy Center

Devin Chu, Imiloa Astronomy Center

Janice Ikeda, Vibrant Hawaii

DKI College of Pharmacy

UHH College of Hawaiian Language

UHH Marine Science

UHH Geography, SDAV

PISCES

College of Natural and Health Sciences

AES

Neil Sims , Ocean Era

Ocean Era

Captura Corp

Pacific Hybreed

ASU Akoakoa

W. M..Keck Observatory

Senator Tim Richards

IOLE

Terraformation

International Gemini Observatory

Hawaiian Electric

OK Farms

Puueo Hydro Power

Pacific BioDiesel

HPM Building Supply

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

Lehua Ah Nee

Makana Kushi

Allen Murabayashi

HISE 2026 STUDENT BOARD



LUKE GEE - Program President

Luke Gee is a junior at Kealahou High School's c/o 2027 and Student Board President of the Hawai'i International Science Experience. He is dedicated to advancing youth voices in state and local politics to drive real-world change, with a focus on teacher retention, climate, and equity across O'ahu and Neighbor Islands. Luke serves as Vice Chair for Operations on the Hawai'i State Student Council Executive Board and as inaugural Vice Chair of the Hawai'i Youth Transportation Council, promoting youth voice in statewide policy. His achievements include being a SkillsUSA Hawai'i State Champion in Job Skill Demonstration Open and a state champion in Academic WorldQuest.



JIEL JEON - Program Leader

Jiel Jeon is a sophomore at Wai'aleale High School's Class of 2028 and serves as 2nd Vice President of the Student Government Association, helping organize activities that build school spirit and community. She is passionate about leadership and STEM and committed to making a positive impact on and off campus. As a freshman, she served as class vice president and a Freshman Academy ambassador, actively supporting her school community. She also volunteers at her church's food pantry, assisting families in need. With strong academics and an interest in medicine, Jiel aims to pursue opportunities that connect science, service, and leadership.



RAFAN RAHMAN - Program Leader

Rafan Rahman is a sophomore at Wai'aleale High School deeply involved in STEM and leadership. He serves as Vice President of the Wai'aleale Technology Learning Center, Treasurer of Wai'aleale Engineering, and Co-President of the Debate Club. As a Nextech volunteer and RYLA Youth Facilitator, he has helped others develop leadership and STEM skills. Through these roles, Rafan demonstrates a commitment to collaboration, organization, and expanding opportunities for Hawai'i Island students. He hopes to inspire HISE participants to pursue STEM, as HISE inspired him.



KEONI RANDOLPH - Program Leader

Keoni is a senior at Hilo High School's c/o 2026 with four years of leadership and STEM experience. He has served as Student Government Association President, Hilo High JROTC Battalion Commander, and held multiple roles in class council and clubs while competing in VEX Robotics. Drawing from these experiences, he aims to raise awareness of STEM opportunities in Hawai'i and bridge the gap between knowledge and action. Although he could not attend HISE 2025, he is committed to helping make the 2026 vision a success.



ZOE RUSSO - Program Leader

Zoe Russo is a senior at Parker School's c/o 2026 with a strong interest in applied STEM, service, and place-based learning in Hawai'i. She has conducted research with the Gemini Institute for Astronomical Research, contributing to astronomical cataloging with credited recognition. Zoe also serves as Vice President of Student Council and President of the Helping Hands Service Club, leading events and initiatives that address community needs and food insecurity. She is passionate about using science and engineering to promote cultural connection, equity, and meaningful impact in Hawai'i.



VINCENT GALVAN - Program Leader

Vincent Galvan is a junior at Parker School's c/o 2027 and a Student Leader for HISE. He is passionate about medicine, biology, and research. As a research intern with the Hawai'i Marine Mammal Consortium, he assists with data collection on nodular dermatitis in humpback whales. He also founded Parker Med Club to support healthcare workers and promote community health. In addition, he serves as Student Government Vice President and competes in state-level speech and debate. Vincent aims to inspire students to explore STEM through real-world impact.

HISE TEAMS

Waiakea High Advisors



Kama Paulo-Galsote
Media Team Lead



Nathan Waters
Recognition



Jennifer Nakano
Lead



Jonathan Williamson
Student Board



Tori Hironaga
HISE 2026 Registry

Waiakea High Student Specialists



Danica Yanagisawa
Student Specialist



Maya Wong
Student Specialist



Gabriel Oliveros
Student Specialist



Noah Gagne
Student Specialist

HISE Officers and Directors



Beerly Heikes
HISE Board President



Mary Beth Laychak
HISE Board Vice President



Michelle Agbegay
HISE Board Secretary



Jairus Iwasaki
HISE Board Treasurer



Nakana Labrie
HISE Board Director



Jennifer Nakano
HISE Board Director



Micah Tajiri
HISE 2026 Program Manager



Gail Takaki
Lead Advisor

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Hawaii International Science Experience

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Contact: Gail Takaki 808 430-5898

