

Albert Akana - Class of 1925

Albert Akana was one of five members of the first graduating class of Konawaena High School. He was a teacher and an administrator. Mr. Akana has been credited with starting the Saturday May Day and Ho'olaule'a at Honaunau Elementary School.

Sgt 1st Class Rodney Yano, Class of 1961

Sgt 1st Class Rodney Yano was a United States Army soldier and a recipient of the military's highest decoration, the Congressional Medal of Honor, awarded posthumously for his brave actions in the Vietnam War in a damaged helicopter that saved the lives of the others on board the helicopter.

Emiko Iwashita Kudo, Class of 1940

Emiko Iwashita Kudo was instrumental in securing federal funds to purchase equipment and develop vocational educational programs at Konawaena High and Intermediate Schools in the early 1970's.

Dr, Unoji Goto, Class of 1939

Dr. Unoji Goto was the first Japanese physician to join the Honolulu Medical Group. He introduced cardiac cauterization to Hawaii. He was a member of a cardiac team that performed the first open heart surgery in Hawaii in 1959.

Minoru Inaba, Class of 1925

Minoru Inaba was one of the five members of the first graduating class of Konawaena High School. He returned to serve as teacher, vice principal and baseball coach at the Konawaena High School for 38 years. The school's baseball field is named in his honor. After retirement from the DOE, he went on to serve five terms in the State House of Representatives.

Glenna Kimura Ewing, Class of 1936

Glenna Kimura Ewing was a registered nurse and director of nurses for Kona Community Hospital. In 2000, she was selected as a recipient of the Living Treasures of Hawaii having demonstrated continuous growth in her field, made significant contributions toward a more humane society, and an on-going commitment to striving for excellence and a high level of accomplishment.

Ellison Onizuka, Class of 1964

Ellison Onizuka was selected for the astronaut program in 1978. His first space mission took place on January 24, 1985 onboard the Space Shuttle Discovery. In 1985 Ellison was assigned to the mission on the Space Shuttle Challenger. On January 28, 1986 the Challenger was destroyed after its launch, killing all onboard. At the time of his death, Ellison held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force.

Koji Ariyoshi, Class of 1932

Koji Ariyoshi was a teacher at the University of Hawai'i in the Ethnic Studies Department. In 1976, the Hawai'i Legislature honored Ariyoshi for his life's work. An annual award in his name

was established by the US-China People's Friendship Association to honor an outstanding figure in promoting US-China friendship.

Francis Sogi, Class of 1941

Francis Sogi was an international attorney and served as Chairman of the Board of the Japanese American National Museum and later as Emeritus Trustee. Emperor Akihito of Japan awarded Mr. Sogi with the Order of the Sacred Treasure, the most widely conferred Japanese order recognizing those who have made distinguished achievements in research fields, business industries, healthcare, social work, state/local government fields or the improvement of life for handicapped/impaired persons. In 2004 Mr. Sogi published his memoirs, "Riding the Kona Wind."

William Van Osdol, Class of 1983

William Van Osdol, who is more commonly known as Billy V is a news and entertainment reporter for radio and television. He is also a TV host and owner of his own production company, BVO Enterprises. Billy V's voice is well known and loved. He has contributed much to promoting Hawaii throughout the islands and beyond.

Dr. Naleen Andrade, Class of 1972

Dr. Naleen Andrade is a professor with the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine. She is a leader in the field of Psychiatry and has served on multiple state and national boards. She is the former President of the American College of Psychiatrists, and as a mentor to several psychiatrists around the nation and around the world.

Eric Yeaman, Class of 1985

Eric Yeaman began his career at Arthur Anderson LLP in 1989. Since then he has served as the head of 9 different companies. He served as President and COO of First Hawaiian, Inc.; President and COO of First Hawaiian Bank; CFO, Treasurer and VP at Hawaiian Electric Industries Inc.; COO and Senior VP at Hawaiian Electric Co., Hawaiian Telcom Communications, Queens Health Systems; and COO and CFO for Kamehameha Schools.

Patrick Shane Dorian, Class of 1990

Patrick Shane Dorian spent 11 years touring on the World Championship Tour as a professional surfer. Since 1995, Dorian has directed the Shane Dorian Keiki Classic for surfers 17 and under at Kona's own Banyans surf break. Dorian designed surfing's first "safety suit" to be inflated with a CO2 cartridge in a wetsuit vest and helped develop the final product that is capable of surfacing a trapped underwater surfer.

Bobbie Awa, class of 1985

Bobbie Awa has been the head girls basketball coach at Konawaena High School beginning in 2001. She has led her team to numerous state titles. Awa was named USA Today All-Hawaii Coach of the Year three times and she also served as a court coach for the 2018 USA Basketball Women's U17-World Cup Team Trials.

Hiroki Morinoue, Class of 1965

Hiroki Morinoue is the co-founder and artistic director of Holualoa Foundation for Arts and Culture. His work has shown widely in the United States and Japan. Hiroki has completed several major public art commissions. In 1996 he was designated a Living Treasure of Hawaii by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

Sgt. 1st Class Reymund R. Transfiguracion, Class of 2001

Sgt. 1st Class Reymund R. Transfiguracion gave his life for his country when he died from injuries caused by an IED explosion in Afghanistan. SFC Transfiguracion was described as an outstanding soldier, humble and he had a sense of humor. In his youth, SFC Transfiguracion dreamed of being a Green Beret and he worked hard to achieve his dream. SFC Transfiguracion is an outstanding model of hard work, determination, and selflessness.