



David L. Cunningham

Class of 1988

2025 Wall of Fame

Honoree

David L. Cunningham graduated from Konawaena in 1988 and is an accomplished filmmaker, global traveler, and humanitarian whose life and career have been deeply shaped by his early years growing up in service to others. As a child, he journeyed across the globe with his parents, Loren and Darlene Cunningham—founders of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) —witnessing the challenges of communities in orphanages, refugee camps, and remote areas. These experiences gave him a profound worldview and a passion for storytelling through film.

After Konawaena High, David went on to study and graduate at the University of Southern California. Cunningham has filmed in over 50 countries, producing documentaries and movies that explore themes of faith, perseverance, and justice. David also has a passion for the people, place and stories of Hawai'i. He has directed four feature films in the islands - including his first movie “Beyond Paradise” inspired by his high school years in Konawaena. Cunningham’s contributions to film, global humanitarianism, and cultural representation—especially of Hawaiian

stories like “The Wind & the Reckoning” which was the first major movie to be done in the language of Olelo Hawai’i —make him a powerful role model. His dedication to excellence and compassion exemplifies the values Konawaena seeks to honor. He is a fitting and deserving candidate for the Konawaena Wall of Fame.