



***Dr. Bart Aoki***  
***Class of 1971***

**Please tell us a little bit about yourself and include the year you graduated.**

I graduated from Konawaena High in 1971. Born and raised in Kealahou and Captain Cook, I was fortunate to be surrounded by a large extended family and many dear friends throughout the 17 years I lived in Kona. My father served in the fire department, and my mother was a nurse at Kona Hospital. My younger sister, Geri Ann (Davidson), still lives in Kona with her husband Glenn, and is a teacher at Kahakai Elementary.

**Where do you live now? What do you love about it?**

For the past two years, my husband (Marty) and I have divided our time between San Francisco and Kona. We have family and friends in both places and love being able to spend time with them during different seasons, holidays, and special events. We're very fortunate because both are wonderful places to live!

**Describe your career path since graduating from Konawaena High.**

When I graduated Konawaena, I already knew I wanted to study psychology. I began my studies at the University of Washington in Seattle and later pursued my doctorate in psychology at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

My career can be described in distinct "chapters." Initially, I worked as a health provider and clinician in San Francisco's mental health system counseling children and families. Later, during the early years of the AIDS epidemic, I worked with many people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. Driven by my interest in preventing mental health problems and substance abuse, I transitioned into research and program development focused on Asian American communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. This work frequently took me to Washington, DC, as well as to other countries in North America, Europe and Asia.

In the last chapter of my career, I moved into grant-making at the University of California, funding research that sought to develop new knowledge for programs, medical treatments, and public policy. These last 25 years of my career, I served as an administrator of research grant programs in HIV/AIDS, Tobacco-related Diseases and eventually all areas of science and the humanities.

**What was your most memorable experience at KHS?**

In addition to loving my social studies classes and teachers, I have many fond memories of the fun we had during extracurricular activities -- attending basketball and football games, participating in the homecoming parade (and building floats), going to class dances, and working on the yearbook.

**What advice would you give to Konawaena High School students?**

Enjoy and cherish the unique experience of growing up in Kona and attending Konawaena High. Take the time to explore the world and all its opportunities it has to offer. Then, when the time is right, decide how and when you want to return to this special place.

**Have you been back to campus since graduation? If yes, for what occasion?**

No, I've only driven around the campus and occasionally walked on the field.

**If no, what events would entice you to visit KHS once again?**

Perhaps a basketball game, a reunion of sorts, or a specific event.