



Mercedes Ihilani Victor
Class of 2016

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

Hi! I am Mercedes Ihilani Victor, originally from Hilo, HI. I moved to Kailua-Kona in 2012 and graduated from Konawaena High School in 2016. A few things about me: I have 12 dogs and recently discovered a new passion for golf!

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

I moved back home after graduating college and now live in Honaunau, HI. What I love most about it is the cool weather and the breathtaking sunsets. We live on family land, which allowed us the opportunity to build our own little house. I could not be happier to have moved back home and to be surrounded by the beauty and tranquility of this place.

Describe your career path since graduating from Konawaena High.

After graduating from Konawaena High School, I attended Saint Martin's University in Lacey, Washington, on both athletic and academic scholarships. These scholarships helped fund my bachelor's degree in Psychology Education. Unfortunately, due to COVID, I could not walk at graduation and returned home to start working. Before landing my current role as the College and Career Counselor at Konawaena High School, I held a few different jobs. It feels like a full-circle moment to be working alongside my high school basketball coach, Aunty Bobbie Awa. I am also pursuing my master's degree in Counseling Psychology.

What was your most memorable experience at KHS?

My most memorable experience at Konawaena High School would have to be winning the HHSAA state championships twice in both volleyball and basketball, as well as winning the BIIF championships twice for volleyball and four times for basketball. These accomplishments were the result of hard work, teamwork, and dedication, and they will always be some of my proudest moments from my time at KHS.

What advice would you give to Konawaena High School students?

My advice to Konawaena High School students is to take full advantage of the resources available to them. They are there for a reason, and it is up to you to put in the effort to make the most of them. Participate in everything you can, because one day you will look back, like I do now, wishing you could go back to those "good ol' days." Make the most of this time, as it is a unique opportunity to grow, learn, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

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

Yes, I have been back to campus a few times since graduating to watch family members play their respective sports at Konawaena High School. About three years ago, I decided to apply for an EA position, and after that year, I was offered the College and Career Counselor position. I am now in my second year and loving every minute of it. I always knew I wanted to come back to Konawaena and give back in some way, but I never expected it to happen so soon. It has been a rewarding experience to return home and contribute to the school that shaped me.