



Tianna Morimoto
Class of 2015

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

Aloha! My name is Tianna Morimoto. I was born and raised in Kealahou and graduated from Konawaena High School in 2015. Growing up, I was a competitive gymnast with Kona Aerials Gymnastics, a hula dancer with Kamakani O Ka Moku Aina hula studio, and a member of the Kona 4-H Federation. After graduation, I got my bachelor's degree from Chapman University in southern California in 2019 and my Master of Arts in journalism from the University of Nevada, Reno, in 2020.

I currently live in Phoenix, Arizona, where I work as a Digital Content Producer for Arizona's Family, a CBS affiliate news station. I also work remotely as a freelance writer for Kona Coast Magazine.

I have been able to get involved in multiple organizations and maintain my passions here on the mainland. I am part of a halau, where we practice

weekly and perform across the Phoenix area. I am also the secretary for the Arizona chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association.

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

I currently live in Phoenix, Arizona. I moved here in 2022 for a job opportunity and to try something new. One of my favorite things about living in Phoenix is that there is so much to do! I've had the opportunity to go to more concerts and sporting events, try new restaurants, attend cultural festivals and travel to other states. It has been so much fun exploring and having new experiences on the mainland.

Describe your career path since graduating from Konawaena High.

After graduating from Konawaena High School, I attended Chapman University in Orange County, California, where I received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies with a Broadcast Journalism minor. I then went to the University of Nevada, Reno, where I received my Master of Arts in Journalism. I graduated in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and returned home to Kona, where I began working as a Digital Media Manager at Hawaii Business Magazine. I worked remotely on the Big Island and occasionally flew to Oahu for events.

In 2022, I accepted a job offer as a Digital Content Producer at Arizona's Family (3TV/CBS5), a CBS affiliate, in Phoenix, Arizona and moved to the mainland in July of that year. In this role, I am at the news station writing stories, creating content and social media posts, crafting push notifications and live streaming coverage for all our digital platforms, including the website, social media sites and mobile app. This job keeps me busy and, on my toes, as I never know what breaking news the day will bring.

I was also looking for a way to stay connected to Hawaii, so I became a freelance writer for Kona Coast Magazine. I write feature/lifestyle stories about people, organizations and culture in my hometown. In 2024, my

article, "Keeping The Past Alive," won the Best Article award among all City Lifestyle publications nationwide.

What was your most memorable experience at KHS?

One of my most memorable experiences at Konawaena High School was being part of the May Day court during my senior year. It was so much fun to represent the Big Island on the court and perform and share my love of hula with my classmates and school.

What advice would you give to Konawaena High School students?

My advice to Konawaena High School students is to not be afraid to branch out and try new things. I've learned and grown so much going to college and living on the mainland.

However, no matter where I live or travel to, one thing remains true: That I am always proud to be from Hawaii and represent Kona wherever I go.

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

I have not been back to the campus since graduation, but I would love to visit if there are ever any events when I'm in town 😊.