


ISLAND MATTERS Mufi Hannemann

Brandyn Akana, Kahuku Role Model

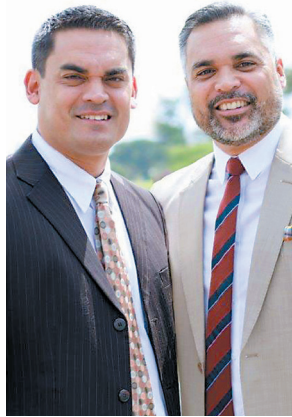
Kahuku High School earned its very first Division I state championship by besting Punahou in the Hawaii High School Athletic Association boys basketball tournament — and well-deserved congratulations go to coach Brandyn Akana and the Red Raiders.

Kahuku is loaded with talent, but talent alone is not enough to guarantee a title. It's also worth noting that three of the Red Raiders' key players — Jessiya Villa, Daniel Fotu and Samuta Avea, who's headed to Eran Ganot's Rainbow Warriors next year — played elsewhere last season.

While he's far too modest to accept credit for the Red Raiders' success, Akana deserves a special mention. For most of his athletic career, he's performed in the shadow of his

talented older brother Jarinn, a former all-state basketball player from Molokai High School who started for the Rainbow Warriors then went on to become an NBA scout and assistant coach, and is now a top-flight sports agent for NBA players. Brandyn was no slouch himself, as a star baller for the Farmers and BYU-Hawaii, and as a college-level assistant coach.

Brandyn's success speaks to his character, humility and integrity. In particular, I thought he handled the UH basketball ordeal under Gib Arnold with grace and class. He quietly walked away, never pointed fingers or groused about it, privately or publicly, even though he had ample reason to do so, given there were other people involved. And even when Arnold was granted a financial



Brandyn (left) and Jarinn Akana
PHOTO COURTESY OF MONIQUE SAENZ
settlement, Brandyn never complained or exclaimed, "What about me?"

That's why he's so respected and well liked by his players and the community, and why the student-athletes were able to put together a championship season. He's an excellent coach, without a doubt, but

his character and example are what inspire players to perform. Brandyn and his wife Joselyn, a former UH volleyball star of coach Dave Shoji, are role models on and off the court in what they stand for and how they carry themselves. He is the epitome of an ideal coach and mentor, and we can expect to hear more great things from him in the years to come.

In the words of entertainer and Farrington alumnus Dick Jensen, from a song he popularized in the '70s, *Three Cheers to Love*, three cheers go to Farrington High School for finally getting its football stadium.

It's named after Governor legend Ed "Skipa" Diaz. As a longtime Kalihi native, I first met Skipa when he and my brother Nephi were teammates at Farrington. At

an early age, I was awed not only by their athletic skills but also by their penchant for using highfalutin' words, a la Curtis "the Bull" Iaukea, that had me racing to the dictionary to look up the meanings. That's why I pictured myself attending Farrington, especially when the Governors won the football championship in 1965. It helped that my five older brothers and sisters were Farrington alumni.

That championship lifted the spirits of the Kalihi community and stayed with us for years. My actual Farrington connection came to me much later in life, when the alumni association inducted me into its Hall of Fame — not as a graduate, but as the all-time "Farrington wannabe" who can sing all the words to the Governors alma mater.

Farrington alumnus and hard-working principal Al Carganilla put it best: "Everybody's been waiting for it ... We want it to be the hub of the community because the community deserves it ... A lot of our kids go through hardships at home and don't have a true home life. So they use the school as a second home, and they take a lot of pride in that."

Truer words were never spoken. This brand-new stadium not only helps raise expectations that Kalihi is worthy of a spanking-new facility that can be found in other, more affluent neighborhoods and areas in the state, but also will be the catalyst for other renovations and expansion of the campus facilities in the near future.

And let's not stop there. Farrington sits in the proximity of the rail line coming through the

THINK GREEN. LIVE GREEN. TREAT ORANGE!

100% ORGANIC Orange Oil Drywood Termite Treatment
Hawaii's Orange Oil Pioneers Since 2005

Ground Termite Treatment Available

\$300 OFF
Orange Oil Treatment

Expires 3/31/17. Some restrictions apply. Call for details.

NO TENTING

Servicing All Islands
Free Estimates
(808) 754-3393 or 693-PEST (7378)
akamaipestolutions.com

BBB A+ Rating
HAWAII'S BEST 2015
Go Green, Go Orange®
95% Pure Orange Oil
KAIMANA BEACH HOTEL

Escape
to the quiet end of Waikiki

Kama'aina Special
Starting at \$159

Valid for new bookings March 9 - May 31, 2017.
Rates are subject to availability with applicable taxes and resort fees. Blackout dates may apply.
Must present valid Hawaii ID/License.

The New Otani
KAIMANA BEACH HOTEL
www.kaimana.com / (808) 921-7092

Granite Starting at \$99
On select colors, while supplies last, not combinable with other promotions.

50% OFF ALL IN STOCK CABINETS

RIVER WHITE GRANITE \$250
*Counter top only. Cannot be combined with other promos.
EXPIRES 3/31/17

QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS \$250
3 side square edge, 9-1/2 feet
Additional 30% OFF with purchase of countertop installation

OHANA CABINETRY Lic# BC-30215
Email: sales@ohanabuildingsupply.com
www.ohanabuildingsupply.com

2815 Kaihikapu St.
Ph: 808.833.8338
Fax: 808.833.8339

*For more information on our promotion, please contact one of our sales associates. Some exclusions apply. Promotions not valid with free granite promo. All sales final no refunds or returns.

Kalihi Pride And Tourism Day

heart of Kalihi, which will spur transit-oriented development, and bring a much-needed face lift and improvements to the area. Pride for Kalihi has never been stronger in recent memory, and a big mahalo goes to all those responsible for bringing this to pass.

Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association recently sponsored another successful Tourism Day at the Capitol. The event drew a few hundred people to the fourth-floor foyer for a Tourism Expo, which featured exhibits by HLTA Alex statewide chapters, hotels, airlines, rental cars, attractions and tourism businesses, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions. This year there was a strong presence by the agriculture industry, underscoring the importance of agri-tourism. As a result, the public was treated to goodies from Two Ladies Kitchen from Hilo, Koloa Rum Muffins, Hilton DoubleTree Cookies and more. They enjoyed lei making, brochures and informational packets, and a 3-D virtual reality tour of Kauai Coffee Company.

The day kicked off with the all-important educational session that gave HLTA the opportunity to engage in a discussion regarding the state's largest industry. In attendance and participating in the session were Senate President Ron Kouchi, Tourism chairman and state Sen. Glenn Wakai, state Rep. Richard Onishi, former Speaker Calvin Say, House Tourism vice chairman James Tokioka, and state Transportation director Ford Fuchigami.

The session outlined HLTA's mission of education, advocacy and philanthropy; highlighted the importance

of the hospitality industry to Hawaii; summarized HLTA's legislative priorities; and expanded on the synergistic relationship that tourism has with other sectors of our economy, including agriculture and STEM. Speaking to the importance of STEM education in our schools system was former Pearl City High School and UH alumna Dr. Kelli Ogawa, now a successful senior chemist with Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Michigan.

When you pause to think about it, every aspect of a STEM education produces personnel and training critical to the success and viability of a hospitality industry — architects, engineers and planners who build hotels, restaurants and recreational complexes, technological skills that are crucial to the way businesses operate, and how they implement safety measures and ensure a clean environment, and the expertise needed to bolster clean energy and more green hotels and businesses.

This year, HLTA's priority issues include, first, appropriating more government funding to help ease homelessness in tourism-impacted areas across the state. Private-sector contributions from the visitor industry of more than \$2 million have helped alleviate the problem in Waikiki, to a certain degree. However, as IHS and other agencies can tell you, much more needs to be done, and it comes down to funding. We also know all too well that homelessness is impacting tourism negatively on the Neighbor Islands, so we need to rise to the challenge there.

Second, as discussed in great detail in my Feb. 22 *MidWeek* column, this is the year for the state to start

collecting room and general excise taxes from online transient vacation rentals. To allow millions of dollars to go uncollected when there are so many needs and priorities that suffer from lack of funding is unconscionable. The city of New Orleans provides an excellent example of how government and the TVUs were able to forge a compromise to level the playing field, create an environment where both parties moved beyond the status quo, and most importantly, taxes are poised to be collected from those that never paid before. Lesson for Hawaii: If they can do it there, we can do it here!

Third, now more than ever the state needs to launch an independent corporation to oversee the airport division. The goal is to provide a laser-like focus on needed improvements and additions at airport facilities statewide. If the measure becomes law this session, all airport users need to send a big mahalo to DOT director Fuchigami, who from the outset supported this long-overdue change.

After the educational session, HLTA members and several dozen legislators had the opportunity to meet, mingle and exchange ideas on how we can make Hawaii a better place. Kudos to state Reps. Tom Brower and Daniel Holt, and NaHHA executive director and former state Sen. Pohai Ryan, and their staffs for rendering tremendous support in making the day a huge success. We are already looking forward to the third annual Tourism Day at the Capitol in 2018!

mufi@

mufihannemann.com

Don't be a Party Pooper... If you can't be the
Life of the Party
 any longer... Maybe it's time to see me.
 New Hearing Aid Technologies Are Changing Lives.

Absolutely Life changing for so many, due to:

1. Hear and stream Phone Calls, Videos and TV directly and wirelessly into your hearing aids.
2. Exceptional clarity in restaurants, family situations and at work, even in busy noisy situations.
3. Now you don't even have to change batteries.

I will personally help you get your life back with your family and friends. It's time to party again in life.



Call Today For a Free Assessment.

Take this important first step if you are like many who can hear but not understand words.

We are participating providers for most insurance plans.



Certified by:



Akamai
AFFORDABLE
HEARING AIDS

Family owned & operated.

2 Locations to Serve
Now Open on Saturdays

AIEA: 469-3220 • HONOLULU: 599-6211