

# MESEKIU'S NEWS

FREE!



Campus Buzz: Free Weekly Newsletter

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 08



## CARRYING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE: REFLECTIONS ON THE ALINGANO MAISU

Article contributed by: PCC Student



THE ALINGANO MAISU CANOE DEPARTING FROM THE DOCKS OF DROP OFF RESTAURANT



CREWMEMBERS OF THE ALINGANO MAISU SIT AND RECEIVE PRAYERS FOR THE SAFETY OF THEIR JOURNEY

On February 15, 2026, the shores of Palau served as the backdrop for a historic milestone in Pacific maritime history: the 20th voyage celebration of the Alingano Maisu. The atmosphere was thick with reverence as Republic of Palau President H.E. Surangel Whipps Jr., Palau Community College (PCC) President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, and several paramount chiefs gathered to witness the formal blessings of the vessel and its 14-man crew. Led by the esteemed Grand Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur, the double-hulled voyaging canoe embarked on an ambitious trans-Pacific trek, with scheduled stops in Taiwan, Okinawa, CNMI, Guam, and the FSM, before returning home to Palau.

For those of us in attendance, the ceremony was more than a formal send-off; it was a visceral connection to our ancestral identity. Being able to tour the Alingano Maisu before its departure was a thrilling, hands-on lesson in traditional engineering and wayfinding that resonated across generations. The sheer scale and craftsmanship of the canoe sparked a sense of wonder, particularly for younger guests like my daughter, who wide-eyed and inspired, compared the majestic vessel to the wayfinding canoes she had seen in Disney's Moana. As the crew prepares to navigate by the stars and swells, they carry with them the pride of Palau and a living bridge to the seafaring legacy of the Pacific.

## PRESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHT



PCC PRESIDENT TELLEI, ASPCC MEMBERS, AND PCC STUDENTS WITH HIROSAKI UNIVERSITY DELEGATION

### PCC HOSTS HIROSAKI UNIVERSITY

On February 16, 2026, Palau Community College (PCC) had the honor of hosting a delegation from Hirosaki University. The day began with a warm welcome from PCC Vice President Jay Olegeriil, who greeted the visitors upon their arrival at the PCC campus. Following the welcome, an engaging meet-and-greet session took place, allowing PCC staff and students to interact with the delegation.

The highlight of the visit was an informative campus tour conducted by the Associated Students of Palau Community College (ASPCC). The tour showcased the vibrant campus environment, emphasizing both academic and extracurricular opportunities available to students.

HIROSAKI CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## George B. Harris Elementary Students Explore Ngerderar's Rich History on Educational Field Trip

Article contributed by: PCC Educational Talent Search Program



GEORGE B. HARRIS TALENT SEARCH PARTICIPANTS WITH ACADEMIC ADVISOR LAKOLANI OLINGELLE AND MAFE STAFF

The Talent Search participants from George B. Harris Elementary School recently had the wonderful opportunity to go on a field trip to Ngerderar, where they learned about its rich history, cultural significance, and ongoing preservation efforts. During the visit, students gained firsthand knowledge about the importance of protecting historical sites and understanding the stories passed down through generations. The experience allowed them to connect classroom learning with real-life history, cultural, and environmental awareness.

A big thank you to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment (MAFE) and the Aimeliik PAN office for organizing and arranging this meaningful and educational trip.

Your support made this learning experience possible and truly impactful for our students.

## EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT: AKIKO UDUI



UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM'S NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:  
AKIKO UDOI

The PCC Upward Bound Program is pleased to announce Ms. Akiko Udoi as its new Assistant Director. Ms. Udoi was recently promoted from an Academic Advisor to an Assistant Director for the program. She brings over 30 years of dedicated experience with the program, a testament to her deep commitment and extensive knowledge.

Throughout her tenure, she has served in multiple capacities within the program, gaining a comprehensive understanding of its operations and challenges. This varied experience has equipped her with the skills and insight needed to excel as Assistant Director. Her resourcefulness and familiarity with the program's goals will contribute significantly to its continued success and growth.

HIROSAKI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

After the tour, the Hirosaki delegation gathered at the PCC Assembly Hall, where they engaged in a cultural exchange with PCC students. This dialogue provided an invaluable opportunity for the students to share their experiences and insights into campus culture, daily life, and being part of the PCC community.

At the conclusion of the cultural exchange, PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei expressed sincere appreciation to the Hirosaki University delegation for their visit. To mark this significant occasion, he presented the group with a thoughtful gift: "A Dictionary of Japanese Loanwords in Palauan." This gift not only symbolizes the enduring influence of Japan on Palauan culture since the early 1900s but also highlights the deep-rooted bonds that exist between the two nations.

The delegation included University President Dr. Shinsaku Fukuda; Assistant to the President Dr. Ikuo Kashiwakura; Professor Dr. Masahiro Hosoda; and Head Nurse Masako Tsushima. They were joined by two staff members, eight students, and business leaders President Sadao Kushibiki (Kaneshow Co., Ltd.), President Manabu Nagasawa (Nagasawa Kogyo Co., Ltd.), and Former President Takao Abe (Shibata Irika Co., Ltd.)

This memorable visit reinforced the importance of cultural exchange and collaboration between institutions, paving the way for future partnerships and mutual understanding.

# BITS AND PIECES

## TAN SIU LIN PCC LIBRARY

### Hours of Operation

Monday to Thursday  
7:30 AM to 7:00 PM

Friday  
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday  
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

\*Closed on Sundays and National Holidays

For more information, call:  
488-3540

### Available To Interested

#### Readers:

#### CONSUMER REPORTS



The January/February 2026 issue of *Consumer Reports* serves as a comprehensive guide for health-conscious and value-driven consumers, featuring laboratory-tested insights across the health, home, and automotive sectors. With ratings for 797 different products, this issue prioritizes safety and cost-effectiveness in an increasingly crowded marketplace.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

MARCH 2 - 6 (M - F)  
MID-TERM PERIOD

### Calvo's Select Care Health Insurance

#### Premium Rates

Monthly Rate (Single)	Class Type (Single)	Percentage Split	12 Months	Bi-Weekly 24 PP
\$129.00	Employer (60%)	\$77.40	\$928.80	\$38.70
	Employee (40%)	\$51.60	\$619.20	\$25.80
Monthly Rate (Couple)	Class Type (Couple)	Percentage Split	12 Months	Bi-Weekly
\$258.00	Employer (60%)	\$154.80	\$1,857.60	\$77.40
	Employee (40%)	\$103.20	\$1,238.40	\$51.60
Monthly Rate (Family)	Class Type (Family)	Percentage Split	12 Months	Bi-Weekly
\$412.00	Employer (60%)	\$247.20	\$2,966.40	\$123.60
	Employee (40%)	\$164.80	\$1,977.60	\$82.40

Enrollment for PCC staff remains open until March 02, 2026. Feel free to visit Human Resources to enroll or to add or remove dependents.



PCC thanks the Palau National Olympic Committee and Chelechad ra Barebor for their generous donation of two official FIVB volleyballs. These will be instrumental in supporting volleyball intramurals at PCC.

**PALAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESENTS**

# PALAU.EDU

email addresses for students

## Did you know?

With a palau.edu email address, you will have access to many free or significantly discounted software packages and online services including Amazon Prime, Microsoft Office 365 Education, Adobe Creative Cloud which includes Adobe Photoshop, Spotify, Norton anti-virus, Autodesk which includes AutoCAD, and Apple Music. You will also have access to discounted equipment and products from Apple, Dell, Samsung, Best Buy and many others.

Visit the PCC Computer Services for login assistance or account recovery

**NOTICE TO ALLOTTERS AND DONORS**

THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF PALAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE WAS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 29, 2025, THEY BEGAN ASSISTING CONTRIBUTORS AND ISSUING RECEIPTS ON A DAILY BASIS.

TO ENSURE A SMOOTH PROCESS FOR YOUR TAX RETURN APPLICATION, PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR W-2 FORM, CHECK STUB #26, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS.

WE EXTEND OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND DEDICATION TO THE COLLEGE ENDOWMENT FUND.

ADDITIONALLY, WE WELCOME DONORS AND ASSIST WITH ALLOTER ENROLLMENT.

**Interested in learning transferrable media and marketing skills? Volunteer with the PCC Dvelopment Office. Stop by at the Dort building to sign-up.**

**Celebrating Birthday**  
Feb 21 - Feb 27, 2026



**Cecilia Andrew**



**Rox Brigole Gunayan**

*Happy Birthday*

**ALUMNI NOTES**  
Alexies Kyle Ruiz



Alexies K. Ruiz earned her Associate of Science degree in Business Accounting in the Spring of 2025. She currently works in the Business Division at PCC as an Accounting Technician. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to her and wish her continued success in her career.

**Please Hire PCC Graduates!**

**PCC ENDOWMENT**

**INVEST IN THE FUTURE TO SUPPORT, CONTACT US TODAY!**

P.O.BOX 9  
KOROR, PALAU 96940  
Phone: 488-2470/2471  
(Ext. 251/252)  
e-mail: tellei@palau.edu

*If you want to join the Bi-Weekly Allotment Program, **Contact Us Now!***



Mesekiu's News welcomes stories/articles/announcements from students, faculty, and staff. Submission deadline is Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in hard and/or electronic copies to pccdev@palau.edu

Articles from MOC/PCC Alumni are also welcome. Please call 488-2470/2471 (extensions 251 or 252) for more information.

The Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), is pleased to announce the **2026 MOFA Taiwan Scholarship Program**, offering Palauan students an exciting opportunity to pursue **undergraduate, master's, or doctoral degrees**, as well as **public health-related English-taught programs** in Taiwan. Applications will be accepted from **February 1 to March 15, 2026**, giving students the chance to study at commendable institutions while gaining international experience and cultural exposure.

For the 2026 academic year, **twenty (20) scholarship slots** are reserved exclusively for **qualified Palauan students**, subject to final approval by MOFA. Applicants must complete both the **online application** at <https://taiwanscholarship.mofa.gov.tw/Apply> and a printed hard copy by March 15, 2026. Once completed, both forms and all required supporting documents must be submitted to the **Palau National Scholarship Board (PNSB)**. Recipients are expected to be announced by the Embassy by the **end of June 2026**.