

MESEKIU'S NEWS

FREE!



Campus Buzz: Free Weekly Newsletter

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 28



EMS STUDENT RESEARCH TACKLES PALAU'S CLAM FARMING FUTURE



CHANDRA KUARTEI (BACK ROW, LEFT, WHITE) AND VARIOUS PCC STAFF AND STUDENTS AT PCC ASSEMBLY HALL

On July 07, 2026, Environmental and Marine Science (EMS) student Chandra Kuartei presented the findings of her summer internship at the Palau Community College assembly hall. Her presentation, titled "Benefits and Challenges of Giant Clam Farming in Palau," was conducted to fulfill the requirements of her SC270-Field Studies program.

During her presentation, Kuartei explained that clam aquaculture involves raising clams in managed farms and protecting them from their juvenile stage all the way to harvest. This practice is vital for Palau because it conserves wild clam populations by reducing the pressure on natural stocks while supporting local food security. Furthermore, giant clam farming creates valuable livelihood opportunities for the

community and protects the wider coral reef ecosystems, serving as a bridge that combines environmental conservation with sustainable economic development.

To understand the landscape of clam farming, Kuartei spent five weeks working alongside the Palau Aquaculture Alliance (PAA), conducting participant observation. Her methodology also included a literature review of scientific journals and government reports, alongside an aquaculture farm survey. She surveyed 16 local farmers across various states, including Ngaraard, Ngardmau, Ngchesar, Peleliu, and Ngarchelong.

Kuartei's research highlighted several

EMS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHT



PHS ROYALS CLASS OF 2026 PICTURED AT PCC CAFETERIA

Palau High School hosted its 62nd commencement exercises on Thursday, July 2nd, at the Palau Community College Cafeteria, honoring the remarkable achievements of the Class of 2026.

The ceremony celebrated top academic honors, featuring a valedictory address by Mr. Levi Tabesul Clapp and the presentation of the salutatorian award to Miss Meghan Alexa Ditona Funa. Key remarks were delivered by Senator Andrew Tabelual, alongside distinguished presentations from President Surangel S. Whipps Jr. and school leadership, marking a proud milestone for the graduates and their families.

Palau Community College extends its heartfelt gratitude to Palau High School for choosing the PCC Cafeteria as the venue for this momentous 62nd commencement exercise.

Marine Investigation Program at HIMB: A Close-Up Look at the Future of Marine Science



(L-R) KAILANI AND KOBE

FROM L-R ALEXI MELTEL, KOBE ALLEN, AND KAILANI KEIJI

The Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), located on Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island) in Kāne'ohe Bay, recently hosted an inspiring group of students from Palau as part of its Marine Investigation Program. This fully funded initiative aims to immerse high school and pre-college students in hands-on marine science education, fostering a new generation of environmental advocates.

Moku o Lo'e, historically known for its coconut trees, has been a site of scientific inquiry since becoming part of the University of Hawai'i in 1965. The HIMB is internationally recognized for its research on coral reefs, marine organisms, climate change, and conservation strategies, making it an ideal setting for students to explore these critical areas.

Participants, including PCC Student Kailani Joy Reyaus Keiji and her peer Kobe Allen from Friends of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, arrived in Hawai'i on May 30, 2026. Throughout their time on the island, they were mentored by accomplished researchers and Ph.D. students, including PCC alumni and lead mentor Alexi Meltel.

The program offered students a diverse range of activities, structured

to enhance their understanding of marine ecosystems and scientific research methodologies. Throughout the program, students enhanced their research, observation, and communication skills, applying scientific concepts in real-world contexts. The initiative not only provided valuable scientific knowledge but also empowered participants to advocate for marine conservation and sustainable practices.

As students like Kailani and Kobe return home, they carry with them the tools and inspiration to effect change within their communities. The HIMB Marine Investigation Program stands as a testament to the importance of education in fostering a new wave of environmental stewardship among the future leaders of marine science.

To view the complete report, please type the following URL or scan the QR

<https://tinyurl.com/HIMBReport>



Empowering Financial Aid Professionals: Highlights from the NASFAA 2026 National Conference



ORENG KIKUO, FINANCIAL AID TECHNICIAN FROM PCC

Oreng Kikuo, a Financial Aid Technician at the Palau Community College Financial Aid Office, recently participated in the NASFAA (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators) 2026 National Conference. Held from June 29 to July 2, 2026, at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C., this annual gathering provided an opportunity for financial aid professionals from across the US and the Pacific Islands to enhance their knowledge, receive training and get federal updates on Title IV administration.

NASFAA acts as an important resource, translating complex federal mandates such as those outlined in the FAFSA Simplification Act into practical, actionable guides. Furthermore, NASFAA provides a direct communication channel to Federal Student Aid, which is invaluable when regional issues arise, and advocates for legislation that addresses the needs and challenges in Title IV Administration.

BITS AND PIECES

TAN SIU LIN PCC LIBRARY

Hours of Operation

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

Friday
7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Closed On Sundays

*Closed on National Holidays

For more information, call:
488-3540

Available To Interested

Readers:

NATURE CONSERVANCY



The 2026 Issue 1 of Nature Conservancy magazine, "Sea Change," highlights innovative marine governance, featuring First Nations-led conservation in British Columbia and global efforts to protect marine ecosystems. The issue also explores initiatives to combat light pollution in West Texas, forest health through tree-ring analysis, and habitat preservation for the Florida panther.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

JUL 13 (M)

REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2026 BEGINS

JUL 13-15 (W-F)

FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

EMS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

significant hurdles that local farmers currently face in the aquaculture industry. Climate change is considered the biggest long-term threat, reported by 75% of the surveyed farmers, as rising sea temperatures can cause severe stress or even kill the clams. Additionally, clam disease and a general lack of time were both cited as major challenges by 62.5% of the respondents. High costs are also a barrier, with a lack of funding affecting 50% of the farmers and limiting their ability to afford essential equipment, farm maintenance, and hatcheries. Furthermore, marine predators that feed on juvenile clams and poor water quality were each reported by 31.3% of respondents, while stealing was noted as a minor issue affecting 6.3% of those surveyed. To address these challenges, Kuartei outlined priority actions to strengthen the clam farming industry, including

improving climate resilience, strengthening disease monitoring, expanding farmer mentoring, and increasing financial investment. She emphasized the need to improve farm monitoring and early warning systems while continuing adaptive management as environmental conditions change. Her ultimate takeaway was that there is no single solution to these challenges; rather, a sustainable giant clam industry requires a combination of healthy reefs, resilient farmers, and strong, collaborative partnerships between farmers, the government, NGOs, and researchers. Kuartei concluded her presentation by extending her sincere thanks to the Palau Aquaculture Alliance, EMS Associate Professor Rilang Roberto from Palau Community College, and her Belau Pathways mentor, Madelsar Ngiraingas, for their guidance and support throughout the research process.

JAPANESE COOKING COURSE

SIGN UP NOW!

\$75 per person

JULY 20TH TO JULY 31ST 2026
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, & FRIDAY
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Tourism & Hospitality School of Excellence
Instructors: Yoko Morisaki & Katsuyama Hisanori

6 sessions

SPOTS ARE LIMITED!

Contact Info: (680) 488-6223 | Continuing Education, PCC | @ce@palau.edu

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Library Assistant

PCC Library

Salary Range: \$10,400 - \$18,487 per Annum

(2) Administrative Assistant

Upward Bound Program

Salary Range: \$12,001- \$21,312 per Annum

(3) Science Laboratory Manager

Academic Affairs

Salary Range: \$14,285 - 22,992 per Annum

For more vacancies, detailed information, and to apply, please visit:

<https://pcc.palau.edu/about/jobs-pcc/>

"PCC is an Equal Opportunity Employer."

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

Celebrating Birthdays

July 10 - July 16, 2026



Francis M.
Dante



Hilda N.
Reklai



Sesario
Sewralur



Alik K.
Ulechong



Wililah F.
Xavier

ALUMNI NOTES

Phillolla B. Blesoch



Phillolla B. Blesoch earned her Associate of Science degree in Education - Elementary Education in the Spring of 2026. She was also a recipient of the Outstanding Student Award. We extend our congratulations and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

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

or pccdev@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.

Announcement: Enrollment Now Open at Palau Community College CTE Lab School

Palau Community College CTE Lab School invites interested students to apply for our Construction Technology program. We are dedicated to admitting students who aspire to achieve a degree in this field.

The program spans four years, with the first two years focused on secondary education before transitioning into the Construction Technology, Associate of Applied Science Degree Program in the final two years.

To ensure a smooth application process, applicants are reminded to prepare a complete application form alongside all required documents.

Important deadlines and application requirements can be found on our website or by contacting us directly. For questions, please reach out to us at 488-2470/2471 ext. 281 or contact Teacher Bradley R. Augustine at 775-8065.

For more info, scan the QR code:



We appreciate your interest in the PCC CTE Lab School and look forward to welcoming new students!

