

# PALM BEACH PHILANTHROPIST GIVES \$700,000 TO LAUNCH ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAM

**H**awaii Pacific University (HPU) has received a transformative \$700,000 gift from Palm Beach resident and entrepreneur **John F. Scarpa** to establish the **John F. Scarpa Entrepreneurial Pathway** — a bold, university-wide initiative that will infuse entrepreneurial thinking across all fields of study.

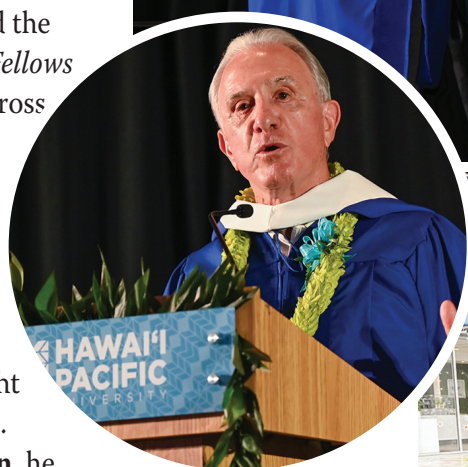
Designed to ignite innovation, creativity, and problem-solving, the program will equip HPU students with the tools and confidence to turn ideas into real-world impact. Key components include student innovation challenges, faculty innovation grants, an entrepreneur-in-residence program, and the appointment of annual *Scarpa Faculty Fellows* who will champion entrepreneurship across the university's six colleges.

Scarpa is a visionary in the telecommunications industry, having co-founded the **American Cellular Network Corporation** — the first publicly traded cellular company in the U.S. — and later **UNITEL**, which brought mobile service to rural areas nationwide. Through the **John F. Scarpa Foundation**, he has made landmark contributions to healthcare, education, and civic advancement. In 2024, HPU awarded him an honorary doctorate for his philanthropic leadership.

“Educational institutions must lead with vision, innovation, and opportunity,” said Scarpa. “This Entrepreneurial Pathway is an investment in the next generation of changemakers. I’m excited to help prepare students to meet the challenges of tomorrow with courage and creativity.”

Launching in Fall 2025, the initiative is being implemented under the leadership of **Amy Nguyen-Chyung, Ph.D.**, HPU’s newly appointed Dean of the College of Business. A national leader in hands-on, innovation-driven learning, Nguyen-Chyung brings extensive experience connecting students with real-world entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial opportunities.

“The Scarpa Entrepreneurial Pathway will empower students across disciplines to think boldly, solve creatively, and act with purpose,” said Nguyen-Chyung. “It’s about more than starting companies — it’s about building an



**TOP:** John F. Scarpa receiving his HPU honorary doctorate in 2024; **MIDDLE:** John F. Scarpa; **BOTTOM:** HPU students in the University's Makerspace at Aloha Tower Marketplace



entrepreneurial mindset that applies to every profession and sector.”

HPU President **John Gotanda** added, “We are incredibly grateful to John Scarpa. His visionary gift will leave a lasting legacy — not only at HPU, but in the lives of every student and faculty member inspired by this initiative.”

Hawaii Pacific University is a private, nonprofit university on the island of O’ahu. Established in 1965, HPU is home to more than 4,900 undergraduate and graduate students from the 50 United States, U.S. Territories, and over 40 different countries. The student

experience is shaped by a rich cultural mosaic and a learning environment of innovative, hands-on experiences amplified by the power of community collaborations. HPU students are empowered to pursue the subjects they are most passionate about. Proudly serving the higher education needs of the military community, including on O’ahu military installations, HPU and the Department of Veteran Affairs partner to offer the *Yellow Ribbon Program*, supplementing the Post-9/11 GI Bill® tuition benefit. For more information visit [hpu.edu](http://hpu.edu).