



RESIDENTIAL LIFE
residentialprograms@hpa.edu



YOUR NEW HOME AWAY FROM HOME
Welcome to our Residential Life 'ohana

Aloha residential students and families,

We are truly excited for all of you to experience a restful and enriching summer break before you come to campus in August as HPA students! Enclosed below are specific details of our Residential Life Program, as well as important travel information, to prepare you for the start of the school year.

As the Director of Residential Life, it is my pleasure to work closely with our residential students each year. This community provides a warm, close-knit, and welcoming environment that will soon feel like family. I hope you find this information helpful as you plan for your upcoming arrival on campus.

This year, we are asking all new and returning residential students to arrive on campus by **Friday, August 7, 2026**, for our residential student orientation, which will run until the start of classes on **Tuesday, August 11**. Our dorms will be open on **Thursday, August 6**, for those requiring more travel flexibility. If you are serving as a Prefect in the coming year, please plan to arrive by **Monday, August 3, 2026**.

Opening Days and Orientation

The start of any school year is an exciting time for all. Meeting new faces and seeing old friends, getting to know roommates and classmates, and becoming familiar with campus and schedules — we understand that all these factors can lead to some anxiety and questions.

All new and returning residential students are asked to arrive by or on Friday, August 7, 2026, for our Residential Life orientation program. To help ensure a smooth first day for everyone, we are asking all residential families to arrive on our Upper Campus between 8:00 am and 11:00 am on Friday, August 7. For international students with limited flight options, our dorms will be open on Thursday, August 6, for those requiring more travel flexibility.

Opening Days: Orientation, E Komo Mai, and Ka Makani Showcase Friday, August 7, 2026

On Friday, HPA has planned a number of orientation activities for all boarding students and all new day students to help them and their families get settled and acquainted with HPA and life in the dorms, prepare for the start of classes, and meet key personnel.

[VIEW FULL OPENING DAYS SCHEDULE HERE](#)

While we understand that not all families may be traveling with their students, we strongly encourage anyone who can be on campus on Friday afternoon to plan on attending the orientation programming following move-in from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Residential Life Orientation

Over the weekend, all residential students will participate in a number of information sessions and events. This programming is designed to help each student enter the new academic year confident and prepared — after making new friends, exploring Waimea and other parts of Hawai'i Island, taking their annual swim test, and completing any additional placement testing they may need.



Introducing Our Residence Halls and Leaders

Residential students are housed in three residence halls on the HPA Upper Campus — Robertson Hall, Carter Hall, and Perry-Fiske Hall. A team of dorm faculty, managed by a dorm head, are most involved in the day-to-day operations, planning, and programming of our boarding program. Here is a little more information about our dorm heads and our residence halls:

Mr. Hamilton Ford '05

I serve as the Director of Residential Life and I am entering my sixteenth year back at HPA, after having previously been a residential student here myself. I am also head coach of the varsity boys and girls wrestling team. I will be serving as Dorm Head of Robertson Hall. Robertson Hall serves as a residence for up to 36 female students, with a separate wing for 13 male students.

Mrs. Vaipuarii Tapiero-Kight '05

I am the Dorm Head at Carter Hall, an all-female residence hall housing up to 60 students in grades 9-12, and also the Residential Life travel coordinator. I am a proud HPA alumna and graduate of our residential program. My family and I returned to this beautiful place in August 2022 and have been a part of the residential program since. I love to read, work with the community, and with students.

Mr. John Moltz

I am the Dorm Head at Perry-Fiske Hall, an all-male residence Hall housing up to 74 students in grades 9-12, and the student activities coordinator. I am beginning my 9th year at HPA and am also the assistant coach for the boys' varsity soccer team. I've worked in the Student Life Center and attended boarding school in Massachusetts.

Housing and Rooming

Residential students are thoughtfully assigned to dorms and roommates in August. Later this month, once you receive access to myHPA, you will be asked to complete the New Boarding Student Housing Questionnaire to help guide the placement process. This form will provide our dorm heads with some insight into possible roommate compatibility and help you have an academically successful and socially enjoyable year.

We will advise you of your roommate assignment upon your arrival on campus. Please be aware that while we do our best to pair you with someone that we feel you would be comfortable with, a vital part of the boarding experience is learning conflict resolution communication skills and being exposed to new cultures.

What to Bring or Purchase on Arrival

Our new residential students often have questions about what is available here on campus and what they should bring from home. Please review our [What To Bring or Purchase on Arrival](#) for a list of helpful suggestions on what to bring or purchase upon arrival. Boxes and packages can be shipped to campus no earlier than August 1, 2026. All boxes must have the student's name written clearly and legibly on all packages.

All packages should be clearly labeled and mailed to:

Hawai'i Preparatory Academy
(INCLUDE STUDENT NAME)
65-1692 Kohala Mountain Road
Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743

As part of our Residential Life Orientation program, students will have the opportunity to pick up some common "household" goods for their rooms from past students who left these items behind to reduce waste and to serve future students. Desk lamps, fans, trash cans, shower caddies, laundry baskets, and other items may be available for students who do not bring their own. We will also provide the opportunity for residential students to shop for items on-island during the Residential Life Orientation program.

Evening Structures and Residential Life Curriculum

The residential program aims to balance structure with developmentally appropriate freedoms that together give students both the guidance and the room to grow intellectually, physically, emotionally, and socially. During the week, students check in with the dorm parent on duty at 7:00 pm and prepare for study hall, a 90-minute period of focused study time each school night.

During study hall, we strive for an environment that promotes focus and productivity. Following study hall, the night concludes with a quiet time that runs until lights out at 10:30 pm. Juniors and seniors may request to work until 11:00 pm when necessary.

A number of additional structures are interwoven throughout our weekly evening schedule. These include dorm meetings, hall meetings, all-residential community meetings, guest speakers, and formal dinners. We strive to come together on many levels to grow ourselves and care for the well-being of our community.

Technology and Social Media

We understand that technology plays an important role in the academic and social lives of our students. We also value the importance of unplugging from devices, screens, and computers, and allowing time for rest, reflection, conversation, and engagement. To allow for focus, cell phones and smartphones are gathered during study hall by our prefects and returned at the end of the study hall period.

Research studies have found that using technology before bedtime leads to reduced sleep, which has been associated with low productivity, depression, low energy, and poor school performance. Our Residential Life Program implements a boarding freshman tech collection policy (cell phones, computers, tablets, gaming devices) at the end of each school night. They will receive their technology back the following morning prior to the start of class. We allow sophomores, juniors, and seniors to keep their technology at night, but ask that they shut off all electronic devices at the lights-out time. Upperclassmen who struggle to maintain appropriate hours may be enrolled in the tech collection policy as well.

In addition, please note that no personal computer screens larger than 26 inches will be allowed. Our concern stems from the amount of distraction caused by larger screens, along with our lack of storage space.

Throughout the year, we hold several discussions and workshops related to the appropriate use of technology and social media. Our school values the positive connections that can be made through social media, and we wholeheartedly encourage our parents and students to connect with our social media streams (Instagram, Facebook, YouTube). At the same time, we expect students to exercise caution and to represent themselves and our school positively on social media at all times.

Travel Information

Again, we are asking all new and returning residential students to make their travel plans to arrive on campus on Friday, August 7, 2026. For international students with limited flight options, our dorms will be open on Thursday, August 6, for those requiring more travel flexibility.

Travel Details

Our team of residential faculty will pick up students anytime throughout the day and evening of Thursday, August 6, and Friday, August 7. When making airline reservations, please be sure

that your final destination is Kona Airport (airport code: KOA), on Hawai'i Island (Big Island). Direct flights are available from the U.S. mainland. Students flying through Honolulu (airport code: HNL), on the island of O'ahu, must take a 40-minute inter-island flight to Kona.

To help us coordinate arrival logistics and airport transportation, all residential families are now required to complete the [Back-to-School Travel Form](#). This form must be submitted along with your student's official flight confirmation email or travel itinerary.

Important: Families with more than one residential student must complete a separate form for each child.

The form and itinerary must include the following key details:

- Airline and flight number
- Flight confirmation code
- Date and time of arrival at Kona International Airport (KOA) on Hawai'i Island
- Student's mobile phone number and/or WhatsApp ID (if available)

To ensure accuracy, please forward the original confirmation email you received from the airline. (Do not send screenshots or photos.) Email your itinerary to our travel coordinator at travel@hpa.edu no later than Friday, July 17, 2026.

You can access and complete the [Back-to-School Travel Form here](#).

If you will be paying for Unaccompanied Minor services through your airline, please ensure that you include this in your form response and that the airline has all necessary instructions and is prepared to assist with customs and immigration.

Looking Ahead

To help you plan for the full school year, we've created an infographic with all school break dates and links to the corresponding travel forms. We encourage you to bookmark this resource and complete future travel forms as early as possible.

We hope this information has been helpful in answering your questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any additional questions or concerns at residentialprograms@hpa.edu.

Again, welcome! We eagerly anticipate your arrival as the newest members of the HPA community and hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Sincerely,

Hamilton Ford '05
Director of Residential Life