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NAFAPA Elections 2026

The NAFAPA election process has changed! Election results will still be announced at the business meeting at the 2026 NAFAPA conference. However, NAFAPA elections will be held online, prior to the conference. This will streamline the election process and enable members to seek board positions regardless of their ability to attend the conference. Self-nominations for NAFAPA Board positions are due June 15, 2026. Please keep reading to learn more about these changes (p. 4), view key dates and nomination information (p. 7), and learn about the roles and responsibilities of the open NAFAPA Board positions (p. 5-6).

Message from Dr.Tsuchida

Aloha! We look forward to welcoming you to the 2026 NAFAPA Biannual Conference in Honolulu, Hawai'i this summer! Set in one of the world's most beautiful locations, this year's conference will bring together scholars, practitioners, and students from across the world including the South Pacific, North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Europe to share innovative research and advance the field of adapted physical activity.

NAFAPA 2026 will offer a unique blend of scholarship and meaningful cultural connection. In addition to engaging presentations, attendees will have the opportunity to experience the rich traditions and natural beauty of Hawai'i through field trips and cultural activities.

The summer conference comes at a critical time to honor culture, diversity, and inclusion. Our conference theme, E Ola Koa Kākou i Kekahi i Kekahi, let us all thrive by supporting each other, encourages us to rise with the tide and navigate the waves together.

Don't miss out on our exciting program that features learning from our keynote speaker, the one and only Dr. Samuel Hodge. In addition to professional presentations, NAFAPA 2026 will also feature interactive building sessions, scheduled trips to the lo'i (taro patch), beautiful hikes to Manoa Falls or Makapuu Lighthouse, and our special dinners to celebrate culture as well as excellence and leadership in the field.

This conference will inspire and provide lasting memories. If you haven't done so already, register now so you don't miss out on this opportunity! Please continue to check our website for updates and important travel related information: [NAFAPA 2026 Conference Website](#).

Closing: "A hui hou!" (Until we meet again)

Image Descriptions (Page 2)

- A headshot of Dr. Allison Tsuchida (smiling, professional portrait).
- A circular logo for the University of Hawai'i College of Education.

Hawaii Happenings

KEYNOTE

The 2026 conference will feature keynote speaker Dr. Samuel Hodge, with programming developed alongside a Native Hawaiian team under the theme, E Ola Koa Kākou i Kekahi i Kekahi, let us all thrive by supporting each other. Additional speakers will highlight cultural diversity and Hawai'i-based initiatives while showcasing accessible physical activity opportunities

CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

Attendees will enjoy cultural field trips, including a Native Hawaiian sustainability farm visit and inclusive land-based activities in an ADA-compliant garden, along with optional hikes to Mānoa Falls or a nearby lighthouse. Evening events include group dinners with hula performances and an awards dinner with a hula lesson. More info to come! Check out the [NAFAPA Conference Webpage](#) for the most up to date information!

These amazing cultural experiences are included in NAFAPA 2026 registration, with the option to add a guest for an additional fee. Two meals per day are also included in with Registration.

[Registration is still open! See details here.](#)

SESSION MODERATORS NEEDED

We are looking for NAFAPA Members to moderate oral sessions and building sessions!
We are also in need of senior scholars to moderate student work in progress sessions!
Your service and time would be greatly appreciated! Mahalo! [Fill out this form and we will be in touch!](#)

Image Description (Page 3)

- A tall waterfall surrounded by dense green vegetation.
- The image emphasizes natural beauty and vertical water flow.

NAFAPA ELECTIONS WILL BE ONLINE, PRIOR TO CONFERENCE IN HAWAII

Dear NAFAPA members,

For the 2026 election cycle, the Board has decided to move our elections online, in compliance with our bylaws and common practice for organizations today. While we understand that momentum peaks during the conference and members are energized to get involved, we want to ensure that the opportunity to be involved is open to all our members, especially this year with the distance and cost of attending our bi-annual conference in Hawaii.

In this newsletter you will find descriptions of the positions that are up for election (PresidentElect, Treasurer, Secretary, Representative to Affiliate Organization [IFAPA], and four Members atLarge). All positions, with the exception of Treasurer, are two-year terms. The Treasurer position is a four-year term.

If you are interested in any of the positions listed, please continue reading to see the descriptions of each position and learn about the self-nomination process.

We hope membership will encourage their trainees, regardless of whether they will attend the conference in Hawaii, to consider serving on the board as a Member at Large.

We are asking our members to self-nominate for these positions by email to NAFAPA.boardofdirectors@gmail.com by June 15, 2026.

Voting will occur online from July 10-20, 2026 and the new board will be notified of their positions before the conference in Hawaii. Election results will be announced publicly at the NAFAPA Business meeting. I look forward to working with the new Board, and I hope to see you in Hawaii!

Cheers,

Meghan

Image Description (Page 4)

A headshot of Meghann Lloyd (professional portrait, neutral background).

NAFAPA ELECTION- POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

President-Elect

The President-Elect is elected for six-year period (two-year terms as President-Elect, President, and Past President). They assist the President with NAFAPA business while preparing for their term as president. The President-Elect supports the president in forming committees, planning for the future of NAFAPA, and facilitating elections for the next NAFAPA board.

Treasurer

The treasurer is responsible for keeping financial records, tracking membership and conference registration, and maintaining and filing 501(c)(3) paperwork. The treasurer provides financial updates at NAFAPA Board meetings and the NAFAPA business meeting

Secretary

The NAFAPA Secretary coordinates communications, logs meeting minutes, and maintains records for NAFAPA. This includes overseeing email and social media accounts, analyzing membership trends, and evaluating public outreach. The Secretary works closely with the NAFAPA Board, Members at Large, and conference hosting committees to ensure timely and consistent messaging about NAFAPA activities.

Representative to Affiliate Organization

The Representative to Affiliate Organizations is the formal liaison for NAFAPA and affiliated organizations (i.e., IFAPA). The position strengthens collaboration, communication, and engagement between NAFAPA and external bodies, while ensuring that NAFAPA is represented at key affiliate and professional meetings. The President-Elect is elected for six-year period (two-year terms as President-Elect, President, and Past President). They assist the President with NAFAPA business while preparing for their term as president. The President-Elect supports the president in forming committees, planning for the future of NAFAPA, and facilitating elections for the next NAFAPA board.

***These are current board members, please reach out if you have questions. Email addresses are on the [NAFAPA webpage](#).**

Image Descriptions (Page 5)

- Four headshots of current board members:
 - Andrew Pitchford
 - Laurie Malone
 - Franziska Loetzner
 - Kyle Pushkarenko
- Each appears in a professional portrait format

NAFAPA election- Members at large

Members at Large (4 Positions):

Members at Large support the NAFAPA Board with student engagement and communications. Over the past two years, members at large helped NAFAPA rebrand with an emphasizing accessible content. We developed a webinar series to provide professional development to students and professionals. In addition, Members at Large work closely with the President and Secretary to complete these tasks.

Webmaster

This role is responsible for website management and plays a critical role in maintaining NAFAPA's online presence. Some responsibilities include formatting the website, providing content updates, integrating newsletters into the website, promoting upcoming events, and ensuring the webpage is mobile accessible. Previous Web design experience is preferred for this position.

Social Media Manager

This role is responsible for NAFAPA social media platforms to disseminate key updates and promote member engagement. The social media manager maintains NAFAPA's LinkedIn and Instagram profiles.

Newsletter Editor(s)

The newsletter editors brainstorm content, connect with potential authors, and format the newsletter. The editors create text-only copies that are attached to the website and distributed to members, too. Newsletter editors should be proficient in using pdf related software (Adobe or Canva).

*These are current members at large, please reach out if you have questions. Email addresses are on the [NAFAPA Webpage](#).

Image Descriptions (Page 6)

Four additional headshots of:

- Edward Ramirez
- Cora Firkin
- Jenna Smith
- Paul Warner
- Each appears in a professional portrait format.

NAFAPA ELECTIONS

Important Dates:

- June 15, 2026 – Self-nominations due
- July 10, 2026 – Voting begins
- July 20, 2026 – Voting ends
- July 24, 2026 – Board notified
- July 31, 2026 – Public announcement

Please reach out if you have questions about applying for a NAFAPA board position [NAFAPA Board Page](#).

Open Positions:

- President-Elect
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Representative to ([IFAPA](#))
- Members at Large (four positions)

We hope membership will **encourage trainees**, regardless of whether they will attend the conference in Hawaii, to consider serving on the board as a Member at Large.

Self-Nomination Process:

Self nominations should include: Name, affiliation (North American University or Organization), position for nomination, and up to 200 words outlining your interest and skills/experience for the position. We are asking our members to self-nominate for these positions by email to NAFAPA.boardofdirectors@gmail.com by **June 15, 2026**.

Image Description (Page 7)

NAFAPA Webinar updates- Early Career Development Series

Key Takeaways:

- Be yourself but professional
- Seek mentorship early
- Use your network
- Your work will find a home

Pitching on Paper

WITH DRS. MEGHANN LLOYD, EMILY BREMER, AND SAM LOGAN Fellowship and PhD deadlines come quickly, and participants learned practical strategies for writing strong one-page statements for fellowships, PhD programs, and postdoc applications. [CLICK HERE TO WATCH.](#)

JUMPING INTO THE JOB MARKET

WITH DRS. MEGAN MACDONALD, NANCY SPENCER, JK YUN, AND LINDSAY NOWLAND

BE YOURSELF BUT STILL BE PROFESSIONAL SEEK MENTORSHIP EARLY We explored academic and industry jobs with a panel of professionals who had served on search committees, written interview questions, or been recently hired, offering insights on how to land the job you want. [CLICK HERE TO WATCH.](#)

DODGING THE DESK REJECT

WITH DRS. JUSTIN HAEGELE , MARGARET TURK, AND SAMUEL HODGE
Learn what drives early manuscript decisions from a panel of executive editors, associate editors, and journal board members, gaining insight into what journals look for when a submission first arrives. [CLICK HERE TO WATCH.](#)

Image Description (Page 8)

- A computer monitor displaying “NAFAPA Early Career Development Series Now Available.”
- Graphic layout with highlighted session titles.

Farewell from the editors

As our time as NAFAPA members at large comes to an end, we would like to thank the NAFAPA community for the opportunity to serve as newsletter editors over the past two years.

In addition to editing the newsletter, we especially valued supporting the NAFAPA rebrand, developing the early career webinar series, learning from the NAFAPA board, and connecting with NAFAPA members. These have been rewarding experiences that provided us with key insight into what it takes to run a successful international organization like NAFAPA

We would like to especially thank Meghann, Franzi, Cora, and Jenna who participated in many meetings and brainstorming sessions. Their ideas, innovation, tech-savviness, attention to detail, and supportive feedback helped develop a unified message for NAFAPA communications over the past couple of years. We would also like to thank the rest of the NAFAPA board for their mentorship and efforts responding to (most of) our messages requesting content, proofreading, or panel service. As we reflect on our time as editors, we leave feeling proud with our contributions to the NAFAPA newsletter and communications, yet excited to see how the newsletter develops with new editors. Thank you for reading over the past two years!

Warm Regards,
Paul & Edward

Image Descriptions (Page 9)

Two professional headshots: of Paul Warner & Edward Ramirez

Visit the NAFAPA webpage for the most up to date information: www.NAFAPA.org

LinkedIn: [@nafapa](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nafapa) | Instagram: [@nafapaorg](https://www.instagram.com/nafapaorg)