



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
WEST O'AHU

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY FOR UH WEST O'AHU THIS SUNDAY, 4 P.M., HAWAII THEATRE**

**PEARL CITY** --- This Sunday, May 17, is a special day for 91 UH West O'ahu graduates and one honorary doctorate recipient who will receive their degrees and certificates during commencement ceremonies at the beautifully historic Hawaii Theatre in downtown Honolulu.

Of the UH West O'ahu graduates, 40 will receive their baccalaureate in Business Administration, 16 in Humanities, 23 in Public Administration and 47 in Social Sciences. Graduates will also receive certificates in various programs including Applied Forensic Anthropology, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Healthcare Administration and Substance Abuse and Addictions Studies. An honorary doctor of humane letters will be conferred during the ceremony.

University of Hawaii Board of Regents Chairman Allan Landon is scheduled to speak while Akira LeBlanc, one of this Sunday's graduates, will speak on behalf of the graduating class. With a 3.96 GPA, LeBlanc is an active member of the UH West O'ahu Humanities Club and a tutor at Leilehua High School as well as the UH West O'ahu Writing and Learning Center where she provides guidance to fellow classmates. A New Orleans native, she is a mother of two sons, Chris and Josh, and the proud wife of Lemuel LeBlanc, a soldier in the U.S. Army currently deployed overseas in Iraq. Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Humanities with a concentration in English, LeBlanc plans to teach English at the high school and college levels following graduation.

Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. and the ceremony will begin promptly at 4 p.m. Graduates are expected to greet friends and family members immediately after the ceremony at Sun Yat Sen Park makai of the theater at approximately 5:15 p.m. No strollers, tripods or balloons are allowed inside the theater. Parking is available in nearby municipal lots at a rate of three to five dollars for the entire day.

The commencement ceremony will be streamed live on the UH West O'ahu website at [www.uhwo.hawaii.edu/commencement](http://www.uhwo.hawaii.edu/commencement).

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UH West O'ahu became a four-year, comprehensive university when it served its first class of freshmen in fall 2007. The University offers quality education, small classes and personalized attention at convenient locations. UH West O'ahu held a ground blessing ceremony in January in anticipation of the start of construction for a state-of-the-art, new campus in the City of Kapolei. For more information, visit [uhwo.hawaii.edu](http://uhwo.hawaii.edu), [twitter.com/uhwestoahu](https://twitter.com/uhwestoahu) or call 454-4700 or toll-free (866) 299-8656.