

Kelli K.K. Acopan

Kelli Acopan is a graduate of 'Iolani School and the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, having graduated summa cum laude with her bachelor of arts in history this past December. She has plans to continue to a graduate degree in history, also at Mānoa, focusing on gendered social history in the United States. She is also a wife and mother to three school-aged children.

Prior to attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, she received her associate of arts in liberal arts at Windward Community College, where she served for 2 years as the president of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Windward Community College (ASUH-WCC). During her term, Acopan served on various campus and system-wide committees, actively submitting legislative testimony, and collaborating with community organizations such as the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club and the Kāneohe Neighborhood Board in assuring that the student voice was heard on policy and decisions from both the UH System and surrounding community. She also served as the Vice Chair of the University of Hawai'i Student Caucus (UHSC), filling in as the ranking executive member when Chairperson was unable to serve. In her executive capacity in both organizations, she has focused on student advocacy and involvement on issues both campus and system-wide, championing issues like student engagement, Open Education Resources, and administrative transparency.

Acopan continues to support student success through academic tutoring and outreach for students aged K-12 and beyond as well as teaching an after-school STEM program to elementary school students. In the near future, she hopes to expand her resume to include teaching and mentoring students in local DOE schools and in community adult education programs.

Acopan is a member of the Alpha Lambda Theta Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society (PTK) at Windward Community College, and at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the Alpha Beta Epsilon Chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society (PAT) and the 130th Chapter of the Golden Key International Honor Society.

In her spare time, Acopan enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, baking, and reading. She is also an avid crafter, something that has translated into a local small business retailing and teaching papercrafting, scrapbooking, and cardmaking with a focus on capturing stories and celebrating everyday moments creatively while having fun. Her work has appeared on local crafting shows like the Joy of Crafting and in international online magazines. She also designs for multiple companies and manufacturers in the papercrafting industry.