Kainoa Nishida

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EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine (UCI) — Expected December 2026
B.S. Computer Science — Minor in Mathematics — *GPA: 3.95*

- **Coursework**: Algorithms, Data Structures, Databases, Machine Learning, Neural Networks, Probabilistic Learning, Graph Algorithms, Game Theory, Probability, Advanced Linear Algebra, Discrete Mathematics
- **Awards**: ICS Honors (2024), Summer Research Scholarship (2025), National Merit Finalist (2022), Phi Beta Kappa Book Award (2023), Dean's List (All Quarters), UC Regent's Scholar (All Quarters)

SKILLS

Languages & Frameworks: Python, C++, C, Java, JavaScript, TypeScript, HTML/CSS, Bash, React.js, Next.js, Node.js, Express.js, Django
Tools: Git/GitHub, Figma, Linux/Unix, Docker, DigitalOcean, Firebase, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, Kubernetes, AWS, Render, Splunk, ServiceNow
Data Science & Machine Learning: SQL, NumPy, Pandas, Seaborn, Matplotlib, scikit-learn, PyTorch

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Amazon — Bellevue, WA
Software Development Engineer Intern - FES Glacier — *July 2025 – September 2025*

- Designed and built a Lambda-driven workflow automator for an internal change-management tool using an AWS Bedrock multi-agent system, backed by an S3-based rolling-buffer ingestion pipeline.
- Drove a $\sim$**80%** reduction in high-severity incidents during beta; projected to save **72,000+** engineer-hours/year ($\sim$**18** hours/request $\times$ $\sim$**4,000** requests) with metrics, alerts, and documentation owned end-to-end.

Zhang Laboratory — Irvine, CA
Machine Learning Research Assistant — *January 2025 – Present*

- Packaged research code as a PyPI CLI (Tyro), enabling **50+** lab members to run standardized training/evaluation with minimal setup friction using **Slurm** scheduler.
- Prototype VAE–ODE pipelines for RNA velocity and run distillation experiments on DNA foundation models to accelerate inference while preserving accuracy.

Commit the Change — Irvine, CA
Software Engineer — *November 2022 – June 2025*

- Delivered production software for **3** nonprofits (Get Inspired, Feeding Pets of the Homeless, Colette's Children's Home), supporting **700+** staff and volunteers.
- Developed backend routes, database schema, and automated triggers in MySQL to streamline nonprofit logistics and reduce manual data entry.

Irvine Spatial Neuroscience Laboratory — Irvine, CA
Software Engineer — *June 2024 – June 2025*

- Led a migration from ShadCN to Chakra UI, unifying design tokens and theming, unlocking richer components, and enabling faster feature iterations with full parity.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Commit the Change — Irvine, CA
Technical Lead and Education Director — *August 2023 – June 2025*

- Led a cross-functional team of **12** developers and **5** designers to take projects from requirements and design through launch and iteration.
- Ran professional development workshops for **70+** developers, covering industry practices and technical growth.
- Organized and facilitated **100+** mock interviews and mentoring sessions, providing individualized feedback and career guidance.

Donald Bren School of ICS — Irvine, CA
Learning Assistant, CS 161: Design & Analysis of Algorithms — *Sept 2025 – Present*

- Supported **216** students through weekly office hours and 1:1 guidance; clarified proofs, runtime and memory complexity, and algorithm design patterns.

PROJECTS

UCLA Ranked – Personal — *Typescript · React · Express · Firebase · PostgreSQL · Python · Selenium · BS4 · AWS*

- Launched a peer-driven UCLA ranking platform, reaching **100+** users and accelerating on-campus profile discovery and recognition.
- Designed and implemented an Elo-based dynamic voting system to produce fair, skill-weighted rankings from user submissions.
- Built a Python (Selenium + BeautifulSoup) LinkedIn scraper that normalizes profiles into a PostgreSQL backend in $\sim$**10 seconds**.

Sustainably – Caltech Hackathon — *React · Node.js/Express · Chakra UI · Python (ML) · REST APIs*

- Built a search engine that surfaces clothing from eco-friendly companies by training a deep-learning model to score "eco-friendliness" from multiple signals.
- Validated results against public ESG benchmarks and earned **2nd Place** at the Caltech Hackathon.

Fabflix – UCI — *Java · Tomcat · JDBC · MySQL · AWS · Kubernetes · Apache HTTPD · jQuery · reCAPTCHA*

- Developed a full-stack movie e-commerce platform on AWS with Kubernetes orchestration, MySQL replication, and Apache load balancing.
- Implemented secure login, cart checkout, full-text search with caching, and reCAPTCHA bot protection.

Tomo No Fomo – Personal — *React · Node.js/Express · PostgreSQL · Firebase*

- Created a match-based platform that uses probabilistic modeling to connect members by shared interests each week.
- Launched in 2024 for Tomo no Kai, supporting **300+** members.