



## Pono Pono Peace Initiative

The Pono Pono Peace Initiative is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered in Hawaii.

Our mission is to empower peacebuilding students by offering supplemental learning, internships, and career development opportunities tailored to the Asia-Pacific region. Our vision is to ensure that 80% of local peacebuilding students graduate with a clear path to graduate school or multiple job opportunities that value their unique training and skills.

Our Values are:

- **Student-Centric Approach:** We prioritize our students' needs and aspirations, ensuring that our programs and initiatives are tailored to their individual development and career goals.
- **Equity and Accessibility:** We are committed to creating an inclusive environment that removes barriers and provides equal opportunities for all peacebuilding students, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** We foster strong relationships with organizations, institutions, and industry leaders, both locally in Hawaii and across the Asia-Pacific and Oceania region, to expand the range of internships, training programs, and job opportunities available to our students.
- **Continuous Improvement:** We continuously evaluate and enhance our programs to ensure they remain relevant, effective, and aligned with the evolving needs of our students and the job market.
- **Ethical Integrity:** We uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct and professional integrity in all our dealings, serving as role models for our students and the community.

Our name comes from the Hawaiian word 'Pono' which means balance and righteousness. In Hawaiian when you put two words beside each other, their meaning is deepened or emphasized. Thus 'Pono Pono' extends Pono to a deeper level and reminds us that to have Pono Pono peace it is not enough to avoid conflict or do right; we need to do more to create peace! It is not enough to remove the weeds; we must plant the flowers and food of peace.

**Pono Pono is a call to be a positive influence in the world wherever we are.**

Pono's work was initially catalyzed by the vision of Naomi Pedersen, a Brigham Young University-Hawaii (BYUH) Intercultural Peacebuilding program student. Now an alumnus, Naomi saw an opportunity to increase the impact of peacebuilding. We operate independently from any university but work with peacebuilding students and alumni to improve the skills of peacebuilding students and connect them with opportunities in the field.

To this end, the Pono Pono Peace Initiative has undertaken a multifaceted approach to cultivating a thriving peacebuilding ecosystem:

- Developing collaborative projects with community partners, such as the Abrahamic Faith Conference hosted at BYU-Hawaii in the summer of 2023.
- Supporting students through internships, scholarships, and competitive opportunities to hone their peacebuilding skills and bring their ideas to life.
- Promoting peacebuilding strategies and solutions through podcasting, social media, and other outreach channels.
- Organizing workshops, seminars, and training programs for students, professionals, and the broader community to deepen understanding and application of peacebuilding principles and practices.
- Hosting peacebuilding conferences and symposiums that provide a platform for students and alumni to present their research, share insights, and engage with experts in the field.

Through these concerted efforts, the Pono Pono Peace Initiative strives to create a supportive ecosystem that nurtures student growth and catalyzes impactful peacebuilding initiatives, both locally and globally.

We recognize that Peacebuilding comes in many different shapes and sizes.

If you would like to get involved with the Pono Pono Peace Initiative and contribute to the flourishing of peacebuilding in the Asia-Pacific region, we would love to [connect with you](#).

Together, we can cultivate a more just, harmonious, and sustainable future.

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## Meet Our Board



Member

Designated Position



Steve Pedersen

Treasurer



Steve Pedersen

Treasurer

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