

**MARCH  
2026**

**PROGRAM &  
AGENDA**



**ASPIRE TO BE  
POLYSTRONG  
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

//////////////////// *2026* //////////////////////

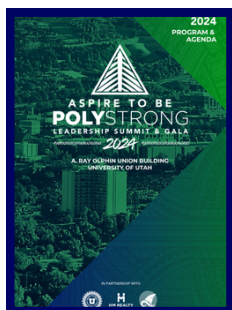
**UTAH CULTURAL  
CELEBRATION CENTER**



**POLYSTRONG.ORG**

For a digital version of  
the summit program, visit:

[HTTPS://WWW.POLYSTRONG.ORG/SUMITPROGRAM2026](https://www.polystrong.org/sumitprogram2026)





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LEADERSHIP SUMMIT  
2026



# WELCOME

## PolyStrong Leadership Summit - 2026

PolyStrong Leadership Foundation was established in 2017 to instill and empower the next generation of Pacific Islanders with a new vision of who they are, the value of their culture, and the innate capacity they possess to become leaders in today's global industries and society.

The Leadership Summit is our primary education and career event that features a panel discussion with speakers from various industries. Attendees also participate in engaging workshops with our panel of professionals to learn firsthand about career planning and development. Through the workshops, they create key networking relationships with their presenters that provide them with invaluable mentorships and internships for their future professional pursuits.

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# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- 09:30 am** Check-in
- 10:00 am** Introduction and Keynote
- 10:30 am** Workshop #1
- 11:05 am** Workshop #2
- 11:40 am** Lunch
- 12:30 am** Workshop #3
- 1:10 pm** Workshop #4 (EVERYONE,  
GRAND HALL)
- 1:30 pm** Summit concluded



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# WORKSHOPS

ROOM	WORKSHOP	HOST
Grand Hall	Entrepreneurship	Alex Kuresa
201/202	Health Science	Namealoha Hekekia
204	Law Enforcement	Sete Aula'i
205	Music Industry	Faith Tusieseina
Plaza Suite C	Law	Janise Macanas
Plaza Suite D	Digital Marketing	William Racule
Plaza Suite E	Trade School	Emalee Brown
Grand Hall (Workshop 4 ONLY, Everyone)	Professional Development	Kahili Soon

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

GRAND HALL



## TAMARA VAIFANUA

KSL NEWS  
MORNING ANCHOR



CONNECT  
WITH  
TAMARA ON  
LINKEDIN

Tamara Vaifanua is morning anchor for KSL News in Salt Lake City, Utah, bringing more than 25 years of experience telling stories that matter. Born in Southern California and raised in Taylorsville by proud Samoan parents, she made history as

the first TV news anchor of Samoan heritage in Utah. A graduate of Southern Utah University, Tamara built her career from small-town newsrooms to major national and international assignments. She is a two-time Emmy Award winner, most recently recognized for her documentary on the Maui wildfires.

Throughout her career, Tamara has been committed to uplifting underrepresented voices — including Pacific Islander communities, Indigenous women, and students striving to overcome systemic challenges. Her work reflects a deep belief in the power of storytelling and the importance of representation in shaping what young people believe is possible.



# WORKSHOPS

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GRAND HALL


Alex Kuresa is the founder of Woodn Grail, a collegiate streetwear brand known for its unique and highly detailed headwear designs. A former college football player at BYU and Portland State, Alex started the brand alongside his wife, Madison, turning a creative hobby into a fast growing business.

Together they have built Woodn Grail into a multi million dollar brand working with universities, athletes, and fans across the country. Through creative design, storytelling, and social media marketing, Alex has grown the company into one of the fastest growing brands in its space.

Alex is passionate about entrepreneurship, creativity, and helping young people see that their background, culture, and personal story can become powerful tools in building something meaningful.



**ALEX  
KURESA**

-  [ALEX KURESA](#)
-  [@WOODNGRAIL](#)
-  [WOODNGRAIL.COM](#)

## HEALTH SCIENCES

201/202

Dr. Namealoha Hekekia was born and raised in Cedar City, Utah. After high school she went back to her roots and attended Brigham Young University-Hawaii where she double majored in Exercise and Sports Science and Hawaiian Studies. While there, she had the opportunity to sail with Iosepa and Makali'i. She attended University of Utah School of Medicine and pursued family medicine and trained at the Utah Valley Family Medicine Residency Program. After residency, she returned to Hawaii and practiced at several rural community health centers and clinics and enjoyed serving the underrepresented and underserved. Since moving back to Utah, Dr. Hekekia has continued to work with underserved and underrepresented populations and enjoys teaching and inspiring future physicians. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, paddleboarding, playing piano and ukulele, hula, and getting to the beach as much as living in Utah will allow.



**NAMEALOHA  
HEKEKIA**

# WORKSHOPS

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

204

Sete Aula'i is a Captain in the investigations division at the Utah Attorney General's Office, overseeing the AG evidence department and the Utah Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. He began his career in 2010 with the West Valley City Police Department, serving in various roles including patrol officer, detective, and SWAT Operator. Sete joined the Utah Attorney General's Office in 2016 as a Special Agent in the ICAC unit, becoming Supervisory Special Agent in 2021 and Captain in April 2023. Under his leadership, the Utah ICAC Task Force has grown to 96 affiliate agencies and over 200 investigators, recognized for its proactive approach in combating child sexual abuse material (CSAM). Sete holds a Bachelor's in Sociology and a Master's in Public Administration from Brigham Young University and has received multiple accolades, including ICAC Investigator of the Year and the FBI LEEDA Trilogy award. He lives in Saratoga Springs, Utah, with his wife and three children.



**SETE  
AULA'I**

 [SETE AULA'I](#)

Mark Veatupu is the patrol operations Lieutenant at the University of Utah Police Department, overseeing law enforcement interactions within the University of Utah Healthcare system. He is part of the Behavioral Intervention Team and the Threat Assessment Management Team, and serves as a BOWMAC instructor for critical incident response.

Mark began his career in 2005 as a youth counselor and entered law enforcement in 2007 with the West Valley City Police Department, where he organized youth groups. He later worked for the Unified Police Department and has held various positions in law enforcement, including patrol officer, detective, SWAT, and training coordinator. He is also involved with multiple professional associations and serves as an instructor for various law enforcement training programs.



**MARK  
VEATUPU**

Lieutenant Vaifoa "Vai" Lealaitafea Jr. is the supervisor of the Special Operations Bureau at the Park City Police Department, with over 20 years of law enforcement experience. He manages security for numerous special events, including the Sundance Film Festival, and oversees several critical departments such as the Use of Force Review Board and SWAT Team. Vai is also a Defensive Tactics Instructor and recently joined the Terrorism Committee for the IACP. He holds a bachelor's in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology from Weber State University. In his free time, he enjoys family activities, church service, coaching youth sports, and training in Brazilian Jiu-jitsu. His parents are from Samoa.



**VAIFOA "VAI"  
LEALAITAFEA JR.**

 [VAIFOA LEALAITAFEA](#)

# WORKSHOPS

## MUSIC INDUSTRY

205

Faith Tusieseina is a strategic marketing and brand partnerships executive specializing in experiential marketing, celebrity collaborations, and large-scale sponsorship development across the music and entertainment industry. As Head of Sponsorships at LNE Presents, she leads brand partnerships across the company's shows and festival portfolio, creating opportunities for brands to engage with audiences through live cultural moments.

She previously built partnerships at Live Nation and Universal Music Group, working with music artists and Fortune 500 brands to develop innovative campaigns, endorsements, and experiential activations that drive both revenue and cultural relevance.



**FAITH  
TUSIESEINA**



[FAITH TUSIESEINA](#)

## LAW

PLAZA SUITE C

Janise K. Macanas is an attorney at Dentons in Salt Lake City, specializing in Civil Rights Litigation, Government Entity Defense, and Criminal Defense. With extensive experience, she has successfully managed thousands of criminal cases in Utah. Previously, she was the Director of Special Prosecutions at the Utah Attorney General's Office for over 20 years, focusing on serious cases such as death penalty and white-collar crimes. Janise interned as a judicial clerk and has significant volunteer experience in the legal community. Originally from Hawaii, she is recognized as a leader among peers and has qualifications in Social Work, Counseling, Clinical Psychology, and Federal Employment Law.



**JANISE  
MACANAS**



[JANISE MACANAS](#)



[DENTONS](#)



# WORKSHOPS

## DIGITAL MARKETING

### PLAZA SUITE D

William Racule is a Fijian-born designer who grew up in Tonga and attended Liahona High School before continuing his education at Brigham Young University-Hawaii in La'ie, where he earned a degree in 2D Art with a minor in Instructional Design. Throughout his career, William has built brands and visual identities for well-known organizations including Seven Brothers Burgers and the Utah Warriors professional rugby team, where he served as Creative Director and led the development and management of the team's brand. He has also helped grow the digital presence of community organizations such as Polynesian Days Utah, Polystrong, and Utah Youth Rugby. Today, William works as a Senior Product Designer at Consensus, where he focuses on designing intuitive software experiences that help organizations communicate and present complex information more effectively.



**WILLIAM  
RACULE**



[WILLIAM RACULE](#)

## TRADE SCHOOL

### PLAZA SUITE E

Emalee has spent her entire teaching and administrative career working in and supporting Career and Technical Education. She currently works as the CTE Coordinator at Canyons Technical Education Center in Sandy, UT, where high school students can develop professional and industry-specific skills. She enjoys being a part of guiding students into their future education and careers.



**EMALEE  
BROWN**

**GET IN TOUCH**



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