

## 2023 WĀHINE OF HAWAI‘I



*Ixchel López*

**Theatre Arts Teacher**

La Pietra – Hawai‘i School for Girls



**BEFORE SHE JOINED LA PIETRA**, Ixchel López spent more than 10 years honing her craft in the performing arts. Beyond her career as a professional actor working both locally and on the mainland, she has a background as a traveling teaching artist, visiting different schools, academies and conservatories throughout the years, and currently writes and produces for the Hawai‘i Comedy Festival and Improv Hawai‘i Paper Sketch Comedy Shows.

Now, as a newcomer teaching her first year at the all-girls school, López is using her craft to nurture young women to lead a life of purpose. “I’m passionate about teaching life skills through stage skills,” says López, who helps her students learn empathy, build confidence and discover their voices through theater, musical theater and Page to Stage classes. Off the stage, she connects with students as an adviser for the student council and drama club. She says she wanted to teach at a school where she could make a difference with each of her students. So, to her, a small school like La Pietra was the perfect choice. “I feel like I know every single one of my students well,” she says. “That’s something I’ve never experienced with typical class sizes.”

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*Grace Kane*

**Senior, Class of 2023**

La Pietra – Hawai‘i School for Girls



**GRACE KANE IS THE KIND OF WELL-ROUNDED**, driven student that any school would be proud of. Since joining La Pietra in sixth grade, she’s been a part of Science Olympiad, the Student Ambassador Program and National Honor Society. Now a senior, Kane serves as the student council president, chess club leader and co-captain of the varsity volleyball team. For her, La Pietra has been a strong guiding force both in and out of the classroom. “I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in eighth grade. La Pietra helped me adapt to my condition through sports,” says Kane, who has been on the volleyball and basketball teams since she was a freshman. This year, under her leadership, the varsity volleyball team went on to win the ILH Div. III championship, with Kane earning the title of ILH Div. III Girls’ Volleyball Player of the Year.

Guiding young women to lead a life of purpose is what La Pietra’s all about. There, students are encouraged to learn not just about the world around them, but about themselves as well. “I’ve had the opportunity to explore many passions and interests,” says Kane, who has found her purpose as a future educator, supporting young minds just as she was supported during her years there. “I hope to pay it forward, to teach low-income families and make a difference.”

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