

Nathan M. Murata, Ph.D.

Nathan M. Murata was born and raised in Palolo Valley on the island of O‘ahu. Having attended Palolo Elementary until grade 6, he matriculated at Saint Patrick School in Kaimuki and eventually graduated from Saint Louis High School. He enrolled in the College of Education, University of Hawai‘i and completed a Bachelor of Education degree in Secondary Education, Physical Education, Master of Education, Secondary Education and Special Education credentials. Upon his graduation, Murata assumed a teaching/coaching position and eventually was appointed Athletics Director at St. Louis School. He later left St. Louis and taught Adapted Physical Education as a resource teacher in the Honolulu District Office, State Department of Education.

Murata completed his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University and joined the faculty at Chaminade University to start its special education program. He subsequently left Chaminade to pursue a faculty position at the University of Toledo, Ohio. His areas of specialization were in adapted physical education and physical education pedagogy; however he has taught other areas including general special education, transition, applied behavior analysis, and research methods. Murata was later hired as an Assistant Professor in the Kinesiology and Leisure Science department (later named Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science [KRS]), College of Education. Since his hiring, he has coordinated the physical education teacher education program, created the Pre/K-12 physical education teaching track for majors, graduate adapted physical activity program, completed the first folio report for NCATE accreditation, started the on-campus children motor clinic and worked with graduate students interested in physical education or adapted physical education. In addition to serving his second tour of duty as chair and graduate chair for the KRS, Murata served as the Interim Associate Dean for the College of Education (2010-2012).

In addition to his two co-authored textbooks, publications, presentations and workshops, Murata has been instrumental in obtaining well over \$2.5 million in U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Programs training grants, and contracts worth \$1.2 million from the State of Hawai‘i, Department of Health to focus on the Hawai‘i Concussion Awareness & Management Program (HCAMP) in collaboration with the State of Hawai‘i Department of Education. Other sources of external fund raising comprise: Dr. Alvin and Monica Saake Foundation, MATSON Foundation and ALLSTATE Insurance. Several notable achievements include: seeing his undergraduate and graduate students become highly respected educators and individuals locally and nationally; providing more than 90 majors with a Master of Science degree in Adapted Physical Activity; influencing concussion awareness and education statewide; and advocating for quality physical activity for individuals with special needs of all ages. With regard to concussion management protocol statewide, he was influential in securing State of Hawai‘i legislative funding for continuing concussion awareness and education statewide since 2016.

Murata continues to be active in his professional organizations as a journal reviewer, past board member for regional and local professional associations, and community service. With regard to the latter, he serves as School Community Council Chair for Liholiho Elementary School near his home, and assisted with OCEANFEST with the Michael Bennett Foundation. Murata believes community service and “paying it forward” has helped shape his character and disposition. Moreover, his continued belief on building and developing relationships with all individuals is vital to the overall success of his leadership skills.

When spare time permits, Murata enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, jogging and exercising. He has a 4th degree black belt in Judo and relishes his sports memorabilia collection he started years ago.