

# ALUMNI FEATURE

## JONI KURISU



Joni Kurisu, a February graduate of the Hawaii campus, wrote the following essay for Hawaii's graduation periodical, *Reflections*. Joni started taking graduate classes at Wayland in the Winter of 2010. She fought cancer throughout her educational journey and graduated in February 2015 with a Masters in Counseling. Congratulations, Joni!

*My educational journey at Wayland provided me with lessons that far exceeded my expectations. I gained wisdom from my professors who shared their professional*

*experiences. My fellow students and their various backgrounds made class discussions interesting and enriching. Through each course, I gained a depth of knowledge, with respect to achieving excellence as a mental health professional.*

*Along the way, I also learned the importance of self-care. My unexpected battle with ovarian cancer near the completion of my studies provided me with the opportunity to reflect upon my life. I am grateful to my husband and family who cared for and supported me in accomplishing my goal of obtaining my degree. My practical experience during internship with Dr. Donna Goodwin while in treatment and recovery provided me with invaluable experiences, allowing me to grow in numerous ways.*

*I am most thankful to God for comforting and strengthening me during times of weakness and giving me eyes to see all that I should be grateful for. My desire is to serve Him and others and live out my days with joy and gratitude for all He has brought into my life.*