

## 2024 WĀHINE OF HAWAII

## Jennifer Grems

**Head of School**

La Pietra – Hawai'i School for Girls

**HOW DO WE EMPOWER OUR NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN?**

As La Pietra's new Head of School, this is the question Jennifer Grems seeks to answer. And she has plenty of ideas.

Grems first joined La Pietra – Hawai'i School for Girls in 2020 as Dean of Academics and Faculty before stepping up to fill in as Interim Head of School in July of last year. Two months later, she made the move permanent and hasn't looked back since. In fact, with the school about to hit its milestone 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, her vision is set far on the horizon. "This is such an exciting time in the history of La Pietra," she says. The days of traditional education—filled with textbooks and students glued to desks—are coming to a close. It's time to rebuild the classroom, and La Pietra is ready for it. "We know that education has to change, and we have an amazing opportunity to embrace that path ahead."

So, what does the future of learning look like? At La Pietra, it looks like immersive experiences—exploring the Great Barrier Reef through virtual reality, studying abroad, and learning alongside industry experts in the field. La Pietra's approach is to transform the world into a dynamic classroom, leveraging technology to broaden global perspectives and understanding. Collaboration is central—fostering not only student to student interaction, but also reshaping education through collaborative efforts among teachers. "By allowing students to guide their learning based on their interests and preferences, education becomes more engaging, enjoyable, and purposeful," says Grems.

No matter how the classroom evolves, the Head of School says that the heart of La Pietra will always remain unchanged. Behind every decision is the same mission to empower young women. "We can't teach everything there is to know," says Grems. "But we can teach the skills. We can build confidence. We can grow passion. We want students to leave La Pietra feeling and believing that their time with us was transformative." A growth mindset—one that is driven by curiosity, challenges, and embracing the yet—is a powerful tool, and it's what La Pietra aims to nurture above all else.

"I really have the best job on the planet," says Grems. "When I'm driving to work and looking at the day ahead, I'm excited. I really love what I do." Being a part of La Pietra's impactful legacy has been nothing short of inspirational. And she's ready to carry that torch into the future.



**"We want students to leave La Pietra feeling and believing that their time with us has been transformative."**