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## Brad Klontz

**Degree/Major:** Psychology

**Class Year:** 1993

**Profession:** President -elect Hawaii Psychological Association, clinical psychologist, author

**Quote:**

A strong spiritual support is important to what I do.



**Bio:**

Psychologist Brad Klontz savors the beauty of the Hawaiian tropics he calls home. His career assisting others in the island of Kauai keeps Brad constantly busy, working in a profession he feels privileged to serve in.

Brad is a clinical psychologist, author, president-elect of the Hawaii Psychological Association and president of Coastal Clinics Inc., which provides psychological services to children and families through the Hawaii departments of Education and Health.

He is also co-author of the book *The Financial Wisdom of Ebenezer Scrooge: Five Principles to Transform Your Relationship with Money*, contributing mental health writer for *Kauai Business Report*, and a pioneer in the area of using psychology to help people struggling with money disorders.

Looking back at how he first became interested in psychology, Brad credits his first introductory course on the subject at Olivet with hooking him for life.

"When I started at Olivet, I was going to major in biology, but I took an introduction to psychology course and just loved it. I used psychology to heal and figure out things from my own childhood and I just knew this was the area for me," he explains.

Brad feels the challenging academic atmosphere and student-centered focus at Olivet gave him an edge in the field of psychology and in his writing career.

"There were a lot of academic demands at Olivet. A lot of writing was required that I received benefit from. The lifelong friends and small class sizes and relationships with professors were all important," he remembers.

After receiving a bachelor's degree from Olivet in psychology, Brad went on to earn a master's degree in counseling from South Dakota State University and a doctorate in psychology from Wright State University in Ohio.

He accepted a one year counseling internship in Honolulu, excited at the prospect of living in such an exotic place for a short time. When the year ended, the Michigan native decided to stay.

Through his counseling, Brad tries to instill three main objectives in each of his clients. He hopes to inspire others to discover their value and potential, help people recover a lost sense of self and help clients passionately pursue their dreams.

In working toward these ends, he continues to find meaning. "I think some of the most rewarding things I've done is working with kids in school dealing with abuse and abandonment," says Brad.

"To see them go from having nothing to live for to graduating from college and becoming a counselor themselves — well, at the end of my day, I never have to ask myself how I helped the universe."

In order to find strength to invest emotionally like he does, Brad holds tightly to his faith. "Christ is the ultimate example of a social worker. All the issues [my clients] deal with are meaning-of-life issues. Having a strong spiritual support is important to what I do," he shares.

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