

PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Kobayashi aims to send more Hawaii students to Georgetown

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BlackSand Capital CEO B.J. Kobayashi recently joined the Georgetown University board of regents and has plans to double the number of Hawaii students who attend his alma mater in Washington, D.C., through scholarships.

Kobayashi, who received a bachelor's degree in business and a law degree from Georgetown and is president of the Georgetown alumni club in Hawaii, was appointed to a three-year term last summer on the 105-member advisory board made up of parents and alumni. He noted that two other people at BlackSand Capital – Chief Compliance Officer Nicole Chang and Executive Vice President Bryan Li – are also Georgetown alumni.

Kobayashi said an average of about a dozen students from Hawaii attend Georgetown undergraduate and graduate programs each year and he wants “to double that,” adding that he has committed a substantial amount of money to the school's Georgetown Scholars Program. The program has provided scholarships for more than 1,600 Georgetown students, many of whom were the first in their families to attend college, since it was formed in 2004, according to its website.

“I can have a broader impact through



Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business is seen in this undated file photo. BlackSand Capital Chairman and CEO B.J. Kobayashi recently joined the Georgetown University board of regents and has plans to double the number of Hawaii students who attend his alma mater in Washington, D.C., through scholarships.

my giving,” told Pacific Business News. “I want more kids from Hawaii to attend Georgetown and I want them to be on scholarship.”

Kobayashi noted that his father, Bert A. Kobayashi Sr., served on the board of regents 25 years ago when his son was a student there.

“I'm super proud of this honor because my dad did this too and it's a chance for me to have a broader impact on the university than just my scholarship and club work,” B.J. Kobayashi told PBN.

Jeff Watanabe, founder of the Honolulu law firm Watanabe Ing, said in a statement that Kobayashi is a business leader who's contributing to Hawaii's “positioning on a global scale.” “His efforts advancing academic leadership and programmatic excellence at Georgetown are sure to be impactful and long-lasting,” he said in the statement.

Kobayashi founded BlackSand Capital with partner Ian MacNaughton nearly 10 years ago after leading his family's business, Kobayashi Group. Last month he took on the CEO role after MacNaughton decided to focus more time on his family's company, The MacNaughton Group.