



Chef Robin Abad

Chef Abad will collaborate with his alma mater, Farrington High School.

Robin Abad, born and raised in Kalihi on the island of Oahu, discovered his passion for becoming a chef during his time at Farrington High School. It was there that his food service teachers, Mrs. Laura Sato and Mrs. Linda Uyehara, planted the seed and nurtured his love for the culinary arts. Growing up in a family that frequently cooked at home and at gatherings, Robin always knew he wanted to lead, but it wasn't until he embraced cooking that his career path became clear.

He honed his skills through lifelong learning and competitions as a high school student, college student, and later as a working professional. After graduating from Kapiolani Community College with associate's degrees in culinary and pastry arts, Robin competed as part of the college's culinary teams, which served as steppingstones to his professional career.

Robin began cooking professionally as a teenager at Padovani's Restaurant and went on to work at esteemed establishments like the Four Seasons Maui, Grand Wailea Resort, and Halekulani Hotel, where he spent nine years refining his craft. His journey also included time at Alohilani Resort and stints abroad at notable locations such as La Rochelle in Tokyo, Tetsuya's in Sydney, and the Imperial Hotels in Japan.

In 2021, Robin co-founded Kiawe & Kabagis in Hawai'i, a catering company that offers local-style food with smoked meats and fish influenced by his Filipino heritage. He also took on a part-time teaching role in Waipahu High School's culinary program. His passion for mentoring the next generation of chefs continues alongside his chef consultation work, which led to his next venture.

Currently, Robin is living his dream as the Chef/Partner of Ali'i Fish Market in Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, a venture he is proud to have achieved alongside his loving wife Leilani and their four children—Brianna, Lucas, Ana Leila, and Aidan. Together, they live in a multi-generational Filipino household that includes his mother, mother-in-law, and his late father's memory. His brother and family also remain close, though they now reside in Las Vegas.