

work it

words Courtney Takabayashi

photos Lauren Gould

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” It’s a question we’ve all answered.

But what happens when reality doesn’t live up to your childhood dreams? What do you do when the career you worked so hard to achieve is taken away or turns out to be disappointing?

Is it possible to give up a good job and a stable income to reach for a new career and a happy ending? If you ask former attorney Junie Hayashi or former marketing specialist Lisa Bright, the answer is yes.



Against the law

Junie Hayashi knew that she wanted to make her parents happy. “My mother expected me to become a doctor or a lawyer. I chose law.” After earning an MBA and a law degree, Hayashi practiced law for nearly 17 years. “Dealing with contentious people could be challenging, but I liked providing advice and counsel to help keep my clients out of trouble.”

After almost 12 years at the Hawai’i Department of the Attorney General, Hayashi realized she wasn’t happy. “I’d wake up every morning and do a sort of wellness check. I knew it was time for a change when I found myself hoping for a reason to stay home.” She loved her co-workers but found that the constant conflict created by the demands of the job were taking a toll.



Junie Hayashi