



ASHLEY MARIKO JOHNSON'S FUTURE IS SO BRIGHT, she decided to make shades. The 35-year-old Punahou alum is the creator of Mohala (which means to shine and be free in Hawaiian) Eyewear, a sunglasses brand that is designed to make women feel great, confident and feminine. "I learned that most eyewear companies who produce women's sunglasses are operated by men, which dilutes the branding," says Johnson. "For our product, I worked with a female German designer who has been creating eyewear—for Gucci, Prada and Tom Ford—for over 20 years." Each high-quality, chic pair comes with hypoallergenic frames, is made with nontoxic renewable sources, and provides 100 percent protection against UVA and UVB rays. Johnson hasn't lost sight of another reason she created the brand—to give back. "Room to Read is a nonprofit doing incredible work to change the educational future for girls in Africa and Asia. For every pair we sell, one week of school is donated to the nonprofit," explains Johnson. She credits Mohala for teaching her the power of connecting with people—and shining a spotlight on women and education.