



Ka Wai Ola

NEWS FOR THE LĀHUI

kawaiola.news

Who Will Decide Our Future?

PAGES 16-17

VOTE! CANDIDATES
PROVIDE ANSWERS
TO KA WAI OLA SURVEY *inside!*

With so much at stake in our pae 'āina and beyond, this may be the most important election in any of our lifetimes. Our votes will help to decide our collective future for generations. The next generation of lāhui leaders share the hopeful future they envision and look to today's voters to elect leaders who will uplift our lāhui. - Cover Art: Michael Wedermeyer

MARZO FOR MAYOR

TOP PRIORITIES

COVID-19 Smart Policies And Reopening The Economy:

Improve Testing

- Early warning system monitoring sewage
- Use quicker, economical tests more often

Move Business Outdoors

- Temporary road closures for commerce
- Outdoor classrooms where possible

Indoors: Improve ventilation utilizing quality, low cost filters

Boost existing and new business

- Streamline permitting process
- Push tech and health sectors
- Agriculture, food, novel crops like hemp

Manage the County Budget:

Boost income with federal & state grants

Fund balance rollover within departments

Eliminate unnecessary spending

Suspend new hires except for health & safety divisions

Better Communication between Government and People:

Connect with every district, listen to the people

Modernize and improve Civil Defense

Advocate for Hawaii County at the State level

Voice Of The People

A Vote For Values & Local Community

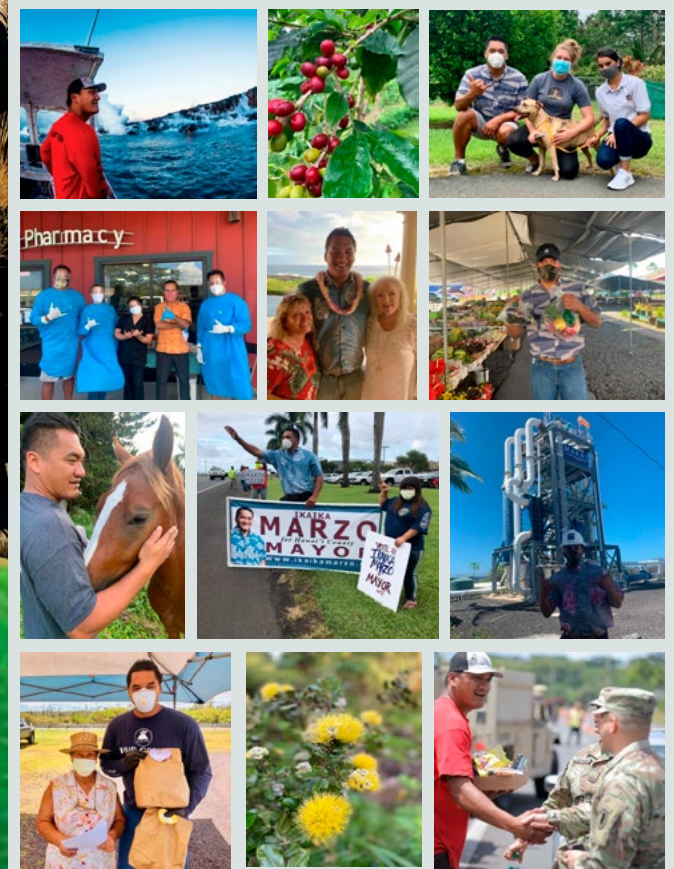
Let's Correct Our Course Together - It Starts With Us



**MARZO
FOR
MAYOR**

Of Hawai'i County
"A caring voice for the people"

"Refer to our past traditions and apply those concepts and values to present and future issues." -Ikaika Marzo



Pūpūkahī i Holomua - Unite To Move Forward



ikaikamarzo.org

Paid For By Marzo 4 Mayor

I MANA KA LEO; OUR VOICES HAVE POWER

leo (nvt. Voice, tone, tune, melody, sound, command, advice, syllable, plea, verbal message; to speak, make a sound)

Aloha mai kākou,

Being the youngest of six children, and almost 20 years younger than the firstborn, I learned the importance and necessity of my voice early on. In our large family and in our small Kohala town, I had to speak up or I would not be heard. As I got older, I was drawn to leadership. I was active in student government and my senior year I was voted Kohala High School's student body president. In that role I was able to use my voice to represent the school at a district and state level; and convey concerns of my fellow students to our teachers, administrators, parents and community. Through these foundational experiences, and in my professional career, I have learned how critically important it is to stand up – to illuminate the unseen and amplify the unheard.

The beloved children's book, *The Lorax*, written by Dr. Seuss in the 1970s, is a story about taking care of our environment. In the story, the Lorax speaks on behalf of the trees and against their destruction saying, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

The story makes an important point - not caring enough about what is happening in our world to speak out or to do anything about it really isn't an option. Whether through advocacy for social or environmental issues, or through our individual vote on election day, our voices help to shape the world that our keiki and mo'opuna will inherit. Without caring enough to put our voices into action through our civic engagement and through our vote, others will decide the future for our keiki and mo'opuna.

Native Americans speak of the "seventh generation." The idea applies to decision-making and the concept is to think seven generations ahead and to carefully consider whether the impact of the decisions you make today will

benefit or harm 'ohana born 140 years in the future.

How we use our vote, and who we decide to vote for, matters.

There are so many critical issues at stake in the 2020 elections here in our pae 'āina, and in the larger world beyond our shores. Voting is a serious kuleana and an educated, informed lāhui is essential. In this issue of *Ka Wai Ola*, we share the results of candidate surveys for key races in advance of the general election on November 3 to help educate and inform our readers.

Our cover story this month features the voices of some of our 'ōpio, the upcoming generation of lāhui leaders. And we hear from 'ōiwi who have experienced COVID-19 and who hope that, by speaking out, their experiences will help dispel the misconceptions and hilahila associated with this disease. We also welcome a new voice to *Ka Wai Ola* – a new recurring column by Lili'uokalani Trust.

I mana ka leo; our voices have power. Let us use them to uplift, protect and preserve our 'āina, mo'omeheu and 'ohana. ■



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Ka Pouhana/Chief Executive Officer



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EA | GOVERNANCE

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A small nonprofit is making a big impact in Hāmākua. Meet huiMAU.

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BY PUANANI FERNANDEZ-AKAMINE

In an effort to dispel misinformation, four 'ōiwi share their personal experiences with COVID-19.

Get Ready to Vote!

By Aliantha Lim, OHA Community Outreach Advocate

Hawai'i set records in August's primary elections with a historic voter turnout. The upcoming general election on November 3 is even more critical. It will determine the next president of the United States. New mayors will be elected for O'ahu and Hawai'i, and the ballot also includes races for OHA trustees, U.S. Congress and county prosecutors.

To learn where the candidates who have advanced to the general election stand on issues important to Native Hawaiians, check out *Ka Wai Ola's* latest round of candidate survey responses (see pages 6-11). Learn more about the candidates and their vision for the future; become an educated and informed voter.

Your Vote Counts!

We've all asked ourselves, does my vote really matter? Yes, friends, it does. In the August primaries Rep. Lynn DeCoite beat challenger Walter Ritte by just 91 votes (East Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i). There were 313 blank votes, which, if used, could have changed the outcome. Do you still think your vote doesn't matter?



the status of your ballot online to make sure it was counted. To register to vote, update your existing voter registration, or confirm your registration address, please visit www.olvr.hawaii.gov by October 5 to ensure you receive your ballot in time.

November 3 is a Holiday!

Election Day is a state holiday and it's the final day to submit your ballot and have your vote counted in the 2020 general elections. Registered voters must submit their com-

Hawai'i Votes by Mail!

By now you know that Hawai'i votes by mail, and all registered voters will automatically receive their ballot in the mail 18 days prior to the election. Hawai'i's vote by mail is convenient, safe, and secure. You can even monitor

pleted ballots by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3. Because of delays with the postal system, everyone is encouraged to vote as soon as they get their ballots in mid-October and mail them back right away.

Remember to complete your ballot, sign it and place it in the provided secret sleeve before mailing. Ballots should be placed in the mail no later than October 28 (but earlier is better!). For more information please visit www.oha.org/vote

If you prefer to drop off your completed ballot in person, Voter Service Centers and/or ballot dropboxes are located on all major islands except for Ni'ihau, and in most communities. Voter Service Centers will be open beginning October 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and on November 3 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ballot dropboxes will be available beginning Oct. 14, and most will be accessible 24/7. The last pickup from dropboxes statewide will be at 7:00 p.m. on November 3. For more information about drop-off locations and times go to: <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voter-service-centers-and-places-of-deposit/>

Our best advice: stay home, stay safe, and vote early! ■

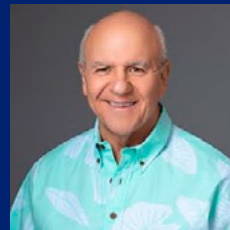
KA LĀHUI HAWAII
KOMIKE KALAIĀINA

QUESTIONS STRAIGHT FROM HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY LEADERS ON O'AHU

KAHUKU • WAIMĀNALO, HŪNĀNĀNIHO • PAPA KŌLEA • KAPOLEI • NĀNĀKULI • WAI'ĀNAE

PRESENTS

HONOLULU MAYOR
CANDIDATE FORUM ON
KANAKA MAOLI ISSUES

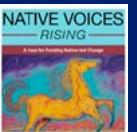


MAYORAL CANDIDATES

KEITH AMEMIYA
RICK BLANGIARDI



MON. OCT. 12 | 6PM - 8PM



FB: @KaLahuiHawaiiKomikeKalaiaina or @OfficeofHawaiianAffairs



To see positions on issues from OHA, State House and Senate candidates, go to:

www.kalahuihawaii.net



E KŪ MAI A E KOHO; STAND UP AND VOTE!

Hawai'i's primary election in August saw a record 406,425 voters - an increase of 42% participation over the 2018 primary election. This is likely due to mail-in voting which makes participating easier and more convenient. Increased voter participation may also be a reflection of the unprecedented political, health, economic and environmental issues we are facing in 2020.

With the general election just weeks away, the stakes are incredibly high. We remain in the midst of a pandemic. There have been months of protests against systemic racism in America. Millions of jobs have been lost. And for weeks fires resulting from record-high heat have been burning out of control all along the West Coast destroying countless acres of pristine forest and leaving thousands homeless.

The outcomes of the 2020 general election will determine our collective future for years to come. The issues are real; from the economy to the 'āina, from systemic racism to poverty, from health care to homeownership. The civic engagement of our lāhui in the voting process at this moment in time is more important than ever. Decisions will be made. The question is, will we participate in deciding our future? Or let others decide it for us?

Voting is the kuleana of everyone 18 and older and being an informed and educated voter is imperative. But voting for candidates based on superficial factors like name recognition does not fulfill that kuleana.

It is critical that voters become familiar with the candidates and where they stand on the issues. This past June *Ka Wai Ola* surveyed all of the candidates running for office in the primary election and printed their responses in our July issue.

Voters were hungry for this information. During July traffic on our *kawaiola.news* website tripled; and the information we shared about the candidates for every political race was heavily viewed and shared.

Additionally, OHA hosted numerous online candidate forums. All are available at www.oha.org/vote.

With many races decided after the primary election, *Ka Wai Ola* has now focused on those who have advanced to the general election in key local races: Honolulu mayor, Hawai'i County mayor, Honolulu prosecutor, and OHA's Board of Trustees.

Surveys were emailed to the candidates, this time using a narrative response format for all. Not every question posed to the candidates reflects OHA's formal positions or advocacy. Our advocacy questions have been combined with tough questions related to issues that are important to our lāhui based on the results of OHA's Aloha Rising survey in January, and are designed to help voters select the candidates whose visions and platforms best align with their own.

Each candidate's website is listed along with their personal information. Voters are strongly encouraged to visit the candidates' websites to learn more about them and their platforms.

Additionally, OHA is partnering with Civil Beat to host the Hawai'i Island OHA Trustee Candidate Forum on Oct. 15. The forum will stream live on Facebook (see sidebar). OHA will also partner with KHON to sponsor a 2-hour televised forum featuring other select candidates to get their positions on issues affecting Native Hawaiians. With the help of the internet, being an informed and educated voter has never been easier. ■

SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING CANDIDATE FORUMS

OCTOBER 8

Candidate Forum featuring...

- > Hawai'i & O'ahu mayoral candidates,
- > O'ahu prosecuting attorney candidates
- > Congressional district #1 and #2 candidates

7 p.m. on KHON and KHII

(rebroadcast on October 11 at 8 p.m. on KHII)

OCTOBER 15

Hawai'i Island OHA Trustee Candidate Forum

6 p.m. livestream on OHA's Facebook page

Hosted by OHA and Civil Beat



For forum updates, visit
www.oha.org/vote

E KŪ MAI E NĀ KĀNAKA! LET'S STAND UP AND MAKE OUR VOICES COUNT.



MAYOR HONOLULU

1 | Many have described how the pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated socio-economic inequities experienced by vulnerable communities, including Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. As mayor, what steps would you take, if any, to identify and address the unique needs and challenges of those who are often “forgotten” or overlooked in the county’s policies and programs, and other initiatives?

2 | “Sweeps” of houseless individuals and families have been warned against by the Centers for Disease Control, and at least one pre-pandemic study shows that their overall effectiveness at getting people to services and shelters is questionable at best. With dwindling shelter space remaining, and large numbers of county residents experiencing ever-increasing substantial housing insecurity during this pandemic, what other strategies would you have the county pursue to address the needs of those experiencing houselessness beyond or as an alternative to “sweeps”?

3 | If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that economic dependence on tourism is fragile and that greater economic diversification is necessary. What are your views on creating a more diversified, sustainable economy for Hawai‘i and what specific industries do you think would most benefit Hawai‘i and its people?



AMEMIYA, KEITH

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AGE: 55

OCCUPATION: Attorney

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: Hawai‘i Kai, O‘ahu

SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa – Bachelors of Business Administration – 1988; University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa – Richardson School of Law – Juris Doctor Degree – 1991

CURRENT RESIDENCE: Pauoa, O‘ahu

1 | The need for communication and transparency between government and the public has never been greater. As Mayor, I will immediately establish the Office of Community Engagement to elevate key community issues, give attention in a timely manner, seek feedback before City projects begin, and instill a renewed sense of trust in City government. This office will also work closely with neighborhood boards and Hawaiian Civic Clubs to more accurately address key issues. In my time as Executive Director of the Hawai‘i High School Athletic Association, I also saw firsthand the disparate funding and programming in vulnerable communities, particularly those with large populations of Native Hawaiians. Under my direction, we combined access to needed medical and social services in conjunction with renewed athletics programs that resulted in improvements across the board for students at these schools. I have always been committed to addressing the needs and concerns of our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, and I intend to do the same as Mayor.

Climate change will also continue to be the challenge of our lifetimes, and the data predicts that our vulnerable communities will experience the greatest impacts. I will implement the Climate Action Plan within our first 100 days, giving particular emphasis to equitable climate solutions. As stewards of this ‘āina for over 2,000 years, Native Hawaiians have insight and best practices for how to mālama our island, and I hope to work together to ensure the City is investing in these programs. We can begin by incorporating elements of the ‘Āina Aloha Economic Futures Huliau Action Agenda and work with community members to develop and implement key proposals that align City and community goals.

2 | My work with Kahauiki Village, which houses over 140 previously houseless families, made an important impression on me personally. If we’re going to tackle the houselessness problem on O‘ahu, we need to address the lack of affordable housing so our struggling families can survive.

I’ve been listening to the people, and I put forward a Housing for All Plan that would enable the City to lower housing costs by (1) enforcing illegal vacation rental laws; (2) imposing an empty homes tax; and (3) incentivizing truly affordable housing development. The City can also (1) leverage partnerships to build affordable rentals; (2) support communal and shared housing models, such as Kahauiki Village; and (3) partner with the state to provide access to mental health and/or substance use disorder support services. Our unsheltered persons who suffer from debilitating mental health issues are often the most visible with the fewest options. The City can help them into appropriate residential care settings, not shuffle them between providers, jail, and the streets.

3 | My Recovery Plan for a Healthy Honolulu focuses on investing in our people, economy, and environment. Our leaders have allowed O‘ahu’s residents to shoulder the burden of 10 million visitors for too long. We need to support local entrepreneurs, creators, and small business owners by providing funding, applied research opportunities, access to markets, and places to connect and incubate ideas. We should invest City resources into technology opportunities where the City can reduce waste, eliminate greenhouse gases, and improve efficiencies.

Retraining our workforce can help us pivot away from a dependence on tourism and create a more resilient future. The City’s Work Hawai‘i program can be a leader in leveraging existing relationships with the UH System, apprenticeship programs, and career training programs to expand opportunities for career pathways, including potential on-the-job training funding to support employers as they invest in new talent.



BLANGIARDI, RICK

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AGE: 74

OCCUPATION: business executive

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: I grew up in Cambridge, MA. My father was a machinist by trade, and due to his place of employment (Watertown Arsenal) closing, he accepted a transfer to the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in 1965 as a civil service employee. My family strongly requested I make the move with them, and consequently I enrolled at the University of Hawai‘i, where I also earned a full scholarship for playing football.

SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: Springfield College; University of Hawai‘i

CURRENT RESIDENCE: I presently reside in Honolulu on the island of O‘ahu.

1 | Let me say first that before taking steps to solve issues, you need to fully understand them. As your Mayor, I would start by calling together representatives of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community (NHPI), including OHA, to share your knowledge regarding the disparate impact of this pandemic on the NHPI. We do know, for example, that COFA migrants are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 with their numbers being 30% when they represent 4% of the population. We also know COFA migrants are denied Medicaid cover- age, and while the CARES Act did not address this, the HEROES Act as passed by the House does. I am confident that meeting with and learning from representatives of the NHPI, my administration will be better able to address and combat the unique challenges and issues facing the NHPI; and I commit to work with you. With respect to the HEROES Act, if and when it is passed by Congress, my administration will do everything it can to help the NHPI access and maximize available resources, such as Community Development Financial Institution funds, Community Health Systems, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and Native Hawaiian Organizations. I will also ensure that the NHPI share equally with all others in the funds that become available after the CARES Act, such as extended stimulus, unemployment and/or PPP. Finally, I commit as Mayor that, as we develop city policies, programs and initiatives, including housing, homelessness and COVID-related public health policies, we consult the NHPI and make sure we are taking care of and meeting the needs of this important community.

2 | Given that a disproportionate number of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) reside in rental homes, the pandemic has had a disparate impact on the NHPI community and would have been much worse, but for the eviction moratoriums. As Mayor, houselessness will be a top priority in my administration and city, state, and federal resources, along with non-governmental organizations, must focus on comprehensive, collaborative and long-term strategies and solutions. The so-called “compassionate disruption” approach only moves the problem in circles to other streets, neighborhoods and communities and then back again. It is not a solution, most assuredly during a health pandemic. As Mayor, I would make sure the city immediately identifies and makes use of vacant city properties for shelters, including rental properties the city can secure on a room and/or building basis. I will also seek additional federal funds to expand our housing programs. Finally, given COVID-19 and its projected multi-year impact to our economy, I will look for revenue sources to offer sustainable rent assistance programs that will assist our most vulnerable individuals and families on O‘ahu while we recover lost jobs and create new jobs through diversification.

3 | There is no doubt our economy’s historical dependence on tourism has exposed an economic vulnerability during a pandemic. I am confident, that under my leadership as Mayor, we can safely recover our tourism sector to levels that are healthy, responsible, and sustainable, while diversifying O‘ahu’s economy both inside and outside of tourism. We should begin by looking broadly at what items we import from outside Hawai‘i. For example, food security from sustainable agriculture is an industry we desperately need and will benefit from, just like our historical dependence on imported fossil fuels created an opportunity for locally sourced renewable energy, a sector with additional capacity for diversification and growth. In the construction sector, there are enormous opportunities for green, carbon-reducing, resilient infrastructure, including smart growth transient-oriented communities with affordable housing and public spaces, and projects to address Hawai‘i’s climate change and sea-level rise. And even in the tourism sector, there is enormous potential to diversify with a focus on “quality” tourism versus “quantity” tourism. The opportunities to diversify Hawai‘i’s economy are many if we just keep our focus on sustainability, resiliency, and our future generations who want to live and raise their families on O‘ahu and in Hawai‘i.



MAYOR HAWAII ISLAND

1 | Can you describe your connections to the Native Hawaiian community on your island, and how you would address issues that may have a particular impact or be of particular concern to Native Hawaiians? Would you consult with or seek advice from OHA on such matters?

2 | If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that economic dependence on tourism is fragile and that greater economic diversification is necessary. What are your views on creating a more diversified, sustainable economy for Hawaii and what specific industries do you think would most benefit Hawaii and its people?

3 | What role, if any, can the county play in resolving issues regarding the management and use of Maunakea?



MARZO, IKAIKA

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AGE: 36
 OCCUPATION: Cultural and Ecotour Company Owner, Community Organizer, Rancher, Commercial Fisherman, Musician
 WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: Kalapana, Maku'u, Pāhoa Hawai'i
 SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: Pāhoa High School
 CURRENT RESIDENCE: Puna, Hawai'i

1 | 'Ohana, music, sustainable fishing and ranching, and ocean conservation connect me to my culture and our Native Hawaiian community everyday. My ancestor's bones are buried here, my na'au and heart are deeply rooted in this 'aina. I speak the language in song and fishing. I'll seek advice from OHA to bridge community with government and I'll refer to our kūpuna within every district. Every policy decision I make must take into consideration our people and lives, environment and economy.

2 | We've seen that relying on any single industry causes problems, whether it's tourism or sugar cane. Hawaii County unemployment peaked in April 2020 with 23% of our population out of work. A sustainable economy on Hawaii Island means our local residents and community can thrive- always, constantly- and "sustain" despite any storm that hits our ship. With 30% (27,540 people) of our workforce in tourism, we still need tourism the way our economy is built today, but we must be smarter about it by realizing that this island is our greatest asset and needs utmost maintenance and protection, like any asset. By imposing higher Tourism Green Fees to support land and cultural conservation, we can generate new revenue to help our local people.

Hawaii and our people are resilient: we come out on the other side of disaster every time so with this pandemic, we start today by promoting "year-round outdoor commerce" and "improving all indoors." To create a thriving outdoor commerce, we close down select streets and move any business that we can outside to pedestrian-only zones. We look at zoning and permitting to help the local resident and business, rather than hurt. We take care of our kūpuna by expanding health and human services, particularly senior care and living. We must "improve all indoors" by making homes, businesses and care living facilities safer from the virus by increasing ventilation and filtration indoors. We can increase ventilation and filtration indoors affordably. We improve testing and monitoring of the virus, such as implementing sewage pool testing which will allow us to detect an outbreak in a certain area up to one week earlier! Proactive leadership over reactive leadership is the only way to lead through disaster, and I hope to lead us through to the other side of this one, too.

Expanding our agriculture helps our whole state, and our local economy: food farms, fishing, new aquaculture operations (a proven profitable industry), investing in non-food agriculture crops like hemp and bamboo that could start new, local, profitable industries making biodegradable plastics, textiles and construction materials. Government needs to support agriculture by making better deals for our local farmers, providing work opportunities near communities and homes, and removing needless red tape so this industry and local people may quickly succeed.

Development should take steps to help our people and environment such as investing to reach energy sustainability by 2045, checking the Aloha+ Challenge goals off the list and creating green jobs that our people will enjoy. Our people need work and the ability to afford food security, health security, educational security and housing security.

3 | Communication with the state, advocating for our county people, is the biggest role a county leader can hold regarding Mauna Kea. I'll expand and improve the county-to-community communication hubs by upgrading our technology to better connect with each district's kūpuna councils, Community Board and local people to prove to our state what our local people truly want and need. We must support our schools, educators, parents, caregivers and keiki and listen to our own living community to progress while remaining rooted in ancient values of our state's Indigenous culture.



ROTH, MITCH

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 🌐 www.mitthroth.org

AGE: 56
 OCCUPATION: Attorney
 WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: Los Angeles, California, (moved to Hawaii at 17)
 SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: GED, Kaimuki High School; B.A., University of Hawaii Mānoa; JD, Whittier Law School
 CURRENT RESIDENCE: Hilo, Hawaii

1 | My history with the Native Hawaiian community comes from 27 years of grassroots experience addressing issues such as domestic violence, crime prevention, traffic safety, youth programs, and helping formerly incarcerated individuals transition back into society. This took me to Wai'anae, Nānākuli and Waimānalo when I began my career on O'ahu and to Pana'ewa, Keaukaha and Puna since moving to Hawaii Island. I believe that the most effective way to solve problems affecting the community is to involve them in finding solutions. I continue to work with Hawaiian serving agencies and organizations such as Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōlwi, Lili'uokalani Trust and Men of Pa'a.

I have great respect for my Native Hawaiian colleagues and strive to be inclusive in all aspects of my professional endeavors. Currently 30% of my leadership team in the Hawaii County Prosecutor's Office is Native Hawaiian, as well as many key members of my mayoral campaign organization.

I would welcome OHA's counsel and seek the advice of Native Hawaiian agencies and organizations on issues facing our Hawaiian community.

2 | Tourism will continue to play a key role in our economy. The challenge is to use the "pause" that the pandemic created as an opportunity to refocus the visitor industry from growing market share and pushing our carrying capacity to more qualitative experiences (i.e. cultural, eco, agro and edu-tourism). We need to help the industry regain a foothold as this shift is in process, and keep our attention toward diversifying the economy.

Prior to the pandemic, many of the county's residents were already struggling, with more than half of island families either falling into the ALICE (asset limited, income constrained, employed) category or living in poverty. Native Hawaiians are disproportionately represented in these categories and substantial investment into educational, training and employment programs are going to be necessary for those families to recover economically.

Aside from upgrading infrastructure through capital improvement projects already in the queue, we have to build our broadband capacity to increase high tech business opportunities and allow more people to work remotely, develop our agricultural resources so farmers, ranchers and nurseries can be successful, support green technology and renewable energy to increase sustainability, and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation to further grow our economy. The county must also help businesses and the community thrive by streamlining procedures and being advocates rather than compliance officers.

3 | Although the management and stewardship of Maunakea is ultimately a state responsibility, it is clear that Hawaii County residents will be impacted by the state's actions. I am committed to providing leadership that brings people together to address concerns in an open collaborative manner. I believe that almost everyone on Hawaii Island is connected socially, culturally or by familial ties, and those relationships will provide a foundation to move the dialogue forward.



PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

HONOLULU COUNTY

1 | Native Hawaiians are over-represented in every stage of the criminal justice process, including in arrest rates and in our prison population. Moreover, controlling for many common factors including type of charge, an OHA study revealed that Native Hawaiians were more likely to be found guilty, receive a prison sentence, and receive a longer prison sentence or probation term than most other ethnic groups. As prosecutor, what would you do, if anything, to investigate and address possible systemic biases against Native Hawaiians and other ethnic groups in our criminal justice system?

2 | What are your plans, if any, to explore alternatives for defendants that can more effectively ensure their compliance with the law, including by addressing underlying issues such as mental health or substance abuse challenges?

3 | A widespread COVID-19 outbreak resulting from overcrowded correctional facilities will not only threaten the health and safety of our pa'ahao (prisoners) and public safety staff, but may also decrease the number of available hospital beds and lead to a shortage of desperately needed medical resources, impacting the broader community. What role can the prosecutor play to prevent such an outcome?

4 | Despite the Governor's emergency proclamation prohibiting eviction actions during this pandemic, landlords have continued to illegally seek to evict their tenants. In some cases, unlawful eviction notices, harassment, and intimidation have led to families abandoning their places of residence, forcing them to live in even more crowded conditions or even on the streets, amidst a pandemic. As prosecutor, would you seek to enforce all aspects of the Governor's emergency orders including and particularly with respect to his prohibition on eviction actions?



ALM, STEVE

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AGE: 67
 OCCUPATION: First Circuit Court Judge (Ret.)
 WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: Kaimukī, O'ahu
 SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: University Lab School/University of Hawai'i/University of Oregon
 CURRENT RESIDENCE: Kaimukī, O'ahu

1 | I will create a culture at the Prosecutor's Office of high ethical standards and doing justice, treating all races fairly at all phases of the process: from case charging through plea agreements or trials, to appeal. Deputy prosecutors will undergo implicit bias training as I did as a judge.

I will encourage expanding strategies that help Native Hawaiians and others. Research by Pepperdine and UCLA found that Native Hawaiians on HOPE Probation had their probation revoked and were sent to prison 35% less often than Native Hawaiians on regular probation. As the HOPE Probation judge supervises over 2,000 probationers at a time, that means hundreds of Native Hawaiians have succeeded on probation and avoided prison because they were in HOPE, rather than in regular probation.

I chaired the 2015 Penal Code Review Committee whose recommendations led to eliminating mandatory minimums for small drug offenses. Hundreds of Native Hawaiians have since avoided prison and had a chance at treatment in the community.

2 | I support expanding strategies for appropriate defendants that favor probation over prison. Research shows that drug/alcohol and/or mental health treatment is more effective in the community than in prison. Being smart on crime means expanding the use of research-proven strategies like Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and HOPE Probation.

Implementing these strategies in pretrial and parole would help more people succeed on community supervision and lead to fewer, including many Native Hawaiians, going to, or going back to prison. It is also important to match people with the right treatment program. For those desiring a Native Hawaiian values-based approach, Ho'oumau Ke Ola in Wai'anae is a good option.

3 | The Honolulu Prosecutor has an important role and should be active and vocal in working with the other partners (Department of Public Safety (DPS), Attorney General, Department of Health (DOH), Public Defender, Treatment Providers, HPD, etc) to produce creative solutions to the COVID-19 crisis.

Case-by-case reviews by judges will help identify appropriate nonviolent inmates for release. A place to live and appropriate supervision should follow.

DPS needs to step up and safely house its inmates. That includes regularly testing all Adult Corrections Officers (ACOs), civilian staff, current inmates, and any new admissions, as well as physical distancing, masking, and other hygiene measures. ACOs, like other first responders, should be housed in hotels to prevent their taking the virus home to their families, or bringing it back to OCCC. DPS should use spaces like gyms, courtyards, etc, and build temporary structures for quarantining for two weeks. If more space is needed they should look at National Guard Armories, Aloha Stadium, etc.

Regular inspections of OCCC by DOH doctors, or those in private practice, should be done and publicly reported on.

4 | Despite the Governor's emergency proclamation halting evictions, there are reports of landlords illegally pressuring tenants to leave before 9/30/20, when the moratorium currently expires. I will coordinate with the Attorney General's office to prosecute these cases. Those convicted of this misdemeanor may be given up to a year in jail and/or a fine of up to \$5,000.

If landlords use eviction tactics that involve other criminal behavior (e.g. harassment, property damage), I will also prosecute those cases.

Various agencies can help tenants with their concerns, such as the State's Office of Consumer Protection, the Hawai'i Legal Aid Society, and various nonprofit agencies. A call to Aloha United Way (phone: 211) can help tenants figure out their options.

Coordination between the Prosecuting Attorney and other agencies will ensure that eviction cases do not fall between bureaucratic cracks.



KAU, MEGAN

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AGE: 43
 OCCUPATION: lawyer
 WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: Honolulu
 SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: Punahou, UH Mānoa, and Santa Clara University
 CURRENT RESIDENCE: Honolulu

1 | I do not believe that law enforcement targets a certain race when investigating crimes. However, I do acknowledge that there are socio-economic issues in our community, just as there are in other societies. The Prosecutor is not in a position to fix these societal issues. The Prosecutor's role is to objectively apply the criminal law to anyone that violates the law as it is written, no matter what race the defendant may be. My plan is to fulfill that role. A Prosecutor that chooses which type of race to charge (or not charge) for a criminal offense becomes a corrupt Prosecutor. However, a Prosecutor can be a community leader and educate the community on the effects of drug use and the effect the criminal justice system has on families.

2 | Incarceration must be relied upon within the criminal justice system. Incarceration is an alternative to treatment – and treatment is always the better solution. But the challenge is that very often a drug user will not get treatment unless he/she is forced to do so. Therefore, in order to get treatment, a defendant has two choices: either (1) get treatment on his/her own; or (2) get forced into treatment with the threat of incarceration. If a defendant refuses to get treatment, he/she must be incarcerated.

3 | I don't believe releasing inmates solely because of the pandemic is in the best interest of public safety. A judge has already ruled that this defendant should not be released into the community - because he/she is a flight risk and/or because he/she is likely to re-offend. Being in the midst of a pandemic does not change those factors. If the defendant is at risk of death because he/she has a pre-existing medical condition, the trial judge may consider that on a case-by-case basis to address that risk. Otherwise, the Department of the Public Safety has its own policies in place to deal with this type of situation. Inmates are safer in a facility and the community is safer while inmates are in a facility.

4 | Landlord-tenant law is governed by Chapter 521 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes. The Prosecutor does not have jurisdiction to bring cases under this chapter. Other aspects of the Governor's emergency orders may be enforced, but it depends on what each person was charged with. It is difficult to make a blanket statement that we will enforce all orders. Each order and each violation needs to be evaluated individually.

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TRUSTEE
AT-LARGE

1 | Normalization of Hawaiian language and culture is foundational to a thriving lāhui. Please share the traditional/cultural practices that are part of your daily life and any 'ōlelo Hawai'i background or experience.

2 | What do you feel are the biggest barriers to affordable housing opportunities for Native Hawaiians? What can be done to overcome these barriers or otherwise provide greater housing opportunities for Native Hawaiians?

3 | UH's mismanagement of Maunakea has garnered significant attention in recent years, and for many is yet another example of sacred sites being neglected, mismanaged, or even desecrated across the islands. What have you done to better ensure the appropriate treatment of Hawai'i's sacred sites and spaces?



AKINA, KELI'I

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AGE: 62

OCCUPATION: OHA Trustee-at-Large and President/CEO, Grassroot Institute of Hawai'i

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: Honolulu, O'ahu

SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: Kamehameha Schools, Northwestern University (B.A.), University of Hawai'i (M.A., Ph.D.)

CURRENT RESIDENCE: Honolulu, O'ahu

1 | My first exposure to 'ōlelo Hawai'i was from my Tutu-lady Alice Wahine Akina, whose Baibala Hemolele is one of my most cherished possessions. I later studied Hawaiian at Kamehameha where I became the school court chanter. Eventually, I chanted for the hālau of a renowned kumu hula, with whom I transcribed a collection of ancient chants. That training gave me a deep appreciation for Hawaiian knowledge and equipped me for my Masters and Ph.D. degrees from UH Mānoa in East-West philosophy and ethics. To this day, chanting is an important personal and cultural practice.

2 | OHA needs to exercise greater kuleana for the Hawaiian Homelands, where tragically more than 27,000 applicants are on the waiting list. DHHL is land-rich but cash-poor. OHA can become cash-rich and help finance homestead infrastructure as well as help all Hawaiians gain access to housing. If re-elected I will continue to pursue my 3-point plan to develop OHA's trust fund and build wealth for Hawaiians: (1) Protect the Trust through audits and sound fiscal policies; (2) Grow the Trust by developing the financial potential of Kaka'ako Ma Kai and other properties; and, (3) Use the Trust for the real needs of Hawaiians, especially housing. OHA can also partner with stakeholders, the Ali'i trusts, and developers to create innovative solutions.

3 | While I have served as a watchdog to protect the OHA trust from fraud, waste, and abuse, I am pleased in the majority of votes, to have stood with my fellow trustees to mālama our sacred 'Āina. With respect to Maunakea, though trustees have differing views as to the TMT, we have stood together for the pono management of the Mauna to protect its unique cultural and environmental value. I have also been passionately committed to the preservation of sacred spaces such as the Kūkaniloko Birthstones site and am proud of our restoration efforts. Based upon input from OHA beneficiaries into our strategic plan, I have promoted good stewardship of existing legacy lands rather than acquiring more, until OHA funds are sufficient for housing and other urgent needs of the beneficiaries. I have also worked to ensure qualified candidates are recommended by OHA for board positions on the Council that oversees burial sites under the state Historic Preservation Law. The value of Mālama 'Āina captures my heart whenever I visit Waimea Falls, which OHA wonderfully maintains, and chant at the burial site of high priest Hewahewa, one of the first Hawaiians to become a Christian.



SOUZA, KEONI

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AGE: 36

OCCUPATION: Real Estate Agent, Traditional Hawaiian Musician/Entertainer

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: Kapolei, O'ahu

SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: Kamehameha Schools - Kapālama Campus, Kapi'olani Community College

CURRENT RESIDENCE: Kapolei, O'ahu

1 | It is our kuleana to normalize, or re-normalize, the Hawaiian culture and language not only in the islands, but also around the world. We must do so in order for our lāhui to move forward, to thrive, and to perpetuate our cultural identity for generations to come.

Growing up with my beautiful, full-blooded Hawaiian grandmother, I was raised with 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in my household. I was also fortunate to have attended school at Kamehameha Schools, Kapālama. It was there that my knowledge and love of Hawaiian mele, oli & hula had grew, and after joining various performance groups, I was led down a path to where I am today. I have been performing Traditional Hawaiian Music for the last 20 years, performing all over the world with various friends as well as my Nā Hōkū Hanohano Award winning and Grammy Nominated music group "Nā Hoa." I lean on my kūpuna, "old-timer" musicians, my friends and family, to help me perpetuate and continue the legacy of storytelling through Traditional Hawaiian Music. I currently sit on the Board of HARA (Hawaiian Academy of Recording Arts) where I hope to influence positive change within our music community.

2 | As a licensed real estate agent, I am immersed daily in the housing market and see how difficult it is for individuals and families to purchase homes. I am fortunate to utilize my skill set in this area to assist families in the home buying process so they can secure a piece of real estate in Hawai'i and start to build wealth. I understand through my dealings with clients the need for a place to call home. I am well-versed in this area, and this informs my perspectives on the issue of affordable housing.

I have an issue with the term "affordable housing" because there are too many strings attached to the word and oftentimes, "affordable housing" is, well, not really true to its word in being affordable when implemented. As such, we need to find alternative means of typical affordable housing solutions and focus on creating inexpensive housing throughout our archipelago, not just on O'ahu. I will (1) position OHA to collaborate with the building trades and nonprofits to create inexpensive housing solutions, and (2) work with DHHL closely to formulate ways in which we can provide housing solutions to our beneficiaries in a timely manner (this will be key as I believe "affordable housing" for Native Hawaiians is realistically only Hawaiian Homestead lands) and (3) educate the Hawaiian community on the home-buying process.

3 | I support the rise of our people as we continue to fight for Native Hawaiians to be at the forefront of all decision-making that affects the 'āina. As Hawaiians, we understand that we are stewards of the land. It is our kuleana to care for the land so that it can be there to provide for generations of kānaka to come. In order to do that, we need to be present, be engaged and advocate for what we know is pono to protect our sacred sites and places. The fight for protecting Hawai'i does not start and end with the monumental places we hold sacred like Maunakea, but continues on throughout each moku and ahupua'a, down to the 'ohana in our communities that we dwell in.

Regarding the ongoing fight against telescope development on Maunakea, I am a supporter of the kia'i and over the past few years I have joined in the support of protecting Maunakea. I believe the UH's management lacks the care and immediacy that is needed to care for one of the most treasured spaces of our people and changing of leadership is ultimately what is needed. OHA should be the organization that fills that role.

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TRUSTEE
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LINDSEY, KEOLA

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AGE: 44

OCCUPATION: Advocacy Director, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: Waimea, Hawai'i Island
SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: Hawai'i Preparatory Academy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa BA in Hawaiian Studies and MA in Public Administration
CURRENT RESIDENCE: Kawaihae, Hawai'i

1 | To properly represent Native Hawaiians from your island/community active engagement is important. Please list the Hawaiian cultural or civic organizations, associations or activities that you are (or have been) part of on your island of residence, your specific role in the organization, and how many years you have been (or were) active.

2 | Prior to the pandemic, 33% of Hawaiian-owned businesses relied directly on the tourism sector, and 24% of working Native Hawaiians were employed in service occupations most impacted by the economic conditions resulting from COVID-19. With the loss of tourism for the foreseeable future, what can be done to address the substantial and long-lasting economic impact this pandemic may have on the Native Hawaiian community?

3 | UH's mismanagement of Maunakea has garnered significant attention in recent years, and for many is yet another example of sacred sites being neglected, mismanaged, or even desecrated across the islands. What have you done to better ensure the appropriate treatment of Hawai'i's sacred sites and spaces?

1 | In recent years, I have been unable to remain active in or join civic organizations in my personal capacity due to family and work kuleana that have often required my full attention late into the night and on weekends. Through my job at OHA, I have had the opportunity to work with and provide support to Native Hawaiian and community organizations on Hawai'i Island and across the state on a broad range of issues. These experiences over the last 13 years have taught me to listen carefully to what is important to the community, assess how OHA can help and then take action. I am prepared to continue this approach as the Hawai'i Island Trustee.

2 | OHA must work with and support entities and organizations with expertise and familiarity on what is needed for the successful long-term economic recovery of Hawai'i. One specific example is the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, but it will take all stakeholders working together to move forward. OHA has already provided support by being a part of surveys in the Native Hawaiian business community to gather data and information on needs and issues that can be used in providing solutions. Our dependence on tourism was built over a century and its sudden loss has been obviously devastating and there are no easy solutions. It will be a tough road ahead, but there is an opportunity for a more resilient economy with a support network in place for small businesses in a broad range of industries that contribute to Native Hawaiians achieving Economic Sovereignty in the future.

3 | I began my career with the responsibility of working with the Hawai'i Island community, descendant families and the burial council on the highly emotive and often contentious issue of protecting iwi kūpuna. Over time, that responsibility has grown to include cultural sites, traditional cultural properties and landscapes and many sacred spaces across the state. I have nearly two decades of experience working with communities and families on how county, state and federal laws can be applied to protect the areas and sites that are important to them. As powerful as the required processes can be, I recognize that there is room for improvement and am committed to working to make the necessary changes.

I had the opportunity to be an OHA representative in the Native Hawaiian community-led effort to establish and protect the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands) that encompasses nearly two-thirds of our archipelago (560,000 square miles) and is of tremendous traditional and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian people. A key component of this effort was ensuring that the Native Hawaiian voice was meaningfully represented and equal with state and federal agencies in the co-management structure for the area. I firmly believe Native Hawaiians should be in a decision-making position when it comes to our natural and cultural resources and sacred places and will use my experience to support communities in successfully achieving that goal.



MANGAUIL, LANAKILA

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AGE: 33

OCCUPATION: Executive Director & Chief Instructor of The Hawaiian Cultural Center of Hāmākua
WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: Honoka'a, Hawai'i
SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: GED, Kanu O Ka 'Āina NCPCS, Hilo Community College
CURRENT RESIDENCE: I live in Ahualoa, Hawai'i

1 | I was born, raised, and still reside in Hāmākua, Honoka'a, on Hawai'i Island. I grew up in the forests of Ahualoa and down in Waipi'o Valley, where I learned from numerous Hawaiian practitioners.

- 2003-Present: Student of Hālau Hula 'o WaikāUNU under Kumu Hula Kuwalu Anakalea, coming from the UNUKupukupu program under Kumu Hula Taupori Tangaro.
- 2003-Present: Member-Practitioner with Nā Papa Kānaka o Pu'ukoholā Heiau.
- 2003-2016: Volunteered with Hawai'i Isle Aloha Festival Royal Court.
- 2004: Graduated from Kanu O Ka 'Āina NCPCS.
- 2005-2013: Program Director of the Native Youth Cultural Exchange Program, a young men's leadership program between Kānaka Maoli and Native American tribes.
- 2006-2012: Hawaiian Cultural Activities Specialist & Advisor for the Hāmākua Youth Center.
- 2006-2013: DOE Hawaiian Studies Resource Teacher at Honoka'a Elementary, Intermediate & High Schools, Waiākea Elementary, and Laupāhoehoe PCS.
- 2012-Present: Kia'i Mauna - community environmental advocate.
- In 2016, I launched The Hawaiian Cultural Center of Hāmākua, providing local, national and international educational opportunities.

2 | OHA should address the economic impact of the pandemic on our community by advocating and investing toward increasing economic opportunity and decreasing costs of living.

Hawai'i should redirect the \$80M/year used to promote tourism towards job training for former tourism workers so that all can thrive in a more circular, 'Āina Aloha economy.

We should keep moving away from industrial ag by increasing our investment in infrastructure that will help small farmers.

We must immediately expand and diversify the opportunities and availability for safe and affordable housing conducive to a healthy lifestyle for kānaka 'ōiwi.

OHA must expand its role to help beneficiaries access housing, including assisting 'ohana with returning or regaining their Kuleana lands. OHA must work together with DHHL and our Hawaiian Trusts to fulfill their overlapping obligations, leveraging resources to achieve maximum positive impact for beneficiaries.

Whether Hawaiians get healthcare through their employer, SSDI, Medicare, Medicaid - no one should fall through the cracks and face homelessness because of health-related debt.

I am one of the 14 collaborative authors of the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration. (Read more at: <https://www.ainaahofutures.com/>.)

3 | Being raised in places like Waipi'o Valley, we were always cognizant of our conduct being surrounded by sacred sites. "Sacred" to kānaka maoli applies not only to historical, man-made sites, but to the very geology and natural ecology of these islands — whether it be heiau, fish ponds, burials, or mountain tops, forests, springs, or reefs. As a practitioner, appropriate engagement with the "sacred" is essential. Engagement should preserve, restore and revitalize sacred sites and sacred natural environments. In this age of cultural revival, kānaka maoli must have no fear, shame, or guilt to engage with our wahi pana. We must reclaim our kuleana to mālama these sacred spaces.

As with Maunakea, I observed our people exhaust every presumable "legal" process in a flawed system. As a 14th destructive project attempted to bulldoze its way forward, I asserted my customary right to physically stand and block desecration. This act of nonviolent direct action sparked the largest activation in Hawai'i for the protection of sacred lands, and has now exposed much of the injustice that paved the way for prior desecrations.

My mission to support the education of the importance and significance of wahi pana like Maunakea is critical to establish respect and recognition of the "sacred." Knowing mo'olelo and appropriate protocols are essential in understanding each unique wahi pana to instruct the policy making for their care.

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TRUSTEE
MOLOKA'I &
LĀNA'I

1 | To properly represent Native Hawaiians from your island/community active engagement is important. Please list the Hawaiian cultural or civic organizations, associations or activities that you are (or have been) part of on your island of residence, your specific role in the organization, and how many years you have been (or were) active.

2 | What can be done to mitigate the impacts of increasing costs of shipping to and between the islands, on the Native Hawaiian community?

3 | UH's mismanagement of Maunakea has garnered significant attention in recent years, and for many is yet another example of sacred sites being neglected, mismanaged, or even desecrated across the islands. What have you done to better ensure the appropriate treatment of Hawai'i's sacred sites and spaces?



ALAPA, LUANA

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AGE: 59

OCCUPATION: Independent Sales

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: Growing up spent half my youth with my father, Stanley Alapa and step-mom in Ho'olehua, Moloka'i; and the other half spent growing up with my mother, Kauana Kanahale and step-dad, Leroy Pukahi in Lā'ie, O'ahu.

SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: Kamehameha Schools; University of Hawai'i, Mānoa

CURRENT RESIDENCE: Ho'olehua, Moloka'i

1 | In August 2020, our Moloka'i High School HOSA program started a GoFundMe Account to raise funds for Moloka'i students interested in the health field. Raising of funds were to help defray travel expenses for students to do site visits on O'ahu. They needed \$500. I contacted friends for donations & then got a matching grant from Texaco. We raised \$1,000 that day for our youth to attend the Health Workshop.

There is a critical need on Moloka'i to feed the children, kūpuna and 'ohana because of Covid-19. I was contacted by Mālama Meals from O'ahu to organize volunteers who were willing to distribute hot meals three days per week. About 4,500 meals were delivered each week to our kūpuna and families.

If elected to OHA, I would make myself and my office available to support all community organizations of Moloka'i, Lāna'i as well as the rest of the state transparently and fairly.

2 | As a proactive solution, OHA can be the catalyst in initiating an inter-island ferry system. Inter-island transportation is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). I would commit, if elected as a trustee, to engage my fellow trustees to explore the feasibility of investing in an inter-island boat transportation ferry system such as they do in many U.S. & international cities. Cities such as Seattle, Washington, have an efficient and vital ferry system to transport passengers and cargo between their mainland port and different island ports. Another example is in French Polynesia between the main island of Pape'ete and the island of Mo'orea, the ferry there transports residents, tourists and cargo. The ferry would be vital to the wellbeing of our beneficiaries while serving all of the residents of our neighbor islands when done with proper approvals such as an Environmental Impact Statement. The Super Ferry had a controversial history but was praised by different sectors of the community for providing alternative transportation. OHA could be the catalyst in initiating a consortium partnership of this nature in finding strategic partners, investors and government agencies both federal and state who share the same vision to address a critical issue and need.

3 | The question of Mauna A Wakea's (Mauna Kea) lack of stewardship and mismanagement under the University of Hawai'i master lease goes back 50 plus years. In my discussion with the Mauna Kea movement leadership, the Kia'i have complained of OHA's lack of proactive participation in this significant issue for over 39 years in helping to resolve the outstanding claims to protect and restore Mauna Kea from continued desecration. I support the efforts of the Kia'i to bring about accountability for the grave mismanagement of Mauna Kea and to include all stakeholders who have brought this issue to the forefront and world's attention. I applaud their bringing to the surface the continued disrespect by UH and the State of Hawai'i, to all its stakeholders, especially, the lineal descendants and cultural practitioners of this iconic cultural resource. I support the enforcement of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in how sacred sites are treated and managed under international law.



MACHADO, COLETTE

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AGE: 69

OCCUPATION: Grassroots community organizer, public servant to the Lāhui

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: I was born in Ho'olehua, Moloka'i. My 'ohana has deep roots on Moloka'i my grandfather Zachary Pali-Pahupu was one of the six original pioneer homesteaders who helped to establish the Hawaiian Homesteading Program at Kalama'ula in 1921.

SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

CURRENT RESIDENCE: I live with my husband, Myron Akutagawa, in Pūko'o, Mana'e, East Moloka'i. Myron is a descendant of taro farmers from Wailau Valley.

1 |

- Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa (Board Member)
- Ho'olehua Hawaiian Civic Club of Moloka'i
- Moloka'i Land Trust (Founding President)
- Moloka'i Island Burial Council (Chairperson)
- Mālama Mana'e (Co-founder)
- Ka Leo O Mana'e (Co-founder)
- Kāko'o Kawela (Co-founder)
- Mālama Moloka'i (Co-founder)
- Hawaiian Homes Commission
- Hui Alaloa Inc.
- State Land Use Commission

2 | Like many who live on Moloka'i, I know too well the rising cost of shipping and the trickle down effect it has on families. I am against the practice of passing the bulk of the burden to our local families.

One piece of the solution is local: by supporting sustainable practices that allow neighbor islands to achieve food sovereignty. OHA has already done this during the COVID-19 pandemic by funding \$830,000 in food security grants to farmers and nonprofits. I will work to ensure that efforts like these are expanded. I also support OHA's loan programs which can help to start and expand operations of local, Native Hawaiian-owned small businesses.

At the federal level, OHA must advocate against continued cuts to the U.S. Postal Service. The Postal Service is a critical lifeline for neighbor island communities. There are kūpuna who even rely on the Postal Service for critical medication and home essentials.

3 | The State of Hawai'i and the University of Hawai'i have neglected their kuleana to mālama Maunakea. I have strongly supported OHA's advocacy and eventual legal intervention to stop this mismanagement and desecration. As the current Chair of OHA's Board of Trustees, I passed a resolution to provide financial support to the protectors on Maunakea. More than that, I have stood with our kia'i on the Mauna, sang with them, cried with them, and felt the mana of our kūpuna. I also held an OHA Board visit to meet with kia'i and elevate their voices.

But this is not a new cause for me. I was an original member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana movement to stop the military's bombing of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe. I protected the ko'a and heiau at Kaiaka Rock and Kawakiunui on West Moloka'i from development by Moloka'i Ranch. I helped protect the sites at Nā'iwa, Moloka'i by organizing to stop the expansion of the Highlands Golf Course at Kala'e. As president of the Moloka'i Land Trust, I helped to repatriate 1,800 acres on the northwest coast of Moloka'i, providing protection for fishing ko'a, adze quarries, house sites and access trails. I supported the acquisition of the Wao Kele O Puna Rainforest for permanent protection from geothermal development. I also supported the acquisition of the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones for permanent protection. And I supported the transfer of the 20 acre Palauea Cultural Preserve.

I know this fight because I have fought this fight. And I am committed to keep fighting the fight.

2020 Legislative Session: Discouraging Employment Discrimination and a Successful Defense

By Leimomi Fisher, OHA Public Policy Advocate

This year's unprecedented legislative session featured measures involving employment discrimination, land transfers, the potential alienation of "ceded" lands – and a global pandemic that landed on Hawai'i's shores in early spring. After COVID-19 led to an abrupt recess in session, legislators reconvened to focus primarily on pandemic relief measures, resulting in extremely few bills making it through the legislative process this year. Nonetheless, one OHA package measure did make it to the governor's desk and has now been enacted into law.

One of OHA's 2020 Legislative Package measures, SB2193 HD2, signed into law as Act 51, prohibits employment discrimination based on decade-old conviction records – an auspicious feat, since most legislative proposals died due to COVID-19. SB2193 HD2 shortens the length of time convictions may be used in employment decisions, from 10 years for all convictions to seven years for felonies and five years for misdemeanors (schools and care homes will continue to consider older convictions and related information in their hiring decisions).

This will reduce the stigma carried by those who have long since paid their debt to society, and enable them to contribute to our economy and support their families through gainful and legitimate employment. This law will also help to mitigate the longstanding and disproportionate impact of the criminal justice system on the Native Hawaiian community.

During the last session OHA helped block several bills that would have reduced protective oversight for natural and cultural resources on thousands of acres of public lands. These bills proposed to mandate the transfer of over 100,000



acres of public "pasture" lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to the less-equipped Department of Agriculture (DOA), to facilitate improvements on the public lands ranchers currently occupy under DLNR leases or revocable permits.

Consistent with an older law encouraging such transfers when appropriate, DLNR already transferred over 18,000 acres of pasture lands to the DOA. Opposing the new measures, DLNR argued that it excluded other parcels from transfer to maintain oversight over their natural and cultural resources. Often comprised of remnant native forests untouched by industrial agriculture, these parcels include important natural and cultural resources and sites, trails used by hunters and cultural practitioners, and are adjacent to important watershed areas.

Voicing similar concerns, OHA noted that the DOA had little institutional memory, expertise or staff capacity to manage lands for their natural and cultural values and pointed

to "compromise" measures put forward by the DLNR, to try to meet ranchers' interests. HB2035 was the last surviving measure proposing this land transfer; however, the House could not agree to Senate amendments made, in part, to address OHA's and DLNR's concerns, and the bill was shelved.

Also notable last session was SB2946 SD2, which intended to kickstart housing development on state lands, in part, by offering exemptions from laws relating to the leasing and development of public and potentially "ceded" lands. The proposed exemptions included provisions allowing for 99-year leaseholds of such lands – a proposal of concern to OHA, given that Native Hawaiian claims to "ceded" lands have never been relinquished or resolved.

OHA continues to work on identifying equitable approaches to ensure that Native Hawaiians claims are appropriately recognized in any long-term disposition of former crown and government lands "ceded" after the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. SB2946 SD2, along with similar measures, died after COVID-19 shutdown the Capitol.

Finally, OHA helped support the successful passage of SB2386 SD2 HD2, which prohibits waste or disposal facilities in the state conservation district and requires a half-mile buffer zone between any new, modified or expanded waste or disposal facilities and any residential, school or hospital property line. This bill helps protect precious conservation district lands that hold natural resources essential to healthy ecosystems and our islands' sustainability, as well as cultural resources and sites.

OHA is now preparing for next year's legislative session and is looking forward to collaborating with like-minded agencies, community groups, and individuals over the coming months. ■

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huiMAU: Normalizing the Lifestyle of Aloha ‘Āina

By Ed Kalama

“Mālama i ke kanaka nui, i ke kanaka iki, i ka ‘elemakule, i ka luahine, i ke keiki, i ka ‘ilihune, i ka mea ma‘i. Care for the big person and the small person, for the elderly men and women, for the children, for those in destitution, and for the sick.”

– ‘Umi-a-Līloa, 15th century ali‘i nui (high chief) of Hawai‘i Island

It’s a little word with a lot of meaning.

In ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, ea translates to independence or sovereignty. It can also mean life. Together, ea can be interpreted as living an independent life, or living a balanced life with reciprocal arrangements with everything around you, such as coming together as a community where all live healthy lives together,

Ke ea o ka ‘āina, the life of the land, is the lesson from our kūpuna. Ea is a good thing.

Founded in 2011, Hui Mālama i ke Ala ‘Ūlilī (huiMAU) is a community-based nonprofit made up of ‘ohana from East Hāmākua on Hawai‘i Island.

The hui is committed to cultivating kīpuka (safe, regenerative spaces) that foster and regenerate the growth of place-based ancestral knowledge, healthy food- and eco- systems, and strong ‘ohana with the capacity to live and thrive in Hāmākua for generations.

Their mission is to re-establish the systems that sustain their community through place-based educational initiatives and ‘āina-centered practices that cultivate abundance, regenerate responsibilities and promote collective health and wellbeing.

A recipient of an OHA Community Grant award to support responsible resource management, huiMAU’s primary grant objective is to clear invasive species (guinea grass and ironwood trees) and restore coastal native ecosystems at Koho-lālele, an ahupua‘a located in Hāmākua near Pa‘auilo. The restoration work includes the reintroduction of native food crops, including kalo, mai‘a, ‘uala and ‘ulu.



No‘eau Peralto - Photos: Anianikū Chong

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced them to suspend most mālama ‘āina activities, huiMAU shifted gears from hosting individuals and groups for community workdays to harvesting mea‘ai from their native crops and providing food baskets to the kūpuna and ‘ohana of the area.

Rallying their community, they’ve held regular food distributions since March, and they even repurposed their annual Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea (Sovereignty Restoration Day) celebration on July 31.

“In late March, when COVID-19 was beginning to become a reality in Hawai‘i, our first thoughts were for the safety



(front, L to R) Anianikū Chong, Lauren Kapono, Uakoko Chong, Bronson Palupe, Lucon Route, Kayla Lindsey-Asing, Kalā Lindey-Asing, Kahalekulu Lindey-Asing, Kaluhea Lindey-Asing, Leimāmane Lindey-Asing, (back, L to R) Leilā Dudley, Kodie Solis-Kalani, Haley Kailiehu, No‘eau Peralto, Valerie Peralto (Board Treasurer) are working together to hānai kānaka and exemplify aloha ‘āina in their communities.

and wellbeing of the kūpuna and keiki in our community,” said Dr. No‘eau Peralto, huiMAU’s executive director who holds a doctorate in Indigenous politics from the University of Hawai‘i.

“We knew that many in our community would be losing their employment, and that access to food would become a growing challenge for many. We acted immediately, guided by our kūpuna to hānai kānaka, as the mo‘olelo of our famous ali‘i, ‘Umi-a-Līloa reminds us.

“We began with sharing the abundance that we had grown and raised on our own ‘āina, and it didn’t take long before others began to share as well. Soon we had neighbors, farmers, and funders all donating and contributing to make sure our community was cared for and fed during this time of great change.”

Since 2016, huiMAU has been organizing a community celebration of Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea, which has been described as Hawai‘i’s first national holiday. These events have brought together up to 1,000 people from around the island to learn about and build relationships rooted in ea and aloha ‘āina.

“This year we decided to adapt our celebration to express our ea as a community through the act of hānai kānaka. Ea emerges out of our relationships with ‘āina and each other. By sharing our abundance and feeding each other from the ‘ai of our own ‘āina, we strengthen our aloha for each other and our ‘āina. We breathe ea together,” Peralto said.

“The story that we’ve tried to share is that this time is showing us, more than ever, the ea that already exists in our communities. We’re seeing that we have abundance and we have aloha to share with each other, and to sustain each other in challenging times. Feeding ourselves from our own ‘āina is one manifestation of ea.”

Peralto said that with the support of OHA (through a funding stream separate from the community grant program), the



Volunteers slip informational flyers about Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea into food bags before distributing them to the community.

Consuelo Foundation and the Hawai‘i Island United Way, huiMAU was able to begin purchasing locally grown produce to share with the community from mahi‘ai in Hāmākua and across the north and east sides of Hawai‘i Island.

With additional produce provided by Lili‘uokalani Trust, by mid-April huiMAU was distributing more than 5,000 pounds of fresh, locally grown produce and value added products like poi, honey, pua‘a kalua, and frozen meat bi-weekly to kūpuna and ‘ohana in their community.

“Now, with the support of the County of Hawai‘i Coronavirus Relief Fund, we plan to continue our Community Kitchen Food Distribution Program at least through the end of 2020,” Peralto said.

Iwi Kūpuna Disturbed by Maui Lani Parkways Project

By the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation

Protecting kūpuna from the COVID-19 virus has been our community's shared kuleana. Iwi kūpuna found in Native Hawaiian burial sites across ka pae 'āina, however, are also in need of our protection. For decades, Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation has provided legal assistance to clients committed to caring for iwi kūpuna and keeping them safe from harm.

Safeguarding kūpuna during this pandemic warrants our vigilance. Likewise, iwi kūpuna threatened by construction and development warrant our attention and protection. In Wailuku, Maui, for example, large numbers of iwi kūpuna have been disturbed, disinterred and desecrated during ongoing construction of the Maui Lani Parkways project. Located within the Pu'uone Sand Dune complex that stretches from Ma'alaea to Waihe'e, the Parkways project broke ground in an area well known to both kama'āina and

the State Historic Preservation Division to contain a significant number of iwi kūpuna. Despite knowledge of this well-documented burial ground, development throughout the pu'uone has been substantial, revealing a tacit disregard for ancient burial sites sacred to Native Hawaiians.

"Hundreds of burials, if not many more, have been unearthed in these pu'uone over the years. This was to be expected: they are ecologically and culturally significant," says Noelani Ahia, NHLC's client in an ongoing legal battle over the Parkways project. "Due to decades of sand mining and inappropriate development, the dunes have been decimated and far too many iwi kūpuna have been desecrated."

The initial archaeological study performed for the project over 13 years ago identified just five iwi kūpuna at the project site. An archaeological inventory survey (AIS), is required by law to identify all historic and culturally significant sites, including burials, that exist just beneath the surface. Since that first study, over 170 iwi kūpuna have

been disturbed during construction. Their after-the-fact discovery is significant because their earlier identification during the AIS would have entitled them to more protection and more input regarding their treatment from descendants.

"Time and time again, we see archeological inventory surveys done which find very few historic properties, and then construction encounters significant numbers of iwi kūpuna. This practice facilitates development at the expense of, and irreparable injury to, iwi kūpuna," says Ahia.

Ahia's lawsuit, filed in 2019, seeks to compel the state and landowners to abide by burial protection laws by gathering sufficient information about the archaeological, historical and cultural significance of an area before construction begins. By doing so, all iwi kūpuna receive the law's highest protections; laws intended to keep them safe from further irreparable harm. ■

huiMAU

Continued from page 13

"Ultimately though, we are committed to restoring the systems that sustain the long-term wellbeing of our 'āina and community. This involves more than short term relief, but lasting change. Healthy 'āina is the foundation of healthy kānaka."

Spend any time with Peralto, 32, and one can see that he - and his staff of eight - are the type of 'ōiwi leaders so needed in the Hawaiian community today. Educated, passionate, and grounded in Hawaiian cultural values, they have the ability to move the lāhui forward.

"No'cau is a true visionary," said OHA grants specialist 'Aikū'ē Kalima. "He is a Hawaiian leader who cares deeply about his culture, 'āina, and the community of Pa'auilo. It's rare to meet a young leader with the passion and dedication to uplift

Native Hawaiians through cultural education, restoration and by providing food to the community."

"We have always considered our hui to be an 'ohana more so than an organization," Peralto said. "'Ohana is where aloha begins, for each other and for the 'āina. Within the 'ohana unit is also where ea, resurgence and governance begin.

"We believe that strong 'ohana, rooted in place for multiple generations, are the foundation of strong communities. Strong communities are the foundation of a strong lāhui. We're working to normalize aloha 'āina as a lifestyle again in our 'ohana and community.

"We're working to create the space for, and build the capacity of, 'ohana to be able to noho papa (live and thrive for generations) in this place. 'Programs' can only last so long. Our real goal is to make aloha 'āina lifeways the norm again for all 'ohana in our community." ■



Bronson Palupe, 'Āina Restoration Coordinator, and Kalā Lindsey-Asing, Board President, help to distribute boxes of fresh produce. - Photo: Anianikū Chong

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Ma'i Kolona; COVID-19 is Real

By Kuuleilani Reyes

Aloha mai kākou. 'O wau 'o Kuuleilani Reyes. Noho wau i Kualoa me ku'u 'ohana. 'O Keola'oli lāua 'o Kaliloa ku'u keiki kamaha'o. He Hawai'i au.



Kuuleilani Reyes with her daughters Keola'oli and Kaliloa. Reyes recently recovered from a nasty bout of COVID-19. - Photo: Courtesy

I want to share my experience with the lāhui, because there are lots of stories, rumors, fear and skepticism surrounding COVID-19. Hopefully, you will have a better understanding about this vile disease by reading my mo'olelo.

I contracted the illness over the first weekend of August, while having meals with close friends I consider 'ohana. I didn't feel the effects till a few days later when I woke up with a headache. I took two aspirin, thinking nothing of it, and went to work. After a few hours, I started coughing and felt hot. I knew in my na'au something was wrong, so I left work to see a physician. On the way I learned one of the friends I was with over the weekend was very sick and went to the ER for fever and difficulty in breathing. I panicked and got tested.

I called my colleagues to let them know what was going on and to apologize

profusely. It was a tremendous kuleana to inform my colleagues, whom I love, that I might have infected them. It still weighs heavily on my soul that I could have infected others.

A few days later I got my test results: positive. I was very scared of dying. What would happen to my keiki? I cried when I called my colleagues and loved ones. I felt awful. I encouraged them to get tested.

My symptoms were "mild," so I didn't go to the hospital. However, it was an awful, wretched experience; COVID-19 is terrible. I was a zombie for two weeks. Most of the time I was weak, ferociously thirsty, nauseous, hot and uncomfortable. I lost my taste buds and appetite. I stopped eating to avoid throwing up. I had very few lucid moments.

My daughters also tested positive, but fortunately they were asymptomatic. They handled all the housework and nursed me while I was in agony. They made me eat and drink water. It was a horrific experience.

I have now returned to the land of the living. God is good. I'm still feeling the stigma of having had it;

but I understand that anyone can catch the disease. That's why we must mask up, wash hands, and practice social distancing.

COVID-19 is real. It's worse than the flu, and it's highly contagious. Stay safe and keep your 'ohana near. Mālama pono a Ke Akua pū. ■

Kuuleilani Reyes lives in Kualoa, O'ahu, with her daughters, Keola'oli and Kaliloa who attend Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau. She is a librarian, a mother and a Native Hawaiian.

The views and opinions expressed in Ha'i Mana'o are those of the author, and do not represent the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Guidelines for the submission of Ha'i Mana'o are available at kawaiola.news.

ABOUT THE COVER



Art By: Michael Wedermeyer

Who Will Decide Our Future?

With so much at stake in our pae 'āina and beyond, this may be the most important election in any of our lifetimes. Our votes will help to decide our collective future for generations. In this issue's cover story, *Our 'Ōpio Speak Out*, the next generation of lāhui leaders share the hopeful future they envision and proactive solutions to the problems we face.

This self-portrait by Kamehameha Schools Kapālama senior Michael Wedermeyer reminds us that while our 'ōpio may not be old enough to vote in this year's election, they are looking to those of us who can vote to make pono choices and elect leaders who will uplift our lāhui and address urgent social and environmental issues today for the good of the generations that will follow.

Michael's piece captures the literal and figurative interface between kanaka and 'āina in our modern world. How do we as kanaka of today maintain a healthy dynamic with our 'āina so that kanaka of tomorrow can appreciate this land of our kūpuna in the same way? We cannot escape this kuleana. It is embedded within our DNA. We must face that responsibility. ■

Our 'Ōpio Speak Out

By Cheryl Chee Tsutsumi

They are on the threshold of adulthood, living at a time when Hawai'i, America and the world are facing many daunting challenges. What concerns our 'ōpio today and why? How do they think these problems can be solved? Six high school students offer candid responses.

Cheryl Chee Tsutsumi has written 12 books and countless newspaper, magazine and website articles about Hawai'i's history, culture, food and lifestyle.



SOPHIA PERRY

Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i | Grade 12

CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Healthy living means having access to, among other things, clean air, water and land. To protect this ideal, we promote conservation and sustainability. But the Western idea of conservation is typically concentrated on reversing damage already done by man. It is a reactive approach involving, for example, recycling and picking up litter. The land is seen as a source of profit or a means of enjoyment.

In contrast, Native Hawaiians view the land as a source of life. As kānaka, it is our responsibility to take care of it: He ali'i ka 'āina; he kauwā ke kanaka. The kānaka perspective acknowledges that the land can thrive without us, but we cannot thrive without the land.

When we talk about conservation and sustainability, it's more than just recycling cans, using solar energy and putting trash in garbage bins, although every green effort, however small, helps. To really become a self-sufficient, conservation-minded community, we need to first shift the paradigm — to help people develop a love and appreciation for the land, to have an aloha 'āina perspective.

The best way to do this is through education. An understanding of the history and mo'olelo of places in Hawai'i encourages a deeper connection, allowing one to regard the land as something more than just a spot to hike, surf, build a house, or have a picnic. It is this strong relationship, built on the combination of education and personal experience, that will allow residents to truly see Hawai'i as their special home. And this understanding will empower everyone to do his or her part to protect and preserve it.



PAKALANA HAO

Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana | Grade 11

HOMELESSNESS/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Home is my safe place. It's where I look forward to relaxing after a long day. Having a home helps to define us. It's an extension of who we are.

I have great sympathy for people who don't have a home. I imagine their lives aren't what they dreamt of when they were younger — that they don't have a sense of security because they don't know where they're going to eat their next meal or where they're going to sleep at night.

There are many reasons why people wind up being homeless. One reason is they made poor choices and started hanging out with the wrong group. Maybe they got addicted to drugs and are committing crimes to pay for them. Their families tried to help them, but they're either not accepting that help or their families gave up because they aren't making a sincere effort to change.

But I think everyone deserves a second chance, and the first step to end homelessness is the availability of permanent, affordable housing. People trying to turn their lives around need to have that stability.

The state could release land or private landowners could donate land for affordable housing. Tax and other incentives could be provided to developers interested in those projects. We as a community must hold politicians accountable for what they say. When they're running for office, politicians often promise to build affordable housing, but when they get in, they put that on the back burner. Instead of just complaining and calling police officers to move homeless people out of their neighborhoods, citizens should educate themselves and be an active part of the solution.



KAWENA ABRIGO

Saint Louis School | Grade 12

RACIAL UNREST

When I was growing up, my parents taught me to always say hello to my grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins when we arrived at family parties and to say goodbye to them before we left. That became second nature to me, and I've since learned if you treat people with courtesy and respect, you're going to have positive interactions with them.

I think stereotyping is the main reason there is racial unrest in America. Young people sometimes believe negative things about certain ethnic groups because of what they read, see on TV and social media, and hear from role models, including rappers and athletes. But stereotypes and assumptions need to go out the window. Instead, those on opposing sides should come together and really listen to each other. Right now, there is too much talking going on and not enough listening with open minds.

I'm proud of all the races I represent: I'm Filipino, Hawaiian, German, Italian, African American and a Native American of Cherokee descent. Many of my friends are also of mixed blood, but we never think of ourselves that way. We're just...people.

Everyone doesn't share that view, and change isn't going to happen overnight. Honest communication is important. It takes time and patience to build trust and gain a clear understanding of other people's backgrounds and opinions. We can't change the past, but we can change the present.

Don't pre-judge; accept others for who they are. If you do that — no matter the color of their skin, hair or eyes — you may find that you've made new friends who have more in common with you than you thought was possible.



MAHINA KAOMEA

Kamehameha Schools Kapālama | Grade 12

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Centuries ago, Kawainui, the place that first inspired my commitment to food sovereignty and 'āina restoration, was a 400-acre fishpond fringed by extensive fields of kalo, mai'a, 'uala and kō. The pond once fed families throughout Ko'olaupoko, but today it lies dormant, overrun by invasive plants and surrounded by suburban sprawl. Many kānaka have forgotten it was a fishpond and instead refer to it as a marsh.

As we work towards a food-sovereign future, reclaiming, rebuilding and revitalizing our Indigenous methods of local food production, in places such as Kawainui, is critical because 90% of Hawai'i's food is currently imported from overseas.

In a food-sovereign future, we will need more farmers and fishermen to oversee the production and balance of land and water ecosystems. We will need lawmakers and economists to prevent overdevelopment of lands and help make agriculture and aquaculture fulfilling, economically viable professions. And we will need educators to transform the way we relate to and understand 'āina — not as a natural resource to be exploited but as our kupuna, and that which feeds.

Rebuilding the structures that have fed our people for generations — such as māla, lo'i kalo and loko i'a — will take both individual and collective action. 'Ohana can easily plant enough huli in a 10-by-10-foot area in their backyards to eventually yield 100 pounds of kalo. Or if we prefer to work alongside others, there are many places where we can mālama lo'i kalo or loko i'a in our communities.

Whatever hana we choose, in turning our hands towards the earth, we will find that in growing mea'ai, we are also growing ourselves as we assume our kuleana as stewards of aloha 'āina.



TEHANI KEKUAWELA

Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i | Grade 9

CLIMATE CHANGE

Emission of greenhouse gases is the biggest contributor to climate change. These gases trap heat in Earth's atmosphere, causing global warming by thinning the ozone layer that protects us from full exposure to the sun. Greenhouse gas emissions are primarily caused by human activities, including burning fossil fuel for heat, electricity and transportation.

Because the Earth is getting warmer, ice caps are melting and sea levels are rising. Record heat waves in California and Oregon have started massive wildfires that are destroying millions of acres. That makes a bad situation worse because plants and trees are great sources of oxygen.

We can't rebuild the ozone layer, but we can stop more damage from happening by being less reliant on cars and buses that run on fuel, and choosing to walk, ride bikes or drive hybrid or electric vehicles instead. We can switch to wind and solar power, and reuse and recycle as much as we can to reduce emissions that result from manufacturing.

Food production also affects climate change. Machines and trucks are required to raise animals and process, transport and store meat and dairy products. In comparison, planting a fruit and vegetable garden at home doesn't require fuel and electricity, you don't have to drive to the supermarket and you don't have to buy produce that came to Hawai'i on ships that release greenhouse gases.

Everyone needs to kōkua, and I welcome volunteers for the Aloha 'Āina Keiki Club that I created. My goal for the club is to teach children about climate change because efforts to save our planet should start at that young age. Kids can be the superheroes for the Earth.



MAUI IOKEPA-GUERRERO

Saint Louis School | Grade 11

THE PANDEMIC

What concerns me the most about the pandemic is people's health and safety, especially our kūpuna, who are at high risk of getting sick. In Hawai'i, we enjoy going outdoors and gathering with friends and family, but now, to stay healthy, we can't always be with our loved ones.

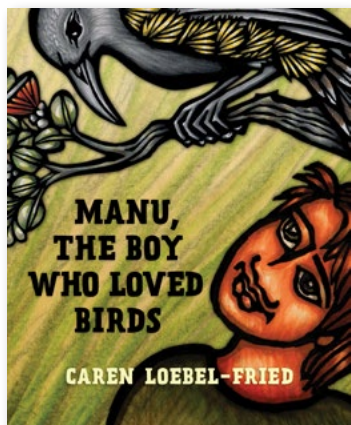
My school is on a distance-learning model through at least the first quarter, and although I miss seeing my friends in person, we're lucky to be able to text and use Instagram, Zoom and FaceTime to keep in touch. My hālau, Nā Pualai O Likoehua, meets weekly on Zoom for hula classes. And every day, we participate in a new initiative called Lāhui Kānaka while we're at home with our 'ohana. For about 10 minutes, we chant and pray for maui ola.

Even though my hālau is not physically together or on Zoom, we gather in mind and spirit exactly at noon for Lāhui Kānaka. Knowing that everyone, including our families, is putting their mana into it at the same time connects us and helps us stand strong.

The pandemic has caused a lot of pain and suffering, and we are not out of the woods yet. There is so much uncertainty; our lives might never be the same, and that's a scary thought. But it's important to be positive.

One good thing I've noticed from people being on lockdown is that the 'āina is healing itself. The ocean is cleaner, and sea turtles are starting to nest in areas they haven't been before. Seeing that is also healing for me; it brings me peace, happiness and hope.

REVIEW



Manu, The Boy Who Loved Birds

Review by Puanani Fernandez-Akamine

After a school visit to the Bishop Museum, a young boy is inspired to learn more about the Native Hawaiian birds whose feathers were used to fashion the beautiful feathered garments he saw on display. He is especially intrigued by the tiny ‘ō‘ō with the bright yellow feathers, now extinct, whose name is part of his own.

So begins the boy’s journey to learn about these exquisite creatures and to understand the name his parent’s gave him, Manu‘ō‘ōmauloa, which means “May the ‘ō‘ō bird live on.”

Part storybook and part science lesson, *Manu, The Boy Who Loved Birds*, is a new children’s book published by U.H. Press. Written and illustrated by Caren Loebel-Fried, it is available in Hawaiian or English (the Hawaiian translation is by Blaine Namahana Tolentino). The book was made possible with help from the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i, and joyfully blends

spirituality, culture, science and technology.

Following his class trip to the museum, Manu and his father search the internet for information about native birds and listen to the recorded songs of these birds using an online library. Then, to celebrate his birthday, Manu’s parents surprise him with a trip to Hawai‘i Island which includes a forest hike in Volcanoes National Park to watch and listen for native birds like ‘apapane and ‘ōma‘o, a visit to a conservation center dedicated to raising endangered Hawaiian birds, and a day spent volunteering with a koa reforestation project.

Deeply troubled that the ‘ō‘ō has been lost to this world, and unable to understand why his parents would name him after an extinct bird, Manu experiences a series of intensely powerful dreams that connect him to the ‘ō‘ō in a personal and profound way, ultimately enabling him to come to terms with their extinction and to understand the kaona of his name.

Entertaining and enlightening, *Manu, The Boy Who Loved Birds* emphasizes

both Hawaiian culture and environmental conservation and is brought to life by Loebel-Fried’s colorful and whimsical block-print illustrations.

The book’s afterward includes additional information about the ‘ō‘ō bird, the use of feathers in Hawaiian culture (and traditional conservation measures used to ensure the birds’ protection), an illustrated glossary of the Hawaiian words used in the story, and ways that keiki and ‘ohana can get involved to protect Hawai‘i’s natural environment and habitats and help prevent the further extinction of Hawai‘i’s remaining forest birds.

Manu, The Boy Who Loved Birds is a charming and educational book that serves as a reminder that culture and science are, and should be, complementary.

To purchase a copy go to: <https://uhpress.hawaii.edu/title/manu-the-boy-who-loved-birds/>. Or to learn more about the book, view the trailer at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuZVhgJDvEo> ■

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If you prefer to vote in-person or need to register and vote on the same day, go to a voter service center from Oct. 20 to Nov. 3.

For more information on how to vote safely, visit aarp.org/Hawaiivotes

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OHA Victory in Ongoing Lawsuit Against State Auditor

By Sterling Wong

First Circuit Judge Jeffrey P. Crabtree issued an order in favor of OHA in mid-September, ruling that the redacted portions of the minutes of the executive sessions of OHA Board meetings the State Auditor seeks to review are protected by attorney-client privilege.

“While yesterday’s ruling isn’t the end to this lawsuit, it is still a major victory for OHA,” said OHA Chair Colette Machado. “This brings us closer to compelling the auditor to complete his long-overdue audit of OHA, so the state can release much-needed general funds to the Native Hawaiian people during this pandemic.”

In his ruling, Judge Crabtree denied State Auditor Les Kondo’s motion to dismiss OHA’s lawsuit. OHA originally filed the lawsuit against the State Auditor in February, asking the court to decide whether trustees must provide Kondo with attorney-client privileged information. OHA filed the lawsuit hoping that a court decision would clear the way for the completion of the suspended state audit of OHA, which is now nine months late. Without a finished audit, OHA cannot receive \$3 million in general funds for the current fiscal year.

“We are grateful that Judge Crabtree’s careful decision will allow OHA’s lawsuit to continue so that a conclusion can be reached on the merits,” said OHA Board Counsel Robert Klein, a former Hawai‘i Supreme Court Justice.

Last year, the Legislature passed a law that conditioned the release of OHA’s \$3 million in general funds for fiscal year 2021 on the State Auditor’s completion of a new audit of OHA. Shortly thereafter, Kondo informed OHA that he would be auditing the limited liability companies (LLCs) associated with OHA and requested 26 categories of information.

OHA and its associated LLCs fully cooperated, providing Kondo with 937 documents, totaling thousands of pages, within weeks of receiving his requests. OHA submitted all documents requested, including the minutes of 21 executive session Board meetings that included redactions to shield privileged legal advice, which is protected from disclosure by state law.

OHA CEO Dr. Sylvia Hussey said that OHA and the LLCs have been responsive to all of Kondo’s requests.

“Everything the State Auditor requested was turned over, in most instances, within the one-week response deadline,” said Hussey. “Any questions about specific financial transactions of the LLCs can be answered in the documents already sub-

mitted to Mr. Kondo’s office, including contract lists, grants received, check registers and meeting minutes of the LLC managers, none of which were redacted.”

On Dec. 30, 2019, just as the audit was due to the Legislature, Kondo announced that he was suspending the audit indefinitely until OHA provides him with the unredacted meeting minutes.

“The State Auditor is using an unprecedented interpretation of his powers to demand attorney-client privileged information that is protected by the law,” said Klein when OHA filed its lawsuit in February. “Rather than subpoenaing OHA, which would result in a court reviewing his interpretation of his audit powers, he decided to suspend his legislatively mandated audit and place significant Native Hawaiian funds in jeopardy.

In April, Kondo filed the motion asking the First Circuit Court to dismiss OHA’s lawsuit. With Kondo’s motion dismissed, the case will now focus on whether the State Auditor’s legal powers allow him to review OHA’s Board executive session meeting minutes, which Judge Crabtree has now declared to be protected by attorney-client privilege. ■



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Not the Flu

'Ōiwi Talk About COVID-19



Maile Alau

Having survived COVID-19, Maile Alau is an outspoken advocate for personal responsibility. "The instance of transmission between people who are both wearing masks is almost zero. So wear a mask." - Photos: Courtesy



Chasity Peters

Peters' parents, Darrellane and John Flores, in 2016. Warns Peters, "This thing is real and can be passed easily. Don't be foolish. You can show aloha without putting yourself, or your 'ohana, at risk."



Shane Valdez

"Everyone who survives COVID-19 should donate their plasma," says Shane Valdez. "Survivors develop antibodies which can be used to help others fight the disease. It's an opportunity to help save others."



Charlie Iona

(L to R) Brothers Claudney "Pu" Iona, Claude Iona, Eddie Bissen and Charlie Iona in Las Vegas in 2019. It was the last time Charlie saw his brother, Eddie. Charlie has channeled his grief to educate others about COVID-19.

By Puanani Fernandez-Akamine

The first weekend in August, Maile Alau and her 'ohana were moving into their new home. Saturday was a busy day spent moving boxes and furniture. On Sunday the work continued but as the morning wore on, Alau started to feel unwell; her throat was scratchy and she had started coughing. She ignored her symptoms, intending to power through, but by 1:00 p.m. she felt so weak that she had to lay down and sleep.

Alau awoke on Monday morning with a fever and body aches. She called her doctor and they were on a tele-medicine call when Alau realized she could no longer smell the diffuser on the table next to her. Her doctor scheduled a COVID-19 test for her the next day.

On Wednesday Alau learned she was positive. Later that day she went to the emergency room because she was

having trouble breathing. The doctor ordered a chest x-ray and checked her oxygenation, which was fine at 97%. Her chest x-ray seemed clear and Alau was sent home with an oximeter and instructions to return if her blood oxygen levels dipped below 92%.

"It came on really quickly," said Alau. "There were probably seven days of really high fever and super horrible fatigue. I couldn't taste or smell. I could not breathe. I was laying in bed panting like I ran a 5k. Then the fever started going down but my cough, which had gone away, came back with a vengeance and I started coughing up blood."

Alau called her regular doctor again. Her doctor reviewed the x-rays taken when Alau visited the emergency room the week before and found a few tiny spots that had been missed, indicating pneumonia. Alau was prescribed a course of antibiotics.

Although Alau's husband, Jason Teaney, also tested positive for COVID-19, he never had any symptoms. And

Alau's 14-year-old son and their housemate were negative. "It's weird because we hang out together and we eat together," said Alau, who is not even sure how she became infected.

By the end of August, Alau was well enough to resume working from home. Her fever and cough had subsided, although the fatigue persisted into September. Eight weeks after being diagnosed, Alau's lungs are still not working right. "I used to be able to walk three miles easily. Now I'm up to about three-quarters of mile before I have to rest."

Shane Keli'i Valdez is a surgical nurse and a self-decried "super O.C.D. germaphobe." So when he tested positive for COVID-19 on August 26 it came as a shock.

"At work we are so careful and diligent about wearing our PPE. And I'm the one with Clorox wipes constantly wiping doorknobs, handles and code buttons. But the one place I let my guard down was at home," said Valdez.

Valdez lives next door to his parents. His mother is ill, so he does the grocery shopping for both households, going between the two homes. His cousin also lives in the home, so when her boyfriend tested positive for COVID-19, Valdez' first concern was for his parents. He wanted them tested immediately but was told that they should wait a few days because it might be too early. But Valdez got tested right away since he was over at the house every day and often cooked for his parents. When his test came back positive, his fear was for his mother.

"I was just so worried that I had given it to my mom and that she would not survive it," Valdez recalled. "So those first five days were pretty nerve wracking. I couldn't even focus on myself; compared to my parents, my chances of survival were greater. So, when my mom's test result came back negative it was a huge relief to our whole 'ohana."

Valdez was fortunate to have very mild symptoms. But that is an important part of the story that he wants to share. "At first I had a little bit of a headache – but it could have been caffeine withdrawal from not having coffee that morning; I was a little short of breath – but I've put on a few pounds because I haven't been exercising. The symptoms are vague, so they are easily dismissed."

About a week after his diagnosis, the headaches got worse and his lungs weren't working at capacity. He had an oximeter at home and was monitoring his blood oxygen levels, which were low, but not dangerous, at 91-92%. But the day his oxygen saturation dropped to 88% he got nervous. "I'm a medical professional but I wasn't sure when to seek medical help," Valdez admits. "Any nurse would put you on supplemental oxygen if your sats are 88%, but I didn't want to occupy a hospital bed for a little bit of oxygen in my nose. There were more critical patients needing care."

The next day his oxygen levels were up to 94-95% and for the most part he felt okay. He returned to work in mid-September, but his oxygen levels have continued to hover between 95-97%. His doctor says that may be his new baseline.

NOT THE FLU

Continued from page 20

Three years ago, Chasity Peters’ mother suffered a massive stroke that has left her confined to a nursing home, unable to walk or speak. It has been extremely difficult for the family. “She loved to sing,” said Peters about her mother. “She was a stay-at-home mom, caring for the six of us kids and then 15 grandkids. She was the rock of the family always praying for everybody, always there to listen. For her to go through so much and still be here with us is a testament in itself.”

The ‘ohana has been unable to visit Peters’ mother since nursing homes were locked down in March; their contact limited to video chats. In early July, Peters’ father got a call from the nursing facility asking for consent to have his wife tested for COVID-19. The family assumed it was routine. When they received another call a few days later saying she was positive, they were shocked and angry.

“It was a roller coaster of emotions,” Peters shared. “My mom’s condition put her in the high risk category. One of the reasons she’s in a nursing home is because she lived on a respirator when she first got sick. Everything hit the fan. For the first two to three days it was the blame game: How did this happen? Who messed up? Who gave it to her? Honestly, that was the hardest thing – the rage.”

They later learned she was infected by a nursing facility staff member. “I couldn’t sleep. My dad couldn’t sleep. It was super scary. We kept calling to find out what was happening,” said Peters. “Everyone just got on their knees and prayed.”

Remarkably, Peters’ mother was asymptomatic despite her serious medical conditions. “Our family is 100% blessed and thankful,” Peters reflected. “We believe God answered our prayers. We don’t understand why she’s still here on Earth while others are not.”

Charlie Iona lost his brother, Eddie Bissen, to COVID-19 in early April. Bissen, a limousine and Uber driver in New York City, was 63 years old. He was most likely infected with the virus by one of his passengers.

“I was browsing Facebook and saw a post by my brother saying he contracted COVID but was doing okay,” Iona recalled. “So, I called him and said, ‘Hey what’s going on?’ He told me he had a high fever – between 103-104. Too high. I told him that until he was over it, I was going to call him every day. That was on March 29. A Sunday.”

The following day when Iona called his brother didn’t pick-up.

On Tuesday, Iona received a call from Bissen’s girlfriend, Mary Freda. She told Iona that Eddie was in the hospital and that she had never seen him look so scared. Freda promised to keep Iona updated. She also had COVID-19 but her symptoms were mild.

The next day Freda called saying Bissen would be dialyzed (on dialysis) 24 hours a day and that the doctors were trying hydroxychloroquine. But hydroxychloroquine therapy was quickly discontinued after it adversely affected Bissen’s heart. Then the dialysis filter began getting clogged because Bissen’s blood was so thick. “That’s

the first time it was revealed that he had blood clots,” said Iona.

By Friday, Bissen was in a coma and on life support, not responding to any kind of stimulus. For two long days Iona waited for news about his brother.

Then early Sunday morning Iona got a call from Freda. “At first I couldn’t understand her, she was crying so much,” Iona said. “She finally told me that the doctors had taken Eddie off life support to determine whether there was any brain activity, and that he passed away within a minute. He was already brain dead.”

In an effort to inform, educate and change behaviors, after his brother’s death Charlie Iona partnered with Mel Rapozo, to co-host a nightly show they call COVID Discussions. The show runs Monday through Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and streams live on their individual Facebook pages. Both men are retired police officers with backgrounds in investigation, and over the past six months have hosted a remarkable array of guests including physicians, politicians, government officials and coronavirus survivors. They use their popular platform to provide first-hand information about the disease from experts and survivors, and to debunk rumors and conspiracy theories.

Nearly ten months into the pandemic, a great deal has been learned about this highly contagious and potentially deadly virus. But even as researchers race to develop a vaccine, much about the disease remains unknown, not the least of which is why some people get so sick and others do not.



Dr. Jordan Lee specializes in pulmonary and critical care and emphasizes the need to get control over COVID-19. “Unfortunately, the disease will probably happen in cycles and we’ll open and close, open and close, until we reach some kind of herd immunity or there is a vaccine.”

The way COVID-19 affects people can seem random. While kūpuna and those with chronic illnesses are the most vulnerable and account for the majority of deaths, there are glaring exceptions. Young, healthy people, including children, have also died from COVID-19.

As of press time, more than 31 million people

worldwide have been infected with the virus, and nearly one million have died. Deaths in the U.S. have surpassed 200,000 people, and COVID-19 is now the third leading cause of death in America.

Dr. Jordan Kalenakai Lee, an ICU physician with The Queen’s Medical Center, says it’s important for people to understand that COVID-19’s mortality rate is only part of the story.

“COVID-19 is a ‘novel’ virus, meaning the human body has never seen it and doesn’t know how to react. So, it turns up the immune system and goes unchecked, which leads to a lot of multi-organ damage: the heart, the lungs, the blood vessels, the brain,” Lee explained. “It can cause strokes. And the majority of hospitalized patients develop a form of acute respiratory distress syndrome.”

Lee notes that 15-20% of people infected with COVID-19 require hospitalization. Of those who are hospitalized and recover, most will have permanent heart or lung damage. A smaller number will suffer strokes or experience some loss of cognitive function, or early dementia.

Although infection rates continue to soar, new medical therapies are resulting in better outcomes for the sickest patients. However, there is no cure for COVID-19 and a safe, widely available vaccine is months away at best. Given the unpredictability of anyone’s individual response to the disease, the fact that it is highly contagious, and the risk it poses to our kūpuna, it is in the best interest of our lāhui to reduce the spread of the virus and avoid getting infected.

Reducing community spread of COVID-19 is also critically important to ensure that sufficient hospital beds are available and so that health care professionals are not overwhelmed.

“During the height of the second wave in August, our hospital was near capacity,” said Lee. “Our COVID ICU was full and spilling over into other ICUs when hospitalizations peaked. Thankfully they have started to drift back down.”

Continued Lee, “Hospital beds and ventilator capacity is not the issue. It’s staffing – particularly nurses to care for critically ill patients – not just for COVID-19, but for every critical patient admitted, whether for heart attack, trauma, strokes...once the health system gets strained it can affect the quality of care all patients receive.”

According to Lee, hospitals are cooperating to share the COVID-19 patient load and FEMA has flown in relief critical care nurses for two weeks to help offset the nursing shortage and to allow Hawai’i nurses time to recover after working multiple double shifts.

At this point, preventing the spread of COVID-19 is key. And because of our family-oriented culture, and our many multi-generational households, difficult behavioral changes are required.

“Living in Hawai’i, we hug and we honi. Aloha is just ingrained into our psyche,” reflects Lee. “To be isolated and not touch is really hard for everyone, myself included.”

Regardless, restraint is important. Adds Alau, “If there is a chance you could hurt somebody, wouldn’t you do whatever was needed to avoid that? If we claim to have aloha, if we claim to care about our lāhui, then we have to do what we need to do to protect them. Period.” ■

Inspiring Young Minds; Transforming Young Lives



By Nālei Akina

Queen Lili'uokalani dedicated her wealth to the most vulnerable of children. She was acutely aware of the large numbers of orphaned and destitute children across the pae 'āina. While the Hawaiian population today is rebounding and showing higher rates of connectedness to 'ohana, Hawaiian children are overrepresented in virtually every indicator of distress.

As we look to the next 25 years, we believe investing in the wellbeing of today's most vulnerable kamali'i across a

continuum from inception to young adulthood will lead to better outcomes for them and for future generations, disrupting the cycle of poverty for Hawaiian families and communities. (For more information see: <https://onipaa.org/pages/lili-uokalani-trust-unveils-strategic-plan-2020-2045>.)

To realize this vision, our strategy is designed to navigate the uncertainty ahead and continue to promote thriving through transformational programs for our vulnerable kamali'i. Our path forward aligns community work with core initiatives in early childhood, youth development, and opportunity youth services – all rooted in culturally grounded clinical services.

For the first time in our history, LT will provide services from cradle to age 26.

An early childhood center is planned for children from conception to age five. On-site housing for parenting youth will allow us to provide transformational pathways for both parents and children.

Our statewide kīpuka (centers) will host youth development activities in arts, sports,

and entrepreneurship.

Clinical services focus on kamali'i experiencing foster care, juvenile justice, homelessness, and/or trauma or exploitation. Our social workers are piloting mobile services to reach kamali'i where they are.

Lydia's House in Honolulu provides transitional housing for 42 youth. In 2021, it will launch an assessment/drop-in center, emergency shelter, and wrap-around services for youth who are homeless, runaways, or at risk of committing status offenses.

Additionally, the Trust has acquired approximately 7 acres in Kea'au on Hawai'i Island and 1.5 acres in Kaunakakai on Moloka'i for future program development. On Maui, commercial spaces in Lahaina and Pukalani are being renovated to host youth programs.

In these times of uncertainty, we draw inspiration from our Queen's legacy to guide us in our work ahead. We know this is an endeavor we cannot do alone – that we must unite as a community to realize

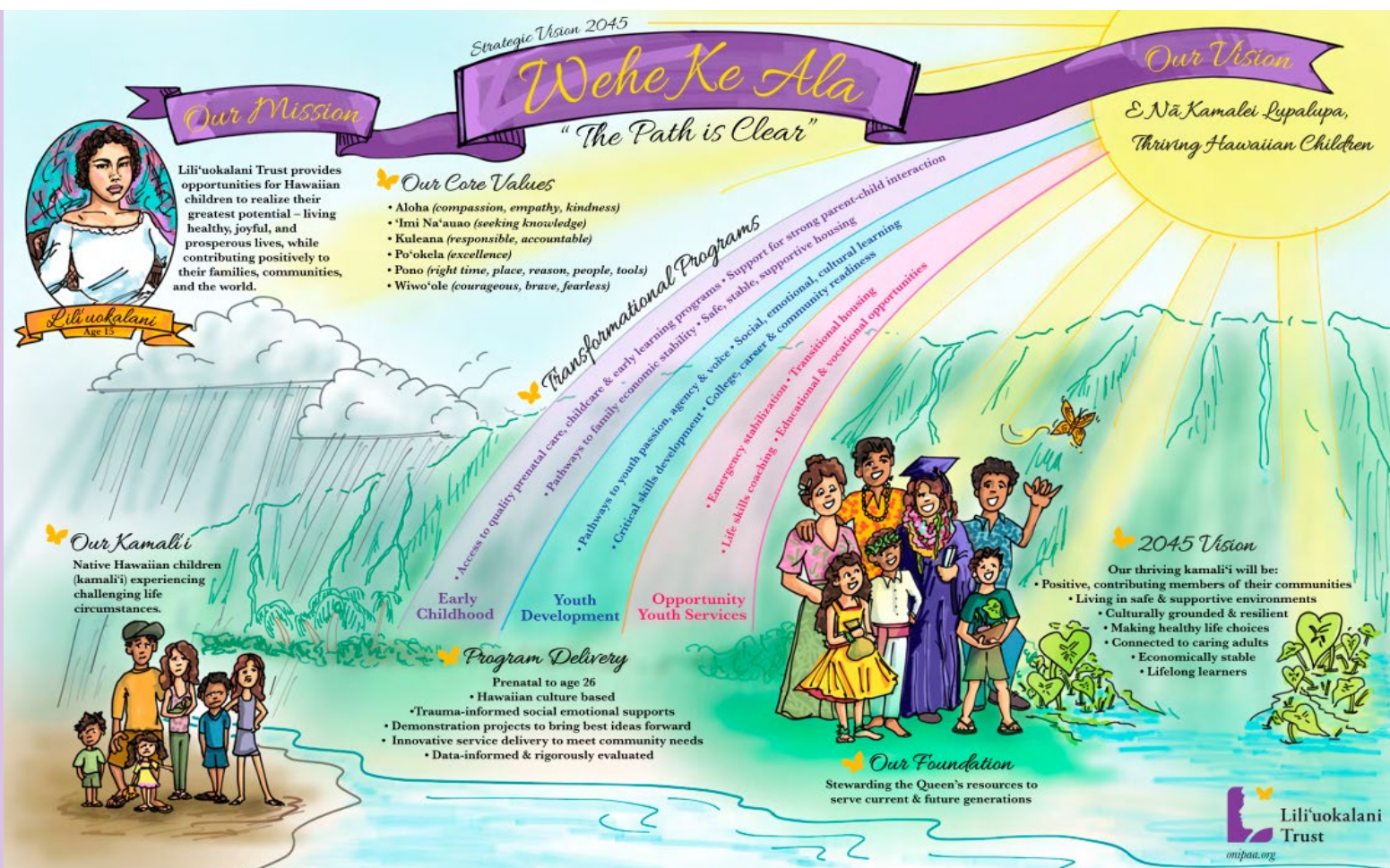
a collective vision of thriving kamali'i, 'ohana and lāhui. E 'onipa'a kākou!

We welcome those interested in the Queen, her legacy, her mission, to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @liliuokalanitrust, and visit www.onipaa.org to learn more and to sign up for ongoing LT communications. ■

With over 30 years of experience in nonprofit management, Nālei Akina currently supports the development of Lili'uokalani Trust's strategic initiatives in early childhood, youth development and opportunity youth services. Prior to joining LT, Nālei served as administrator at Lunalilo Home overseeing all operations for the care of Native Hawaiian kūpuna. She has also held leadership positions at the National Asian Women's Health Organization, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, and serves on the boards of Boys & Girls Club of Hawai'i and Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus.

Lili'uokalani Trust (LT) leadership team unveiled the 2045 Vision and Strategic Plan

LT's Vision and Strategic Plan, known together as "Wehe Ke Ala – The Path is Clear," more closely aligns our community work with core initiatives in early childhood, youth development and clinical practice. With a focus on transformational change for most vulnerable kamali'i, it guides priorities, spending, and programs.



Exchange Ave: An Ahupua'a Inspired Digital Economy



By John Kealoha Garcia

Prior to the overthrow, Native Hawaiians lived in a highly organized, self-sufficient, subsistent social system based on communal land tenure.

At the core of this system was the ahupua'a, an ancient land division that sustained Hawaiians for thousands of years. Resources were cultivated from mountain to ocean, and abundance was shared amongst the community, with a focus on the health of the whole. Aloha was the currency.

If the 'āina thrived so did the people — and thus, our unique language, culture and religion was born.

My earliest memory of aloha 'āina was through my Papa Cullen. To me, he was the epitome of what it meant to be Hawaiian. Respected, humble and hard working. He kept an impeccable yard and made the best lū'au stew. Papa could fix anything and if he couldn't, he had an 'ohana that could. The weekends I spent on Nānākuli Ave. shaped my sense of culture, place, and belonging.

Growing up in town and through my corporate career, I slowly lost that connection. As family passed, memories were lost. Thinking back to weekends at Papa's house reminded me what it meant to feel connected.

In 2018 I moved home after two years in New York City. Being away allowed me to explore different cultures which helped me reconnect to my own.

I began growing kalo and started a small garden in Kaimukī as a way to eat healthier. That garden grew into a community foodscape and, ultimately, fueled the development of my latest venture, Exchange Ave. (EA).

EA is a portal to the past, and a bridge to our future. A digital economy inspired by

the ahupua'a, with aloha and shared abundance at its core.

The mobile app allows members to create a profile, upload items, and browse a marketplace of goods and services offered by their neighbors. Members earn points by logging daily exchanges to incentivize the exchange economy.

In just three months, we've grown to 500 members, facilitating over 180 exchanges throughout the islands. At an average exchange value of \$5 to \$7 per trade, the opportunity for savings through shared abundance is untapped.

EA is currently being used in Ko'olaupoko, helping to drive an economy of resources at Pu'uuhonua O Waimānalo. The community stays connected virtually, and digital literacy improves through productive use of technology and innovation.

During lockdown, the exchange of goods and services is organized in a digital space, with contactless pick-up and drop off of items at the convenience of the community — helping us to maintain COVID-19 bubbles.

The goal for EA is to become a global economy focused on connecting Indigenous people worldwide, with Hawai'i serving as a successful model for ahupua'a economies. As we seek funding to take EA to the next level, every exchange counts towards proving the value of the EA economy and helping us achieve our community expansion goals.

To get the app and participate in the new economy, visit us online at ExchangeAve.com. Follow our journey through social media on Instagram @ExchangeAve. ■

John Kealoha Garcia is an entrepreneur and award-winning creative director. Known for his role in building community platforms, John's forward-thinking approach and ability to grow and evolve ideas has led to his success over a 20-year media and tech career in Hawai'i and New York. In addition to serving as an executive advisor for The Nation of Hawai'i, John's latest venture - Exchange Ave. - is an ahupua'a-inspired barter and trade marketplace with the mission to restore our Indigenous economies.

Homestead Job Corp Project Flourishing



By Robin Puanani Danner



The Homestead Community Development Corporation, the nonprofit arm of SCHHA, is employing residents with CARES Act Funding through the end of December.

The program, envisioned by homestead associations on Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island, is as simple as they come — in a pandemic, in an economic calamity, employment and flowing wages through households flows capital through communities, through counties, and through local business. And employment, even temporary or short-term over a five-month period (limited by the CARES Act funding requirements), can bring incredible prosperity in difficult times!

So far, the County of Kaua'i has invested CARES Act funds into the Homestead Job Corps, resulting in Kaua'i residents being on payroll for up to 20 weeks, with the potential to earn \$12,000 for their families while accomplishing amazing, uplifting homestead projects that are so greatly needed.

To date, there are 22 participants from across the county on the job — some college students, some high school students — but most are single unmarried kāne. Eighteen kūpuna's yards on the homesteads have been cleaned, bringing so much relief and joy to these households. There's nothing quite like the smile of an elder.

Ditch systems have been cleared, a backyard raised-garden prototype built, socially distanced decking installed for a skate ramp for homestead keiki, COVID-19 improvements to homestead-based business facilities made to help them reopen when the time comes, a beach-front walkway built and so much more. And then there is the team of Homestead Job Corps participants using their skills to establish standard operating procedures to convert the HCDC nonprofit to a paperless operation, establishing telecommute policies, thinking through home office operations and logistics for its offices on Maui, on Kaua'i, on O'ahu and in Washington D.C.; installing technology to create efficiencies in the organization including a cloud-based server to enable it to serve its mission of affordable housing and job creation on the homesteads in a changed world due to the pandemic.

The Homestead Job Corps project validates the ingenuity of homestead association leaders as the best source of solutions to any challenge our communities may face — they are the most committed and the most knowledgeable in implementing them, especially on the homesteads — serving everyone. Of the participants, 73% are life-long residents of Kaua'i and their average age is 31; 68% are male, 77% are single, 27% are either in college or have some college, and 9% have college or vocational degrees.

Mahalo to the County of Kaua'i and Mayor Kawakami, and a special mahalo to the young men and women who are serving the community while earning wages for their respective families. ■

A national policy advocate for native self-governance, Robin Puanani Danner is the elected chair of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations, the oldest and largest coalition of native Hawaiians on or waiting for Hawaiian Home Lands. Born on Kaua'i, Robin grew up in Niūmalu, and the homelands of the Navajo, Hopi and Inuit peoples. She and her husband raised four children on homesteads in Anahola, Kaua'i where they continue to reside today.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month!



By Jodi Leslie Matsuo, DrPH

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women, with an estimated one out of every eight women diagnosed yearly. Compared to other ethnic groups in Hawai‘i, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander women are at highest risk of dying from breast cancer. It can happen to young and older women alike. While some think getting breast cancer cannot be prevented, this is not necessarily the case.

There are risk factors for breast cancer that cannot be changed, such as family history. However, there are lifestyle choices you can make that can lower the risk.

Research shows that drinking alcohol and being overweight increases risk of breast cancer, while being physically active and breastfeeding your children decreases risk. Eating vegetables, particularly those containing carotenoids, may also decrease risk.

Alcohol increases the levels of estrogen in your body, causing certain cancer cells to grow. Alcohol also damages DNA in cells, the first step in cancer development. The type of alcoholic drink – beer, wine, spirits – doesn’t matter, as they all contain ethanol, which transforms into toxic chemicals in the body. There is no safe amount of alcohol, as all amounts increase risk.

Being overweight increases estrogen, as well as other hormones that promote cancer growth. Being overweight also promotes inflammation in the body, making it more vulnerable to the development of cancer and other diseases. Eating more vegetables, fruits, beans, and whole grains, limiting sugar and processed foods, and being more

physically active help in achieving and managing a healthier body weight.

Being physically active and getting regular exercise can help you to manage your weight better. That, in turn, helps to reduce the breast cancer risk related to excess body weight. Choosing a variety of exercise that you enjoy increases the chances you’ll stay active regularly. Aim to get at least 150 minutes of heart-pumping activity weekly.

The main way breastfeeding decreases breast cancer risk is by reducing exposure to estrogen, as levels are lower during breastfeeding. The recommendation is to breastfeed your baby exclusively for the first six months of life and to continue to breastfeed, along with providing appropriate healthy foods, for up to two years of their life.

Vegetables contain fiber, vitamins, minerals, and a number of other nutrients that have been shown to lower risk of breast and other types of cancers in general. It is believed that the combination of these nutrients eaten together – not one particular type of nutrient – decreases risk. While all vegetables are beneficial, make sure to get carotenoid-containing fruits and vegetables, such as pumpkin, orange sweet potato, carrot, lū‘au leaves, spinach, papaya, bell pepper, and oranges.

If you are a breast cancer survivor, it is recommended you follow the same lifestyle guidelines as those for cancer prevention to lessen chances of recurrence.

Please mālama yourselves or the wāhine in your ‘ohana. Ua ola loko i ke aloha - Love gives life within. ■

Born and raised in Kona, Hawai‘i, Dr. Jodi Leslie Matsuo is a Native Hawaiian Registered Dietitian and certified diabetes educator, with training in Integrative and Functional Nutrition. Follow her on Facebook (@DrJodiLeslieMatsuo), Instagram (@drlesliematsuo) and on Twitter (@DrLeslieMatsuo).

Chair Ailā Addresses Herbicide Use



By Cedric Duarte

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has heard recent beneficiary and community concerns regarding the perceived spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides within homestead communities and near bodies of water. The unease sparked a response in the form of a letter penned by Hawaiian Homes Commission Chair William J. Ailā, Jr. last month.

In the Sept. 14, 2020 letter, Ailā reminded DHHL vendors that the Department has a strict practice of not using Roundup or similar products that are glyphosate-based for maintenance spraying activities near or within homestead communities and bodies of water. Other important safety measures and practices that are expected to be implemented in the use of all herbicides in the proximity of homestead communities were also highlighted in the letter.

“We take the concerns of beneficiaries seriously,” Ailā said. “While the majority of our vendors do a diligent job of maintaining our lands within the proper safeguards, the letter issued intends to serve as a reminder that Department practice does not permit the use of herbicides containing glyphosate in or near homestead communities and requests our vendors to be mindful of the safeguards

in place to avoid community disturbance when conducting these activities.”

DHHL oversees the maintenance of its unencumbered land inventory, waterways, and drainage systems throughout the state. In most instances, keeping these areas clear of pests, debris, trash, vegetation, and abandoned vehicles is handled on a monthly basis by contracted vendors. For fiscal year 2021, the Department has \$5 million of legislative appropriated funds allocated for repair and maintenance projects throughout the state.

Ailā emphasized, in his letter, that any reported violations against the Department’s spraying practice may result in the termination of the vendor’s contract.

The kuleana of caring for our ‘Āina Ho‘opulapula is a solemn responsibility that DHHL staff and the Hawaiian Homes Commission take seriously. You can read Ailā’s letter in full within DHHL’s website newsroom.

Issues on the homelands, including concerns over unauthorized or unsafe spraying, should be reported by calling the DHHL Contact Center at 808-620-9500. ■

Cedric R. Duarte is the Information & Community Relations Officer for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. He has worked in communications and marketing since 1999 and is a longtime event organizer. A product of the Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, he resides in ‘Aiea with his wife and two daughters.



HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
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Strategic Aloha



Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna O Hawai'i Nei Part 6: Empowerment Through Education

By Edward Halealoha Ayau

We were trained to understand that negativity demands a seat at the table and we must make room for it. By acknowledging the negative and putting it in its place, we achieve balance and establish the confidence to proceed and be successful. Strategically, our principle tools in these repatriation disputes are our humanity, our aloha, and our values of 'ohana that are respectful of kūpuna. By respecting our ancestors through repatriation and reburial, we demonstrate profound respect for ourselves. This is a powerful lesson to our keiki to love themselves, to help them know that they are never alone (that their ancestors are all around them) and to help protect their minds from extremely harmful thoughts that can at times lead to suicide, and to understand and appreciate their place in the remarkable lineage that is our Hawaiian people.



1996 Ki'i Lā'au at Southeby's with OHA Trustee Kinu'u Kamali'i. - Photos: Courtesy of Hui Mālama

We were trained to initiate a repatriation case by envisioning the result, which is reburial. We would embrace that vision, internalize it in our na'au and prevent any doubt from entering our

minds. We would then work backward with the confidence that we would prevail because we already know the outcome. This approach proved effective over the 30 years of our repatriation and reburial work. We would project confidence and clarity of thought through our advocacy work. In the tradition of the royal twins Kamanawa and Kame'eiamoku, I would offer the museum either peace or battle. It did not matter which option they chose, as the outcome would be the same. In international repatriation cases involving the Natural History Museum in London (which lasted 23 years) and the Statliches Museum fur Volkerkunde in Dresden (26 years), both of which were contentious, the ancestors were repatriated. Perseverance is key, as the outcome does not come with a timeline. It is not whether they come home, it's when.



1998 Ki'i Lā'au at Roger William Park Museum.

There is no legal authority in the international arena to require repatriation unless a country has a law that supports, or at least provides, for repatriation, like the 2004 Human Tissues Act in England. Most museums comply with our requests in good faith. There is no international jurisdictional prohibition on asserting aloha, 'ohana, kuleana and mālama. These are universal values that form the foundation for our good-faith claims for the iwi and moepū. Ola nā iwi. ■

Edward Halealoha Ayau is the former executive director of Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna O Hawai'i Nei, a group that has repatriated and reinterred thousands of ancestral Native Hawaiian remains and funerary objects.

To read this article in 'ōlelo Hawai'i, go to kawaiola.news.

Voter Suppression in Hawai'i



By Kalani Akana, Ph.D.

Aloha to our friends who love the land from the rising to the setting of the sun, from the fine sands of Hilo One to the shell-filled sands of Ni'ihau. Greetings with love.

The important day for general voting is nearing. We will be voting for president, representatives and senators, members of the city council and trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Citizens of Hawai'i are accustomed to voting by mail, however that is not so in some states. Voters there must stand in line to vote by machine or by hand. Some may be afraid because of the coronavirus pandemic and will not vote. That would be regretful, as voting is an important right and responsibility in a democracy for a nation like the U.S.A.

One thing we must be alert to is the suppression of voting through laws and policies. For example, at the time of the Bayonet Constitution of 1887, the natives were suppressed and newcomers raised up due to its allowance of those who could read English, Hawaiian or a Euro-

pean language (e.g., French, German) to vote. What of those who spoke Chinese and Japanese? They were disgarded even though they fulfilled these requirements: were males 20 years or older, lived in Hawai'i for at a year and had paid taxes.

That is also how the Hawaiian vote was suppressed during the time of the Provisional Government (PG). If they wanted to vote, they had to swear allegiance to the PG, the very ones who overthrew the legitimate Hawaiian government. That would be swearing allegiance to an enemy. Many natives could not do that. In addition, voters were required to read English only. Due to that requirement many Hawaiians were dropped from the voter registry. The deceit of the PG officials was made clear and the power of voting for the citizenry, the natives, suppressed.

Therefore, during this time of the pandemic, many will be voting by mail – approximately 80 million. We need to be vigilant to the effects of the pulling of incoming ballot counting by the postmaster general of the U.S. We need to be aware of the suppression of voting. ■

Kalani Akana, Ph.D., is the culture specialist at OHA. He is a kumu of hula, oli and 'ōlelo Hawai'i. He has authored numerous articles on Indigenous ways of knowing and doing.

To read this article in 'ōlelo Hawai'i, go to kawaiola.news.



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Applications for Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship Now Available



Lloyd Harold Kumulā'au Sing Jr.

First Nations Development Institute and The Henry Luce Foundation have opened applications for the 2021 Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship, a 12-month, self-directed program designed to support the growth, development, knowledge and networks of Indigenous knowledge holders and knowledge makers.

First Nations will award 10 fellowships of \$50,000 each to outstanding Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers engaged in meaningful work that benefits Indigenous people and communities in either reservation and/or urban settings. The fellowship is in its second year. The inaugural cohort of Fellows included 'ōiwi artist, kumu and cultural practitioner, Lloyd Kumulā'au Sing, Jr.

This fellowship supports Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers as they advance their work in ways that will ultimately lead to broad, transformative impacts for Indigenous peoples.

The fellowship is open to members of Native American or Alaska Native tribes and Native Hawaiians at least 18 years of age, and who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Applicants should have expertise in the field of knowledge they are pursuing, be engaged in its perpetuation and able to demon-

strate how their work can benefit the Indigenous community.

Applicants must complete an online application and provide other required information including essays and a current resume. Completed online applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (1:00 p.m. Hawai'i time) on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020.

For more information or to apply go to: <https://www.firstnations.org/rfps/likf-2/>

Kalaupapa Music Celebrated

The rich history of music written at Kalaupapa will be celebrated in a virtual concert, "The Music of Kalaupapa," airing on Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. on Facebook and YouTube. The event is sponsored by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa with assistance from the HI-Humanities Care Act Grant from the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Humanities.

The concert is a fundraiser for The Kalaupapa Memorial which will list the names of the nearly 8,000 men, women and children taken from their families and forcibly isolated at Kalaupapa between 1866 and 1969.

"The music of Kalaupapa is



The late songwriter and autoharp player Bernard K. Punikai'a will be one of several Kalaupapa musicians celebrated in a virtual concert that will air at 1 p.m. October 17. - Photo: Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

one of the most inspiring parts of this history, showing how people could overcome the sadness and separation," said Valerie Monson, executive director of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. "We believe the music helped people to heal and to find hope."

From the earliest days of the settlement, choirs and bands were assembled. Throughout the entire history of Kalaupapa, residents composed songs, chants and kani-kau.

Their songs will be performed by artists who knew them, or who have a connection to Kalaupapa. They include Stephen Inglis, Brother Noland, Melveen Leed, Kenneth Makuakane, Makana, Kevin Brown and Lopaka Ho'opi'i. They will play songs written by Kalaupapa composers The 'Aikala Brothers, Ernest Kala, Helen Keao, Samson Kuahine, George McLane, Bernard Punikai'a and the Boys of Kalawao.

The musicians will record their own video of songs and memories of Kalaupapa which will be compiled by producer Chris Lau. Television and radio veteran Billy V will serve as master of ceremonies. For up-to-date information and concert details, visit www.kalaupapaohana.org.

To donate towards construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial go to: www.kalaupapaohana.org. Checks can be mailed to Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, PO Box 1111, Kalaupapa, HI 96742.

Maui's Kamehamenui Forest Acquired for Conservation

A recent land acquisition will protect the Kula water aquifer and habitats for endangered species and provide community-based forest restoration opportunities.

The Trust for Public Land purchased 3,433 acres of upland Kula property in July and conveyed the property to the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) on August 31. These lands are now protected in perpetuity for the people of Hawai'i thanks to federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

Over the coming year, DOFAW will add the property to the Forest Reserve System and will consult with the community to develop a management plan for the area to address native forest restoration and tree planting for self-sustaining forestry operations, and endangered species recovery. The area is home to endangered Hawaiian petrels, and the restored forest is expected to improve habitat for numerous native plants and insects. Reforestation efforts will also help recharge the Makawao aquifer, securing clean drinking water for people for generations to come.

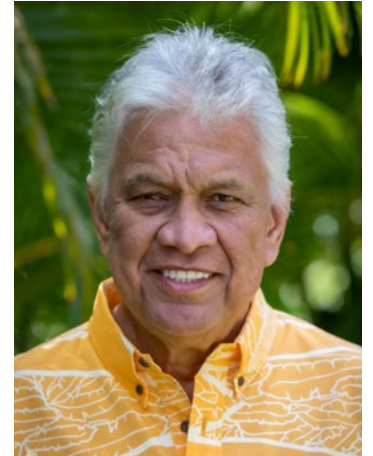
In the future, the property is intended to provide new recreational opportunities for Maui residents with hiking trails, places to picnic, and places to grow and gather forest products. "Many people worked hard over many years on Kamehamenui, and we are thrilled and grateful to see it protected now. Over the long-term, this project will increase community and ecosystem resilience – which is more important than ever now," said Suzanne Case, chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Funding for the \$9.8 million purchase came from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan Acquisition Program, and state funding procured through legislative appropriation. As the state has just acquired the property, it is not yet open to public use.

De Fries New President and CEO of HTA

John De Fries has been named the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's (HTA) new president and CEO. De Fries is the first Native Hawaiian to hold this position.

Originally from Waikiki, De Fries was raised by his kūpuna and steeped in Hawaiian culture. Now a resident of Kona on Hawai'i Island, De Fries has more than 40 years of experience in the tourism and resort development industries, including serving as executive director of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality



John De Fries

Association. He is also president and principal advisor for Native Sun Business Group, a consulting and project management firm. Previously, De Fries led Hawai'i County's Department of Research and Development, the division responsible for stimulating economic growth in sectors including tourism, agriculture and renewable energy.

Referring to the pandemic and its economic impact, De Fries said, "Hawai'i's pathway to economic recovery and enhanced community wellbeing will require unprecedented levels of focus, collaboration, cooperation, coordination and unified executive leadership across all sectors."

Noted De Fries, "Hawai'i faces a myriad of daunting challenges – among them the reopening of our tourism industry – at a time when immense and growing anxiety can be felt in our local communities. Hope, however, is found in the resilience and creativity of Hawai'i's leaders in both the public and private sectors who are diligently searching for solutions for their communities. I am grateful to have been chosen to lead HTA."

"All of us at HTA are looking forward to having John take the helm of Hawai'i's visitory industry," said HTA Board Chair Rick Fried. "He has already become involved with working on ways to safely reopen tourism while keeping COVID-19 under control." ■

**NOTICE OF
CONSULTATION
SECTION 106 OF THE
NATIONAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION ACT (NHPA)
PĀPA‘ALOA ELDERLY
HOUSING PROJECT
PĀPA‘ALOA, KAIWILAHILAHI
AHUPUA‘A, NORTH HILO
DISTRICT, ISLAND OF HAWAI‘I
TAX MAP KEY: (3) 3-5-003:049**

The County of Hawai‘i Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) anticipates receiving federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for proposed elderly housing project on a 2.5-acre parcel [Tax Map Key (TMK): (3) 3-5-003:049] located in Pāpa‘aloha, Kaiwilahilahi Ahupua‘a, North Hilo District, Island of Hawai‘i. The proposed OHCD Project is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

In response to housing needs, the OHCD is proposing to replace seven older COH elderly housing buildings with 12 new buildings. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is TMK: (3) 3-5-003:049 and is 2.5 acres. The property is located between Old Māmalahoa Highway (Kekoa Camp Road) and Māmalahoa Highway. The APE is within a built environment that includes homes, parking lots and roads. There are no archaeological sites located on the property.

We welcome any information you can provide concerning historic properties, cultural sites or history of the project APE lands. If you know individuals or organizations that has knowledge of the proposed APE, or any descendants with ancestral, lineal or cultural ties to or knowledge of historic properties or past cultural practices associated with the lands of the proposed APE, we would appreciate receiving their contact information. NHOs and Native Hawaiian descendants with ancestral, lineal or cultural ties to lands of the proposed APE are asked to contact the OHCD delegated consultant listed below within 30 days of publication of this notice. Those interested are requested to contact Glenn Escott of Scientific Consultant Services, Inc. by email at gescott@yahoo.com, or by mail at P.O. Box 155 Kea‘au, HI 96749-0155, or by phone at (808) 938-0968.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT -
PŌHAKULOĀ TRAINING AREA**

The Department of the Army is in the beginning stages of the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that

analyzes the environmental and cultural effects of the proposed retention of up to approximately 23,000 acres of State-owned land at Pōhakuloa Training Area. The EIS is being prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter 343, and Hawai‘i Administrative Rules Chapter 11-200.1. The project area is comprised of Tax Map Keys 4-4-015:008; 4-4-016:005; 3-8-001:013 & 022; and 7-1-004:007 in the ahupua‘a of Ka‘ohe Mauka on the Island of Hawai‘i. At a minimum, the EIS shall consider three (3) action alternatives and a no action alternative. A Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) will be prepared as part of the EIS. The CIA team is seeking consultation with practitioners, Native Hawaiian Organizations, stakeholders, and other individuals. Specifically, consultation is sought on a) identification of an appropriate geographic extent of study, b) historic or existing cultural resources that may be impacted by the proposed project, c) historic or existing traditional practices and/or beliefs that may be impacted by the proposed project, and d) identification of individuals or organizations that should be sought out for consultation on the CIA. Individuals or organizations may complete the CIA survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PohakuloaCIA> or contact the CIA team at community@honaconsulting.com or (808) 392-1617. Questions or inquiries unrelated to the CIA will be directed to the EIS project team for review and response.

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSTRUCTION (DODI) 4710.03:
CONSULTATION WITH NATIVE
HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS
(UPDATE PLANNED IN 2021)**

The Department of Defense (DoD) is in the beginning stages of updating its 2011 consultation policy titled, Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4710.03: Consultation With Native Hawaiian Organizations, by October 2021.

DoD reviewed and addressed comments gathered from the Native Hawaiian community during consultations held in fall of 2019 and prepared an updated draft of DoDI 4710.03. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions on travel, DoD cannot conduct in-person consultation with NHOs at this time. To ensure everyone’s safety, DoD invites NHOs to submit written comments on the latest draft of DoDI 4710.03 by November 6, 2020.

To obtain a copy of the latest draft of the update to the DoD policy, please email DoD_NativeAffairs@keresnm.com. Please

submit comments to DoD_NativeAffairs@keresnm.com.

DoD looks forward to hearing more ideas from Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) about how the Department can improve this consultation policy and help ensure pre-decisional, meaningful, and respectful consultation with the Native Hawaiian community.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**NOTICE OF CONSULTATION:
SECTION 106 OF THE
NATIONAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION ACT (NHPA)
OF 1966, CENTRAL SECTION
OF KE ALA KAHAWAI O
WAIMEA, KAMUELA (WAIMEA),
LĀLĀMILO AHUPUA‘A,
DISTRICT OF SOUTH KOHALA,
ISLAND OF HAWAI‘I**

Notice is hereby given that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the County of Hawai‘i Department of Public Works (DPW) are proposing improvements/construction within a 1.1-mile-long central section of Ke Ala Kahawai O Waimea, or “the stream trail of Waimea,” in Kamuela (Waimea), Ahupua‘a of Lālāmiilo, District of South Kohala, Island of Hawai‘i. The proposed project is considered a federal undertaking as defined in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (2006).

The proposed project will be a multi-use 1.1-mile long bicycle and pedestrian path through Waimea, following alongside Waikōloa Stream. The project includes paving an existing path that runs west from Lindsey Road and terminates at the intersec-

tion of Kawaihae Road and Kahawai Street. Access to the existing path is located at Waimea Town Center, Waimea Nature Park, and Opelo Road. The proposed new paved path will range from 10 to 12 feet in width, and comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines for most of its length.

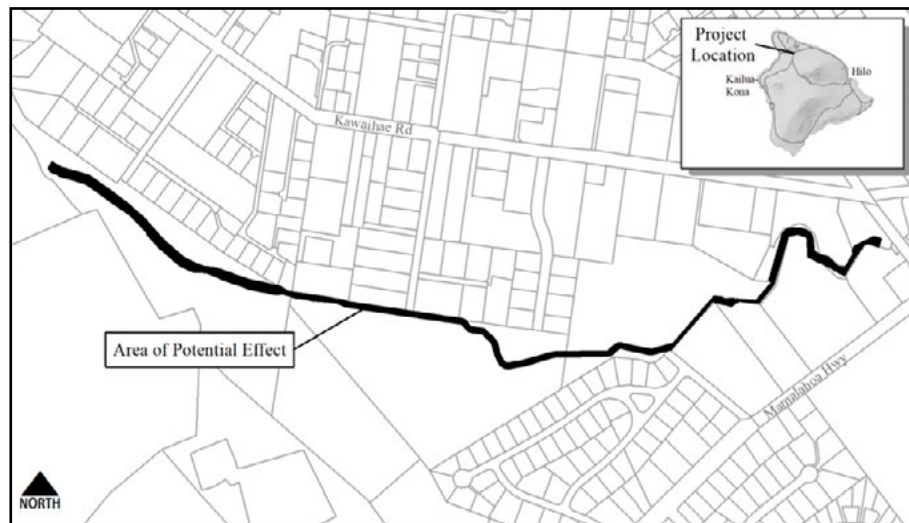
Pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, Native Hawaiian Organizations and Native Hawaiian descendants with ancestral, lineal or cultural ties to, cultural and historical property knowledge of and/or concerns for, and cultural or religious attachment to the proposed project area are requested to contact DPW. Other individuals and organizations with demonstrated legal, economic or historic preservation interest in the undertaking are asked to contact DPW and share information you may have on historical and cultural sites that you may have knowledge of within the proposed APE. We welcome any information within 30 days of notice.

Interested participants are requested to contact:

Natasha Soriano, Transportation Planner, County of Hawai‘i Planning Department via email at natasha.soriano@hawaiicounty.gov or by U.S. Postal Service to the County of Hawai‘i Planning Department (Attn: Natasha Soriano, Transportation Planner) 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3 Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720, or

Ben Ishii, Project Manager, Hawai‘i Department of Public Works, via email at ben.ishii@hawaiicounty.gov, or by U.S. Postal Service to the County of Hawai‘i, Department of Public Works (Attn: Ben Ishii, Project Director) 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 7 Hilo, Hawaii, 96720.

Please respond within 30 days after the advertising date of this notice. ■





Note: Trustee columns represent the views of individual trustees and may not reflect the official positions adopted by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees.

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Most Important Election of My Lifetime

In a few days the state of Hawai'i will be sending out your mail in ballots for the 2020 general election. This will probably be the most important piece of mail you will receive this year. At stake this election year is a Presidential race, a Congressional race, many Legislative races, two Mayoral races, many county and city council seats, and of course three Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee seats.

We hear every election cycle how "this is the most important election." If we take a second to look back at not just the last four years, but at just the last nine months of 2020, it is safe to say this is the most important election. This is by far the most important election of my lifetime; it certainly is the most important election of the last 50 years.

While I am sure we are all tired of hearing everyday about COVID-19 dominating every news cycle, it is the elephant in the room. COVID-19 is what makes this election so important. Whether you are abiding by every state, city and county order, or an anti-masker, there is no denying the effect this has had on our everyday lives. How this has affected our families, neighborhoods, city and counties, the State of Hawai'i, the country as a whole, and this little blue marble we call Earth.

While the stock market has fared better than most expected it to with the S&P dropping over 35% in February taking us into the first bear market since 2007, it has wiped those losses out setting new record highs in September. The U.S., State of Hawai'i, and county economies on the other hand have not fared as well. With tourism, retail, dining,



Brendon
Kalei'aina Lee

Vice Chair,
Trustee, At-large

and pretty much all other consumer industries shut down for a majority of the year so far with no end in sight, it will be a long, hard road to recovery for us all.

This election will decide, at every level, who will be at the helm of every level of government to bring the economy back to life. This is the most important question that we all should be asking this election. We

see everyone's brave "rants" on social media about whatever hot topic is trending on that particular day, but the economy is no "rant." We need to be thoughtful about whom we select to lead us out of the economic abyss the lack of leadership has put us in.

From the Presidential race, to the Congressional race, those that will sit in the square building on Beretania, Hawai'i Island and O'ahu Mayoral candidates, the many county and city council seats and the three Office of Hawaiian Affairs seats – who has the experience to lead? Who has the track record of not just leadership, but of being able to stand pa'a when the winds are howling?

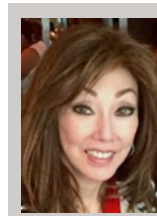
Whatever you believe, whom ever you believe is that person at each level of government to lead us, stand up and make your voice heard. When you receive that ballot in the mail, fill it out that day and mail it back in. If you do not trust the mail, take a ride to one of the ballot collection boxes and drop it off in person. If you need to find out where those are, go to elections.hawaii.gov.

"Ke kai leo nui o Mokoli'i; though small, Mokoli'i has a big voice." Do not be deceived into thinking your voice is small, make it loud, make it be heard.....VOTE!!! ■

The Trifecta of Inequality: Income, Wealth, and Opportunity

W elina me ke aloha.

The "trifecta of inequality" took hold after the Great Recession in 2008. This country must put forward an infrastructure "overhaul," and redistributive fiscal policies to reverse this trend.



Leina'ala
Ahu Isa, Ph.D.

Trustee, At-large

voters in January 2020. Ocasio-Cortez proposed a marginal tax rate of 70% on household income over \$10 million. Only 45% of voters supported the proposal versus the 32% of voters who opposed it.

Hawai'i's New Vote by Mail a Success!

The success of Hawai'i's new vote-by-mail system proved that accessibility is a huge factor in participation. When those struggling to make ends meet don't have to choose between voting and working, or voting and being afraid to venture out of their homes because of the virus, their voices can be heard.

Then we can focus on solving our state's most pressing needs. It's been a full seven months that we have been dealing with the impacts of the pandemic. Where is the urgency to build the infrastructure for a sustainable, circular economy?

These unprecedented times offer extraordinary opportunities to grow into our most humane, compassionate, self-reliant, collaborative and creative selves.

We need to build an infrastructure of trusting relationships, mutual care and resource sharing.

Any of us who has worked on having fair and kinder laws enacted knows how long it takes get them accomplished, and how much problems can worsen as the process drags on and on. It's no longer enough just to be well-intentional, and of serving just a few at the expense of many.

Getting rid of a major barrier to voting by the new VOTE BY MAIL law certainly gives us a voice and a first step in meeting the needs and hopes of our people.

Me ka Mahalo Nui, E Mālama Pono!
A hui hou kākou,
Trustee Leina'ala Ahu Isa ■

Sharing notes from a 2019 Commonfund (one of OHA's investments) Conference speaker, Mr. El-Erian, the chief economic advisor at Allianz (the parent company of PIMCO), where he grew its assets as high as \$2 trillion. He also worked under President Obama on global development and deputy director of the International Monetary Fund.

El-Erian said that Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) is right about the negative effects of inequality... but wrong when she says a society with billionaires is an "immoral" one. "If you create Facebook in your dorm room, of course, you should be a billionaire! Wealth inequality is a good thing when it "INCENTIVIZES" you to action... to do more, to become better. But I agree with her about how the gap between rich and poor **unfairly narrows economic opportunity** for many Americans. He continues:

"This country can actually tolerate an inequality of income and wealth... but when it becomes a TRIFECTA OF INCOME, WEALTH, and OPPORTUNITY, that's the real problem. We are going to risk a major alienation and marginalization of part of our country, which is a huge problem."

We need "growth that really brings in more segments of society." US Senator Elizabeth Warren proposed a 2% wealth tax on households that exceed \$50 million, which 61% of voters favored, according to a Morning Consultant Poll surveying 1,993

Depression during the COVID-19 Pandemic

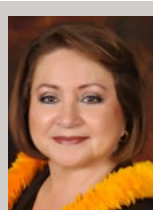
Earlier this month, a nationwide study confirmed what many have suspected for some time: the prevalence of depression has soared during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to researchers, symptoms of depression have increased more than three-fold since March. The CDC reported that 40 percent of U.S. adults described experiencing symptoms of depression in June. A researcher suggested that depression spurred by the pandemic could itself become a second pandemic.

The stress of social isolation, job loss, political divisiveness, uncertainty about the future, the disease itself, and a dearth of normalcy have likely caused all of us some anxiety. For those who are prone to depression or who have suffered with it in the past, the pandemic has created a widening chasm of darkness. Many who felt hints of hopelessness before – are now struggling to find any light at all.

Depression is a disease that attacks the mind with such viciousness that those who experience it often find themselves unable to function, trapped in a place from which return feels impossible.

Isolation and toxic perfectionism are depression's most common companions; both can potentially lead to deepening depression and even suicidal ideation.

In today's chaotic and frightening environment, isolation and toxic perfectionism are particularly dangerous. Fighting COVID-19 has put many of us in a position where we no longer interact with others on a daily basis. Employees are working from home, social gatherings are discouraged, many schools have converted to virtual learning, even weekly church attendance is not possible in some places. The chance to talk with others about how we're feeling has been drastically cut.



Carmen "Hulu"
Lindsey

Trustee, Maui

Those who suffer from depression already tend to isolate themselves from others. The pandemic has deepened that isolation and cut off many from previous sources of help. Now, more than ever, we need to keep talking about depression and doing things to help those who feel desperately alone.

One of the first things I noticed on social media and in the news when quarantine orders were issued nearly six months ago was a rush of people attempting to suddenly "become" something they weren't before. With all this time on our hands, it seemed we could finally perfect all the things we'd been unable to in the past. Moms set out to create an ideal schedule for at-home learning with their children. Aspiring bakers became determined to master the art of the sourdough starter. We made lists of all the projects we'd complete and clutter we'd throw out during this unexpected free time. All of these are good things, of course. But anxiety and discouragement—which the pandemic, civil unrest, and political uncertainty are now handing us in spades—never pair well with a desire to be perfect.

Right now—especially right now—it's time to let the perfectionism go. Be kind to yourself. Be kind to others. Remind yourself frequently that your self-worth is not based on how much you do or achieve. This is a year unlike any we've experienced before, and if grappling with that takes all of your energy and leaves little time for perfecting this or that, it's okay.

Finally, if you are suffering from depression right now, I want you to know that you are not alone. There is hope and help down the road—even if that road seems impossible to traverse today. We're living in stressful and unprecedented times. Let's think more deeply about how we take care of one another – and ourselves. ■

Aloha Nō...

Jim Reeves sings a song I first heard forty years ago. One of the lines from the song goes, "There comes a time when we must say 'goodbye...'" For me that time has come.

I came quietly to OHA in 2007 (thirteen years and seven months ago). And, **I want to leave quietly**. In leaving, I don't want to boast about my achievements. Why? That would be disingenuous. There are many who helped over the years as I tried my best to serve you and serve you well. **I just want to mahalo those who lifted me up** when I was stumbling and gave me the strength, courage and hope to carry on.

Mahalo to **Kathy**, my wife, the girl with yellow hair and cobalt blue eyes, who I met at UH Mānoa in October 1969, who, with our sons, have stood with me through 'thick and thin' and the 'fog of war' during campaign season. She didn't run home to San Francisco when I stood with Sonny Kaniho in the mid 70s after we were evicted from our home.

OHA Trustees Boyd Mossman and Oswald Stender who, with coaxing from **Dr. Michael Chun and Kahu Billy Mitchell**, forwarded my name to the OHA Board for consideration to fill a vacancy after the untimely passing of Trustee Linda Dela Cruz (Hawai'i's songbird). I admit I was initially skeptical, but now upon reflection, I thank them heartfully for this 'golden' opportunity to serve. It was a 'chance in a lifetime' to serve you. I want to acknowledge the many friends who sent me short inspirational notes by text, email, cards and voice messages.

I want to mahalo **our OHA staff** at Nā Lama Kukui. They are a competent and capable staff, committed to OHA's Mission and



Robert K.
Lindsey, Jr.

Trustee, Hawai'i

to you, our beneficiaries. I'm grateful to have served with three Administrators, **Clyde Nāmu'o, Dr. Kamana'opono Crabbe and now, Dr. Sylvia Maeda Hussey**, a Kohala girl of whom I'm very, very proud. Mahalo to our **Moku o Keawe staff, past and present. East Hawai'i: Lukela Ruddle, Gladys Brigham, Kamaile Pulu'ole-Mitchell, Kalena Blake-more, Pua Ishibashi, Kamuela Bannister, Charene Crusat and Iihia Gionson. West Hawai'i: Shane Palacat-Nelson, Dawn Tanimoto and Aunty Ruby McDonald.**

I want to remember also all the **Hawaiian Homestead associations around our Moku-upuni; Keaukaha, Pana'ewa, Kaūmana, Maku'u, Kaniohale, Waimea, Lālāmilo and Kailapa**. Mahalo to our **NGO's**, the following in particular - **The Kohala Center, Habitat for Humanity-West Hawai'i, Queen's Health Systems-Queen's North Hawai'i Community Hospital - and a dear friend, Dr. Earl Bakken.**

Mahalo to the **Hawai'i Island Legislative Caucus**. I had the great honor of being a part of this caucus (composed of all our



L-R Kama Hopkins, Trustee Robert K. Lindsey, Kauikealoni Wailehua. - Photo: Courtesy

Hawai'i Island State Senators and House members) for all these years. There were moments I knew that it was just not possible to get help from OHA for our island. The Caucus was our safety net. I believe I am the only OHA Trustee to enjoy such a privilege.

Through that connection, we also developed relationships with Hawai'i County officials, both elected and appointed, which also helped our beneficiaries.

Lastly, my **staff**, to whom I will forever be grateful. They didn't work for me. They worked with me. We were a Team. We worked together to Ho'oulu Lāhui. When I served as Chair of the Board of Trustees,

ALOHA NŌ

Continued from page 29



Tiona Wailehua. - Photo: Courtesy

Harold Nedd was the Chief of Staff and **Capsun Poe** was our Board Secretary. Mahalo to Harold for assisting me and our Trustees in navigating our policy issues both internally and externally in order to move OHA forward. Mahalo to Capsun for making sure things were done correctly and by the book. I valued their input as it was always thoughtful and mindful of

the work OHA was doing, and needed to do, to benefit our beneficiaries. My Aides. **Kama Hopkins**. Kama is one smart, good hearted, courageous, hard working, diligent, loyal dude. I could go on and on about Kama and his virtues. He's my 'pit bull' when I need one. Been with me since Day One. He tells me when I'm being hūpō and 'barking at the moon.' When I need to 'shape up' or 'get a grip' there's **Kauikeolani Wailehua**. She handles our administrative matters and kept us 'inside the box.' Then...there was **T, Tiona Wailehua**, Kauai's mom. **Tiona** served as our gate and bookkeeper for almost nine years. T now 'soars with the angels' but her spirit lives on inside us.

Mahalo everyone for making my time at OHA purposeful, fun and meaningful. We truly do **Aloha kekahi i kekahi**. And in leaving, I want to wish my successor 'fair winds and calm seas.' **Na ke Akua kākou e alaka'i mai, kīa'i mai ā mālama mai i kēia lā ā mau loa aku**. May God guide, protect and care for all of us always. Aloha nō... ■

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