



# Koho Pono

## VOTE 2022

PAGES 12-29



**Special : Primary Election Candidate Survey**

Primary Election Day in Hawai'i is on August 13, but mail-in ballots are already arriving at our homes. Voting is an important tool for change. We can make an impact for our lāhui when we vote and koho pono (choose carefully). - Photo and Illustration: Joshua Koh

# 2022 KOHO PONO CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

- Q1** Do you support self-determination for/by the indigenous peoples of Hawai'i?
- Q2** Do you support holding the ceded lands in trust under the Department of Land and Natural Resources in their entirety until they can be transferred over to a self-determined Hawaiian Nation?
- Q3** Do you support the building of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea?
- Q4** Do you support providing legal protections and property tax exemptions for kuleana land owners?
- Q5** Would you vote yes to repeal House Bill 499 (Act 236), which authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources to extend leases of public lands?
- Q6** Do you support providing sufficient sums to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands?

## SENATE RACES

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Q6

### DISTRICT 1: Pepe'ekeo, Pāpa'ikou, Hilo, Keaukaha & Kaumana

D	Laura Acasio*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
D	Lorraine Rodero Inouye*	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
D	Wil Okabe	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
R	Helen Tupai	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

### DISTRICT 7: Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Kaho'olawe, Kahului, & Pā'ia

D	Leo Kaniela Caires	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
D	Lynn Pualani Decoite*	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
R	Tamara McKay	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
D	Walter Ritte	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

### DISTRICT 13: Pacific Heights, Nu'uuanu & Makiki Heights

NP	Michelle Kwok	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
D	Karl Rhoads*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
R	Matthew Tinay	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

### DISTRICT 22: Ko'olina, Nānākuli, & Wai'anae

R	Samantha Decorte	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
D	Maile Shimabukuro*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

## HOUSE RACES

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Q6

### DISTRICT 5: Na'ālehu, Kealakekua & Kailua-Kona

D	Jeanné Kapela*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
L	Michael Last	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

### DISTRICT 13: Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Kaho'olawe, Kahului, Pā'ia & Hana

R	Scott Adam	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
D	Linda Clark*	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
G	Nick Nikhilananda	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
D	Mahina Poepoe	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

### DISTRICT 19: Hawai'i Kai, Niu Valley, Wailupe & Kāhala

D	Kathy Feldman	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
D	Mark Jun Hashem*	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
R	Theresa Teixeira	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

## HOUSE RACES

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Q6

### DISTRICT 25: Ala Moana, Kaka'ako and Downtown

D	Kim Coco Iwamoto	Yes	Yes/No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
R	Rob Novak	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
D	Scott Saiki*	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

### DISTRICT 27: Pacific Heights, Nu'uuanu and Makiki Heights

D	Gary Gill	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
R	Margaret Lim	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
D	Jenna Takenouchi	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

### DISTRICT 30: Kalihi Kai

R	P.M. Azinga	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
D	Romy Cachola	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
D	Ernesto Ganaden*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
D	Shirley Ann Templo	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

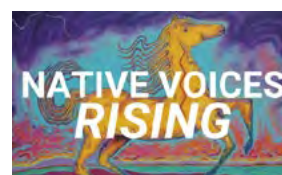
### DISTRICT 46: Wahiawā & Whitmore Village

D	Cross Makani Crabbe	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
R	Miller John	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
D	Amy Perruso*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

### DISTRICT 50: Kailua & Kāne'ohe

D	Toni Difante	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
D	Natalia Hussey-Burdick	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
D	Michael Lee	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
R	Kathy Thurston	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
D	Esera Vegas	No	No	No	No	No	No

\*Current Legislator | D=Democrat | R=Republican | L=Libertarian  
G=Green Party | NP=Non-Partisan | NR=No Response



**ELECTION DATES**  
**Primary: AUGUST 13**  
**General: NOVEMBER 8**

For full responses, go to: [WWW.KALAHUIHAWAII.NET](http://WWW.KALAHUIHAWAII.NET)

## SEEKING INSIGHT IN AN AGE OF DISINFORMATION

‘Ike kūhohonu (n. Deep knowledge or insight.)

Aloha mai kākou,

**A**s I pondered what to write about this month, my thoughts returned time and again to the related concepts of insight, wisdom and discernment.

We live in what has been dubbed the “information age.” It is an era in which information has become a commodity that is widely and instantly available. “News” is no longer the exclusive purview of professional journalists. Armed with iPhones, ordinary people worldwide are recording events and within minutes uploading them to social media – along with their personal commentary – to an international audience.

But with a preponderance of content creators adding to the glut of information available online – many of whom have ulterior motives – the highly touted information age has instead become more of a “disinformation age.”

An epidemic of false and misleading information has spread rampantly online like a sickness becoming increasingly toxic in the past few years. Disinformation about COVID-19, the 2020 election results, the attempted insurrection, and vaccines top the list.

Unfortunately, too many people today mistake a Google search for research, giving undeserved mana to a search engine and, in the process, they fail to nānā i ke kumu – to carefully consider the source of the information they find.

Against an information landscape of lies and half-truths, it is increasingly important for us, as individuals and as a lāhui, to develop ‘ike kūhohonu (insight).

In a world where too many people are lazy thinkers inclined to believe the person who talks the loudest, or to count something as “fact” if it is repeated often enough, we are wise to seek ‘ike kūhohonu in the silence of what is not said.

Our people must hold fast to the things we value and know to be true. Our ‘ohana, our mo‘omeheu and our ‘āina are real and tangible sources of wisdom and strength

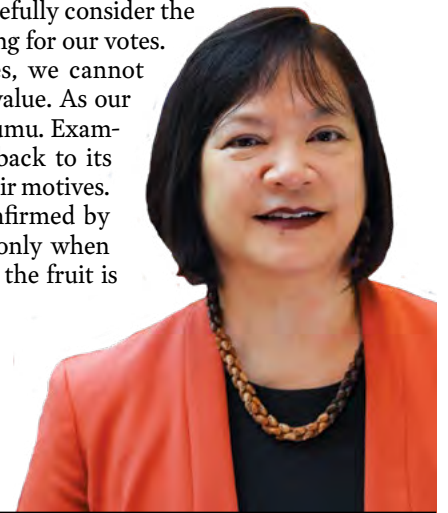
that can serve as pu‘uhonua, a space where we can recalibrate emotionally, mentally, spiritually and physically.

Beloved Auntie Betty Jenkins, in her work at OHA and throughout the community, reminded us that hulu kūpuna, our precious elders, are vital to our wellbeing, the cornerstones of our social structure, and the transmitters of our culture. Our kūpuna are invaluable sources of wisdom, discernment and insight. As they do, we should listen carefully to what is being said and by whom. And then in the silence, consider the voice that is not speaking.

As we prepare to vote in the primary elections, we each have the kuleana to educate ourselves, to learn about the issues, and to carefully consider the character and qualities of the candidates asking for our votes.

In gathering information about the issues, we cannot simply accept what we read or hear at face value. As our kūpuna taught us to do, we must nānā i ke kumu. Examine the information presented and trace it back to its source. Consider the writer or speaker and their motives. Can the information be corroborated or confirmed by others? This takes effort. It takes time. But only when we find the root, can we determine whether the fruit is good. ■

Sylvia M. Hussey, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer



**Sylvia M. Hussey, Ed.D.**  
Ka Pouhana  
Chief Executive Officer

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## Eddie Kamae Songbook: A Musical Journey

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## BY MYRNA KAMAE

A digital songbook featuring a collection of 34 songs especially meaningful to the musical journey of Eddie Kamae is now available.

## MO‘OMEHEU | CULTURE

## The Storied Places of Lāna‘i

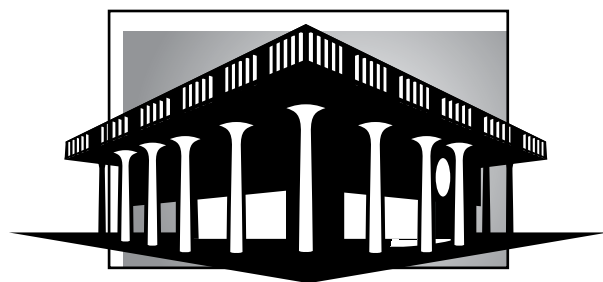
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## BY ADAM KEAWE MANALO-CAMP

Lāna‘i is an island deeply rooted within Hawaiian spaces and history – a land full of storied places where gods and kings dwell.

# 2022 Legislative Session Summary: Outcomes for Bills Impacting Native Hawaiians

## 2022



## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

By Seanna Piper Jordan, Kealoha Pisciotta and Michele McCoy,  
OHA Public Policy Advocates

The 2022 legislative session was a historic one for Native Hawaiians.

On July 11, 2022, Governor Ige signed HB2511 – which became Act 279 – granting DHHL \$600 million to pursue a multi-pronged approach to eliminating its waitlist. Due to the state's unexpected budget surplus, many longstanding unresolved matters were confronted.

Even prior to the session, legislators were examining issues affecting the Native Hawaiian community, resulting in the passage of many bills that have near-term benefits for the lāhui – as well as some measures that may provide a path forward to address the outstanding concerns of our community.

The following is a summary of some of the key bills and one resolution from the 2022 legislative session for which the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) provided testimony and advocacy. These measures raised, or sought to address, issues of concern to the Native Hawaiian community.

### PASSED AND SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

**SB2021 - which then became Act 226 - increasing the payment amount for OHA's pro rata share of the Public Land Trust (PLT).** After the Senate Ways and Means committee deferred OHA's Package PLT bill (SB2122), legislators decided to use SB2021 as a vehicle to change OHA's pro rata share. At one point, OHA protested legislators' changes to the formula for calculating OHA's pro rata share by using net receipts instead of current gross receipts. OHA successfully negotiated amendments to

SB2021 that not only stopped any harmful provisions, but also improved the status quo. The legislature successfully adopted a final version of the measure that:

- Increased OHA's interim annual pro rata from \$15.1 million to \$21.5 million, which, while an improvement, is far less than OHA's request for \$78.9 million annually.
- Allocated a one-time payment of \$64 million to OHA, which reflected the difference between \$21.5 million and the prior allocation of \$15.1 million over a period of 10 years.
- Established an OHA-led working group to account for all ceded lands in the PLT inventory and for all income and proceeds from PLT, in order to determine the actual 20% pro rata share.

**SB11411 – which then became Act 212 - Historic Preservation Program; duties; penalties.** This measure increases fines for violations committed by those who knowingly destroy or harm a burial or any other historic property. The measure also requires that any landowner or developer responsible for the violation to carry out mitigations as prescribed by the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD).

**HB1768 – which then became Act 027 – relating to the disposition of water rights.** OHA supported this measure which will assist kalo farmers in rebuilding and maintaining their lo'i by exempting the instream use of water for traditional and customary kalo cultivation practices from the existing process for disposition of water. The measure recognizes, confirms, and protects traditional, customary kuleana rights to water, including rights of use, access, delivery, and quality of water. Consistent with the Taro Security and Purity Task Force's report of 2010, this measure creates a legal framework for managing Hawai'i's precious freshwater resources.

**HB2024 – which became Act 255 - relating to Maunakea stewardship and oversight authority.** In 2021, the House adopted HR33, a resolution to convene a working group to develop recommendations for a new governance and management structure for Maunakea. OHA participated in the Maunakea Working Group (MKWG), which presented its recommendations to the 2022 Legislature. These recommendations were incorporated into the original draft of HB2024. OHA did not oppose the original draft, but as the bill progressed in the legislative process, committees amended HB2024, and key provisions were changed – which OHA opposed. The final bill that passed the legislature includes substantive changes to MKWG's recommendations - including the University of Hawai'i's stewardship and oversight authority and Public Lands Trust limitations.

Additionally, OHA supported a successfully adopted resolution in support of 'ōlelo Hawai'i, HCR 130, which addressed "Apologizing to the Native Hawaiian People for the Effective Prohibition in Hawai'i Schools of the Instructional Use of the Hawaiian Language from 1896 to 1986." The language of the resolution included a declaration that this body (the House) urges the executive branch of the State of Hawai'i to also acknowledge the ramifications of the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i and to address the historical and contemporary issues between the United States of America and the Native Hawaiian people. On April 8, 2022, the Resolution was adopted in final form. ■

## OHA Board Chair Lindsey Comments on Passage of PLT Bill

"On June 27, Gov. David Ige signed into law Act 226 which establishes \$21.6 million as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' new interim annual share of the proceeds of the Public Land Trust beginning in fiscal year 2023; appropriates \$64 million to OHA; and establishes a working group to determine the pro rata share of the proceeds from the Public Land Trust due annually to OHA.

"We have received the \$64 million appropriation and the Board has voted and approved its investment into our Native Hawaiian Trust Fund in accordance with the Investment Policy.

"Ultimately, the decision of where to deploy these additional resources will be decided by our Board of Trustees in fulfillment of their fiduciary duties considering our investment and spending policies and in alignment with our Mana i Maui Ola Strategic Plan.

"We mahalo the governor, our legislators and most of all our beneficiaries for their support in helping us to move forward on this long-debated topic. We are committed to participating in the working group and together finding a pono resolution to this issue that is fair and just for our people. Act 226 represents important progress and is a win for our lāhui, and we will continue to prudently steward these resources as we strive to Ho'oulu Lāhui Aloha - raise a beloved lāhui." ■

# OHA Board Chair Lindsey's Statement on Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea

"At the state capitol [on July 18], Gov. David Ige held a commemorative bill presentation marking the passage of HB2475, which designates July 31 of each year as a special day of observance in honor of Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea, or Sovereignty Restoration Day.

"In 1843, Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea commemorated the reinstatement of the government of the Hawaiian Kingdom after the British ambassador and a British Navy captain illegally seized control of the nation. It was King Kamehameha III who established

this first national holiday of the Hawaiian Kingdom following the return of the government by the United Kingdom, proclaiming "Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono - the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness," which would become the motto of the monarchy and, in 1959, the official motto of the State of Hawai'i.

"Each year, this proclamation will present an exceptional opportunity to inform all of Hawai'i, and especially our future generations, of the important

and unique history of our islands. It has been said that only by remembering our past can we breathe ea - sovereignty and independence - into our future. Mahalo to the 'Ōiwi who advocated for this designation, to Rep. Mark Nakashima for introducing this bill, to our state legislators, and to Gov. Ige for signing it into law and for recognizing the importance of King Kamehameha III's established holiday in a days-long celebration following the rightful return of Hawai'i's sovereign government by the United Kingdom." ■

## Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea - Restoring a Nation

By Healani Sonoda-Pale

For the past few years, there has been an effort at the Hawai'i State Legislature to designate Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea a recognized state holiday in Hawai'i.

A national holiday of the Hawaiian Kingdom, Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea celebrated the restoration of the kingdom's sovereignty on July 31, 1843, after a five-month long British occupation of the Hawaiian Islands.

This year, the state legislature passed House Bill 2475, which Gov. David Ige signed into law as Act 082 on July 18. It establishes July 31 as "Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea" which means "Sovereignty Restoration Day."

Act 082 brings Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea on par with other honorific days like Lei Day and Buddha Day.

Although it is still not a recognized state holiday, this recognition is nevertheless a step forward towards helping to expand the political consciousness of both Kānaka Maoli and the public on the true history of an independent Hawaiian Nation.

First celebrated in 1843, this Hawaiian Kingdom holiday was all but forgotten for decades until it was revived by a handful of Aloha 'Āina led by Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell in 1986 at Thomas Square.

July 31, 1843, was the day that Admiral Richard Thomas of the British government ordered the Union Jack lowered and the Hawaiian Kingdom flag raised at the Honolulu park that was later named in his honor. On that victorious day, King Kamehameha III proclaimed, "Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono," which translates as the "sovereignty of the land is perpetuated in righteousness."

Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea was celebrated both here and abroad for half a century until the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy in 1893. The theft of our lands, suppression of our history, and the criminalization of our language followed. Erasure of our identity and proud history was a necessary part of the American assimilation of Kānaka Maoli and the continued occupation of our islands.

Today, we have Kānaka Maoli leaders like Dr. Noelani Goodyear-Kaōpua, Lynette Cruz, and Imai Winchester to thank for elevating the status of this Hawaiian holiday which serves to increase the visibility of the plight of Aloha 'Āina in our struggle for self-determination, sovereignty, and the return of our lands.

Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea has now become a month-long celebration. Communities both here on O'ahu and the neighbor islands celebrate the restoration of our Nation's sovereignty in 1843 with the intention to one day attain justice for Hawai'i's Native people. ■



Every year on Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea, groups of Kānaka Maoli coordinated by Uncle Ku Ching raise the hae Hawai'i on the summit of Maunakea - the highest point in the pae 'āina. - Photo: Mikey Inouye

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# Pursuing Energy Independence on Moloka'i

By Cheryl Corbiell

Hawai'i residents pay more for electricity than the rest of the country. And within Hawai'i, Moloka'i and Lāna'i residents pay the most.

Over the past decade, community groups have spearheaded various local initiatives to help Moloka'i families and businesses take personal action to conserve energy and adopt renewables to combat the crushing electrical bills that consume 10-30% of their monthly incomes.

As a result, Moloka'i residents have the lowest per capita electrical usage in Hawai'i. Approximately 14% of Moloka'i homeowners (about 500) have installed roof-top solar panels. Some homes are off-grid and powered by generators, but most of the remainder get their electricity from the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO).

Ironically, in the 1980s Moloka'i's electrical system was 100% renewable with a biomass power plant and a wind turbine. However, these early renewable technologies failed due to location and financial constraints. After HECO bought the utility in 1989, energy on Moloka'i became 100% diesel power generated.

But today, led by two community-based groups, Moloka'i residents are stepping up to plan for and build renewable energy on the island.

The Moloka'i Clean Energy Hui (MCEH) was formed under the nonprofit Sustainable Moloka'i in 2020. The hui is developing a portfolio of clean energy projects that are both feasible and respectful of Moloka'i's culture and environment to achieve 100% renewable energy for the island. Their inclusive planning process is receiving wide support because it is community-initiated, driven, and led. The second group, Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative, was formed to produce community-owned, affordable, renewable energy projects.

In June 2021, these organizations joined forces to ask the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to envision Moloka'i's renewable energy future through the community's eyes. After hearing an unprecedented number of testimonies from the community, the PUC made two key decisions.

First, they made critical improvements to the proposed Community-based Renewable Energy (CBRE) project that will provide 25% of Moloka'i's renewable energy. HECO agreed to not compete for the project and Ho'āhu's proposal to build a nonprofit solar project for Moloka'i is awaiting approval.

In the interim, Ho'āhu's kuleana is to provide hands-on training to cultivate an on-island workforce from Moloka'i that will be ready to help build this first-of-its-kind solar project as well as future projects, such as nanogrids (a power grid that services a single home or facility). To date, 14 Moloka'i residents have graduated with solar certification.

The PUC's second landmark decision was to temporarily defer a utility-driven project and planning process on Moloka'i and, instead, to allow MCEH to develop an island-wide, community-led plan for Moloka'i's future renewable energy in partnership with experts from the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute.

Called the Moloka'i Community Energy Resilience Action Plan (CERAP), community-led planning launched in January 2022 and will take up to 18 months to complete. Residents are participating in meetings, providing input into the planning process, and learning about the available suitable technologies – to include costs, siting, and other challenges related to planning new renewable energy projects. Renewable energy scenarios are currently being developed and assessed with community input regarding the environment, as well as the cultural, economic, and cost impacts.

In addition, Moloka'i CERAP is coordinating with Maui County resilience initiatives, including climate change and sea-level rise, transportation electrification, and disaster recovery. "The main priority is for residents to provide their mana'o and get the word out to their friends and neighbors about the planning process through Facebook, texts and email, to encourage them to provide input at meetings," said Leilani Chow, MCEH coordinator and Sustainable Moloka'i energy program manager.

Years ago, HECO and others identified Moloka'i as the island with the greatest potential to be 100% energy renewable by 2020. However, proposed large-scale renewable



The Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative is cultivating an on-island work force by training Moloka'i residents to help build a solar system for their island. Pictured with instructor Todd Yamashita (far left) are proud solar certification graduates (l-r): Kiku Donnely, Makiah Malgrem, Roland Yartzoff, Brett Hoffman, Ipo Ma'e, Lexis Kalawe, Ha'a Logan and Kahohe Ritte-Camara. - Photo: Liliانا Napoleon



Mana wāhine (l-r) Kiku Donnely, Ipo Ma'e, Lexis Kalawe and Ha'a Logan are among the first 14 Moloka'i residents to graduate with solar certification to help build new solar projects and make the island 100% energy renewable. - Photo: Liliانا Napoleon



Members of the Moloka'i Clean Energy Hui at one of their many planning meetings. Volunteers have already spent hundreds of hours developing a portfolio of clean energy projects that are both feasible and respectful of the 'āina and culture to achieve 100% renewable energy for the island. - Photo: Jessica Parker

SEE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ON MOLOKA'I ON PAGE 7

## ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ON MOLOKA'I

Continued from page 6

projects failed because an island with a small population, most of whom are low to medium income, is not financially “attractive” to developers. In addition, the absence of trusted experts and balanced information resulted in community opposition to large-scale projects.

The high cost of electricity affects every aspect of life on Moloka'i. It results in higher costs for everything from food and water to communications and internet services, while Moloka'i businesses are forced to either pass their costs along to consumers or discount their goods and services.

But the people of Moloka'i are known for being self-sufficient and resilient, and residents are putting in the time and effort needed – through hard work, volunteering and attending frequent community meetings – to educate themselves about the various renewable energy options, costs and trade-offs.

Moloka'i is determined to become a clean energy community and Moloka'i CERAP is forging a new way to plan for Moloka'i's renewable and independent energy future. As Hawaii's 2045 mandate for 100% renewable energy looms on the horizon, Moloka'i is making up for lost time and may end up leading the way as Hawaii seeks ways to reduce its dependency on fossil fuels and convert existing systems to tap renewable energy sources. ■

## Moloka'i Models of Sustainability



On Moloka'i, the OHA Trustees visited with Kunani and Ipolani Nihipali at their Ho'olehua homestead, a model for sustainable living. Their home is made from well-insulated shipping containers. Solar panels provide enough electricity for their entire home. The Nihipalis have planted a variety of crops including a niu nursery, ulu, fruit trees, etc. The Trustees also visited L & R Farm that grows the famous Moloka'i purple sweet potato. Mahalo to our hosts on Moloka'i for the warm hospitality, and sharing your lifestyles and models for economic self-sufficiency. Photo (L-R): Ipolani Nihipali, Moloka'i Trustee Luana Alapa, Chair Hulu Lindsey, Kava'i Trustee Dan Ahuna, O'ahu Trustee Kalei Akaka, At-Large Trustee Brendon Kalei'aina Lee, Walter Rawlins of the Moloka'i Aha Moku and Kūnani Nihipali enjoy the shade of a kukui nut tree on the Nihipali homestead. - Photo: Alice Silbanuz

## Vote Sam Kalanikupua King for OHA Trustee At Large



Tiffany, Sam, Jackson, and Sam

### A vote for Sam is a vote for:

#### ■ Early Childhood Education:

Shifting OHA's focus to cutting edge Early Childhood Cognitive and Noncognitive Social Skill Development programs that show tremendous promise in providing multi-generational prosperity.

#### ■ Mauna Kea and TMT:

Ensuring pono management of Mauna Kea by supporting stewardship of the mauna and the perpetuation of Hawaii's heritage of celestial navigation through contributions to world-class astronomy.

#### ■ Housing:

Advocating for more housing for Native Hawaiians and all the people of Hawaii, starting with OHA's land in Kakaako Makai.

#### ■ Fiscal Responsibility:

Supporting efforts to protect OHA's trust fund through independent audits and strong fiscal policy.

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## OHA AT LARGE



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# Eddie Kamae Songbook: A Musical Journey

By Myrna Kamae

In an obituary published by the *New York Times* in 2017, writer Nate Chinen called Eddie Kamae “one of the most important musicians of the second half of the 20th century.” Kamae’s career spanned five decades and was marked by innovation and preservation. Now, five years after his passing, a songbook featuring a collection of 34 songs that were meaningful to his journey as musician, filmmaker and Hawaiian son is available and free online at [eddiekamae-songbook.org](http://eddiekamae-songbook.org).

My husband, Eddie Kamae, devoted his life to music.

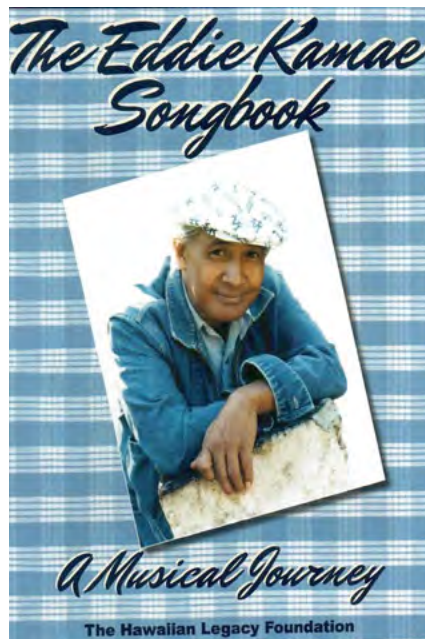
As a young man he played songs on an ‘ukulele his brother found abandoned on a bus. By the 1940s, he was recognized as an ‘ukulele virtuoso who developed a jazz picking style that forever changed the status of the ‘ukulele. Later, the Sons of Hawai‘i, the legendary band he formed with Gabby Pahinui in the 1950s, played a pioneering role in the Hawaiian cultural renaissance.

By the 1970s, Eddie was known for his instrumental genius and a vigorous singing style that carried the spirit of an ancient vocal tradition of old Hawai‘i into the 21st century. Through Sons of Hawai‘i, we produced many albums of traditional Hawaiian music.

Eddie wanted to know the source of Hawaiian music, saying that “all cultures evolve and change, but it is important to identify the heart and soul of a culture – that part is irreplaceable.”

He found answers in songs by composers who not only wrote in Hawaiian, they thought in Hawaiian. He began searching and was guided to Bishop Museum to the original copies of Queen Lili‘uokalani’s work. Some of these songs, too, are in the songbook.

His teacher Mary Kawena Pukui told him, “Eddie, the answer is not only in the museums and archives; it is out there in the valleys and the countryside.” So he went to the countryside to listen and learn and, along the way, collected many of the songs in this songbook.



The Eddie Kamae Songbook is a digital compilation of 34 songs that were especially meaningful to Kamae’s musical and life journey. - Photo: Boone Morrison

He also began writing his own songs, including *E Ku‘u Morning Dew* with Larry Kimura. I joined him once in a while. The songs we wrote together include *Ke Ala A Ka Jeep* with Mary Kawena Pukui, *Maka Ua*, *E Ho‘omau*, and *Nānā Mai*.

During the 1980s, while continuing to perform, arrange and lead the Sons of Hawai‘i band, he began a second career in documentary filmmaking. From 1988 to 2010, through the Hawaiian Legacy Foundation, we made 10 award-winning documentaries that were celebrated nationally and are still available on the foundation website, in schools and shown on PBS Hawai‘i.

Eddie’s personal journey is measured by the many teachers he met along the way. From Mary Kawena Pukui and Pilahi Paki to ‘Iolani Luahine, Sam Li‘a Kailainaina and “Papa” Henry Auwae. Dancers and singers,



Aunt Myrna Kamae, widow of the legendary Eddie Kamae, with Maenette Ah Nee-Benham. Ah Nee-Benham, who is the chancellor at UH West O‘ahu, was the person who suggested that Aunt Myrna put together the songbook. - Photo: Carol M. Fox

storytellers, healers and elders guided him in his long quest to find the sources of a rich tradition.

Eddie kept strumming and humming until he could do no more. Despite his death in 2017, the Hawaiian Legacy Foundation that we started decades ago is continuing his work. At the top of our list was producing *The Eddie Kamae Songbook*. Years in the making, the entire multimedia songbook is online and free at [www.eddiekamae-songbook.org](http://www.eddiekamae-songbook.org).

The seed for this project was planted when U.H. West O‘ahu Chancellor Maenette K.P. Ah Nee-Benham found out that I was reviewing some of Eddie’s songs to share with musicians. Maenette suggested a songbook and a curriculum to go with it.

The majority of the work was done by Hui Hana, the core

project team comprised of archivist and Program Director Kapena Shim, Language and Curriculum Specialist Lilinoe Andrews and me. We divided the work and then huddled together every week for two years to ensure, as Maenette promised Eddie days before his death, that his work would be available to students in Hawai‘i’s classrooms

It is a collection of 34 songs that were meaningful to Eddie’s journey as musician, filmmaker, and Hawaiian son. Each presented as a pū‘olo (bundle) with lyrics/translation, song story, educational questions, music sheets, video/audio clips, a bibliography, and print resources from the Kamae archive. It is an interdisciplinary curriculum and valuable foundation for the music, stories, and aloha to live on. I hope it will evolve into a significant resource for current and future musicians of Hawai‘i and the world, in schools and homes, and serve as a guide for the casual music fan.

*The Eddie Kamae Songbook* is part of an ongoing endeavor to continue our work so that his music, spirit and aloha will live on. *Honolulu Magazine’s* Don Wallace called it “significant, resourceful and deep.” Billy V. of Hawai‘i News Now said it “speaks to the legacy of a wonderful man who is still educating and entertaining us all.” ■

“Continue, Eddie, continue! Continue on until it is finished.” - Mary Kawena Pukui

Hawaiian Legacy Foundation’s partners in the songbook include U.H. West O‘ahu, ‘Ulu‘ulu: The Henry Ku‘ualoha Giugni Moving Image Archive and Alaka‘ina Foundation.

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**JASON LEES**

Multimedia Designer

Communications

5 years at OHA

**FROM:**

O'ahu (mokupuni)

Kona (moku)

Waikīkī (ahupua'a)

**EDUCATION:**

• Punahou

• UH Mānoa (BA in Communications)

**What is your kuleana at OHA?**

My kuleana is mostly storytelling on behalf of OHA and the lāhui through video and photography. It is such an honor to be in a place where I can go out into the community, capture people's stories, and then share them with OHA's large audience on social media, at events, and even on TV. Our videos have been viewed millions of times on social media alone. Our goal is to inform and inspire the lāhui and to mahalo those who are doing amazing work in communities across the pae āina.

**Why did you choose to work for OHA?**

I have always loved videography – ever since I was a kid. Combining my passion for creating videos with advocating for Native Hawaiians is like two lifelong dreams coming together.

**What is the best thing about working at OHA?**

For me, it's going out and capturing the stories about what is happening in the lāhui. Some of those stories are, of course, tragic and sad. But many are uplifting and inspiring! Seeing how OHA's work really does help to assist the lāhui is also rewarding. I've had interviewees cry on camera thanking OHA for its kōkua. I've also seen our storytelling efforts help make real change in the community – even at the legislature.

**What is something interesting for people to know about you?**

I lived on the continent until I was 15, but I have always been drawn to the plight of Indigenous peoples. I remember being in the fourth grade and quietly crying into my textbook after seeing a painting of the "Trail of Tears." Learning about the cruelty imposed on Indigenous people by the government had a profound impact upon me.

When I moved to Hawai'i in 1992, I saw the struggle front and center. Just a few months after moving, I witnessed the march by Kānaka Maoli to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. In my work for OHA I am now in a position similar to that of the painter who depicted the Trail of Tears so horrifically in my textbook. That painting changed me. It opened my eyes. I hope my work will help to do the same for others.

**Who has been your role model?**

The many videographers and photographers who tell Native Hawaiian stories. In particular, Puhipau and Joan Lander of Nā Maka o Ka 'Āina, Na'alehu Anthony, 'Āina Paikai, Keli'i Grace, and the rest of the local filmmaking hui. In the area of photography, I admire the work of Ed Greevy and Kai Markell. I also love non-Native Hawaiian films and storytelling – in particular, the great pieces produced by Disney/Pixar and Universal, as well as foreign place-based stories like *City of God* and *Once Were Warriors*.

**What is your best OHA memory?**

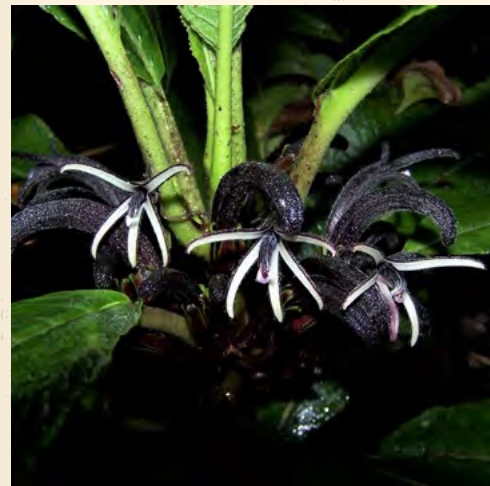
There are a few that come to mind. Working on the *Mana i Maui Ola* film with our small crew that included Mākaha Filmmaker Pākē Salmon. That film has won numerous awards. Another is the *Jam4MaunaKea Worldwide Sing-Along* video that I worked on with Mana Maoli. Another powerful memory was going with Kumu Hina into Hālawa Prison to document her work. This was in 2019 when she was working at OHA and providing educational classes at the prison to help Native Hawaiian pa'āhao reconnect to their culture. ■

# Hāhā and Kauna'oa

By Bobby Camara

**"He mea laha 'ole."**

(Not spread everywhere. A thing rare.)  
'Ōlelo No'eau 815



Darkest purple, nearly black buds and flowers of hāhā (*Cyanea gibsonii*). If a careful observer, mature reddish fruits will catch your eye. - Photos: Hank Oppenheimer, Plant Extinction Prevention Program

Collectively, hāhā (*Cyanea gibsonii*) are members of the Lobelioid family, mind-bogglingly diverse, with at least 52 endemic species in Hawai'i nei. We don't know of specific names for each species, many of which are extremely endangered, threatened, or rare, and often grow naturally in very particular locations. Though protected and managed, *C. gibsonii* is endemic to, and lives precariously on, Lāna'i. They number about 20 mature and 50 immature plants, and live under siege by deer, rats, and invasive plants like kāhili ginger. Some endemic honeycreepers with curved beaks that fit into curved flowers, feed on nectar while pollinating the blooms.

Our endemic dodder, a parasitic vine, is kauna'oa (*Cuscuta sandwichiana*). With its tiny pua, the official plant symbol of Lāna'i often grows entwined with pōhuehue, beach morning glory. Both go through cycles of growth, decline, and death, but they endure and persist. ■



Tiny pua kauna'oa and kauna'oa with pōhuehue. - Photos: Forest & Kim Starr (left), Mahina C. (right)

# The Storied Places of Lāna'i

By Adam Keawe Manalo-Camp

When most people think about Lāna'i, they think of pineapples – and more recently – luxury resorts.

But Lāna'i is so much more than that. It is an island deeply rooted within Hawaiian spiritual spaces and history. It is a land full of storied places of where the gods Kāne, Kanaloa and Kāne'āpua dwelt and where Lono gifted our people the Makahiki ceremonies. It was visited by the Pele clan where they enjoyed themselves on the beach. Kings would travel to the island as it was a place to retreat and to worship.

Lāna'i was settled by our ancestors around 1200 AD – relatively late compared to settlement of the other islands. An early king of both Maui and Lāna'i was Kaulahea. His family originated from Moloka'i but he was born at Kūkaniloko on O'ahu. During his peaceful reign, the island was known as Nāna'i, Nāna'i-a-Kaulahea, or Kaulahea.

Some mo'olelo of our kūpuna speak of humans having a hard time living on Lāna'i because of the ancient spirits that dwelled there.

According to these accounts, Lāna'i was ruled at one time by a spirit goddess named Pahulu and her 40-member family. Pahulu established Ke-ala-i-Kahiki that ran from Lāna'i and Kaho'olawe to Tahiti.

Lanikaula, a kahuna from Moloka'i battled Pahulu and won. The remnants of Pahulu's family fled to Moloka'i and O'ahu. In honor of its spiritual prowess, Lāna'i would sometimes be referred to as Lāna'ikaula (Lāna'i the prophet).

Lanikaula would later battle another kahuna and chief of Lāna'i named Kawelo. Lanikaula grew angry at the people of Lāna'i and decided to curse them. In response, Kawelo lit a fire to shake off the incantations of Lanikaula to save his people, and this resulted in the red landscape of Ke-ahi-a-Kawelo known as the "Garden of the Gods." Using all of his magic, Kawelo saved Lāna'i from the curse of Lanikaula. The wind blowing from the smoke of Kawelo's fire turned the nearby 'ōhi'a lehua blossoms purple. The purple lehua blossoms, unique to Lāna'i, would become a symbol of the island for centuries until they became extinct in the 1800s.

Spirits remained on the island until Kaululā'au, a Maui chief and grandson of Kaulahea, battled the last of the spirits using a supernatural ivory-tipped spear. After his victory, he and 800 of his people from Maui moved to Lāna'i. This event inspired two names for the island: Lāna'i (the day of victory) and Lāna'i-a-Kaululā'au.

As time went on, Lāna'i grew into a hub of interisland trade and pilgrimage. Lāna'i became ruled by the Mō'i of Maui who assigned 11 high-ranking Maui chiefs to steward the island's 13 ahupua'a. Keāliaupuni was the ceremonial seat of government and the place where the two highest points on the island, Pu'u Ali'i and Lāna'i Hale, converge. Keāliakapu was the ceremonial seat of the kahuna and a place of refuge.

After the 1500s, Kaunolū would become the actual center of both politics and religion on Lāna'i, and was famous for the spring, Pu'u o Miki. Maunalei Valley became a major agricultural site around that time and supported over 1,000 people, 71 lo'i kalo, and several heiau. There were also other major settlements on the island including at Mānele, Ka'ā, Pālāwai, and Kamoku. The fishing grounds and fauna of Lāna'i were highly regarded and prized.

When Kamehameha I prevailed over Maui, Lāna'i became incorporated into the new Hawaiian Kingdom. Kaunolū became a favorite retreat of Kamehameha I due to its ancient spiritual connections and its nearby deep-sea fishing grounds. Kaunolū was said to have been where Kāne, Kanaloa, and Kāne'āpua once resided and was, therefore, a sacred place. Kaunolū had several heiau, a pu'uhonua, and a beautiful petroglyph site.

King Kahekili frequented Kaunolū and had a lua (martial arts) training area nearby for his elite warriors called Kihamāniania. To test his warriors, Kahekili would have them cliff jump at a place now commonly called "Kahekili's Leap." Kamehameha I would continue to train his warriors at Kohamāniania and is said to have enjoyed jumping from that 63-foot drop. When circumstances

allowed, Kamehameha was also said to have personally presided over the opening of the Makahiki at Lāna'i.

One of the most important heiau on the island was Halulu Heiau at Kaunolū. Halulu is named after the supernatural bird, Halulu. According to historian Samuel Kamakau, Halulu and Kīwa'a were mythical birds made of water from the orb of the sun that acted as omen bringers to priests.

In physical form, Halulu and Kīwa'a appear as giant 'iwa birds. Halulu is mentioned in the Kumulipo, the legends of 'Aukele, and in the Pele mo'olelo as a sibling of Pele. In some stories, Halulu is a protector and guardian while in others, Halulu is a destroyer of men and messenger from the deepest realms of Pō.

Halulu Heiau was dedicated to this bird akua and served as an 'aumakua of Lāna'i. It's unclear when the original heiau was built, but Kamehameha I repaired and enlarged it during his time to include a luakini and a pu'uhonua. Halulu was the last heiau that Kamehameha I commissioned and it functioned until 1819.

Although the last 200 years have been witness to drastic changes to the island, Lāna'i remains the storied land where gods, prophets and kings dwelt. ■

## COME SHARE YOUR MANA'O

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Luana Alapa

Trustee for Moloka'i and Lāna'i

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## 'O Lāna'i a Kāne'āpua



Na Kalani Akana, Ph.D.

**K**aulana 'o Lāna'i i ka 'ōlelo no'eau, "Lāna'i a Lanikāula." Ua kākau 'ia ma kēia wahi kolamu ma mua ka mo'olelo e pili ana i kā Lanikāula pepehi 'ana i nā lapu a me nā kuakua o kēlā 'āina. Pehea kā kēia 'ōlelo, Lāna'i a Kāne'āpua?

E nānā kākou, e ka mea heluhelu, i ka "Ka Moolelo a Kamehameha I" i kākau 'ia e S. M. Kamakau:

Ma ka moolelo o keia kanaka o Kaneapua, no Kahiki mai no oia, ua hele pu mai me kona mau kaikuaana a no ka

wai ole, hoouna ia o Kaneapua, e pii i ka wai i uka o Miki, aia no ia wahi mauka o Lanai, aka, he kuko ua mau kaikuaana nei o Kaneapua, i ka aina momona o Kaneapua, oia ka aina i Kahalapiko nolaila, ua haalele ia o Kaneapua i Lanai, a ua moe i ko laila wahine, ua lilo i kupuna no kekahi poe (*Ka Nupepa Kuokoa*, 5 Ianuali, 1867, 'ao'ao 1).

Inā pēlā, he kupuna 'o Kāne'āpua no kekahi mau mamō o Lāna'i a pēlā nō ka 'ōlelo, "Lāna'i a Kāne'āpua." Ma ka ho'omau 'ana o ua mo'olelo la ua ho'i na'e 'o Kāne'āpua i Kahiki a waiho 'ia nā pua āna ma Lāna'i. Ua ho'i 'o ia me Wahanui, kekahi ali'i no O'ahu wahi a Kamakau.

Eia kekahi mo'olelo 'ē a'e. Ua kākau 'ia ia ma "Ho'omana Kahiko" (*Ka Nupepa Kuokoa*, 12 Ianuali, 1865, 'ao'ao 1), mai Kūkulu o Kahiki mai 'o ia me kona mau kaikua'ana 'o Kāne me Kanaloa. Ua ho'omana 'ia lāua e nā kōnaka no ka mea ua hele ka'apuni lāua iā Hawai'i nei a hiki i kahi wai 'ole. 'Ō aku nō 'o Kāne i kona ko'oko'o, a puka mai la ka wai, a ua kapa

'ia ka wai o a Kāne mā lāua o Kanaloa. Kaulana nō ho'i kā lāua hana ma nā mōkupuni like 'ole e like me ka mo'olelo o ka hana wai ma Kapunahou ma Mānoa a i 'ole ka ho'owāwahi 'ana i pōhaku a pua'i ka wai mōmona ma Maui i Waihe'e a i Kahakuloa, ma Lāna'i i Waiakāne, ma Moloka'i i Punakou, a ma O'ahu i Kawaihoa (ma Maunaloa).

A mākaukau nō lākou e ho'i i Lau'enaakāne, ko lākou kulaiwi ma Kahiki, ua noho iki ma Lāna'i. E like me kā Kamakau mo'olelo ua ho'ouana 'ia 'o Kāne'āpua i uka o Miki e ki'i i wai no ka inu 'awa 'ana. Akā 'a'ole 'o ia i kākau e pili ana i ke kumu o ka waiho 'ana ma Lāna'i.

Wahi a Fornander, ua mimi 'o Kāne'āpua kokoke i ka punawai a ua ū iho ka mimi i ka wai. 'O kā Kāne me Kanaloa inu 'ana nō ia ua 'ike lāua he mimi ia a ha'alele huhū lāua. No laila ua waiho 'ia 'o Kāne'āpua i Kaunolū ma Lāna'i. A ua kapa 'ia kekahi lae ma laila 'o Kāne'āpua. Aia ma ka lae kekahi pu'u pōhaku nui i kapa 'ia e ko Lāna'i po'e, 'o Kāne'āpua Rock.

Ma luna o kēia pu'u pōhaku a Kāne'āpua i kia'i a kilo ai i wa'a e lawe ho'iho'i iā ia i Kūkulu o Kahiki. A e like me kā Kamakau mo'olelo, i ka holo 'ana a ka wa'a o Kānewahanui (Wahanui) Hawai'i mai, e 'imi ana i

kona makemake e ke'eke'ehi ma luna o ka houpo o Kāne me Kanaloa, ua kāhea 'o ia i ke ali'i e holo pū.

Hoihoi nō ho'i ke kama'ilio 'ana. Kāhea aku la o Kāne'āpua, "He wa'a e holo ana i hea?" Pane mai la o Kānewahanui, "He wa'a e 'imi ana e ke'eke'ehi i ka houpo o Kāne mā lāua o Kanaloa." Pane mai la o Kāne'āpua, "Kā! 'O ka houpo kā o ke akua, ke'eke'ehi 'ia a'e 'oe e ke kanaka. Pehea la ho'i kou ko ke kanaka, pehea la ho'i 'o wau kekahi." Ma hope o kekahi 'ōlelo ho'opa'apa'a, ua 'ae mai o Kānewahanui a ho'i 'o Kāne'āpua i Kahiki. Aia kēlā lae a Kāne'āpua i kilo ai iā Kānewahanui ā hiki i kēia manawa.

Aloha nō e nā mamō o Lāna'i, nā pua a Kāne'āpua no Lau'enaakāne ma Kūkulu o Kahiki, na ka mo'opuna akua a Honunui-kua'ea'ea. E ola nō e Lāna'i a Kāne'āpua. ■

*Kalani Akana, Ph.D., is a kumu of hula, oli and 'ōlelo Hawai'i, and a research analyst at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. He has authored numerous articles on Indigenous ways of knowing and doing.*

*To read this article in English, go to [kawaiola.news](#).*



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ALOHA  
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# Primary Election Survey of Candidates for Governor and OHA's Board of Trustees

By Puanani Fernandez-Akamine

*"Every Election  
is Determined by  
the People Who  
Show Up."*

LARRY J. SABATO, POLITICAL SCIENTIST

Although 2022 is considered a "midterm" election year (i.e., elections held halfway through the term of office of the U.S. president), the elections this year will decide a number of important races – including the governors of 36 states.

Hawai'i residents will also choose a new governor and lieutenant governor. Additionally, Hawai'i will be electing one U.S. senator and two congressional representatives. And as a result of redistricting following the 2020 Census, all 76 Senate and House seats in the Hawai'i State Legislature are also being decided this year.

In addition to the serious kuleana of selecting the people who will lead Hawai'i, and who will advocate for Hawai'i in Washington, D.C., for the next four years, this year's election is critically important for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

This year, a majority of OHA's Board of Trustees (BOT) seats are open. Initially, six of the nine BOT seats were going to be on the ballot, but because current BOT Chair Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey - who represents the island of Maui - is running unopposed she has been declared legally and duly elected. The five remaining BOT seats on the ballot this month are: one seat each for Hawai'i Island and O'ahu, and three At-Large seats.

All of these races will decide who will create

laws and policies and who will make social, political and economic decisions on behalf of Hawai'i – and on behalf of Native Hawaiians.

No matter where any of us stand politically as 'Ōiwi – and whether or not we see ourselves as Americans – voting in the upcoming election is still a valuable tool for Native Hawaiians that should not be discarded or ignored.

Voting gives Kānaka Maoli an opportunity to affect change in a system that is not inherently supportive of Native Hawaiians. It is an easy form of civic engagement that allows us to choose leaders who best reflect our values and who are most likely to advocate for the issues that are important to our lāhui.

Working together, Kānaka Maoli voters can become a force to be reckoned with. If elected leaders know that Native Hawaiians consistently exercise our right to vote, they will be forced to be more responsive to our concerns in order to remain in office. Moreover, Kānaka Maoli voters can help elect Kānaka Maoli candidates who will elevate the issues important to our lāhui.

In Hawai'i, mail-in ballots make voting simple. Gone are the days when people had to take time off from work or stand in long lines at polling places. Other than complete apathy for our lāhui and the future of our keiki, there really is no good reason not to vote.

However, uninformed voting is worse than not voting at all.

As members of this community it is our collective kuleana to educate ourselves on the issues affecting our people and to learn about the candidates running for office this year – their backgrounds, experience, and visions for our homeland – and then to cast our votes with wisdom and discernment.

To help *Ka Wai Ola* readers make informed decisions about who to vote for in the Primary Election this month, OHA surveyed all 19 gubernatorial candidates and all 17 OHA BOT candidates to get their mana'o on some of the issues of concern to Native Hawaiian voters. A majority of the candidates responded to OHA's survey and their answers are shared in this special section. ■

## Mana'o from Community Leaders

OHA's Mana i Maui Ola Strategic Plan, developed with input from the Native Hawaiian community and approved by the current BOT in 2020, identifies four strategic directions of critical importance to our lāhui: educational pathways, health outcomes, quality housing and economic stability.

To provide context by which to consider candidate responses this election year, particularly OHA BOT candidates, OHA reached out to 'Ōiwi leaders in the areas of education, health, housing and economic development and asked for their mana'o about what OHA can realistically do to affect positive change in these crucial areas.



### EDUCATION

*Dr. Jon Osorio*

Dr. Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio is dean of the Hawai'iinuiakea School of Hawaiian Knowledge at UH Mānoa. We asked him to comment on the fact that there are currently only 25 public/charter schools across the pae 'āina (out of 294) offering Hawaiian language immersion education – which presents an access issue for parents seeking a Hawaiian-focused education for their keiki.

Osorio notes that the core problem is "supply and demand" and that, despite efforts by the UH system, far too few Hawaiian immersion teachers have been recruited, trained and certified. "In 2018, we were informed that there were 50 vacancies in kula kaiapuni statewide," he said.

Inadequate, unreliable funding is the biggest problem, according to Osorio. Despite the existence of BA/MA pathways between Hawaiian Studies, Hawaiian Language and the College of Education, many potential students simply cannot afford the tuition. Without full financial aid, they are forced to take on student loan debt which is a disincentive to pursuing a teaching career. "A first-year teacher at Pū'ōhala or Ka 'Umeke should not have to face \$50,000 in indebtedness as they prepare to take on this career," said Osorio.

He would like to see OHA work directly with UH to strengthen the pipeline of this generation of Hawaiian immersion teachers for all grade levels by providing financial aid for these students as well as funding for the training programs in Hawaiian literacy by faculty like Dr. Hiapo Perreira of Ka Haka 'Ula at UH Hilo and Dr. Ipo Wong of Kawaihuelani at UH Mānoa that have been developed for immersion kumu.



HEALTH | *Dr. Sheri Daniels*

Papa Ola Lōkahi Executive Director Dr. Sheri-Ann Daniels says that improving health outcomes for our lāhui takes everyone, noting that we continue to deal disproportionately with chronic illnesses, lower life expectancy and increased mental health needs. She also points out that social determinants of good health (e.g., education, housing, employment) intersect with other areas of our lives and impact every aspect of our health and wellness.

Daniels believes that one way for OHA to meaningfully address these issues is by strengthening partnerships with community-based organizations dedicated to health and wellbeing and by sponsoring community-focused activities. She would like to see OHA conduct talk-story sessions and engage people in their communities at gathering opportunities.

“A successful engagement plan would need to be strategic, multi-pronged and long term,” said Daniels. “We need to take the time to engage as many as possible in multiple ways, across demographics and accessibility to create real and achievable goals that fit us now and still offer flexibility as conditions and the environment evolve.”

She says that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the health issues facing Native Hawaiians, but believes that we need spaces to talk, listen and learn to better understand the needs of our people in order to develop better programs and services.

Adds Daniels, “addressing Hawaiian health and wellbeing enables us to have active cultural practitioners, dedicated āina protectors, and whole and functional families that together will comprise a thriving and abundant lāhui.”



HOUSING | *Kali Watson*

Kali Watson is the president and CEO of the Hawaiian Community Development Board, a nonprofit development firm that specializes in developing projects to provide low-income families with homes. He believes that OHA should collaborate with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and private developers regarding the development of affordable housing for Native Hawaiians.

He notes that with DHHL receiving \$600 million from the state and another \$22.3 million in new funding from the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act, the Hawai‘i Housing and Finance Development Corp receiving \$320 million in funding, and the State of Hawai‘i receiving \$2.8 billion in federal infrastructure funding, “the time is now for a coordinated collective effort to aggressively build housing for Native Hawaiians.”

Watson believes that OHA’s Iwilei and Kaka’ako Makai properties should be master-planned to provide both commercial space and housing with DHHL facilitating the entitlement process with its trust land status under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. He points out that DHHL has already identified 17 sites for development of more than 3,000 residential and agricultural units and that DHHL is also authorized to acquire private land for housing development.

“Working together, OHA and DHHL can not only become the biggest developers in the state, but [they can] realistically reduce, if not eliminate, the [DHHL] waiting lists within 10 years,” said Watson.



ECONOMICS | *Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson*

Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson, executive director of the Lālakea Foundation, is an educator and cultural practitioner who helped to craft the ‘Āina Aloha Economic Futures initiative, a Hawaiian-led framework for Hawai‘i’s economic recovery, post-pandemic.

The abrupt disruption of tourism in the early days of the pandemic, while providing a needed respite for the ‘āina, wreaked havoc economically as thousands of residents lost tourism-related jobs while supply chain disruptions threatened Hawai‘i’s food security.

“Food sovereignty depends on viable distribution pipelines and access to the marketplace,” said Wong-Wilson. “Most importantly, there must be access to āina and wai resources for small farmers. OHA, state and county government can work cooperatively to convene the discussion and provide support. It must be a whole system transformation to succeed.”

Wong-Wilson believes it is time for OHA to take a leadership role in collaborating with government, business and community leaders. She says that although Hawaiians are a minority in our homeland, we nevertheless retain strong connections with the ‘āina, our language and culture and that this pilina is important to a strong economic foundation for Hawai‘i.

“The lāhui’s economic stability is reflected by the economic stability of the larger community – so OHA’s voice in the welfare of the entire community is vital and important. OHA can provide a strong, culturally rooted foundation for everyone to build upon. This is an important strategy to ensure the longevity and viability of our lāhui into the future.”

WALK TO THE BOX 2022  VOTE

When: Monday, August 1, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

Location: ‘Iolani Palace and Honolulu Hale

11:00 a.m. – Sign waving on King Street (near ‘Iolani Palace)

11:30 a.m. – Walk to Honolulu Hale to drop off Primary Election Ballots

SIGN WAVE VOTE RALLY DROP OFF YOUR BALLOT

LET'S SHOW THE POWER OF THE HAWAIIAN VOTE

#WALK2DABOX #KANAKAVOTE

# GUBERNATORIAL

## Candidates

PAGES 14 - 21

- 1 With the median price of a home in Hawai'i exceeding \$1.1 million, what is the governor's role in addressing this crisis and what specific tactics would you employ to achieve relief for Hawai'i's families?
- 2 During the height of the pandemic, the need for a more diversified economy was highlighted. Hawai'i's lack of food sovereignty and over-dependence on tourism dollars were top of mind. As tourism rebounds, what is your commitment to continue moving toward economic diversification, particularly in agriculture, and what changes would you specifically endorse to reduce our dependence on imports that are vulnerable to disruptions in the supply chain?
- 3 In August 2019 the Hawai'i Supreme Court ruled (*Clarabal v. Department of Education*) that the state has a constitutional duty to provide Hawaiian language immersion education in our public schools. Despite this, there are only 25 public/charter schools (out of 294) offering Hawaiian immersion education. 80% of Native Hawaiian keiki are enrolled in the DOE, and the majority do not have access to Hawaiian immersion education in their local community. What specific immediate action would you take to significantly increase the number of public schools offering Hawaiian immersion programs?

### Yes/No Questions for Gubernatorial Candidates (4)

1. Should Native Hawaiians have decision-making power regarding the stewardship of Maunakea?
2. Acres of Hawai'i's "ceded" lands under state control have been leased to the military and other federal entities for absurdly low amounts (e.g., \$1/year). Do you believe Hawaiians and the state should receive fair market value lease rents for these lands?
3. Do you support changes to Hawai'i's current tourism model to include proactively protecting cultural sites and fragile ecosystems from over-tourism?
4. Do you support fulfilling the state's obligation to provide Native Hawaiians with their 20% pro rata share of Public Land Trust revenues?

## Duke Aiona

REPUBLICAN

Age | 67

Occupation | Attorney

Where did you grow up | Pearl City, O'ahu

Schooling | University of the Pacific, UH Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law

Current residence | Wahiawa, O'ahu

Website | [www.dukeaiona.com](http://www.dukeaiona.com)



1 | With the median home price at record levels, many local families cannot simultaneously pay rent and save to buy a home. In order for families and individuals to stay in Hawai'i, they will need to escape the rising costs of housing. Therefore, a long-term solution is required. The Home Ownership Personal Equity (HOPE) program enables individuals and families to save money for a down payment on their own home, simply by paying rent. Over time, families will actually earn equity on their rent, providing for a down payment on a home anywhere they choose to live. Current affordable housing policies are only a band-aid approach in that it doesn't solve the problem residents face with rising rents and long-term planning. Providing lower income and middle-class families with an opportunity to own their own home gives families and their future generations an opportunity to stay in Hawai'i. This program will not require an increase in taxes and is expected to help more than 5,200 families in its first year alone.

2 | While tourism will always be an industry Hawai'i relies on, the pandemic highlighted the need in diversifying our economy to provide more certainty for kama'āina during times of economic downturn. Unfortunately, Hawai'i's high taxes and fees, and the copious amount of regulations and bureaucracy have made it difficult for new industries to flourish in our islands. Getting government out of the way by reducing the amount of regulations, permits, bureaucracy, fees, and taxes sends a message to the businesses outside of Hawai'i that we are open for business. However, to do this requires the political will and a commitment in allocating the resources that are necessary to develop the infrastructure that would attract businesses and industries. Also, at the core of creating a sustainable and vibrant socio/economic model is the need to strengthen our families and improve our public education system to ensure our keiki have every opportunity to succeed in a diversified economy. I am committed to prioritizing all of these areas to ensure the people of Hawai'i can flourish.

3 | Reinforcing 'ōlelo Hawai'i as a living, thriving language means allowing the Hawaiian language to become part of our daily lives, activities and business environments. That starts with our classrooms. One way to increase access to Hawaiian language immersion education is to increase the availability of charter schools. According to a study released by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, Hawai'i's charter school laws rank 31 of 45 states. To help increase access to Hawaiian immersion education, I would implement policies that make it easier to create new high-quality charter schools.

Furthermore, to support the integration of 'ōlelo Hawai'i in our everyday lives, my administration will build upon The Law of Aloha by establishing a Hawaiian Cultural Vibrancy Policy for state employees to develop, nurture, and practice Hawaiian cultural principles, language, and practices in their daily work. Policies to support our Hawaiian language haumāna are also critical as we continue to form better ways to evaluate cultural learning. Supporting the BOE Policy 2105 and working cooperatively with the Hawaiian language community, I will stand behind the development of authentic assessments in Hawaiian language that can be administered to immersion students. ■

### YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. Yes
4. Yes

## David L. (Duke) Bourgoin

DEMOCRAT

Age | *did not answer*  
 Occupation | Business Consultant, and Small Business Owner  
 Where did you grow up | New Jersey  
 Schooling | UH, UCLA, USD, St. Peters  
 Current residence | Mānoa, O'ahu  
 Website | [www.duke4gov.com](http://www.duke4gov.com)



1 | Home prices in Hawai'i are beyond the reach of local residents. Federal and state subsidies can assist with building, selling, and renting housing at an affordable price. My Saddle Road Hawaiian Project envisions half-acre lots with agriculture common ground, offered with reduced government building laws to allow a more simple and affordable home, and with possible Army assistance with engineering and some construction. [duke4gov.com](http://duke4gov.com) further discusses housing with [greenverdefarms.com](http://greenverdefarms.com) ideas for group housing and organic agriculture.

2 | A diversified economy is part of my MAKE HAWAII SAFE platform where tourism declines naturally, while gov/bus promotes import substitution developing local businesses using local labor, for agriculture and its product enhancement, energy through solar receptor development, production and use, and other products as bicycles, natural cleaning products, natural farm and lawn enhancers, and coordination of youth with government and corporate participants with tech development and deployment.

3 | Hawaiian language immersion should be reinforced in our public schools by funding more schools and teachers to offer this education. Further, to significantly increase the number of public schools offering Hawaiian we can offer an area collaboration program where students interested in Hawaiian language can join together for learning, teaching, practical use, application, with an extended Hawaiian cultural community for support and emergence. ■

### YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  Yes
- 3.  Yes
- 4.  Yes

## Vicky Cayetano

DEMOCRAT

Age | 66  
 Occupation | Candidate for Governor  
 Where did you grow up | Manila, San Francisco  
 Schooling | Attended Stanford but did not complete  
 Current residence | Honolulu, O'ahu  
 Website | [vickyforgovernor.com](http://vickyforgovernor.com)



1 | Working with the legislature, my first act as governor would be to proclaim a State of Emergency to accelerate the development of affordable homes. I will lead with a sense of urgency and work to enact policies that allow for expedited approval of construction permits. This includes accelerating housing projects taking place within the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. My affordable housing plan contains three elements: rent-to-own, dedicated workforce housing and affordable rental communities. Rent-to-own is aimed at those unable to make a down payment on the purchase of a home but could manage monthly payments. Once the cost of the unit is reached with the monthly payments, the state would offer the tenant title to the unit. Dedicated workforce

housing begins with identifying under-utilized state lands to allocate affordable rentals and housing for three key sectors of our community - healthcare, education, and emergency response. Hawai'i has critical shortages in these professions and one of the key reasons is the lack of affordable housing. Affordable rental communities will be family and kūpuna friendly affordable rental projects that lend to a strong community environment. Understanding that each county is unique, I would also work with the mayors to ensure alignment and collaboration. I am committed to lead us in building affordable housing, keeping our kama'āina home and our 'ohana together. I invite you to read my Affordable Housing Plan and more about what I would bring as governor at [vickyforgovernor.com](http://vickyforgovernor.com).

2 | We cannot diversify the economy without first attracting businesses. This requires a more business friendly environment and a need to review the current business regulations. We cannot achieve food security without a prosperous agricultural industry. This requires investing in resources to help our farmers and ranchers. The Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture must work in alignment to do this. Farmers and ranchers who are leasing state land from the DLNR need lease terms that are longer in order for them to make the appropriate investments. We must have a strategic approach at getting federal monies without compromising our local businesses. Achieving economic diversity and food sovereignty depends on a robust agricultural industry where we can export goods in addition to providing sustenance here at home. There's a wide net in agriculture - from produce, coffee, tea, beef, specialty sauces and snacks, etc. Any product that is uniquely and commercially Hawai'i helps to diversify our economy and reduce our dependence on out of state goods.

3 | While I would like to say there is an immediate solution, this requires building a pipeline of instructors, space, and partnerships. I would work to build this pipeline and outreach to experts for guidance. In order for the DOE to offer more immersion programs, there must be a greater pool of Hawaiian language teachers. Without them, DOE is unable to make the shift that is needed. The policies are in place that support its Hawaiian Studies Program and its Hawaiian Language Immersion Program, however a lean staff to accomplish the goals set forth is inadequate to provide more immersion classrooms. Partnerships with Hawaiian immersion organizations play a critical role in ensuring that cultural-based learning and projects are attainable. ■

### YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  Yes
- 3.  Yes
- 4.  Yes

## Gary Cordery

REPUBLICAN

Age | 62  
Occupation | Owner of Kingdom Builders  
Where did you grow up | Auburn, California  
Schooling | Placer High School  
Current residence | Kailua, O'ahu  
Website | www.garycorderyforgovernor.com



**1 |** We have limited resources of land, water and energy but a growing demand via global exposure and financial wealth. The answers are found in understanding the implementation of local policy that either creates opportunities or restrains them. Here is a bullet point perspective of areas which should participate in resolving the cost of housing: 1) The state should make available more land for low and medium density housing; 2) State land lease policy should be redirected to individual ownership, creating legacy properties; 3) Though a C&C issue, planning, permitting and zoning should embrace the policies of numerous other states streamlining the entire system. This will reduce cost, accelerate the availability of units and reduce the admin. cost

of the government oversight, attracting new private investment rather than government low income housing projects with tax credit incentives; 4) Hawaiian Homes should move to private ownership for the Hawaiian people, thus creating a wealth-building legacy system. 5) Create a conversation and agreement with humility for the large financial stakeholders to unite and underwrite the development of the Hawaiian Homelands. DLNR shall support this with land policy and water rights. 6) Bring scalable desalinization to O'ahu, Maui, Moloka'i providing necessary water resources to sustain development and agriculture.

**2 |** A robust agriculture industry is critical for Hawai'i's food supply. We cannot depend on imports for life-sustaining products. This will also stabilize the unpredictable costs of these products and its impact on our economy. Currently, we are at the mercy of supply chain issues, international relationships, global weather, crop production, tariffs, government subsidies and other factors: 1) The state must open up available natural land resources, water and provide cost effective access to transportation; 2) The current land three-five year lease programs must change to long-term leases. No farmer will invest in their business if they do not have certainty they can control their land. Many of these leases must be converted to private ownership, these changes would create legacy properties for generations. Also, if the lands were privately owned, the land could be used for equity to borrow capital to start or grow their business; 3) The state should provide a ferry system designed to support the local ag. industry and must be exempt from the Jones Act; 4) Dependable water resources and accessibility must be established through thoughtful watershed policies and new water resources mentioned above (once operational); 5) The state should allow its educational services to contract with local farmers at the county level for its locally grown products; 6) We should bring high tech. industry to Hawai'i. Our geographic/time zone location is ideal for this and related industries.

**3 |** The state and DOE should fund new charter schools. Currently DOE only funds existing DOE schools that become charter schools. If DOE funded new charter start-up schools, we would see numerous new options for Hawaiian language schools: 1) The governor may have executive order authority to direct the DOE to implement the laws currently in place. It is the governor's responsibility to uphold and enforce law through the attorney general's office. 2) Student funding should follow the student. Also, school vouchers should be made available to parents who are unable to place their students in appropriate schools. ■

### YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="radio"/> Yes | 3. <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| 2. <input type="radio"/> Yes | 4. <input type="radio"/> Yes |

## Josh Green

DEMOCRAT

Age | 52  
Occupation | Lt. Governor  
Where did you grow up | Pennsylvania  
Schooling | Swarthmore College (BS), Pennsylvania State University Hershey (MD)  
Current residence | Honolulu, O'ahu  
Website | www.joshgreenforhawaii.com



**1 |** I recently released a 10-point plan to address affordable housing issues across the state. Three specific steps the state can do to help on housing includes: fast-tracking of new home construction with a streamlined and common-sense regulatory process, increasing the amount of public land available for home development, and expanding home builder access to government financing and tax credits to accelerate the production of homes so we can provide enough supply to meet our demand sooner, not later.

**2 |** Hawai'i has a proud and storied history in agriculture, a legacy that enabled its people to not only survive but thrive. And while agriculture is no longer the leading driver of our economy, it can be economically viable in Hawai'i once again. As governor, I will focus state resources strategically to revitalize ag. We can be competitive on pricing and agricultural job creation, while being mindful to preserve open spaces from over-development. We must boost our ability to locally produce our food and vegetables. I will also work to renew long-standing traditional Native Hawaiian agricultural practices using tax credits and a renewed commitment to the College of Tropical Agricultural and Human Resources (CTAHR) that continues to find contemporary strategies to support the utilization of traditional aquaculture (fishponds) practices as well as Hawaiian staple crops.

**3 |** I believe there are two important steps that must be taken to increase Hawaiian language access to our keiki. First, we need to work with the College of Education and Hawaiian Studies department in the University of Hawai'i system to grow a pipeline of teachers that can teach Hawaiian language in public schools. Second, the DOE should develop a curriculum that introduces the Hawaiian language to public school students in lower grades and offer a Hawaiian language course in every Hawai'i public high school. ■

### YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="radio"/> Yes | 3. <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| 2. <input type="radio"/> Yes | 4. <input type="radio"/> Yes |



# Keline Kahau

REPUBLICAN

Age | 49  
 Occupation | Federal Postal Judge  
 Where did you grow up | Nānākuli  
 Schooling | Moanalua High, Hawai'i Business College  
 Current residence | Papakōlea, O'ahu  
 Website | kahauforhawaii.com



1 | I would abolish the Jones act and create Hawai'i New Contract based upon Hawai'i treaty with the other counties so we can have our own good ship to Hawai'i and stop foreign investments on the land.

2 | I would help our local farmers so that Hawai'i will be self sustainable with land, equipment and the resources that is needed and promote work. That way our food stay in Hawai'i from cattle, dairy, piggery, vegetable, fruits and canning to help.

3 | I would want all schools public and private that must have a class that is a requirement of all ages to learn the 'ōlelo Hawai'i, we are in Hawai'i every one must learn the language that is of the land. there needs to be books and teachers that need this requirement. I do also believe that the SCHOOLS need to get the parents involved in this learning. As governor we need to create a path to provide this for our families. ■

# Kai Kahele

DEMOCRAT

Age | 48  
 Occupation | Hawaiian Airlines Pilot  
 Where did you grow up | Miloli'i and Hilo, Moku o Keawe  
 Schooling | UH Mānoa  
 Current residence | Hilo, Moku o Keawe  
 Website | www.hawaiinotforsale.com



1 | Housing is the foundational underpinning of a strong and vibrant community. Our failure to deliver affordability over time has broken up families and is a leading factor in our "brain drain," as younger generations have left Hawai'i to find affordability elsewhere. My housing commitment is to unpack the complexity and get back to the basics. Government must play a role in helping, not hindering affordable housing development, and today's opportunity, especially with the flow of federal funds, is for federal, state and county levels of government to invest in our community by building a regional infrastructure of roads, water, sewer and public facilities. As governor, my job will be to lead and facilitate these efforts. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands plays a critical role in the housing crisis of Native Hawaiians and with the influx of state funds and federal NAHASDA funds whomever the next governor decides to appoint as director and deputy director of DHHL will be critical to the agency's future success.

2 | For agriculture, we want to be sustainable and self-sufficient, which will increase our food security. Sustainability is when we grow what we eat and eat what we grow. As governor, I will:

1) Increase to 3% as part of the governor's budget to the 2023 Legislature dedicated to the Department of Agriculture, (up 2.6% from the current 0.4%) with an eye on rebuilding the DOA budget to pre-2008 levels with inflation factored; 2) Establish a governor's task force for the purposes of developing legislation requiring the purchase of local food products, including 'ulu, kalo, and 'uala for the state government school, prison, and hospital systems; 3) Water: modernizing our irrigation systems will require enormous investments and is one of my top priorities; 4) Propose a dedicated funding stream to supplement Hawai'i agricultural projects and environmental protection; 5) Require all administrator-level staff to have procurement delegation to generate contracts and have 25% of their staff that can seek, apply for, manage/administer funding from federal, state, and other sources.

3 | The single most important goal for the state and nation is the advancement of the health, safety, welfare and education of its citizens. The fact that the state is not meeting its mandate in the constitution of providing Hawaiian language immersion education within our DOE schools is unacceptable. As Hawai'i's governor I would appoint a member to the Board of Education that has experience in Hawaiian language immersion education. I would then direct my deputy chief of staff to do a comprehensive review in collaboration with the BOE to identify all schools that currently do not have any Hawaiian language immersion instruction. Working together with the University of Hawai'i, we desperately need more Native Hawaiian speakers.

Our next governor must move Hawai'i forward as a collective through the myriad of issues facing the Hawaiian community. This will require tough conversations within and with Hawaiian communities, leaders, and stakeholders. It will also require tough conversations with public and private decision-makers. We will never achieve our potential to serve Hawai'i's people and place if we don't find a way to resolve these issues and collectively move forward. ■

YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- 1. Yes
- 2. Yes
- 3. Yes
- 4. Yes

YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- 1. Yes
- 2. Yes
- 3. Yes
- 4. Yes

## Clyde McClain (Mac) Lewman

DEMOCRAT

Age | 75  
Occupation | Semi Retired - Flooring Brooker  
Where did you grow up | Eugene, Oregon  
Schooling | University of Oregon BS Psychology  
Current residence | Honolulu, O'ahu  
Website | mac808.com



1 | All Hawai'i state-owned land along with Kamehameha lands to be managed by the state and leased at a low rate for farmland and home building. The state to subsidize 30-, 50-, 100- or 200-year low interest rate mortgages. Explore well designed and managed homeless and non-homeless community structured campgrounds for long-term residences.

Begin a tourist environmental impact fee with proceeds going to cleaning up the islands by offering this work to the homeless and others. Periodic neighborhood cleanups as well. A clean car, house and community improves everyone's attitude and increases tourism and tourism responsibility.

The state to offer monthly or weekly international "Solution Conferences" that would be attractive to most all countries whose representatives would most likely bring their entourages and families. Because we are Hawai'i. And ask for donations or charge a relatively high fee to attend.

2 | Implement a state-assisted private property food-box program with state assistance for developing, planting, harvesting, processing and distributing. Wherever practicable, convert grass yards to garden spaces. Develop a state website showing the best crops to plant in different areas. Increase community gardening areas for non-homeowners. Plant two fruit trees per private property and in public spaces. The state budget allows one-third of 1% for agriculture. Needs to increase. Food is freedom!

3 | Begin a Hawaiian language immersion program by having Hawaiian language experts holding assemblies once per month and alternating schools daily. To include talk story and singing using song sheets written in English and Hawaiian. Songs could be sung to begin or end classes and teachers could greet and say goodbye using Hawaiian phrases with student responses in Hawaiian. Have a Hawaiian word or phrase-of-the-day on the blackboard of every class to be written down five times in a personal Hawaiian word and phrase notebook at the beginning of each class. ■

### YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="radio"/> No  | 3. <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| 2. <input type="radio"/> Yes | 4. <input type="radio"/> Yes |

## Lynn Barry Mariano

REPUBLICAN

Age | 65  
Occupation | Continuity of Government, and Command and Control consultant  
Where did you grow up | Kalihi-Pālana, O'ahu  
Schooling | Farrington High School, Chaminade University, UH Mānoa (ROTC Program U.S. Army commission)  
Current residence | Honolulu, O'ahu  
Website | www.marianoforgovernor.org



1 | There is no quick fix to solve Hawai'i's housing problem, it's been an issue for six decades. I agree with everyone that we need more of it, but how? This issue is complex, but I have over 40-years of leadership and management experience to assess, identify root causes, and implement solutions across local, state, and federal lines. As governor, my short-term and long-term plan is to work with all our elected legislators, county mayors, developers, unions, OHA, state planners, banking industry representatives, and other stakeholders to reduce our over-regulated policies and laws, streamline the permit process, modify our state and county land-use, revisit zoning regulations, and return savings back to Hawai'i's taxpayers. I will have my administration report to me on the progress of this issue every 90 days until we have an acceptable solution.

2 | My plan is to give Hawai'i's families economic options. We should not be beholden to economies that require perfect conditions to thrive or to other countries for what we can provide ourselves. As governor, I'll work hard with our newly elected legislators, national and local unions, business industries, and some outside investors to diversify our economy with higher paying jobs. We must leverage what the islands offer - food security in terms of agriculture and food production, because no matter the social and economic conditions, we all need food to sustain ourselves; energy production, which also transcends social and economic conditions; and interisland connectivity (bringing back the Super Ferry or other mode of interisland transportation) so our kama'āina can more fully integrate with their families and have reduced travel costs for rehabilitation and/or follow-up care.

3 | The Native Hawaiian language needs to be promoted throughout all our schools. As governor, I would get with the Department of Education, Kamehameha Schools, and OHA to appoint an administrator to provide oversight and guidance ensuring immersion of Hawaiian language is embedded in the curriculum for children from K-12. In order to earn a high school diploma, students must successfully complete the required courses. Further, in high school, I would promote Hawaiian language as an AP course that would offer students additional credits at the University of Hawai'i. I will work within the DOE to have oversight to ensure quality of education is equal to that at Kamehameha Schools. I am open to suggestions to address this challenge and look forward to working with *Ka Wai Ola* and other stakeholders. ■

### YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="radio"/> Yes | 3. <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| 2. <input type="radio"/> Yes | 4. <input type="radio"/> Yes |

# Paul Morgan

REPUBLICAN

Age | 46  
 Occupation | Business Consultant  
 Where did you grow up | Courtland, Mississippi  
 Schooling | Vanderbilt University  
 Current residence | Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i  
 Website | www.paulmorganforgovernor.com



**1 |** Addressing affordable housing will require work from many angles. First, legally we must declare a crisis. With those emergency powers being put to good use we can review all projects currently in the planning phase, streamline the approval process and get them in motion. Our trained administration, developers, lawyers and the counties mayors will work together to achieve this goal. We will exhaust federal resources and programs to lower the overhead of the projects and explore proven, new building technologies fit for our communities. I have a detailed plan that addresses these items through specific federal and state laws and statutes.

**2 |** My commitment is Hawai'i First. This plan highlights a diversified economy and is ready to begin with agriculture. With the help of research and development we can learn from the current farmers and improve on their practices while immediately solving any of their issues. Technical assistance will be afforded to farmers to gain access to grants, create pilot projects and enter export markets. Again, an immediate review of permits and plans for farms or farming activities will be done to streamline the approval process. Adequate access to water and other resources will be ensured. HTA dollars will be repurposed to promote Hawai'i made/Hawai'i grown products to the local community, as well as nationally and internationally. The agriculture industry will flourish, working to sustain the local economy.

**3 |** I will begin with practicing the Hawaiian language and incorporate it more into everyday government activities. As it is an official language of the state it deserves the presence. Members of my campaign team are involved in the immersion program and I have learned a great deal about the importance of the living language. I will create a hui of native speakers, educators and community members to properly develop a program that enables true immersion to exist within the public school system. Concurrently more funding opportunities will be afforded to existing programs in order to offer night and weekend classes in their communities. ■

## YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  Yes
- 3.  Yes
- 4.  Yes

# Caleb K. Nazara

NONPARTISAN

Age | 50  
 Occupation | Minister/Educator/Musician  
 Where did you grow up | Kealahou, Hawai'i  
 Schooling | Hawai'i Community College/UH Mānoa  
 Current residence | Kealahou, Hawai'i  
 Website | n/a



**1 |** I would attempt to stop the sale and resale of property (homes, condos, land) to outside interests that do not live in and call Hawai'i home. Require 10-15 year live-in law before being able to sell.

Set fixed rental rates and provide tax breaks and incentives for those that choose to participate in the program. Trim the fat from all government higher-up salaries. It's time for leaders to prove they truly care about the citizens they claim to serve. Cut their salaries and put them on an hourly wage. Give the cost-of-living increases to the citizens instead of government. No lifetime Senate or representative terms. One maybe two four-year terms and that's it. Let's see them produce for society and see how they handle its struggles

and let others govern for a while.

**2 |** Stop building new hotels and resorts! We have enough just manage it better. More make sense tax incentives for small farming. Dairy, fruit, veggie, etc., farms for locals to produce for our own communities and state. Cut dependency on shipping in what we are smart enough to produce. Talked about for years but no one does anything. What's wrong with that picture? Why does our state through DLNR shoot wild cattle, etc. and leave it to rot instead of using our local hunters and providing access to the meat for families? Wasteful use of taxpayer money.

**3 |** If we have to question providing Hawaiian education in Hawai'i in 2022, we are lower than a pregnant ant! Maybe replace DOE and BOE completely. You have to be to highly educated to not see the simplicity of education in BOTH American and Hawaiian studies. The attitude of oppression still exists and that can change through government if they live according to their political jargon that is used to win votes. It should be enforced through all schools and the state should be looking to financially assist in creating necessary space for it. Kamehameha Schools and OHA can help also. Don't they have some money? ■

## YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  Yes
- 3.  Yes
- 4.  Yes

## Bj Penn

REPUBLICAN

Age | 43  
 Occupation | Father, Business Owner, Former 2x UFC World Champion  
 Where did you grow up | Hilo, Hawai'i  
 Schooling | Hilo, Hawai'i  
 Current residence | Hilo, Hawai'i  
 Website | www.bjpenngov.com



**1 |** The housing challenges in Hawai'i are well known and represent a failure of leadership from our elected officials that has persisted for decades. They all talk about solutions during election season, but they never deliver.

Addressing the thousands of people waiting for access to Hawaiian homesteads is one of my top priorities. The legislature recently committed \$600 million dollars to the DHHL to address the waiting list for Native Hawaiians. I currently have a small team looking carefully at the legislation and the past actions of the DHHL and DLNR to make recommendations on how this money can be used most effectively. It is time that everyone on the list gets what they have been promised. I believe this money could be used to leverage

much more investment that will allow us to finally live up to our promise as a state. Investing in eco-conscious housing solutions both for new development and restoring existing structures is also key. As is, the importance of making sure our sacred lands are being appropriately zoned and utilized with intention and homage to Hawai'i residents.

The simple supply and demand is the main driver of cost and, knowing that, my team and I will take action to alleviate the massive pressure driving prices up. I don't believe the government can or should build or manage housing. However, we can provide incentives for the type of development that can alleviate the supply shortage at the lower price level, while requiring that all projects hold developers and investors accountable to guidelines that protect sacred land and natural resources.

**2 |** If we are going to build a strong and prosperous Hawai'i we must address our dependence on the mainland and foreign countries for our food, energy and general economic development. My administration will be committed to identifying, recruiting and supporting businesses and industries that allow us to move away from our dependence on others. We will build a sustainable Hawai'i through agricultural development, diversification of our energy sources and broader incentives for non-tourism related growth. In doing this our top priorities will be that anyone doing business in Hawai'i understand and respect our commitment to; stewardship of the land, education of the young and job opportunities for the people of Hawai'i.

Our vision is one of a self-reliant Hawai'i that can bargain from a position of strength. Geographically we are essential to the security of the mainland, but because we are so dependent we can not use this to our advantage. This will change under my leadership. We will become self-reliant and therefore begin dealing with others from a position of strength.

**3 |** Here is another example of failed leadership from the people we have elected. Our legislature passed, and our governor signed a bill that they had to know couldn't be implemented without significant resources. My administration will make good on this promise based on the resources necessary to make it a reality. By the end of January 2023, I will require the DOE to provide my office with a complete report on their efforts to comply with this law to date, the full scope of the current implementation, and their estimation of the resources necessary to fully comply. The public deserves to have a clear understanding of where we are. The legislature will be held accountable to provide adequate resources to support this program. ■

### YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  Yes
- 3.  Yes
- 4.  Yes

## Van K. Tanabe

DEMOCRAT

Age | 64  
 Occupation | Retired  
 Where did you grow up | O'ahu, 'Aiea  
 Schooling | 'Aiea High School  
 Current residence | Honolulu, O'ahu  
 Website | n/a



**1 |** As governor my solution is to build affordable homes for the people of Hawai'i. For decades our politicians have made land deals with private developers to provide us with affordable homes. I got news for them, IT'S NOT WORKING!!! Private developers got into the housing industry to make a killing. The state will enter the housing market to provide a service. These homes will be of the same quality as the private developers only difference is that they will be half the price. Soon after the people start buying all of the state built homes the private developer will have no choice but to lower their prices to stay competitive. This will also reduce the cost of rent.

**2 |** As governor I will be committed to legalizing marijuana, it's a no brainer our islands have the richest soil and we have the perfect climate so it only stands to reason that we will have the most sought after product. I'm not suggesting that we invite Monsanto to do the work and take the lion's share, I'm saying that the state will run everything from germination to distribution. Why settle for 4% when we can have 100%. Also Hawai'i should be the leading authority regarding the benefits of CBD oils. This has the potential to create hundreds of billions of dollars. With this much additional revenue we may eliminate income taxes.

**3 |** As governor I see no reason why our schools should not be offering these classes to the students. If the Hawai'i Supreme Court ruled that the state has a duty to provide Hawaiian language immersion education, then so be it. ■

### YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  Yes
- 3.  Yes
- 4.  Yes

## Heidi Haunani Tsuneyoshi

REPUBLICAN

Age | 47  
 Occupation | Councilmember on the Honolulu City Council  
 Where did you grow up | Wahiawā, O’ahu  
 Schooling | Leilehua High School, UH Mānoa (BA), Chaminade University Honolulu (MSCP)  
 Current residence | Wahiawā, O’ahu  
 Website | www.heidiforhawaii.com



1 | The most important step to addressing the affordable housing crisis is to dramatically and expeditiously increase the availability of affordable housing options to residents. As governor I will develop a comprehensive plan that identifies areas for redevelopment and/or new developments that are sited equitably throughout our state. This would include working with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands to drastically increase the number of homes for Native Hawaiians. Additionally, develop down payment programs for first time buyers as that is a major hurdle due to the cost of living and not being able to save up for a down payment.

2 | As governor I will work closely with our farmers, ranchers, and industries that support the development of locally sourced food to both address our food security issues and develop export markets that can support our economy. There was a lot of focus on these issues during the pandemic but as soon as tourism came back the conversations went quiet again. Diversification of our economy cannot wait for another crisis. It has to remain a priority everyday to make it a reality.

3 | As governor I would uphold the ruling by the Hawai’i Supreme Court by providing additional funding to public/charter schools. Within the Department of Education there are formulas as to how much a school receives per child. If a parent decides to enroll their child in a charter school, that funding should be made available in whole including the additional funding considerations that public schools have for extracurricular programs and capital improvement projects. Additionally, I will work with the Department of Education to ensure that Hawaiian immersion education is made available throughout our state so parents and children can have access to Hawaiian immersion education within their communities. ■

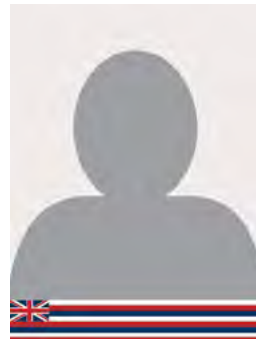
YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- 1. Yes
- 2. Yes
- 3. Yes
- 4. Yes

## Walter Woods

REPUBLICAN

Age | 68  
 Occupation | n/a  
 Where did you grow up | Honolulu, O’ahu  
 Schooling | Waialua High School  
 Current residence | Kahuku, O’ahu  
 Website | n/a



**Editor’s note:** Candidate Woods did not provide responses to the open-ended questions, just to the yes/no responses below. ■

YES/NO QUESTIONS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES (4)

- 1. Yes
- 2. Yes
- 3. Yes
- 4. Yes

### NO RESPONSES

On June 13, all candidates running for governor were contacted via email and invited to respond to *Ka Wai Ola’s* 2022 Primary Election candidate survey. Candidates who did not respond by our June 25 deadline received a reminder on June 28 and a deadline extension. Despite our efforts, some candidates have chosen not to participate in *Ka Wai Ola’s* candidate survey.

## George (Big Al) Haway

REPUBLICAN

## Richard Kim

DEMOCRAT

## Moses (Momo) Paskowitz

REPUBLICAN

## Keleionalani Taylor

NONPARTISAN

# OHA TRUSTEE

## Candidates

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- 1 How are you currently serving (or have served) the lāhui? Please list the Native Hawaiian-serving organizations you are (or have been) affiliated with, the duration of your involvement, and your role/activities within those organizations.

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- 2 Please provide an example of your community work to implement a project, initiative, grant or program. Please include your specific role and the outcomes for the community.

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- 3 Please provide an example of your experience working collaboratively with other professionals to establish policies.

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- 4 How and with whom can OHA collaborate to address and strengthen the economic stability of our lāhui?

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- 5 How and with whom can OHA collaborate to address the related issues of affordable housing and houselessness in the Native Hawaiian community?

## Mililani B. Trask

HAWAII ISLAND CANDIDATE

Age | 71

Occupation | Attorney at Law, OHA Trustee Hawai'i Island

Where did you grow up | Kāne'ohe, O'ahu and Hāna, Maui

Schooling | Kamehameha Schools, San Jose State/BA, Santa Clara Law School, JD

Current residence | 'Ōla'a, Hawai'i

Website | n/a



1 | I have served the lāhui my whole life. I have been a member of the Hawaiian civic clubs and the KS Alumni Association. I created Ka Lāhui Hawai'i and served as its kia'āina for eight years. I was also a member of the PKO, Ho'āla Kānāwai, Nā Koa Ikaika Ka Lāhui Hawai'i (United Nations) and as the Pacific regional representative UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York. I was recently elected by six of eight OHA trustees to fill the Hawai'i Island vacancy on their Board of Trustees.

2 | I am currently working on the Kōkua Kumukahi project on Hawai'i Island. We (my nonprofit Pono Kaulike, Inc.) are in a partnership with the Men of Pa'a (Puna Hawai'i Recovery program for Hawaiians returning from prison) to protect, clean up, restore, preserve and protect Cape Kumukahi a sacred wahi pana on Hawai'i Island. Many involved are lineal descendants with iwi kūpuna buried at the site which is a leina. Funding was provided by the Spirits Aligned Program funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. UH has the land but refuses to protect and preserve it. We are dedicated to getting the Burial Treatment Plan implemented and a preservation plan adopted and implemented. We will persevere.

3 | It took 22 years to elucidate the UNDRIP - setting forth the standards to protect Indigenous peoples human rights. That was achieved in 2007. Since that time, I have continued to work with the Indigenous experts and diplomats to integrate the UNDRIP into the UN agencies and bodies operational policies and standards with Indigenous peoples. Best examples are those being used by UNESCO, FAO, and UNPFII. The USA under Obama endorsed the UNDRIP and since that time various US agencies and bodies including DoD have had to engage in "consultation" as well as "corrective measures" which implement the UNDRIP provisions through policies of government and the UN Bodies. As part of the OHA ceded land PIG [Permitted Interaction Group] I am now drafting policies I will propose to OHA BOT for the protection of the ceded land trust.

4 | OHA needs to take a bifurcated approach.

A. Work with Hawaiian beneficiaries to: 1) support, fund and facilitate community based economic efforts and Hawaiian small businesses and 2) create commercial spaces and places for Hawaiian entrepreneurs to operate their businesses.

B. Work with county, state and federal folks to establish economic training and business opportunities and funding sources for business training as well as marketing opportunities.

C. Manage and develop a "Made in Hawai'i by Hawaiians" brand for real Hawaiian business in Hawai'i and the US that is geared to inform consumers as well as showcase Hawaiian-made art, clothing, edibles, and products for consumers. Help our businesses market more of their goods to markets in Hawai'i and globally.

5 | OHA should undertake a project to assess which housing models and products meet the needs of Hawaiians living in Hawai'i. These pre-cut units are available on most islands, are appropriate for our tropical weather and can integrate solar and water catchment for energy and food sustainability. I strongly suggest OHA work with Elon Musk who has designed the "Boxable" unit, easy to ship, expandable and affordable (but needs catchment and solar components). ■

## Kaleihikina Akaka

### O'AHU CANDIDATE

Age | 39

Occupation | OHA O'ahu Trustee

Where did you grow up | Kona, Hawai'i and Honolulu, O'ahu

Schooling | Chaminade University

Current residence | Honolulu, O'ahu

Website | www.shakavoteakaka.com



1 | I am honored to serve as OHA O'ahu Trustee and as OHA's chair of the committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment, focusing on OHA's legislative and advocacy efforts, matters relating to our mission and Mana i Maui Ola Strategic Plan, health, education, housing, economic stability, human services, land use, environment, natural resources and more.

My work for our people includes my legislative background, working at the Hawai'i State Legislature in both the House and Senate as a legislative aide and legislative researcher. My work included support to legislators, conducting bill research, attending and preparing for legislative committee hearings for the State Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee and

State Senate Higher Education Committee, reviewing testimonies, briefing and advising legislators on amendments on bills currently in the committees, and working on the judiciary and attorney general budget.

Serving as a member of the 'Ohi'a Foundation, a hui of young Hawai'i leaders with mentorship by established Hawai'i leaders, those who've served in public office, including Gov. John Waihe'e and my grandfather, US Sen. Daniel Akaka, who served as the foundation's inspiration, incorporating his philosophy of Native Hawaiian values in leadership. Reading for children in schools and programs through Ohana100, promoting literacy amongst keiki. Serving in The Daniel Kahikina Akaka Family Foundation events committee to strengthen the community through education, leadership and collaboration in the spirit of aloha.

2 | Localicious Hawai'i is a program I worked on at the Hawai'i Agricultural Foundation to expand and further develop this public awareness marketing campaign that brings educational opportunities for Hawai'i public school students to learn where food comes from and of the agricultural opportunities and value of these professions from being a farmer, rancher, fisherman to being a chef. Recognizing the restaurants and businesses that support Hawai'i's agricultural and fishing industries while helping to raise funds for agricultural education statewide, inspiring students to pursue further education and professions in agriculture and the food industry, working with the goal of sustainability of our Hawaiian Islands.

3 | Upon my 2018 election into OHA, working together with OHA Trustee John Waihe'e IV as he served as OHA chair of the committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment and I, as the BAE committee vice chair. We fervently advocated at the State Legislature and federally, of our OHA priorities, the Public Land Trust legislation as a top priority, along with Kaka'ako Makai, secured meetings with legislators, building and strengthening relationships, attended hearings, working with OHA administration.

Following the 2020 election, my OHA co-trustees voted me as the OHA Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment committee chair. Working steadfastly, side by side with OHA Board Chair Hulu Lindsey, CEO, and administration, continuing the relationship building and strengthening at the State Legislature, federally, within the Hawaiian communities, collaborating most notably towards the historic and monumental passing of the Public Land Trust legislation to raise annual revenue payments to OHA from \$15.1 million to \$21.5 million, provide an additional sum of \$64 million, and form a working group to continue the discussion of OHA receiving its share of the ceded lands revenues from the state.

4 | Collaboration with our Hawaiian communities, DHHL, ali'i trusts, counties, state and federal government. The key is collaborating for our community. Working together with public and private entities that share the same spirit of improving the lives of our Hawaiian people, which in turn, helps our Hawai'i community as a whole.

5 | Further collaboration with our Hawaiian communities, DHHL, ali'i trusts, counties, state and federal government. Partnerships that work jointly towards more options and opportunities to benefit our Hawaiian people to not just live, but thrive forward to a sustainable way of life. ■

## Jackie Kaho'okele Burke

### O'AHU CANDIDATE

Age | 70

Occupation | Artist, Consultant-Planner, Entrepreneur

Where did you grow up | Pālolo Valley, O'ahu

Schooling | Jarrett MS, Kamehameha Schools, UH Mānoa

Current residence | Honolulu, O'ahu

Website | www.Burke4Aloha.com



1 | Volunteer membership history in Hawaiian organizations: Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce 1998 to present, BOD & Treasurer 1999-2001; Pā Kui A Holo - art of Lua 2000 to 2010; Kalihi-Pālama Hawaiian Civic Club 2015 - present BOD 2022; Hawaiian Community Development Board (housing) 2000 to present BOD Secretary.

2 | Achievements overview:

1) Association of Hawai'i Artist: Featured paintings in several art shows 2008 to present; 2) Cook's Life in the Pacific exhibition, Honolulu Academy of Arts, 2006, Native Hawaiian representative for cultural protocol, escorted this exhibit from Germany to Hawai'i as a journalist and cultural practitioner; 3) The 'Ōiwi

Files, 2003 - 2005, statewide launch of independent news journal and publishing company archived in Library of Congress and UH Pacific Collection; 4) Pele Plant Project, 2000-2002, coordinator of Tongan spinach health benefits to Hawaiian community through a private grant; 5) *Once Were Warriors*, 1998. Organized statewide sponsorship and community presentation of film which speaks against domestic violence with Rena Owen (New Zealand actress). Traveled and interacted with community in Honolulu, Kona, Hilo, Maui & Moloka'i. A very powerful event against domestic violence in Hawaiian communities; 6) Pew Civic Entrepreneur Leadership National Project: 1997 - 1999. Selected as one of 20 Honolulu community leaders from 10 cities nationwide, attended two national workshops to increase the leadership skills to build community based activities in our city. Was one of 10 Hawaiian community leaders chosen.

3 | The best collaboration was setting up the *Once Were Warriors* Project, being still at the UH Mānoa finishing my master's degrees, I took on this project as an independent planner consultant. It took working with each island's Queen Lili'uokalani Centers, the UH community colleges and many small grass roots community groups to organize this powerful and successful event!

I am an independent publisher/editor of the 'Ōiwi Files, with a grassroots community of people delivering the paper statewide and the contributions of writers pro bono to produce a 12-page tabloid newspaper. It is in the UH Pacific Collection, University of Auckland and Waitangi, and other collections.

The most prestigious contribution was my journey to Germany through the Academy of Arts for the 2006 Cook's Life in the Pacific Exhibition, Honolulu Academy of Arts. It entailed traveling to Berlin, visiting many famous museums to view their collection of Oceania and then bringing 300 artifacts to Hawai'i for the exhibit.

4 | My most urgent message to everyone is for OHA to help to dismantle the racial divide imposed by the Homestead Act of 50% blood quantum. It is the most important policy we must change and become a whole nation of all Hawaiians. To allow this to stand is an insult to everyone, it blinds those to feel privileged to have "immoral rights" by a white superset racially motivated policy to divide all and any Indigenous people. What it does is it prevents unity and degrades the quality of life for the less than 50% blood quantum groups of Hawaiians.

5 | Many resources are tied to this 50% blood quantum mind-set, as in Indian tribes with casino revenues! This should not be our faith. We should stand together and make sure we all are without blood quantum sitting on the same table. When we discard this "hewa" attitude, we can find more pathways to provide shelter and housing via affordable rentals, co-ops and ownership. When ALL share in the pot and housing becomes available to all, which reduces the financial-economic burdens of shelter, it relieves the stress of unemployment without shelter, it improves education because there is a roof over our children's head and families can thrive, it can relieve social stress as well. We are all 100% Hawaiians no matter the blood quantum. ■

## Brendon Kalei'āina Lee

### O'AHU CANDIDATE

Age | 53  
 Occupation | OHA Trustee  
 Where did you grow up | Pearl City, O'ahu  
 Schooling | Kamehameha Schools  
 Current residence | Pearl City, O'ahu  
 Website | kaleiainalee.com



**1** | Lifelong member of Pearl Harbor Hawaiian Civic Club, founding member of Elizabeth Kahanu Hawaiian Civic Club, past 2nd vice-president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs - two years. Immediate past president Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association - four years, raised and awarded more scholarship dollars in the organization's history. Chairperson 'Aha 2016, guided 125 Native Hawaiians in the development of a Native Hawaiian constitution. OHA Trustee At-Large - served as vice chair of the Board of Trustees, chair of permitted interaction group to reorganize board governance, chair of permitted interaction group to update board by-laws, initiated endowment model for Native Hawaiian Trust Portfolio, orchestrated acquisition

of Iwilei land parcels, worked with investment managers to develop rebalanced model for the Native Hawaiian Trust Portfolio, chair of ad-hoc committee to develop policy for revenue bond issuance.

**2** | As president of the Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association I initiated a fundraising project that raised over \$20,000 in two years for college scholarships. I also implemented a policy to give equity to post-graduate scholarships. This allowed the association to provide more scholarships and help Native Hawaiians seeking higher degrees for whom there are less scholarships available to. The remaining funds were deposited into the association's corpus with the Pauahi Foundation.

**3** | As the chair of the permitted interaction group to restructure OHA's governance, I was tasked with leading three other trustees and OHA's administration in investigating best practices for board governance across Hawai'i, the nation, and globally. I was able to facilitate meetings with every ali'i trust, several American Indian tribes and governing models from Aotearoa. When the report was complete and ready to be adopted by the entire Board of Trustees I was able to secure Kamehameha Schools' trustees and CEO, and Lunalilo Trust trustees and CEO to provide public testimony in support of the new governance model. The new governance model was unanimously adopted by all nine OHA trustees.

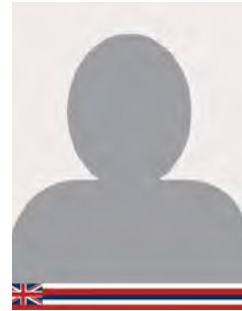
**4** | The greatest opportunity for collaboration for economic stability is through the granting process with the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. They have a proven track record of capacity to work within the Native Hawaiian community much more nimbly than OHA can given OHA's procurement restrictions.

**5** | Given Native Hawaiians' lack of any political standing with the U.S. government the only entity OHA can partner with to address housing for Native Hawaiians is the Department of Hawaiian Homes. With the recent land acquisitions in Iwilei OHA plans on redeveloping them once they receive TOD designation for affordable housing. The only way OHA can ensure those units go to Native Hawaiians is through DHHL. OHA can negotiate either an affordable rental program, a lease program, or ownership program with a buy-back clause to either DHHL or OHA. This would mean should an owner wish to sell their unit they can only sell it back to DHHL or OHA. Should the State of Hawai'i come up with a more realistic downpayment program, rather than the current standard of 10%, with the local financial institutions then OHA could create a new revolving loan program to help Native Hawaiians with that downpayment. ■

## Robert E. Peters

### O'AHU CANDIDATE

Age | *did not answer*  
 Occupation | *did not answer*  
 Where did you grow up | *did not answer*  
 Schooling | *did not answer*  
 Current residence | *did not answer*  
 Website | n/a



**1** | 1) Founder, producer of Wai'anae's first community carnival. E.K Fernandes games/rides 15 - 20 food/game booths. Income for lāhui); 2) Founder/cultural director, Kaka'ako Native Hawaiian Community Cultural Center. 3) Rallied and stopped the construction of two Japanese golf courses to be built in the Lu-lualei ahupua'a, and the 'Ōhikilolo Ranch in Mākua. 4) Together with Albert and Theola Silva, and Gabe Kila, I served as master of ceremonies at several 'Ōhikilolo Ranch's Annual Mother's Day Lū'au celebrations. 5) Served as arbitrator for HCAP's Wai'anae Community School Concerns Coalition. 6) Past member of the Wai'anae Neighborhood Board.

**2 & 3** | Project implementation, working or collaborating with professionals to establish policies (these two categories are interlaced together: 1) I implemented and received a grant to fund HCAP'S Wai'anae School Concerns Coalition director position. My responsibility was to arbitrate disputes between Wai'anae public school administrators and concerned parents. 2) Worked in concert with the Nānākuli High School principal to receive a grant to fund a two-year choral directors teaching position at Nānākuli High School and Nānāikapono Elementary School as a music specialist. 3) Collaborated with former House Speaker Henry Peters, to arrange for my Nānākuli choir to perform at the opening day of the legislature. 4) As a Wai'anae rotarian, I worked to improve the conditions of the Wai'anae lāhui, and to advance their lifestyle. 5) The Hawaiian Music Foundation commissioned me to write about the development of falsetto singing in Hawai'i in conjunction with the first falsetto concert to be held at the Blaisdell Concert Hall. 6) Together with the concerned lāhui of Nānākuli, we petitioned Hawaiian Electric for damages to the Kahe Point shoreline. A monetary settlement was reached.

**4 & 5** | OHA'S lack of transparency and their mantra of fear and intimidation of the Hawaiian lāhui is manifested on a daily basis by OHA as they attempt to reshape their ideals and not those of the lāhui. Two state audits and an independent audit by CLA concluded by saying "OHA continues to be remiss of major core responsibilities: a) improving the conditions of the lāhui; and, b) lacking a comprehensive plan for bettering the conditions of the lāhui."

Until OHA can establish a land acquisition and management infrastructure, to adequately address homelessness, economic stability, and affordable housing, they must focus on strategic priorities for improving economic self-sufficiency, education, culture, 'āina, health, self-governance, honoring the past, and preparing for the future. ■



## Lei (Leina‘ala) Ahu Isa

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

Age | 69  
 Occupation | OHA Trustee, Broker, Adjunct Professor  
 Where did you grow up | Honolulu, O‘ahu  
 Schooling | UH Mānoa, Graceland, UV Darden  
 Current residence | Kaka‘ako, O‘ahu  
 Website | [www.linkedin.com/in/lei-ahu-isa-phd-06816412/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/lei-ahu-isa-phd-06816412/)



Aloha Mai Kākou!

As OHA approaches a culmination in 2022 of 43 years of effort and accomplishments, it is very important to review just what we have been trying to achieve and how we have been going about it. The more solidly we lay the foundations for OHA’s success, the greater capability for achievement at this time. But if we have broken the rules, done what is not pono, and have taken shortcuts, then we have only ourselves to blame. For kūpunas, this is one of the most important times in our lives. It is almost as if you have been climbing a mountain for many years, and now the “peak” is in sight.

The areas where OHA has prepared carefully will now become tremendously productive. Our opportunities are at a “peak” for achievement and for additional responsibility and power. If OHA tries to avoid its increased responsibilities, we might run the risk of losing everything, even in the areas where we have prepared well and have taken responsibility. Completing our Financial Sustainability Plan gives us the ability to work on particularly exacting and detailed creative projects, from education, health and culture. The degree of stability achieved at this time will greatly help our beneficiaries have a solid core of assets into perpetuity. I’ve been involved with Kanu o Ka ‘Āina Charter School, Pōhai ‘o Kamehameha, Hālau Ka Leo o Laka i ka Hikina o ka Lā, Hālau Keali‘i‘ka‘apunihonua Ke‘ena A‘o Hula, Ke Kula ‘o Samuel M. Kamakau Charter School, and many more...Not enuf room..

Help me to help OHA survive! It will survive only if we are able to satisfy the “REAL” needs of our people. We must be particularly conscious of this now. The more “REAL” our objectives are, the more OHA can help our beneficiaries by making benevolent choices.

Communication will take on a more important role at OHA. We need to share with everyone, be more transparent, and become a proselytizer for new ideas as we try to break others out of their rigid patterns of thinking. If we take advantage of these opportunities and create a need for “newness of life” at OHA, great things are possible. OHA should be striving to improve conditions of all Native Hawaiians around us: to use our influence to help everyone concerned to grow with us.

Patience and perseverance carried us through!!! We did it. The legislature finally approved \$64M! Now we can accomplish a great deal by transferring our energies to productive areas. Onipa‘a!!!

A hui hou, Trustee Lei Ahu Isa ■

## Z. Kaapana Aki

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

Age | 40  
 Occupation | Public Policy Advocate  
 Where did you grow up | Mililani, O‘ahu  
 Schooling | Kamehameha Schools Kapālama, UH Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law  
 Current residence | Mililani, O‘ahu  
 Website | [www.aki4oha.com](http://www.aki4oha.com)



1 | For the greater part of my life, I have dedicated service to the lāhui in many countless different ways, from grassroots organizing around key Hawaiian issues to advocating on behalf of Native Hawaiian interests before executive/administrative and legislative bodies at the local, state, and federal levels. I have served the lāhui in an official capacity within the public sector as a public policy advocate at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs as well as an OHA trustee aide. I have also served the lāhui in the private sector as a public policy manager for the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. I am the founder and current board chair for ‘Apoakea Native Hawaiian Innovation Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the lāhui, while at the same time addressing so many of the systemic problems that we continue to face. To date, ‘Apoakea has been funded to advance projects dedicated to workforce development and financial empowerment of wāhine, Native Hawaiian-led food systems economic development, and uplifting and elevating the socio-economic status of individuals on the autism spectrum.

2 | As an OHA public policy advocate, I took the initiative to address the deficit in Native Hawaiian-owned land by drafting a bill that would require a set-aside from every major real estate development project for the purpose of developing uses benefiting Native Hawaiians. These set-asides were intended to be used to bolster Native Hawaiian cultural practices, develop Native Hawaiian business/entrepreneurship/economy, space for education, and of course, housing. The bill was submitted to the legislature as part of OHA’s package, but was effectively killed in the House by the Hawaiian Affairs and Water and Land committees and in the Senate by the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health committee.

3 | The essential function of a public policy advocate is to advocate for or against issues concerning public interest. Successfully navigating this theater to advance public policy into rules/laws often requires convincing lawmakers, and more often than not for Native Hawaiian interests, which are not always held in favor by the general public (or are not well-known), it may require galvanizing community and stakeholder support to evidence the need. Advocating for public policy is all about working collaboratively with other professionals to establish policies.

4 | When it comes to the economic stability of the lāhui, OHA can and should collaborate with anyone who will help the organization to achieve that endeavor. Imagine what OHA could achieve if it convened an annual summit with the purpose of developing an economic strat-plan for Native Hawaiians - use some of the most brilliant minds in business, finance, and economics, guided by community aspirations and interests, working together to develop something the world has never seen before. Invite Amazon and Space-X to participate, have the USDA and FAO sit in, rally social media influencers to hype up the event, make it a big thing - the sky is the limit. Imagine what could be done for Native Hawaiians. Imagine what could be done for all the people of Hawai‘i.

5 | OHA can and should collaborate with anyone who will help Native Hawaiians afford housing and anyone who will help to reduce Native Hawaiian houselessness. More often than not, what’s typically labeled as ‘affordable housing,’ here in Hawai‘i, isn’t actually affordable to the average young family, working single, kūpuna, etc. It is entirely possible to construct a livable, safe, and secure home for less than the price most pay for an average brand new vehicle. So, why isn’t this happening? Because we exist in place where insane amounts of money can be made from the sale of something - and someone will buy it - so, the market reflects that. OHA has the capacity to break free from that. ■

## Julian (Keikilani) Ako

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

Age | 79

Occupation | Retired School Administrator

Where did you grow up | Mānana (Pearl City), O'ahu

Schooling | Kamehameha School for Boys, Macalester College, University of Kansas

Current residence | Honolulu, O'ahu

Website | ako4oha.com



1 | In 2015, I retired after 36 years of service at the Kamehameha Schools, having spent the final 10 years as high school principal at the Kapālama Campus. Those 36 years represent the fulfillment of a personal calling to improve the capability and wellbeing of Native Hawaiians through education.

Since retirement, over the past seven years I have continued to seek opportunities to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians in various leadership positions in the Hawaiian civic club movement and in the Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association. I also am on the boards of other nonprofit organizations that serve Native Hawaiians. Election as an OHA trustee will enable me to continue my lifetime mission of helping other Native Hawaiians.

2 | In 1999-2000, I served as one of the facilitators in the development of the Kamehameha Schools Strategic Plan 2000-2015. The plan was transformational, in that leaders began for the first time to speak of Kamehameha not just as an institution FOR Native Hawaiians but also, indeed, as a HAWAIIAN institution. Further, the institution's land assets, its āina, was viewed for the first time as having cultural and educational value as opposed to exclusively economic value. Paepae 'O He'eia would have been filled in for the development of luxury homes not affordable for Native Hawaiians if not for the changes that came out of the strategic planning efforts which I helped to lead.

3 | As high school principal at Kamehameha, I also led some changes to better serve students, with the creation of smaller learning communities, instituted for the first time for Kamehameha, Kapālama, a Hawaiian language graduation requirement and championed the development of a Hawaiian culture-based curricular program, infusing a Western education system with a Hawaiian worldview.

While working at Kamehameha Schools as a dean of Student Activities, I collaborated with other administrators, class advisors and club advisors to draft policies related to student travel and fundraising. Furthermore, when I served as the interim head of Educational Support services at Kamehameha, I worked with the Legal Division, other Kamehameha executives and divisional heads on policies for Kamehameha Press as well as the admissions program.

4 | The Office of Hawaiian Affairs must continue to partner with the ali'i trusts and other governmental agencies on programs to strengthen the economic stability of Native Hawaiians.

5 | In terms of the houselessness challenge many Native Hawaiians face, to the extent feasible OHA must collaborate with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and other groups that work to address the affordable housing issue. We have to recognize that because of its limited resources OHA alone cannot solve this issue.

If I am elected, I will work with my other fellow trustees to address the needs of our people by ensuring that OHA receives its full 20% share of the annual revenues from the Public Land Trust and by ensuring that OHA's money is managed prudently. I will also listen to the voices of our people and be an advocate for them. ■

## Brickwood Galuteria

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

Age | 66

Occupation | Retired Hawai'i State Senator, Businessman

Where did you grow up | Honolulu, O'ahu

Schooling | Kamehameha Schools/Pacific University/Harvard School of Government

Current residence | Honolulu, O'ahu

Website | n/a



1 | As a Hawai'i State senator from 2008 through 2018, I've served alongside other dedicated public servants, all trained to analyze and understand issues, evaluate different ideas and positions, and produce solutions that work for the greater good. I will bring to OHA the knowledge of governance, the subtleties of how government works, and the give-and-take required when crafting public policy. In addition, I've proudly served on the boards of the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts, Hawai'i Book and Music Festival, Polynesian Voyaging Society, Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame, Native Hawaiian Culture and Arts Program, Hawai'i Special Olympics, Hawai'i Association of Retarded Citizens, and Life Foundation (HIV/AIDS Organization). I presently serve as a Kawaiaha'o Church trustee and member of the O'ahu Island Burial Council.

2 | KŪPUNA POWER. During my first term as state senator, I created a platform with multiple tracks to educate and empower Hawai'i's elderly. Kūpuna Power serves as a gateway to Hawai'i's aging network - connecting older adults to vital community services. Tracks include Kūpuna Power TV - a 30 min. talk and info show aired on HNN/KHNL/K5, WeAreKupuna.com, Kūpuna Power Facebook, Kūpuna Power YouTube, Kūpuna Power Instagram and The Kūpuna Power (KP) Network of Partners.

3 | I was known as a lawmaker and Senate leader (majority and caucus leader) you could rely on to be fair, responsible, productive, prudent, always conducting oneself in business-like manner and social when appropriate. Creating policy is a complex visionary process. Fiscally, as a former member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I have been actively involved with crafting the state's annual multi-billion-dollar budget. My experience in public service demonstrates social and political understanding.

4 | Collaboration is essential between the following groups in the Kānaka Maoli community. Firstly, align the Native Hawaiian Chambers of Commerce association with two longstanding and well respected Native Hawaiian organizations: The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) and the Royal Benevolent Societies i.e., The Royal Order of Kamehameha, 'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu, Hale o Nā Ali'i, etc. Add the ali'i (royal) trusts: The Kamehameha Schools, Lili'uokalani Trust, Queen's Health Care Systems, and Lunalilo Trust to the alliance. This continues to cast a wider unified net for civic engagement further strengthening Native Hawaiian economic stability. The Department of Hawaiian Homelands and the nonprofit Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement advocate for Native Hawaiians on both the state and federal levels, are considered powerful voices for Native economic stability and will be added to the hui. The final group is the Native Hawaiian faith-based organizations beginning with the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC), a part of the nationwide United Church of Christ...the first collective group to offer a formal apology to the Hawaiian people for the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom by the United States in 1893. The sheer numbers of Hawaiians civically engaged through this alliance will impact and strengthen the economic stability of Native Hawaiians and all people of Hawai'i.

5 | Houselessness, by definition, is quite clear. No house, no home. Affordable housing is a moving target. The primary housing needs recognized by housing providers are emergency, transitional, long-term or permanent housing and access to affordable housing options. Recognizing the complexities, recommendations for OHA collaborations include, but obviously not limited to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Hawai'i Housing Finance & Development Corporation, Hawai'i Housing Alliance, Homeless Services Agencies/Programs of the Hawai'i State Department of Human Services. Include civic clubs and other cultural organizations to expand the range of services or work in conjunction with existing Native Hawaiian organizations.

These are but a few suggestions. Mahalo for the opportunity to share my mana'o. I ask for your vote. Aloha and Mālama for now. ■

## Sam Kalanikupua King

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

Age | 38  
Occupation | Attorney  
Where did you grow up | Kāne'ohe, O'ahu  
Schooling | Punahou, Georgetown University  
Current residence | Nu'uuanu, O'ahu  
Website | VoteSamKing.com



1 | In 2019 I founded 'Ohana Kilo Hōkū (OKH) with the late Hōkūle'a navigator and captain Kālepa Baybayan and Native Hawaiian astrophysicist Mailani Neal. OKH supports astronomy and space programs in Hawai'i and is on a mission to cultivate, nurture and support the advancement of youths in our communities who have the desire to connect, or who may already have a connection, to the science of the skies above. It is one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as the executive director of OKH and, with Kālepa's passing, it is now my kuleana to help continue the work he started.

OKH has launched a number of incredible initiatives, all of which I have been heavily involved with from marketing, fundraising, event coordination, and overall administration. We partnered with UC Santa Cruz to record and upload their "Shadow the Scientist" sessions for public viewing. This program allows members of the community to interact with scientists while they use the telescopes on Maunakea and elsewhere live over zoom. OKH held a workshop with educators and our Native Hawaiian astronomy and space science mentors to learn about what tools educators need to get their students excited about STEM projects. In December 2021 we held the first annual Makahiki Stargazing event where we invited the community to enjoy makahiki games, stargazing and space sciences. OKH is now running the 'Ohana Stargazing series where we invite families to enjoy international and Hawaiian star stories, view the sky through telescopes, and meet other Native Hawaiian and community groups engaged in stargazing and space sciences. Our first event was in Waimānalo and our second was at SALT in Kaka'ako.

2 | I became involved with Imua TMT in 2019 to advocate for perpetuating our cultural legacy of astronomy, celestial navigation and natural observation through the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Maunakea. I helped found the 'Ai Noa Foundation in 2021 to protect Native Hawaiians' rights to democracy, equality before the law, and religious freedom.

3 | As a board member of OKH, a 501c3 nonprofit, I regularly work with my fellow board members to establish policies for managing our organization and events. In my work as an in-house attorney handling vendor contracts and leasing for a large local health insurer, I regularly collaborate with colleagues on developing policies and procedures for protecting our members and maximizing our efficiency. As president of my AOA I am regularly working with my fellow board members, managing executive, attorney, and resident manager to develop policies for our building.

4 | OHA must seek to work with everyone in the state to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and all the people of Hawai'i. What is good for Native Hawaiians is good for the state, and vice versa. I would like OHA to coordinate with the state's Executive Office on Early Learning, the DOE, preschools, Kamehameha Schools (KS), and our 'ohana-serving nonprofit communities to see how OHA could more effectively assist in developing early childhood education programs for our lāhui. OHA should also collaborate with our major landowning ali'i trusts, our development community, DHHL, and state and local governments, to advocate for more housing for all the people of Hawai'i. Houselessness is a housing problem, and only by building more houses, for all our people, will we resolve the houseless crisis in our lāhui. OHA should also partner with KS, the City and County of Honolulu, Hawai'i Community Development Authority, the legislature, and the people of Kaka'ako to create a plan to redevelop Kaka'ako Makai in a way that benefits the people of Hawai'i and helps generate additional non-tax revenue for OHA.

5 | Finally, OHA should seek to work with supporters and opponents of the TMT project to find a way to heal the community rift over this project and move it forward so that we may continue to perpetuate our culture of celestial observation through our incredible low-carbon, low-impact, high-value astronomy industry. ■

## Kealii Makekau

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

Age | 51  
Occupation | Building management/Transportation  
Where did you grow up | Kaimuki-Kapahulu, O'ahu  
Schooling | Saint Louis/Kapi'olani Community College  
Current residence | Honolulu, O'ahu  
Website | www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063872223722



1 | In building management and the transportation industry Native Hawaiians are struggling if not last to get access to both these programs. Tragically I've seen firsthand Native Hawaiians not being able to qualify for housing programs because they're the poorest of all racial groups statewide. When dealing with transportation "medical" over half of my ridership was Native Hawaiian. Working under United Healthcare, 'Ohana and Aloha Healthcare insurance companies, Native Hawaiians were very dependent on this service because of health, lack of housing and geographical location "homestead." With the cost of living skyrocketing out of control, transportation companies are folding and insurance

coverage is no longer affordable, thus our people's health is bad and is only projected to get even worse.

2 | The last six years driving for a private handy-van LLC which provides transportation for all peoples who required transportation for medical purposes. From doctors appointments, physical therapy, to picking up medical prescriptions a lot of kūpuna are totally dependent on this type of service. With the Native Hawaiian community being hit the hardest by COVID-19 it's a top priority to see these types of services continue and OHA is in a position to help.

3 | For myself having been actively involved and engaged with OHA since 2000, whether it was exposing fraud and waste with the federal recognition attempts, or getting the OHA primary election bill passed into law, protecting the PLT, defending Maunakea, supporting an independent audit of OHA itself and trying to get Kaka'ako Makai lands rezoned for commercial development. Attending existing workshops on policy making and land management have greatly increased my knowledge on how OHA works.

4 | First off the legislature. We have to keep a presence there to ensure laws are obeyed and payments for things like ceded land use are made. Second partnerships with both private and mainland developers to ensure we identify and develop OHA properties that will yield great economic return and provide adequate housing opportunities. Lastly all the ali'i trusts.

5 | DHHL already has a relationship with OHA and receives up to \$3 million dollars annually to assist them with building homes on Hawaiian homestead lands. Kamehameha Schools and Howard Hughes corporation hold properties neighboring the Kaka'ako Makai lands owned by OHA and have already been to OHA via committee to discuss their land use and development. Developers like Ikaika construction, Stanford car, Nan inc., and more need to be consulted as to how and what it takes to build either traditional housing or condo type housing. With OHA purchasing and receiving lands, housing is expected to be the top priority facing native Hawaiians. These types of collaborations have to happen now! ■

## Chad Owens

### AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

Age | 40  
 Occupation | Self Employed  
 Where did you grow up | Honolulu, O'ahu  
 Schooling | UH Mānoa  
 Current residence | Waikēle, O'ahu  
 Website | owensforoha.com



1 | I've been an educator in the world of sports for our future leaders for years. I've coached and help develop thousands of keiki in their process of becoming better student athletes.

2 | Being a leader in the community and giving back has always been one of my main focuses. I've partnered with a number of organizations over the years and have supported many different causes. Being a mentor and impacting change in people's lives has been one of the most fulfilling things I've ever been a part of.

3 | Creating the *Safe Sports Hawai'i* book of guidelines was an incredible team effort and a huge success. This 44-page book provided a safe return to play protocol and implemented proper guidance for all sports.

4 | OHA should collaborate with local influencers and create content supporting our local businesses especially our local farmers. I can see it being very fun, uplifting, educational, and it will drive more support which in turn will strengthen the economic stability of our lāhui.

5 | I truly believe OHA should collaborate with Hawaiian Home Lands and create a plan to build more affordable housing for our Native Hawaiians. It's time we hui up and start working together to ensure our Hawaiian people are thriving once again. ■

## William Paik

### AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

Age | 75  
 Occupation | Retired  
 Where did you grow up | Kona, Hawai'i  
 Schooling | Pepperdine University  
 Current residence | Honolulu, Hawai'i  
 Website | n/a



=1 | I have not participated in any Hawaiian organizations. With that being said I experienced the life of a true Hawaiian growing up on the Big Island. We lived off the land and sea. My Dad was Hawaiian and taught me how to fish, grow taro and pound poi, growing vegetables and raising livestock. These experiences have had a lasting effect on my life in raising a great family and success in my role as a leader in my career.

2 | There are many ways to give back to the community. I chose to do teaching and tutoring. My motivation was to help young people in our community and how they can be productive and successful one day. I spent 25 years at HPU as a lecturer. I also provided tutoring for high school students at no cost for many years.

3 | I was the president of two local companies and the chief operating officer for a large company. Most of my time spent was on planning and policies. My priorities included working relationships with all stakeholders, the livelihood and safety for all employees and to provide an environment where people can grow and be successful.

4 | I believe OHA needs to get buy in from all the people that should be benefiting from this organization and the benefits that OHA can provide to the masses. It is a big challenge when you look at the dollars is it enough to go around.

5 | One of the biggest challenges is the cost of real estate. With that being said Kamehameha Schools has over 350,000 acres statewide, could they be a potential partner. Hawaiian Homes has over 25,000 people on the waitlist and many have been waiting for years. We also need to work with lawmakers both for funding and support. ■

# John D. Waihe'e IV

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

Age | 51  
 Occupation | OHA Trustee At-Large  
 Where did you grow up | Kalihi, O'ahu  
 Schooling | La Sierra University, Honolulu Community College  
 Current residence | Kaka'ako, Honolulu  
 Website | n/a



1| Since 2000 I have been a trustee with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, holding one of the At-Large seats. I currently chair OHA's standing Committee on Resource Management, which recommends policies for the oversight of the agency's investment portfolio and other fiscal and budgetary matters. It also develops policies and guidelines for OHA's land acquisitions, dispositions, and development.

2| I initiated a partnership with Center of Hawaiian Studies at UH Mānoa to create a PhD program and four new classes, one of which inventoried the ceded lands. I also initiated the first grant given to Kanu O Ka 'Āina Charter School Alliance

by OHA. I further initiated OHA's job training and placement program Ka Li'u 'Oihana, which was a collaboration between OHA and multiple organizations.

3| I was involved in the negotiations on the state level with the Abercrombie administration that resulted in the transfer of 25 acres of land on and near the waterfront in Kaka'ako to OHA, valued at \$200 million at the time. I was also involved in negotiations on the federal level with the Obama administration that resulted in the creation of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2011, that acknowledged Native Hawaiians as the Indigenous people of Hawai'i with whom the United States has had a political relationship.

4| Last year OHA gave out \$15 million in grants to multiple nonprofit organizations to advance policies, programs and practices that strengthen economic stability, and cultivate economic development in and for Hawaiian communities. OHA needs to continue to provide this type of grant support, while also helping Hawaiian students through our UH-OHA Ho'ona'auao Higher Education Scholarship Program and encouraging the creation of Hawaiian businesses and entrepreneurs through our OHA Loans Program.

5| As a state agency with a common beneficiary base, OHA should obviously partner with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. We have already successfully done so, approving as much as \$90 million in grants to help the department finance infrastructure such as sewers, water systems and roads for housing development, by paying their debt service on revenue bonds. We should also look forward to partnering on condominium projects where OHA could pay for those of our beneficiaries with less than a 50% blood quantum using money from both agencies as well and federal grants and other funds. I feel that this is the future of large-scale housing programs for Hawaiians. ■

## NO RESPONSES

On June 13, all candidates running for OHA's Board of Trustees were contacted via email and invited to respond to *Ka Wai Ola's* 2022 Primary Election candidate survey. Candidates who did not respond by our June 25 deadline received a reminder on June 28 and a deadline extension. Despite our efforts, some candidates have chosen not to participate in *Ka Wai Ola's* candidate survey.

## Hope Alohalani Cermelj

HAWAII ISLAND CANDIDATE

## U'i Kahue-Cabanting

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

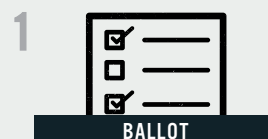
## Keoni Souza

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

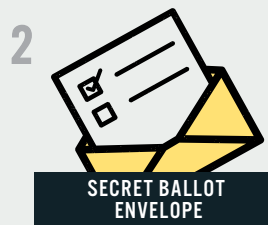
# E kū mai e nā kānaka!

NOW IS THE TIME TO STAND UP AND MAKE OUR VOICES COUNT.

## HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL



1 Before voting your ballot, review instructions and the contests and candidates on both sides of the ballot. To vote, completely darken in the box to the left of the candidate using a black or blue pen.



2 After voting your ballot, re-fold it and seal it in the secret ballot envelope. The secret ballot envelope ensures your right to secrecy as the ballots are opened and prepared for counting. Once sealed, place the secret ballot envelope in the return envelope.



3 Read the affirmation statement and sign the return envelope before returning it to the Clerk's Office. Upon receipt of your return envelope, the Clerk's Office validates the signature on the envelope. After your signature is validated your ballot will be counted.



The return envelope is postage paid via the U.S. Postal Service and addressed to your Clerk's Office. Your ballot should be mailed 7 days prior to Election Day to ensure it is received by the deadline, August 13th, by 7:00 pm.

## E NHLC...



I'm seeing election ads on TV and am wondering if the elections this year are important. Does it matter if I vote?

By Daylin Rose-Heather, NHLC Staff Attorney

**N**ative Hawaiians have a long history of actively participating in politics to better their communities. The political prowess of Hawaiian ali'i and mō'i is well-documented and their achievements as policymakers and advocates continue to be celebrated and honored by Native Hawaiians today.

This year, there are elections for a number of important federal, state, and county roles that will set the public policy agenda throughout Hawai'i for coming years. Their decisions will determine how hundreds of millions of dollars in government resources are spent. They will also influence the way the law – including environmental, criminal justice, and Native Hawaiian law – is developed and applied. And some elected officials will appoint people to lead and make decisions in many other important government roles.

For example, the next governor will appoint justices and judges to Hawai'i's appellate and circuit courts, members to state boards and commissions, and numerous state department agency directors, including the directors of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, which manages water, land, and other precious natural resources throughout the pae 'āina. State senators will then decide whether to confirm or deny the governor's appointments. These decisions will have lasting impacts on the future of Hawai'i.

The lāhui continues to have an important role to play in the politics of Hawai'i today, and the opportunity to greatly influence the outcome of these elections and, by extension, public policy. Every vote counts. Together our votes are a loud voice advocating for the lāhui's most pressing needs.

What's the difference between the primary and general election? The people I want to vote for are not all one political party. Do I have to vote for people only from one party?

The primary and general elections are held on separate days and serve separate functions. The primary election day this year is Saturday, August 13. The primary election determines the one candidate from each party who will represent their party in the general election that will occur later. On the primary ballot, you will need to select one party and vote only for candidates representing that party. You cannot vote for candidates from differing parties during the primary election. This does not apply to the OHA and county contests, which do not have political party affiliations.

The general election this year is Tuesday, November 8. In the general election, you can vote for any candidate from any party whose name is on the ballot.

### So how do I vote?

You can check your voter registration status online at the State of Hawai'i Office of Elections website or by calling (808) 453-VOTE (8683). If you aren't registered, complete and submit an application online or by mail. Registration is also available in-person at Voter Service Centers, so new voters can register and vote on the same day if needed.

After you are registered, you can vote. Although you can register online, you cannot vote online. Voting is done (1) by submitting your completed ballot by mail or ballot drop box, or (2) by visiting a Voter Service Center in-person. All ballots must be received by your County Elections Division by 7:00 p.m. on election day, so vote early if you can. For more information about where and how to vote, visit the State of Hawai'i Office of Elections website at <https://elections.hawaii.gov> or call (808) 453-VOTE (8683). ■

*E Nīnau iā NHLC provides general information about the law, not legal advice. You can contact NHLC about your legal needs by calling NHLC's office at 808-521-2302. You can also learn more about NHLC at [nativehawaiianlegalcorp.org](http://nativehawaiianlegalcorp.org).*

*The Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC) is a nonprofit law firm dedicated to the advancement and protection of Native Hawaiian identity and culture. Each month, NHLC attorneys will answer questions from readers about legal issues relating to Native Hawaiian rights and protections, including issues regarding housing, land, water, and traditional and cultural practice. You can submit questions at [NinauNHLC@nhlchi.org](mailto:NinauNHLC@nhlchi.org).*

## \$600 Million for New Homesteads and Housing



By Cedric Duarte

**O**n July 11, a measure to allocate a historic one-time infusion of funding to address the housing needs of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was signed into law by Gov. David Ige.

Following its unanimous passage by both Senate and House legislative chambers, HB2511, now known as Act 279, provides \$600 million to DHHL to develop thousands of new homestead lots throughout the state.

The funding will also allow DHHL to leverage its federal funding and trust assets to expand housing services to beneficiaries, including the possibility of down-payment assistance, rental subsidies, and expanded financial literacy education.

Hawaiian Homes Commission Chair William J. Ailā Jr. described the signing at Washington Place as “the most consequential allocation of funding for the implementation of the Hawaiian Homes Commis-

sion Act in its 100-year history.

“Sufficient funding to develop the raw landholdings of the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust has been elusive for decades,” said Chair Ailā. “Today’s signing marks a turning of the page from this dark past to a brighter future for Native Hawaiians.”

In May, the Hawaiian Homes Commission authorized a Permitted Interaction Group Committee to work with DHHL staff to create a strategic plan for consideration by the full Hawaiian Homes Commission. DHHL and the commission’s Permitted Interaction Group are developing a strategic plan due to the Hawai'i State Legislature by Dec. 10, 2022.

DHHL will send homestead lot offers and opportunities for housing services through the U.S. Postal Service. Applicants on the DHHL Waiting List who have not received mail from DHHL in the last four years should contact the Department immediately to update their contact information. ■

*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 Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, he resides in 'Aiea with his wife and two daughters.*



Pictured at the historic signing with Gov. Ige (seated, center) are (l-r): Oriana Leao, DHHL; Carmen “Hulu” Lindsey, OHA BOT Chair; Tyler Iokepa Gomes, Deputy to the Chair, DHHL; Zachary Helm, HHC Moloka'i Commissioner; William J. Ailā, Jr, HHC Chair; Rodney Lau, DHHL; Lehua Kinilau-Cano, DHHL; Juan Garcia, DHHL; Cedric Duarte, DHHL. - Photo: Office of Governor David Ige

# In the Footsteps of Ke Ali'i Maka'āinana



By Mālia Sanders

The legacies of our ali'i are an important part of the health and wellbeing of our lāhui today. All of our ali'i trusts continue to serve Hawaiians and our community in their capacities today as private organizations. However, the legacy of one particular ali'i continues in the public sector – that of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole.



Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole was known affectionately as "Ke Ali'i Maka'āinana" or "The Citizen Prince." His passionate advocacy and civic engagement on behalf of his people has left our lāhui an enduring legacy. - Photo: Courtesy

The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was an incredible feat by an incredible ali'i. His advocacy amid a predominantly white-male U.S. Congress in the early 1900s resulted in the establishment of a long-standing program to provide kānaka land and livelihood.

In his advocacy to Congress prior to the passage of the Act, Kalaniana'ole asserted that the way to assure the recovery of the Hawaiian race was to "place them back upon the soil." Kalaniana'ole knew that the key was – and is – 'āina. A hundred years later, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands continues to serve kānaka by reconnecting them to the land.

As a delegate to Congress, Kalaniana'ole did this without the ability to cast a vote. The pure

skill of his influence and advocacy insured generations of kānaka are connected back to 'āina.

In addition, Kalaniana'ole founded the Hawaiian Civic Club movement, was involved in the reorganization of the Royal Order of Kamehameha, was instrumental in the creation of our first National Park in Hawai'i, created our county system of government, was an advocate for women's suffrage, and was instrumental in advocating for kānaka to be appointed to civil service positions, thereby growing Hawaiians in leadership.

Today, our elected officials are charged with a similar role – influence and advocacy for the wellbeing of Hawai'i's people, especially kānaka. Kalaniana'ole's legacy has endured in all areas of civic duty. What can we reflect on from his example as we examine the candidates in this upcoming election? As we turn to the ballot boxes in the coming weeks, let's consider Kalaniana'ole and his advocacy efforts as a metric for kānaka wellbeing. Here are three leadership characteristics that Kalaniana'ole exemplified:

**1. An intimacy with experience.** While his political career was of substantial length, Kalaniana'ole was first and foremost an ali'i. He had been jailed for his involvement in the counterrevolution following the overthrow. Kalaniana'ole understood the costs of such advocacy and what was at stake. These experiences undoubtedly influenced his qualities as a leader.

**2. Daring endurance.** Racism was prevalent in the 1900s, and yet, he took multiple trips between Hawai'i and Washington, D.C. and built connections with his Congressional colleagues, sometimes even inviting them back to his home at Pualeilani. We cannot assume to know Kalaniana'ole's strategy in navigating a different world than the one we live in today, but his actions certainly required daring endurance.

**3. An understanding of 'āina.** Bringing Hawaiians "back upon the soil" is not simply a turn of phrase and one that should not be taken lightly. Perhaps Kalaniana'ole knew innately that kānaka are composed of 'āina and that this relationship brings life to both. ■

*Mālia Sanders is the executive director of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA). Working to better connect the Hawaiian community to the visitor industry, NaHHA supports the people who provide authentic experiences to Hawai'i's visitors. For more information go to [www.nahha.com](http://www.nahha.com) Follow NaHHA on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @nahha808 and @kuhiuhi808.*

# Healing Psoriasis Naturally



By Jodi Leslie Matsuo, DrPH

Psoriasis is an inflammatory skin disease that can affect both males and females at any age. It is characterized by raised patches of itchy or burning scales on the skin.

Although genetics play a role in whether a person develops psoriasis, there are certain things that may trigger a flare-up. These include stress, skin injury, infection, certain foods, and cold weather.

While some of these are not always within our control, we can take steps to reduce stress. Research shows that people who spend at least 10 minutes outdoors, three days a week, have less cortisol (a stress hormone) in their bodies. Sitting or walking around your yard, a public park, or other outdoor area are all helpful. In order for your time outdoors to be truly beneficial, avoid checking emails, making phone calls, having conversations, reading social media (or even a book) during this time. Just pick an outdoor place you enjoy and quietly relax in nature.

Foods that have been shown to trigger psoriasis include added sugars, red meat, alcohol, and saturated fatty acids. "Added sugars" are those sugars added to drinks and foods – it doesn't include fresh fruits. Common sources of saturated fatty acids include beef, pork, chicken (especially the skin), butter, cheese, ice cream, coconut and palm oil, and fried foods.

Foods that contain vitamin D, vitamin B12, omega 3-fatty acids, fiber, selenium, probiotics, and soy have been all shown to reduce psoriasis flare-ups.

This can all be met by eating a modern-adapted traditional Hawaiian diet that includes a variety of fruits and both starchy and non-starchy vegetables, poi, limu, fish, and tofu.

If you are on medications and not experiencing much relief – or want to try more natural treatments, there are a few alternatives.

'Olena (turmeric) has shown enormous potential in controlling psoriasis. It can be added to foods or made into a paste and applied directly on the affected parts of your skin. Combine one part 'olena powder to two parts water in a pot. Simmer until a paste is formed and cool before applying. Store the leftover paste in the refrigerator.

Banana peels contain a variety of antioxidants that are also useful. Rub the inner banana peel on the affected area for 10 minutes or longer several times a day. Another method is to dice and blend ripe banana peels and simmer with water to create a skin paste. Adding one to two teaspoons of activated charcoal powder (found in vitamin shops and pharmacies) will make it even more powerful. Choose activated coconut charcoal powder if available, as it is more effective than other types.

Noni may also be helpful, due to its ability to treat a variety of skin conditions, reduce inflammation, and boost the immune system. Either apply some overripe noni fruit to the affected area or drink two ounces of noni juice, twice daily. Do not drink noni juice if you have kidney disease. If possible, use organically grown noni and other plants in your medicinal preparations for best results. ■

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

## Civic Communion: Forms of our Advocacy and 'Āina Identity



By Elena Farden

Our relationship with 'āina teaches us that the abundance of life can manifest in many forms. From the kinolau reflected in specific native plants for lā'au lapa'au, to the kapa patterns and motifs born from our very own narratives of our akua - we are a people constantly acknowledging our connection.

At this very precipice of time for our lāhui, I can think of no better embodiment of connection than what we've seen powerfully demonstrated in our civic communion as Kānaka 'Ōiwi.

We have seen and lived this with the kia'i holding the line against witnessing 38 of our kūpuna arrested on Mauna Kea. We have seen and lived this with the unwanted development of Hūnānāniho. We are living and enraged with this in the military fuel storage that threatens our life-giving waters.

Whether you have shown up as a protector, a donor/supporter, a documentarian, a social policy advocate, an educator, a storyteller, or a community organizer - you have shown up in your own civic identity form. All forms are welcomed. All forms are needed. All forms play a key role in the very fabric of social movement and political change.

As the Native Hawaiian Education Council thinks about our work ahead in the context of our upcoming elections, we do so with the understanding of our own advocacy and 'āina identity as part of the larger lāhui civic communion. Yes, our role is to inform and advocate for Native Hawaiian Education, but our role is also to honor the many voices that laid down the pōhaku for the kahua of a federal Native Hawaiian Education Act (NHEA).

In immersing myself deeper into my work and role, I often find myself reading through pages and pages of federal testimony from community voices for NHEA from 25-30 years ago.

Many of the organizations you may already recognize, but what captures me the most are those individuals who stepped out of their homes and away from their families to stand up and testify in Congress. These are the inspiring names I recount when federal policy and funding does not move favorably for our community, and when advocacy begins to feel lonely.

In the same way we as a people recall the names of our kūpuna or connection to the forces and kinolau in our 'āina to recenter and reaffirm our intentions and responsibilities, I do the same with the community names documented in testimony. These are the forms that shape my own advocacy and 'āina identity.

I offer just a glimpse of some of the honored names of those who testified for the NHEA before Congress - some whom are still with us and others who have journeyed to Pō - to inspire all of you to also make sure your voice is heard this election year. Step into your civic identity form. You are meant to be heard.

- Amelia Abreau
- Rev. Darrow Lewis Kananui Aiona
- Liberta Albao
- Ronald Albu
- Maybell Brown
- Malia Craver
- Van Horn Diamond
- Pilahi Paki
- Dr. Leialoha Perkins
- Keoni Agard
- Winona Rubin
- Randolph Kalahiki
- Dr. VerlieAnn Malina-Wright

E ola ka Lāhui Hawai'i! ■

*Elena Farden serves as the executive director for the Native Hawaiian Education Council, established in 1994 under the Native Hawaiian Education Act, with responsibility for coordinating, assessing, recommending and reporting on the effectiveness of educational programs for Native Hawaiians and improvements that may be made to existing programs, policies, and procedures to improve the educational attainment of Native Hawaiians. Elena is a first-generation college graduate with a BS in telecommunications from Pepperdine University, an MBA from Chaminade University and is now in her first year of a doctorate program.*

## LT Releases Kupukupu Wellbeing App for Kamali'i!



By Trenton Manson

Learning the skills we need as adults - such as managing our time, setting goals, and understanding our own emotions - can be difficult.

Lili'uokalani Trust (LT) has developed an exciting new phone app called Kupukupu to help kamali'i do this. The app is a safe, easy to use tool designed for kamali'i in middle school and older. Kupukupu includes a calendar and to-do-list, a self-assessment for balancing wellbeing, a journaling feature, and a series of LT Pono Activities. The information entered by users is stored only on their devices so their potentially confidential data is not transmitted over the internet.

The Kupukupu app was developed over the last two years with the input of kamali'i participating in LT programs as well as LT youth workers. We are excited that it is now available for download, not just for kamali'i served by LT, but also the general public.

LT's vision is Nā Kamalei Lupalupa, kamali'i who live abundant and thriving lives. Our goal for this app is to provide them with a tool that is both engaging and supports their growth. Creating an app for kamali'i allows us to reach this generation of "digital natives" via their phones to help them strengthen their cultural identity and healthy habits. The app is also intended to promote their overall ea (self determination) and sense of agency.

Today, kamali'i face unprecedented uncertainty in the future and are highly "plugged" into technology. The Kupukupu app is also meant to help counter-balance some of the negative

impacts of social apps. A key feature of the app is a self-rated wellbeing score that kamali'i can use to assess their wellbeing and to access suggestions for activities to help them to achieve a balance that matches their personal needs and goals.



A screenshot of Lili'uokalani Trust's new Kupukupu app. Photo: LT

To learn more and to download the Kupukupu app, visit our website at [www.onipaa.org](http://www.onipaa.org). ■

*Trenton Manson is the manager for Data Science at Lili'uokalani Trust. He was raised in Kailua, O'ahu, and has an M.S. in data science from Southern Methodist University.*



# E Hū e nā Kawowo: The Renaissance of Kānaka Civic Engagement

By Hema Watson, Grade 12  
Hālau Kū Mana Public Charter School

**E**nā hoaloha mai i uka i kai, mai i luna a i lalo, aloha!  
Contemporary kānaka civic movements in the 1970s, or the “Hawaiian Renaissance,” reflected a rise in kānaka consciousness. Kānaka had to awaken from the effects of colonialism, which cut our people off from understanding, with a pure sense, who we truly were and our strength as a nation.

Clyde Maurice Kalani Ohelo, one of the early leaders of the Hawaiian Renaissance, fought the 1971 evictions in Kalama Valley on O‘ahu. Ohelo emphasized the importance of education in his awakening: “My job was to raise social and political consciousness. And to raise social and political consciousness, you would have to do tons and tons of research. And [in] those days, we used to put all our research into our heads. We didn’t have computers. We didn’t have all the high-tech things we have today.”

George Helm is perhaps the greatest po‘e aloha ‘āina laureate who went up against the illegal bombing and U. S. military occupation of Kaho‘olawe. His discourses on aloha ‘āina inspire us today to ho‘ōla. Helm knew exactly who he was and his kuleana: “I am a Hawaiian and I’ve inherited the soul of my kupuna...The truth is, there is man and there is environment. One does not supersede the other. The breath in man is the breath of Papa (the earth). Man is the caretaker of the land that maintains his life and nourishes his soul.”

Herb Kāne dreamt that the stars would lead Hōkūle‘a to Tahiti. Captain Nainoa Thompson remembers that the rebirth



Hālau Kū Mana senior Hema Watson authored both the He Leo Hou and Ka Leo o nā ‘Ōpio columns this month. - Photo: Courtesy

of traditional voyaging “pulled together this deep, instinctual, almost innate need to be who I am, by knowing who I was. It allowed me to know that I’m going to be within the domain of powerful learning. I’m going to be in the domain of rich learning.”

In order to truly understand who we are as kānaka and our strength as a nation we can start by relearning who we are.

As we highlight these movements and the incredible leaders involved, we see how the past has influenced the present. One of the largest recent examples of our Hawaiian force occurred at Maunakea. At one point, there were over 8,000 people on the mauna. That movement led the push for clean water and the demilitarization of Kapūkākā.

Ohelo, Helm, Kāne and Thompson came to a clearer sense of their identity and role in protecting our ‘āina. We, too, must follow in their footsteps so we can be civically engaged and survive as a lāhui.

Now, we look to the future...■

*This is the second of three articles dedicated to telling the story of the past, present, and future of kānaka civic engagement in Hawai‘i by Hema Watson.*

# Learning From Hawai‘i’s Electoral Past

By Hema Watson, Grade 12 Hālau Kū Mana Public Charter School

**E**very election season, there are conversations about Native Hawaiians’ power in electoral politics. Whether it’s the number of Native Hawaiians running for elected office or the power of the Hawaiian vote at the polls, these conversations continue to come up year after year.

With the primary election ballots arriving in our mailboxes, I wanted to share a discussion that was had on this topic in this same publication over 40 years ago.

In 1981, former House Minority Leader and OHA Trustee Kina‘u Boyd Kamali‘i penned an article in OHA’s *Ka Wai Ola* newspaper titled, “The Significance of the Hawaiian Vote.”

In the article, Kamali‘i reflected on Hawai‘i’s politics and Native Hawaiians’ influence in government at the time. She also highlighted that, for the first time since the territorial period, Native Hawaiians dominated political leadership in Hawai‘i.

“Congressman Daniel Akaka, State Senate President Richard Wong, Senate Minority Leader Andy Anderson, Speaker of the House Henry Peters, House Minority Leader Kina‘u Boyd Kamali‘i, State Supreme Court Chief Justice William Richardson, United States District Judges Samuel King and Walter Heen are all Hawaiians. And all have assumed the positions in the last decade,” Kamali‘i wrote.

Kamali‘i wrote that Native Hawaiian voters “represented a crucial swing vote that could have been the margin for winning or losing an election.” She said that “if motivated and mobilized...Hawaiians could decide major elections.”

## The Landscape Today

As we fast forward to Hawai‘i’s political landscape today, Native Hawaiians only make up 11 of the 76 members of the state legislature and one-fourth of Hawai‘i’s Congressional Delegation. There is only one Native Hawaiian serving as a federal judge, with none serving on the Hawai‘i State Supreme Court.

While there is evident work that needs to happen at the state and federal levels to increase Native Hawaiian representation, a significant movement is being made on the various county councils.

At the Honolulu City Council, the top three leadership positions are held by Native Hawaiians – Council Chair Tommy Waters, Council Vice-Chair Esther Kia‘āina, and Council Floor Leader Andria Tupola. In addition to Councilmember Heidi Tsuneyoshi, Native Hawaiians occupy four of the nine council positions.

## The Significance of the Hawaiian Vote

by Kina'au Boyd Kamali'i



The Hawaiian Renaissance in the artistic and cultural values of our people has received great public attention and applause. Less notice, however, has focused on the political achievements of Hawaiians in the last ten years.

Congressman Daniel Akaka, State Senate President Richard Wong, Senate Minority Leader Andy Anderson, Speaker of the House Henry Peters, House Minority Leader Kina'au Boyd Kamali'i, State Supreme Court Chief Justice William Richardson, and United States District Judges Samuel King and Walter Heen are all Hawaiians. And all have assumed their positions in the last decade.

Not since the free-wheeling days of the territorial period have Hawaiians been so prominent in the political leadership of Hawai'i.

Although the individual political accomplishments of Hawaiians can be pointed to with pride, there is widespread confusion and conjecture about the meaning of "the Hawaiian vote." With the possible exception of Henry Peters, for example, none of the officials I have mentioned have an identifiable Hawaiian "base" as the source of their election or appointment.

However, it has only been in the past year that the "Hawaiian vote" could literally be counted. The separate elec-

tion of the trustees for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs provided the first explicit and visible data on the number of Hawaiians who could and did participate in elections.

It doesn't take an advanced degree in political science or expensive computer cross-tabulation to compare the OHA voter registration and election results. In virtually every district, Hawaiians now represent a possibly crucial "swing vote."

Particularly in statewide contests, the 55,000 OHA electorate is the margin for winning or losing an election.

If motivated and mobilized, then, Hawaiians could decide major elections. Such unified bloc voting, however, is not now likely. Although the Hawaiian vote is identifiable, a specific set of issues or concerns to attract and persuade that voter has not clearly emerged.

The racism of "Nōnō i ka 'ili" (Look to the skin) once used by Hawaiian politicians must always be avoided and rejected. It is, ultimately, not individual political success which must be sought by Hawaiians—although that objective can be enhanced without resorting to bigotry—but the development of a political agenda.

Through the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Native Hawaiian Study Commission, I fully expect the development of a legislative program requiring the support and involvement of leaders at all levels. And more important, the support and involvement of Hawaiian voters.

The greatest significance of the Hawaiian vote, then, is the opportunity it offers to use the political process as a means of defining and achieving our own dreams for the future.

And I'll vote for that. I hope you will, too.

House Republican Leader Kina'au Boyd Kamali'i was first elected to the State House of Representatives in 1974. She is a member of the OHA Reparations Committee and has been recently named the Chairperson of the Native Hawaiian Study Commission. Mrs. Kamali'i has three children and two grandchildren.

Note: We will be inviting individuals to write articles on topics of interest to all Hawaiians. In this issue we have invited comments on a land problem, a community concern, a legislator's point of view and a Pacific island issue.

A screenshot of the 1981 *Ka Wai Ola* article by Kina‘u Kamali‘i titled “The Significance of the Hawaiian Vote.” - Photo: OHA

On Kaua‘i, Councilmember Mason Chock serves as vice-chair of the Kaua‘i County Council.

On Maui, Natives Hawaiians hold two of the top three leadership positions. Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez serves as the Vice-Chair of the Council and Chair of the powerful Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. Councilmember Tasha Kama serves as presiding officer pro tempore.

On Hawai‘i Island, Councilmember Maile David serves as the council chairperson for the Hawai‘i Island council.

With significant issues such as TMT, land rights, water rights, and more, the frustration of our Native Hawaiian communities needs to be expressed at the polls. The narrative of Native Hawaiians not being an organized voting bloc must end.

As a lāhui, we have another opportunity to make our voices heard at the polls this year. Let’s make this one count! ■

*Ka Leo O Nā ‘Ōpio (KONO) is a collaboration of Native Hawaiian organizations and individuals dedicated to Native Hawaiian youth civic engagement. To learn more about us, visit our website at [www.kaleoonaopio.org](http://www.kaleoonaopio.org) or follow us on social media @opiopowered.*

## \$5 Million for the Kalaupapa Memorial



At a June 29 ceremony, Gov. David Ige signed SB3338 to appropriate \$5 million to build a memorial at Kalaupapa. Championed by Ka 'Ōhana Ō Kalaupapa, the planned memorial will list the names of the nearly 8,000 people forcibly removed from their homes and isolated at Kalaupapa due to leprosy (Hansen's Disease). Behind Gov. Ige (seated) are (l-r): Valerie Monson, Ka 'Ōhana executive director; UH President David Lassner; Sen. Brian Taniguchi; Danette Wong Tomiyasu, DOH deputy director of Health Resources; DeGray Vanderbilt; Ka 'Ōhana legislative liaison; Hitoshi Hida, memorial architect; Sen. Lynn DeCoite; Kalaupapa descendant Nainoa Woodward and his grandparents, Margaret and Aaron Wong. The photographs are of late Kalaupapa leaders Bernard Punikā'ā, Boogie Kahilihiwa and Ku'ulei Bell. - Photo: Office of Governor David Ige

## 'Ōpio Build a Traditional Hale in Hau'ula

In July, 18 youth from the rural O'ahu community of Hau'ula built a traditional Hawaiian hale at the Maunawila Heiau Complex - the first traditional hale built in Hau'ula in a century. The 'ōpio are part of Maunawila 'Ōpio Mālama 'Aina, a summer internship program run by the Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT).

This year the program focus was Kūkulu: building hale, building community, and building stronger connections to 'āina. Held each year, the program was

created to teach wahi kūpuna stewardship practices to high school students and young adults who live in the Ko'olauloa area.

The five-week program also included removing invasive plants, trail maintenance, archaeology, planting, learning mo'olelo, oli and pule, archaeological features management, and a three-day huaka'i to HILT's Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge on Maui.

Tiana Henderson, CEO of IndigeniUS Minds, led the hale build along with master hale builder Uncle Francis Palani Sinenci. The hale will be used as a communal space for the community,



Hau'ula community members gathered to bless the new hale on July 9. - Photo: HILT

an outdoor classroom for students from Hau'ula Elementary, and other school and educational groups. Program support was provided by the City and County of Honolulu, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Hawai'i Community Foundation, Southwest Airlines and private funders.

HILT is a statewide nonprofit that protects, stewards, and connects people to the lands that sustain Hawai'i.

## Lawsuit Filed to Clean Kīkīaola Harbor

Nā Kia'i Kai and Surfrider Foundation, represented by Earthjustice, filed a federal lawsuit against the County of Kaua'i and director of the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) in July.

The groups say the state and the county failed to abide by a federal court order requiring a Clean Water Act permit to discharge polluted water into Kīkīaola Harbor. The lawsuit seeks to protect subsistence fishing grounds, surf breaks, and other recreational areas from continued contamination.

Nā Kia'i Kai member Lawrence Kapunia'i's family has been fishing along the West Kaua'i shoreline for generations. "This ocean is our icebox. That is why we are demanding this new permit to control the pollution dumped into our ocean."

In 2019, the U.S. District Court ruled that discharging pollution into the ocean from the Mānā Plain's plantation-era drainage ditch system, including from the Kīkīaola Harbor Drain, requires a federal permit under the Clean Water Act.

The county has applied for the required permit, but the DOH has refused to acknowledge its legal duty to process the application, let alone commit to issuing a permit for the Kīkīaola discharges.

The harbor drain discharges untreated waters contaminated with sediment and other pollutants into the nearshore waters at Kīkīaola Harbor during heavy

rains. Water quality testing in the harbor drain has detected elevated levels of turbidity, diesel, and enterococcus bacteria.

## 33 More Acres in Hāna Permanently Protected



Aerial view of Mokae II on the Hāna Coastline. - Photo: HILT

Hāna-based nonprofit Ke Ao Hāli'i, in partnership with the state, Maui County, and Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT), announced that an additional 33 acres along the Hāna coast are now permanently protected as part of an effort to conserve over 150 acres along 1.5 miles of coastline stretching from Hāmoa Beach at Mokae to Maka'ālae Point and Waioka Pond.

Purchasing, permanently protecting, and stewarding the coastline just south of Hāna

Town was a community initiative. These lands are critical to preserving Maui's food-producing lands, open spaces, and bio-cultural resources.

Maui County contributed \$2,469,300, while the State Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP) contributed \$1,194,000. HILT and Ke Ao Hāli'i also raised private funds, and community members donated in-kind services.

The project is a cooperative effort by Hāna Ranch Partners, the County of Maui's Open Space Program, the LLCP, HILT, and the Hāna community. This acquisition represents the third phase of the project. One final phase remains to complete the 20-year effort.

"The conservation easement will prohibit subdivision and development, protect Indigenous ocean food systems and Hawaiian gathering practices, support local agriculture, and maintain community access in perpetuity," said Laura Ka'akua, HILT president and CEO.

Communities statewide are

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## OHA's First Grant Award Cycle Completed



A \$220,000 community grant to support the Ho'ākā'o Corporation's "Ke Awa Ho'omalū (Safe Harbor)" program is one of three education-focused grant awards announced in late June by OHA. The grant will increase access for Native Hawaiian children and their families to Hawaiian culture-based educational, behavioral, and mental health services. Ke Awa Ho'omalū will be implemented at Kualapu'u Preschool and Elementary on Moloka'i and Waimea Middle School on Hawai'i Island. Awards in the Community Grants - Education and 'Ahaui Grants categories totaling more than \$600,000, are the first OHA grant awards to be announced this year. - Photo: Courtesy

## NEWS BRIEFS

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encouraged to learn more about their county's open space program and the State of Hawai'i LLC, which work collaboratively to protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources through land conservation acquisition initiatives.

### Applicants Sought for O'ahu Watershed Project

Nonprofit O'ahu Resource Conservation and Development Council (O'ahu RC&D) is accepting applications from North Shore farmers and ranchers within the Ki'iki'i and Paukaiula watersheds to help implement conservation practices to improve farm resilience and watershed health.

Farms selected in the first round of the competitive application process were awarded over \$36,000 and will co-invest more than \$18,000 of their own resources towards practices that improve water quality and benefit the ecology of streams, estuaries and near-shore waters.

O'ahu RC&D has collaborated with the state Department of Health (DOH) and O'ahu farmers to improve water quality and restore watershed health for the past decade.

The Ki'iki'i and Paukaiula stream systems collect sediment and pollutants as they move through central O'ahu, draining over 37,400 acres into Kaiaka Bay. The watersheds are geographically bound in the coastal plains of Waialua and Hale'iwa, where clay-like soils and heavy rainfall cause flooding and poor drainage. The need for flood impact mitigation and reduction in sediment load throughout these watersheds is a priority issue. Farmers play a critical role in stewarding the land through conservation planning and the implementation of conservation practices.

O'ahu RC&D is accepting applications until 4:00 p.m. on August 15. For more information or to apply go to: <https://oahurcd.org/kiikii-and-paukaiula-watershed/>.

### Helping Kūpuna Get Online

A new printed and online directory of classes, programs, and online and

technical support to help kūpuna use their devices to access the internet is now available at Hawai'i public libraries, county aging offices and online at [hiphi.org/kupuna-digital-inclusion-workgroup/](http://hiphi.org/kupuna-digital-inclusion-workgroup/).

AARP Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Public Health Institute created the Kūpuna Digital Resource Directory and the Hawai'i Digital Inclusion Roadmap to help more kūpuna go online.

"The pandemic taught us that it's vital that kūpuna know how to go online. They need to be able to access healthcare services, talk to friends and family on Zoom, take virtual classes, and get access to news and government services that have moved online," said Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i state director.

Although 77.4% of Hawai'i's kūpuna have computer access and broadband internet at home, those living in rural areas still face obstacles – particularly the lack of high-speed broadband connectivity. In addition to the lack of connectivity, fears of new technology, concerns about online scams, and affordability contribute to the digital divide.

"We hope the Digital Inclusion Roadmap will guide policymakers and nonprofits that work with kūpuna in applying for federal funding and other grants to address digital inequity," said Kayla Carlisle, one of the authors of the report.

### Kapūkākī in the News

On July 13, a hui of health professionals delivered a letter to Admiral John C. Aquilino, commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command urging more humane treatment of individuals whose drinking water was contaminated by the November 2021 fuel leak from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

Despite assurances from Navy officials that their water is safe, families living in housing served by the Navy's water system continue to report fuel-like odors and visible sheens in their tap water, as well as ongoing health issues such as skin irritation, headaches, nausea or vomiting, fatigue and dizziness. Many of their pets have also suffered sudden illnesses and terminal



### OHA Presents The Pakeles Live at Kaka'ako Makai

August 20, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Come to the Kaka'ako Farmers' Market (ma kai side) for live Hawaiian entertainment sponsored by OHA. Free parking at Fisherman's Wharf.

### Healing and Cultural Empowerment in Kapaemahu

August 4, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Honolulu, O'ahu or Virtual

Part of the Bishop Museum's Kapaemahu Speaker Series. Attend in-person at the Atherton Hālau or via YouTube. For more info: <https://bit.ly/3B7eJCr>

### Waimea Valley Moon Walk

August 5, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. | Hale'iwa, O'ahu

The Moon Walk includes a kauhale tour and guided moonlit walks to the waterfall. For more info email [events@waimeavalley.net](mailto:events@waimeavalley.net) or call 808-638-5858.

### Fundraising Walk to End Homelessness

August 6, 7:30 a.m. | Hilo, Hawai'i

A benefit for Habitat for Humanity. Meet at the Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium in Hilo. Entertainment to follow. For more info: [www.interfaithhawaii.org](http://www.interfaithhawaii.org) or call 808-987-2272.

### Heiva i Kaua'i

August 6-7, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Kapa'a, Kaua'i

20th International Tahitian Dance Competition at Kapa'a Beach Park. For more info: [www.heivakauao.com](http://www.heivakauao.com).

### Papa Ho'ōla at Mānoa Heritage Center

Aug. 10 – Sept. 14 | Honolulu, O'ahu

Six-week program for youth that includes 'ukulele, songwriting and mo'olelo. Wednesday afternoons (times depends on age). For more info or to register: [www.manoaheritagecenter.org/2022/07/papa-hoola-2022/](http://www.manoaheritagecenter.org/2022/07/papa-hoola-2022/).

### Bishop Museum's After Hours

August 12, 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Hear about the latest scientific discoveries, and engage with Hawaiian cultural practitioners. No admission after 8:00 p.m. Pre-registration recommended: <https://bit.ly/3v17D-vs>.

### 14th Annual Hubb Keiki Fest

August 13, 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Boogie boarding fun for keiki and their 'ohana at Sherwood Beach. For more info email [info@kaikeha.org](mailto:info@kaikeha.org) or call 808-635-2435.

### Hanana no nā Limu

August 13, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Hāna, Maui

This is the reemergence of the annual Hāna Limu Festival after nearly three years. It will be at the Coconut Grove Pavilion and includes music, games, crafts and demonstrations.

### 40th Annual Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival

August 13, 4:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Waikīkī, O'ahu or Virtual

Featurig Ken Makuakane, Ledward Kaapana, Kawika Kahiapo and more, live at the Waikīkī Aquarium or watch online at [facebook.com/slackkeyfestivals](https://facebook.com/slackkeyfestivals). For more info: [kihoalufoundationinc9@gmail.com](mailto:kihoalufoundationinc9@gmail.com) or 808-226-2697.

### OHA Board of Trustees Lāna'i Meeting

August 18, 5:00 p.m. | Virtual

Join OHA's Board of Trustees (BOT) for their annual Lāna'i Community and BOT meeting. For more info: [www.oha.org/bot](http://www.oha.org/bot).

### Duke's OceanFest

Aug. 20-28 | Waikīkī, O'ahu

This festival honors Duke Kahanamoku and features nine days of surfing, paddleboard, beach volleyball, a movie night on August 25 sponsored by OHA and more. For more info: <https://dukesoceanfest.com/>.

### Kauluhiwaolele Maui Fiber Arts Conference

Aug. 31 – Sept. 3 | Lāhaina, Maui

Conference featuring four days of instruction in traditional Hawaiian weaving techniques by more than 20 kumu from across Hawai'i. For more info or to register: [www.kbhmaui.com/kauluhiwaolele](http://www.kbhmaui.com/kauluhiwaolele). ■

## NEWS BRIEFS

Continued from page 35

cancers in the past few months.

Navy officials continue to deny any knowledge of recent "medical encounters...related to water concerns." Sierra Club of Hawai'i and others are calling on the Navy to reassess its water testing protocols.

The letter demands that the Navy take "swift action" to acknowledge the ongoing contamination concerns, and to provide affected families with access to safe water and housing as well as appropriate medical and mental health care. It also demands immediate, transparent, and concrete assurances from the Navy that the defueling of Kapūkākā will be treated as an existential emergency.

## PIDF Appoints Four 'Ōiwi Leaders to Their Board

Nonprofit Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) announced the appointment of four community lead-

ers to its 10-member board of directors. All board directors are Native Hawaiian and provide strategic guidance to PIDF.

The new board members are Elwin Ahu, pastor of Metro Church of Hawai'i; Kawena Beaupré, senior VP and general counsel at Hawai'i Community Foundation; Summer Kaiawe, partner at Watanabe Ing, LLP; and Scott Seu, president and CEO of Hawaiian Electric Industries.

The Board of Directors continues the legacy that founders Jan Dill, Morris Takushi, and the late Gary Glenn began in 1997 to address the gaps in Hawai'i's society and support families in need.

PIDF draws on 'ike kupuna, ancestral wisdom and knowledge, to support the needs of economically vulnerable keiki and 'ohana. PIDF delivers 10 free programs and services across the state including early childhood education and mentorship, opportunity youth and foster care services, and caring for the 'āina, guided by time-tested values and practices that honor kuleana for people and place in caring for Hawai'i.



## CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT NOTICE: PUNA, HAWAI'I ISLAND

Information requested by Scientific Consultant Services, Inc. of cultural resources, past and/or ongoing cultural practices on or nearby to TMK: (3) 1-4-001:001, 002, and 019 located in Kapoho Ahupua'a, Puna District, Hawai'i Island, Hawai'i. Cultural practices information provided by respondents will be included in a Cultural Impact Analysis for the proposed Puna Geothermal Venture Repower Project. Please respond within 30 days to Glenn Escott at (808) 938-0968 or ggescott@yahoo.com.

## SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT: WAIKOLU VALLEY

Kalaupapa National Historical Park (KNHP) proposes to clear the overgrown Waikolu Foot Path and the previously established middle and upper landing zones. Clearing is needed to support Natural Resources field operations in Waikolu Valley for activities like animal control for introduced deer, pigs, goats, water quality vital signs monitoring, stream monitoring, bird surveys. The

foot path is the only way for KNHP staff, researchers, and partner agencies to access the valley. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is the foot trail that runs parallel to the stream, extending from the mouth of Waikolu Stream, about 3.3 km, to the pump house and includes the middle and upper landing zones.

Waikolu Valley is remote and field work often requires assistance by helicopter to transport personnel, sampling equipment, heavy tools, camping/cooking supplies for multi-day projects. It is also critical to health and safety for personnel should extraction by helicopter be needed in the event of injury or other emergency.

KNHP seeks information from the Molo-ka'i community, Native Hawaiian Organizations, stakeholders and other individuals on historic properties or existing cultural resources that may be impacted by the proposed project. Clearing the foot trail and landing zones will allow the KNPS to continue managing the natural and cultural resources in Waikolu. If you have information to share, please respond to Ka'ohulani McGuire (kaohulani\_mcguire@nps.gov) or by U.S. Postal Service to Kalaupapa National Historical Park, P.O. Box 2222, Kalaupapa, HI 96742. Please respond by Sept. 2, 2022. ■

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**Mahalo Ke Akua!**

I humbly mahalo Ke Akua for the blessing of being able to continue to serve our k̄naka.

Mahalo, especially, to my constituents on the island of Maui who I represent on the Board of Trustees for demonstrating their trust in my representation of their voices by encouraging my candidacy for re-election and for allowing me to serve another four-year term without opposition. I thank all who have put their trust in me.

This message is to everyone offering themselves for election: all the candidates putting themselves and their talents on the line, and demonstrating a willingness to serve, should be applauded.

In December, I will begin my new term with a pledge to continue serving our l̄hui with dignity, integrity, accountability and transparency. OHA's mission to better the conditions of our Hawaiian people cannot be realized without a similar commitment from each of us.

During the OHA BOT candidate forums, we heard the candidates' thoughts regarding the biggest challenges facing OHA. I think we all know what those challenges are because we deal with one or more of them, directly or indirectly. We all have 'ohana, friends or neighbors who struggle with health issues. Or who struggle to pay their rent or feed their families.

The first, and perhaps most important, challenge is how we take care of our health – both mind and body. We can do little to create a better life for our families if we do not enjoy good health.

I hope to work with my fellow trustees to ensure that OHA continues to invest in programs that help the community adopt healthier living habits – including improving their diets by making better food choices and getting more exercise. These are the building blocks for good health. We also need to find new strategies to help 'Oiwī struggling with drug addiction, and with chronic conditions such as diabetes,



**Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey**

Chair,  
Trustee, Maui

heart disease, and high blood pressure. These are daunting problems, but they are not insurmountable. If Hawaiians have the will, OHA must help find a way.

OHA must continue to look closely at education as another critical building block to position our community for greater participation in the economic life of Hawai'i. We need to flip the statistics.

Instead of being over-represented in areas that reflect suffering and hardship, our people need to be better represented in areas such as academic achievement, entrepreneurial spirit and success through hard work and perseverance.

Through OHA, and through the conversations we have in our families, we must help our children and grandchildren understand that education unlocks opportunities. The better educated they are, the stronger their credentials and the more influence they will have in public policy-making and in the decisions that affect our collective future in education, energy, and economic growth.

OHA cannot achieve its vision of raising a beloved l̄hui alone.

Our goal is to support community organizations and entities that are already successfully serving our l̄hui in the areas of education, health, housing and economics. By collaborating together in a spirit of l̄kahi, we can accomplish so much more.

OHA must seek innovative avenues to put our k̄naka in homes that they can afford – and to be realistic about what is affordable.

The road ahead is not easy. We all know that. But I end with the wish that we will tackle the difficult problems facing our people in the spirit of l̄kahi and e p̄p̄kahi i holomua. Let us honor our k̄puna – whose sacrifices made our lives today possible – by building a better Hawai'i for our children.

Aloha nui iā k̄kōul! ■

**Empowering Native Hawaiians to Own Homes**

Heide Kila of Wa'anae expresses a common sentiment held by Native Hawaiians.

"We've been renters all our lives, so we've never had the opportunity to buy a home because we just fall short on many points. So hopefully...everybody has an opportunity and a chance to become homeowners in Hawai'i, where we live and grow up."

Homeownership rates within the Native Hawaiian population remain lower compared to non-Hawaiians. According to OHA's Office of Strategy Management, 57% of Native Hawaiians are homeowners compared to 61% of non-Hawaiians. 73% of Native Hawaiians who are not homeowners say it is too expensive, while 45% say that they cannot afford a down payment.

OHA has a constitutional responsibility to advocate for the overall wellbeing of Native Hawaiians. This responsibility includes ensuring that beneficiaries have a pathway to become homeowners and the ability to build generational wealth.

To address the lack of homeownership, OHA adopted the Mana i Maui Ola Strategic Plan. OHA's Strategic Plan focuses on "leveraging partnerships to ensure that Native Hawaiians obtain homeownership." On June 28, the Board of Trustees approved a \$1.5 million grant to the Honolulu Habitat for Humanity.

According to Edna Johnson, OHA's grants supervisor, within two years, nine Native Hawaiians are projected to become new homeowners and 36 Native Hawaiians are expected to benefit from the project.

Nine homes may not seem like much, but it represents a very significant value for only \$1.5 million – especially since a single median price home in Hawai'i is over \$1 million. OHA's housing grant is a step in the right direction to make more beneficiaries homeowners.

On a larger scale, with the potential to make homeowners out of thousands of Native Hawaiians, is the state's appropriation of \$600 million to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). This historic funding is projected to significantly reduce number of Native Hawaiians (now nearly 29,000) on the DHHL

waiting list.

In addition, Hawaiian Community Assets (HCA), in partnership with Hawai'i Community Lending, provides homebuyer counseling and community lending products for low- and moderate-income families. HCA's services include Empowering Native Hawaiians to Own Homes down payment grants of up to \$7,500 and affordable mortgage loans of up to \$100,000.

The Hawaiian Community Development Corporation (HCDB) is another organization that offers financial services to beneficiaries. HCDB is an "emerging Native Community Development Financial Institution" which offers the "Homestead Loan Fund program." This program provides financing to Native Hawaiian families for building small homes on vacant lots.

Overall, the newly appropriated DHHL funds and financial services provided by organizations like Hawaiian Community Assets and the Hawaiian Community Development Corporation can all contribute to significant increases in homeownership for Native Hawaiians.

Despite these valuable services, thousands of beneficiaries continue to struggle with purchasing a home. OHA recognizes that it has the capacity to increase homeownership for beneficiaries.

For example, OHA can continue awarding grants to organizations that have the capability to provide more occupancy-ready homes for Native Hawaiians. In addition, OHA could seek to expand the Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund (NHRLF) to include mortgage loan products, thereby reducing loan limitations, as identified by OHA Loan Fund manager Aikū'e Kalima.

It is essential that we continue to work toward ensuring the financial wellbeing of our beneficiaries, especially by helping them become homeowners. The homeownership process can provide a pathway for Hawaiians to attain financial success, which will in turn benefit all of Hawai'i.

Ke holomua ka po'e Hawai'i, lanakila nā k̄naka a pau ma Hawai'i nei (when the Hawaiian people succeed, everyone in Hawai'i succeeds). ■



**Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.**

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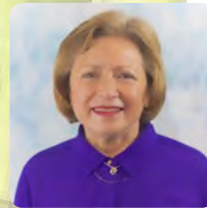
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**2022**

**TITCOMB** – Family Reunion for the descendants of Charles and Kanikele (Kamalenui) Titcomb. The date has been rescheduled to June 30-July 2, 2023 at Lōkahi Center, Wai'anae, O'ahu. Children are: Susan (Christian Bertelmann); Julius (Malia Kalapuhipuhi, Sophie Houghtailing);

Emma (August Dreier); MaryAnn (James Hall Fiddes or Feddes); Angeline (John Spencer); Louis (Hannah Sheldon); George Rufus (Caroline Mae Morteno); Hattie (Frederick Weber); and Kanikele. For more information or to kokua, contact: K. Nani Kawaa at [titcombfamilyreunion@gmail.com](mailto:titcombfamilyreunion@gmail.com) or visit our 'ohana website <https://titcombsofhawaii.com> ■

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