



Ka Wai Ola

E S F R THE LAHUI

ka

Mei (May) 2024 | Vol. 41, No. 05

THE VOICES OF OUR KŪPUNA ECHO THROUGH US

PAGES 14-15

Halona Kaopuiki beholding burials and historic sites in Kalawao on Moloka'i. Photo: Kai Markell

Apply today!

KANAAHO GRANT FOR LAHAINA & KULA

The Office of Hawaii Affairs has launched the OHA Kanaaho Grant to provide direct financial assistance to impacted Native Hawaiian homeowners and renters in the wildfire impact zones of Lahaina and Kula. See below for the following requirements.

- ✓ **Applicant must be Native Hawaiian.**
- ✓ **Proof of residency.**
- ✓ **Proof of ownership or renter status for a residence that is located in the impacted disaster district zones as determined by County Officials.**
- ✓ **Applicants must submit a signed W-9 form.**

For more information, visit

www.oha.org/kanaahogrant

OHA KANAAHO GRANT FOR LAHAINA & KULA

The OHA Kanaaho Grants will provide critical support to Native Hawaiian **homeowners** and **renters** in the wildfire impact zones of Lahaina and Kula. A \$9,000 grant will be awarded to eligible **homeowners** who experienced hardship. A \$4,000 grant will be awarded to eligible **renters** who experienced hardship.

Documentation Checklist:

To qualify for OHA's Kanaaho Grants you must meet the grant requirements list below. Please mark the boxes you will provide for each requirement. OHA's Kanaaho Grant will be distributed to **qualified head of household** who meet all the eligibility criteria below:

- 1. Applicant must be Native Hawaiian.** A government issued photo ID is required and one of the following:
 - ☐ Birth certificate that states "Hawaiian"
 - ☐ Department of Hawaiian Home Lands lease or waitlist verification
 - ☐ Kamehameha Schools Ho'oulu letter
 - ☐ OHA Hawaiian Registry Program card
- 2. Proof of Residency.** Applicant is the head of household for a primary residence that is located in the impacted district zones as determined by Maui County officials. Proof of residency may include any one of the following and must include the residence address in the affected impact zone.
 - ☐ 2022 Tax Return
 - ☐ Car registration
 - ☐ HI-EMA letter
 - ☐ Bank statement
 - ☐ Utility bill
 - ☐ County of Maui Letter, or inclusion in the Maui Wildfire Damage Log
 - ☐ Voter registration
 - ☐ FEMA Pre-disaster Survey
- 3. Applicant must provide proof of ownership or renter status for a primary residence located in the impacted disaster district zones as determined by County Officials.**
 - ☐ Deed
 - ☐ Rental agreement

Merrie Monarch: Hawai‘i Fashion Bursting at the Seams

Aloha mai kākou,

The Merrie Monarch Festival, an annual celebration of hula and Hawaiian culture, has long been revered for its mesmerizing performances and cultural significance. However, it’s not just the hula competition that draws thousands to gather in Hilo. Merrie Monarch has emerged as a catalyst for the flourishing fashion industry in Hawai‘i. This convergence of tradition and modernity has not only enriched the cultural landscape but also unveiled a promising economic frontier for our Native Hawaiian communities and the broader pae ‘āina.

The festival’s influence transcends the stage, with apparel, accessories, and jewelry companies leveraging its platform to showcase their creations, weaving cultural narratives into contemporary fashion pieces. At the forefront of this burgeoning industry are Kānaka Maoli owned businesses like Lexbreezy Hawai‘i, Simply Sisters, Pōmahina, Kahulale‘a, Kealopiko and Manaola, amongst many others. These brands epitomize the fusion of tradition and trend, offering a kaleidoscope of designs that reflect the essence of Hawai‘i. From intricate patterns inspired by ancient motifs to modern silhouettes adorned with Indigenous prints, each piece tells a story of resilience and revival.

The allure of Hawaiian fashion has transcended the shores of our island home, captivating audiences worldwide. With its unique blend of authenticity and allure, Hawai‘i’s fashion scene has carved a niche in the global market, attracting attention from fashion enthusiasts and trendsetters alike. The Merrie Monarch serves as a stellar showcase for ‘ōiwi creativity and innovation. Hundreds of shoppers stand in hourlong lines to purchase and proudly wear the newest collections created to debut specifically at Merrie Monarch, making the fashion a perfect complement to the renowned hula performances.

As Hawai‘i’s fashion scene continues to gain momentum, we need to double down on investments to support maoli fashion and its founders. By investing in local talent and amplifying Indigenous voices, Hawai‘i has the potential to emerge as a fashion powerhouse on par with global fashion capitals like Los Angeles, New York and Paris. The cultural richness and creative ingenuity of Hawai‘i’s designers offer a unique perspective that resonates with audiences worldwide.

The road ahead is paved with opportunity, as Hawai‘i’s fashion industry embraces innovation while honoring our deep seeded history. Collaborations between designers, artists, and cultural practitioners are fostering an ecosystem of creativity, with each collection serving as a testament to the resilience of our Hawaiian heritage.

The Merrie Monarch Festival has played a pivotal role in energizing and amplifying Hawai‘i fashion, propelling locally owned businesses to the forefront of the global stage. Hawai‘i’s fashion industry has the potential to redefine the narrative of luxury and style. ■

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira

Ka Pouhana | Chief Executive Officer



Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira
Ka Pouhana
Chief Executive Officer

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MOLOKAI ISSUE

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OHA's Successful Outreach at the 61st Merrie Monarch Hula Festival

By Alice Malepeai Silbanuz

The 61st Merrie Monarch Hula Festival in Hilo was a time of great celebration for Hawaiian culture, commerce and community. Amidst the graceful hula, rhythmic chants and vibrant displays of Hawaiian culture, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) orchestrated an on-the-ground and media campaign that resulted in widespread engagement and positive feedback.

From April 3-6, 2024, OHA strategically positioned itself at locations throughout Hilo that allowed for maximum community engagement. At the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center, cultural workshops led by knowledgeable practitioners offered attendees a hands-on experience in traditional practices.

Each workshop was met with overwhelming demand, with participants from near and far expressing gratitude for the opportunity to immerse themselves in Hawaiian culture. Whether it was storytelling with Kumu Hula Manaiakalani Kalua, ulana lauhala (weaving) with 'Aha Puhala O Puna, or carving 'ohe kapala with Nalu Andrade of Nā Maka Kahiko, the workshops left attendees with expanded horizons and a deepened appreciation for the richness of Native Hawaiian culture.

Meanwhile, at the Nani Mau Gardens, OHA hosted thought-provoking discussion panels live streamed on OHA's Facebook account. These panels, skillfully moderated by OHA's Hawai'i Island-based advocates, delved into topics ranging from Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) to 'Āina Momona & Self-determination, and Kai Moana. With hundreds of views online, these discussions not only reached a wide audience but also sparked meaningful dialogue about pressing issues facing Hawaiian communities today. Visit OHA's Facebook to view the panels.

At the Civic Center, OHA's information table greeted eager craft fair shoppers with reusable bags and provided valuable resources designed to spread awareness about OHA's initiatives. This approach

to outreach ensured that OHA's message reached festival attendees from all walks of life.

On the Merrie Monarch stage, OHA proudly awarded the Hawaiian Language Award to the new Miss Aloha Hula Ka'ōnohikaumakaakeawe Kananiokēakua Holokai Lopes. From Ka Lā 'Ōnohi Mai O Ha'eha'e led by her parents, Kumu Hula Tracie and Keawe Lopes, Lopes was provided with a \$1,000 prize from OHA for her perfect score in 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

A highlight of OHA's presence was its participation in the Merrie Monarch Royal Parade. For the first time, OHA entered a float into the parade. This was made possible by a wonderful partnership that the organization formed with Kua o Ka Lā Public Charter School who worked with their haumāna to envision the float design to honor mauka to makai connections. OHA trustees rode the stunning float that captivated thousands of spectators lining the parade route, showcasing the beauty

and resilience of Hawaiian culture.

Simultaneously, OHA's media campaign amplified its message to audiences far and wide. From traditional press releases to digital advertising and sponsorships of the tv broadcasts and live streams, OHA helped to make the hula festival accessible to viewers around the world with 950,681 tuning in to the English livestream and more than 92,000 views for the new 'Ōlelo Hawai'i live stream.

The success of OHA's outreach efforts at the 61st Merrie Monarch Hula Festival was palpable. Attendees, community members, and media partners alike lauded OHA for its impactful presence and meaningful contributions to the celebration of Hawaiian culture. As the festival drew to a close, OHA's legacy of engagement and advocacy continued to resonate, leaving a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of experiencing its enriching initiatives. ■



The OHA Trustees, our 'ohana, and staff felt privileged to join the Merrie Monarch Festival Royal Parade alongside our valued community partner, Kua o Ka Lā Public Charter School. - Photo: Alice Malepeai Silbanuz



Kumu Nalu Andrade with an appreciative group of students at the 'ohe kapala class. - Photo: Alice Malepeai Silbanuz



Panelists from the OHA Programs gathered together after their talks at the Merrie Monarch Festival in Hilo. - Photo: Alice Malepeai Silbanuz



Lauhala Weaving workshop participants proudly display their newly made fans. - Courtesy Photo

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs Selects Hailama Farden as Senior Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs

By Ed Kalama

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has selected veteran educator and Native Hawaiian community leader Hailama Farden to be OHA's Senior Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs.

The newly created position is responsible for creating recommendations and institutionalizing OHA's culture ensuring that a Hawaiian worldview and practices are incorporated into all lines of business.

Farden comes to the agency after a long career at Kamehameha Schools, where he held the title of Community Strategist, Hawaiian Ethos: Civic Leadership and Ho'omana Advocacy with the Strategies and Transformation Group. He previously served the institution as a regional director for Community Engagement and Resources and is a former KS Kapālama vice principal and Hawaiian language instructor as well.

"We are fortunate to have Hailama Farden as part of our 'ohana as he embraces this new and vital leadership role. He will be weaving our rich tapestry of Hawaiian culture, history and values into

the very fabric of OHA's mission and operations by ensuring that a Hawaiian worldview and practices are meticulously integrated into every facet of the organization," said OHA Ka Pouhana/CEO Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira. "His role is a cornerstone in our collective journey towards a future where our cultural identity is not only acknowledged but practiced and normalized throughout the agency and more broadly across our pae 'āina, forming the foundation upon which we continue to build and thrive as a people."

Farden said it is a "great privilege" after serving nearly 32 years at Kamehameha Schools to be given the opportunity to continue to serve the Native Hawaiian community.

"As my role denotes, the approaches – both internally and externally – of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs will implore our well-instilled sense of kuana'ike Hawai'i; the mores and behaviors so familiar to our kūpuna, but perhaps less-applied today," Farden said. "I look forward to engaging with our fellow Native Hawaiian serving organizations to amplify the engagement and support of our lāhui through unified efforts among the organizations."

Farden has an impressive resume of serving the Native Hawaiian community. He is a former president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and a former Hawaiian Civic Club Member of the Year. He is a former president of the 'Ahahui 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, the Hawaiian language teacher's professional organization, and in 2018 he was designated a Living Treasure of Hawai'i by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i. Farden currently serves as a trustee with both the Hawaiian Mission Houses Society and the Hawaiian Historical Society, where he is the immediate past president. He also serves as kahu for the Wai'anae Protestant Church, where he is one of the longest serving ministers in the organization's history.

A graduate of Kamehameha Schools, Farden holds a master's degree in education in curriculum and instruction from the University of Phoenix and a BA in Hawaiian studies from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

OHA continues to hire qualified candidates to support its mission to improve the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians. To view job vacancies, visit www.oha.org/jobs. ■



Hailama Farden has an impressive resume of service to the Hawaiian community. - Courtesy Photo

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Lāhui*

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Uniting the Pacific: A Historic Meeting of Leaders at FestPAC

By Cedric Duarte

This June, a 19th-century effort to build a coalition among Pacific Island communities will take a monumental leap forward at the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts in Hawai'i (FestPAC).

Building political relationships with Pacific Island nations began under Kamehameha III, and by the time of Kamehameha V, the Hawaiian Kingdom monarchy had established diplomatic relationships throughout Polynesia. King Kalākaua furthered this diplomacy during his reign and sought to secure the kingdom's leadership position among Asian and Pacific Island nations following his 1881 worldwide voyage.

At its diplomatic height in 1887, the Hawaiian Kingdom government had 103 embassies and posts worldwide, including several throughout the Pacific.

Sāmoa's King Malietoa Laupepa signed a Treaty of Confederacy with Hawai'i in February 1887, and Kalākaua's administration was well on its way to building a Polynesian Confederacy. However, a civil war in Sāmoa and the forced signing of Hawai'i's Bayonet Constitution stunted Kalākaua's vision of a politically unified region.

Ultimately, Hawai'i drifted away from the monarchy's political relationships in the Pacific.

Fast-forward to 2024, and an inaugural Pacific Traditional Leaders Forum, a key component of FestPAC, will convene. This forum, which brings together traditional leaders from across the Pacific, aims to foster dialogue, strengthen relationships, and address shared challenges.

The June summit was planned at a Traditional Leaders Talanoa in Fiji this past February. A "Talanoa" is a Pacific Island form of dialogue that brings people together to share opposing views without any predetermined expectations for agreement.

Hosted by the Paramount Chief of the Kubuna Confederacy of the island of Bau in Fiji, Turaga na Vunivalu na Tui Kaba, Ratu Epenisa Cakobau, the Traditional Leaders Talanoa welcomed a diverse group of attendees. These included Māori King Tūheitia Potatau Te Wherowhero VII, Sāmoa's Tui Ātua Tupua Tamasese Tupuola Tufuga Efi, and representatives from the Hawai'i delegation, FestPAC Commission Chair Kalani Kalani Ka'anā'anā, FestPAC Festival Director Aaron Salā, and Board Chair Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

The House of Kawānanakoa was to be represented by its senior member, Prince David Kaumuali'i Kawānanakoa. Prince Kawānanakoa asked Hailama Farden, who often serves as a representative for the Royal family, to accompany him. In April, Farden began a new role at

OHA as the senior director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs.

"The many royal families of the Pacific have engaged with the Kawānanakoas for generations; and recognize their ali'i lineage. The beauty, as was supported in Fiji, is that the same respect for the current generation of the 'ohana Kawānanakoa continues to be acknowledged by the fellow traditional ali'i lines of the Pacific." Farden said. "An important part of re-establishing Hawai'i's place at the table is the reconnecting of lines and genealogy. Another part is acknowledging that while traditional leaders have a meaningful voice in Pacific Island communities, organizations like OHA have the resources and responsibility to be engaged in policymaking decisions. This balance will be critical to the success of future meetings."

The Talanoa in Fiji set the agenda items for the upcoming Forum in Hawai'i, including defining objectives, roles, protocols, and a long-term commitment to ongoing meetings.

The forum's agenda will focus on the shared challenges Pacific Island nations face, including sustainable economies, Indigenous rights, and the growing diaspora of Pacific Island peoples. However, the most critical issue

SEE FESTPAC ON PAGE 7



Palauan performers stand ready at the 12th FestPAC in Guam in 2016 while flags from other Pacific Island nations fly in the background. - Photo: Eric Chang



Traditional Cook Island dancer at the 12th FestPAC in Guam in 2016. - Photo: Steve Hardy

LEGACY

Continued from page 6

that demands immediate attention is climate change and adaptation, a challenge that affects us all.

Every Pacific Island nation attending Fest-PAC is on the front line of the climate crisis. From rising sea levels that threaten their very existence to extreme weather events that disrupt their economies and livelihoods, climate change significantly impacts all the people of Oceania.

In February, OHA authorized \$1.5 million to assist with FestPAC activities, including the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, an Ecumenical Service, and the Pacific Traditional Leaders Forum.

“The forum re-establishes the pilina between the Pacific nations and Hawai‘i. OHA has a tremendous opportunity to re-engage in a much more meaningful and significant way at an international level,” said Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira, Office of Hawaiian Affairs Ka Pouhana/CEO. “By continuing the momentum from the Talanoa in Fiji to FestPAC here in Hawai‘i, we will start to coalesce a geopolitical force through collective advocacy and

strategic action. When we come together in solidarity at a global level, we now have a powerful voice that cannot be ignored.”

“The historic nature of the Talanoa at Fest-PAC cannot be overstated. Fiji honored that Kalākaua saw the vision to create a federation and decided that now was the time to bring leaders together. The descendants of those leaders who were going to talk in the 19th century will now meet. Never in history has this happened. From traditional chiefs to the ones the world recognizes as kings to the elected officials. They are all gathering at Fest-PAC. Think about the gravity of that.” ■

Cedric R. Duarte is a Honolulu-based communications professional who specializes in the Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander community. Over a 25-year span, he has held several key positions in media and is currently the managing partner of The Kālaïmoku Group, a Native Hawaiian-Owned SBA 8(a) Certified communications and marketing firm. He resides in Ewa Beach with his wife and two daughters.



Members of Naygayiw Gigi perform a Saibai Island dance from the Torres Strait at the 12th FestPAC in Guam, 2016. - Photo: Eric Chang



Taiwanese delegation at the 12th FestPAC in Guam in 2016. - Photo: Eric Chang



Growing ‘ōiwi leaders

Nurtured and encouraged by kumu, keiki grow and blossom, learning to embrace their passions and potential. We celebrate the commitment kumu have to helping haumāna thrive during this month of teacher appreciation and all year round. Hānai i ke keiki, ola ka lāhui. Nurture the child and the lāhui thrives.



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On April 10, 2024, the day of the launch of OHA's Kanaaho Grant for Lahaina & Kula, beneficiaries visit the OHA Maui Office for kōkua with submitting their applications for disaster aid. - Photos: Joshua Koh

OHA's Kanaaho Grants Provide Direct Support to Beneficiaries

Kanaaho Grants support Maui's recovery journey

By Niniau Kawaihae

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) launched the OHA Kanaaho Grant last month, April 10, to provide critical support to homeowners and renters in the wildfire impact zones of Lahaina and Kula. The grant assists those adversely affected by the Aug. 8, 2023, Maui wildfires, offering much-needed relief during these challenging times. In Hawaiian, kanaaho translates to a feeling of relief after a struggle.

The application period opened on April 10, 2024, at the OHA Maui Office and online. Approximately 60 individuals came in person and another 200-plus applications were submitted online.

"We understand the significant challenges faced by our community members in Lahaina and Kula as they recover from the impacts of wildfires," said OHA Chair and Maui Trustee Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey. "The OHA Kanaaho Grant is designed to provide direct support to our beneficiaries in their recovery journey."

Wildfire survivors who resided in the wildfire impact zones are advised to collect their documentation to streamline their application process. Applicants may apply online at www.oha.org/kanaahogrant or in person at any of the OHA offices across the pae 'āina through Oct. 10, 2024.

OHA's Kanaaho Grants are distributed to individual renters/homeowners who meet all the eligibility criteria.

The grant awards a one-time \$9,000 grant to eligible homeowners who experienced severely damaged or destroyed residence as per the County of Maui and FEMA; a one-time \$4,000 grant will be awarded to eligible renters who experienced the loss or severe damage to their rental unit. Grant funds are intended to improve the economic stability of impacted Native Hawaiians, empowering each beneficiary to determine their own greatest need and help meet that need in the face of disaster.

On Sept. 6, 2023, the OHA Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve the distribution of \$5 million in emergency disaster relief funds to kōkua Native Hawaiian beneficiaries affected by the fires on Maui. Trustees have been working in cooperation with Native Hawaiian leaders on Maui to assess needs to inform the thoughtful deployment of funds to provide the largest impact to recovery efforts. The OHA Kanaaho Grant represents the first distribution of relief funds from OHA.

The \$5 million commitment of funds is one of many actions OHA has taken to provide support to Maui wildfire victims. Other initiatives OHA has undertaken to kōkua include the distribution of \$2 million in housing vouchers and gift cards with the charitable nonprofit Global Empowerment Mission. OHA also donated use of its warehouse in Hakuone to organize, store and deploy supplies to Maui as needed, and raised more than \$100,000 with community partners via the Wiwo'ole Maui Benefit Concert.

For more information on the OHA Kanaaho Grant and OHA's other Maui wildfire relief efforts, please visit: www.oha.org/mauirelief. ■



Kaliko Santos of OHA's Kauai Office and OHA Communications Director Alice Silbanuz were a part of OHA's team deployed to Maui to provide kōkua to wildfire survivors at the Maui Office. Community Engagement Director Niniau Kawaihae also coordinated outreach to beneficiaries at the Disaster Recovery Center in Lahaina and in the community.

Moloka'i Auto Parts Keeps the Friendly Isle on the Move

By Nathan Hokama

Like most families in Hawai'i, Lani and Duane Ozaki work tirelessly to meet the high cost of living and plan for the future of their children. It's especially hard on Moloka'i, where essentials for everyday living typically cost more.

But the Ozaki couple takes it all in stride, seeming to effortlessly hold full-time jobs in addition to running Moloka'i Auto Parts, a thriving, diversified store in the charming, old-Hawai'i town of Kaunakakai where time — and the ills of modernization — have graciously forgotten. Thanks to their hard work, commitment to caring for the community, and a loan from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund, the business is thriving and providing a steady revenue stream for their family.

Lani is a co-lessee of Department of Hawaiian Home Lands property in Ho'olehua, near the Moloka'i Airport, which was passed on from her grandmother, but the Ozakis take nothing for granted. Duane is a licensed auto mechanic who teaches at the Kamehameha Schools Kapālama campus on O'ahu during the weekdays and returns to Moloka'i on weekends to tend to the business. Lani works as a health coordinator with 'Ohana Health Plan, part of Centene, one of the largest managed care plans in the nation, making home visits to ensure vulnerable Moloka'i residents have access to home health services.

Seeing a Need

Although everyone on the island works together, in 2019 Duane saw a need to provide the approximately 7,000 Moloka'i residents with more options to obtain auto parts. He approached Carquest Pacific to request support to open an independently owned and operated store. Carquest has stores across the United States and previously had a store on Moloka'i. Carquest Pacific saw the great potential for the island. They had full faith in the Ozakis.

"At first, I had reservations about starting this new venture," Lani recalled. "I had questions about our ability to meet expenses. Duane is the risk-taker!"

It turned out to be the right move.

"Our business has allowed us to meet amazing people, like those at Carquest," she said, "and today, if we need a part right away, we can also order it from the Carquest on Nimitz Highway on O'ahu and it will arrive via UPS the next day, or by barge the following Monday."

The business got off to a great start, but the pandemic occurred, and businesses were in a lock-down mode that caused sales to drop significantly. Fortunately, Moloka'i Auto Parts had developed its website with online ordering capabilities. Customers were able to place orders online and although businesses had to close their doors, the Ozakis could text or call customers when their orders were ready for pick up. This helped to mitigate the impact of the decline in sales.

Diversifying Product Lines

The pandemic showed the importance of diversifying their product offerings beyond car parts. Moloka'i Auto Parts also sells high-quality lawn and garden equipment as a Golden Eagle dealer. They offer products from reputable brands such as Echo, Shindaiwa, Bear Cat and Billy Goat. Generators, chain saws, pressure washers, blowers and trimmers are sold at the store. Larger equipment like chippers, chipper/shredders, aerators, and lawn vacuums can be ordered.

During the pandemic, Moloka'i Auto Parts added another line of business and became a MOBI authorized

partner. This allows the store to activate cellular devices with low-cost cellular plans that start at under \$10. MOBI utilizes the Verizon platform to ensure customers have great cellular reception. Cellular devices are also sold at Moloka'i Auto Parts.

After the pandemic, the world experienced supply chain challenges and Moloka'i Auto Parts was no different. There was limited merchandise to sell.

A Flourishing Business

Today, however, things are looking up. The loan from OHA helped Moloka'i Auto Parts to consolidate expenses at an "amazing rate" and this has improved cash flow for the business.

Moloka'i Auto Parts now has over 200 business accounts and the Ozakis continue to be grateful for the support of customers and businesses in the community.

Customers can place orders online, but Lani says those on Moloka'i still prefer to come in person to pick up their merchandise because they like the face-to-face interaction and enjoy "talking story."

The store has three employees, and an independent contractor who does the marketing, website, and social media for the business. The contractor is their daughter Tehya, who graduated from the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu and now works as an accountant in Nebraska.

The Ozakis' two sons Hāloa, 13, and Kauluokalā, 8, also help with the business, and although every waking moment is accounted for, they make time for their sons' sports games and spend time together as a family at the beach.

Lani says her family will continue to work hard, holding to the values that were taught to her — kuleana, the desire to take their responsibilities seriously and ensure they do what they say they will do; and mālama — the need to take care of the people who take care of them.

"Without the people here, we would not be able to make this work," Lani said.

Background on Lani Ozaki

Lani was born and raised on Moloka'i and received her undergraduate degree in psychology and master's degree in counseling psychology, both from Chaminade University of Honolulu. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist. Lani met Duane when she was in college, working at Duane's father's auto shop in Kalihi. Lani worked for Queen Lili'uokalani Trust for nine years before joining 'Ohana Health Plan. And the rest is history.

Nathan Hokama, APR, is the principal of Strategic Communication Solutions, LLC, which has provided communications consulting for Hawai'i businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations since 2004. He previously served as corporate communications manager for Tesoro Hawai'i (now Par Hawai'i) and American Savings Bank, a subsidiary of Hawaiian Electric Industries.



Lani Ozaki, far right, with Moloka'i Auto Parts team members Patricia and JR when they received the American Savings Bank FISERV grant award. - Courtesy Photo



A view of the interior of the store upon entering the front door. - Courtesy Photo

Ho'oulu Lāhui
STRENGTHENING OUR LĀHUI



Iopa Maunakea (far right) and his Men of PA A executive team at the Hilo County Annual Easter Egg Hunt where they provided kōkua for the event. - Courtesy Photo



Kupuna Maunakea's seminal step-by-step book on preparation and simple weaving on lauhala. Published in 1994, this book is valuable to haumana who know the basics of weaving and want to learn how to process raw material. From Nā Mea Hawaii's Facebook page. Katherine Maunakea is Iopa Maunakea's grandmother. - Photo: Nā Mea Hawaii



Iopa Maunakea with his good friend, Hawaii Island Mayor Mitch Roth.

A Legacy of Service

Executive Director Iopa Maunakea has helped hundreds of men turn their lives around through his community nonprofit Men of PA'A

By Ed Kalama

It was 2018, and after a two-year jail sentence and four months in drug rehab, Carlos Bellotto moved into a clean and sober house. “I was planning on running the day I was released from jail. I was planning on walking away, just like I always did,” Bellotto said. A man came up to him, and scolded Bellotto about smoking a cigarette. “I thought ‘Who the hell is this guy? Who is he to tell me where to smoke a cigarette?’ Little did I know, it was Iopa Maunakea. I didn’t know who he was at the time. I didn’t know he was going to be the man who helped to save my life.” Bellotto is just one of some 300 men who have gone through Maunakea’s Men of PA’A (Positive Action Alliance) program since he founded the commu-

nity nonprofit located in Hilo in 2006. The organization’s mission is to empower and enable Kānaka Maoli – particularly Native Hawaiian men – who seek recovery, restoration, and reconciliation with themselves, their ‘ohana and the community. That’s accomplished through a process they call Ho’ōkanaka, which is a culturally rooted and communally relevant process of personal change activated by servant leadership. Most men entering the program have either been released from drug treatment, are on furlough from jail, or are in need of community service hours. They stay with Maunakea anywhere from six months to a year maximum, and take on service projects like setting and cleaning up for musical, athletic, church or political events, cleaning yards, picking up rubbish, and participating in major environmental clean-ups. The organization also has its own farm, complete with an imu. “Most of our guys are coming from the justice system, they are sending them to us because they understand that we have a good recidivism record where a lot of our guys don’t go back into the bad things, but they continue doing good things. A lot of them get good jobs, a lot get their families back,

and after a while, they even get their self-dignity back,” Maunakea said. By participating in these service projects, the men polish their work habits and raise their self-esteem by helping the community. “What it does for the guys is, it gives them a sense of pride back. And once they start to get that pride back, they start to feel good about themselves and it’s like one drop after another and it starts to grow and then they are wanting to do more,” Maunakea added. Bellotto said he is a proud and grateful member of the Men of PA’A. After living in the clean and sober house run by Maunakea’s brother Kapoli, Bellotto became a house manager, and in 2022 was hired by Maunakea to work on the farm helping to lead ‘āina-based recovery and ‘āina-based stewardship efforts. He has since added community outreach services to his duties, which still include facilitating clients in their sober house. “The influence Iopa Maunakea has had on my life has been tremendous,” Bellotto said. “He’s shown me that there is another way to live life without the use of any mind-altering substanc-

SEE LEGACY ON PAGE 7

LEGACY

Continued from page 6

es. That there is no such thing as no can, and you can do anything you put your mind to.

"He has been there for me from the day I met him. He walked me through the death of my mom, dad and grandma, something I could have never done on my own. He's put me back in touch with my culture, and he's taught me that being of service to the community is the key to living a happy and successful life."

Over the years, Maunakea has developed personal relationships with officials from drug court, with parole and probation officers, with local judges and he is even good friends with the mayor of Hawai'i Island.

"I've had the honor and privilege to work alongside Iopa and the Men of PA'A for over two decades as a prosecutor and now mayor," said Hawai'i Island Mayor Mitch Roth.

"What continues to amaze me is just how effective his program is because it's more than a program – it's an 'ohana. The values that Iopa strives to instill in these men are those of trust, understanding, and responsibility to our community. Because of those values and his genuine aloha for this place and our people, Hawai'i Island is a better place."

Maunakea – whose sister is Kukui Maunakea-Forth, co-founder and executive director of the ingenious MA'O Farms program on O'ahu, comes from good stock. His grandmother was renowned kupuna Katherine Kamalukukui Maunakea, a community educator, composer, author and cultural specialist considered an expert in lā'au lapa'au and lau-hala weaving.

He is quick to credit his grandmother for being a major influence in his life, and for teaching him na mea Hawai'i, or all things Hawaiian.

"Everybody needs a second chance," Maunakea said. "It aligns with our kūpuna 'ike and it's about mālama pono. It's the right thing to do. It is who we are as kānaka. If we aren't giving everyone a second chance, then I'm not practicing what I was taught by my kupuna. It's really important for me to be true to myself, and to my own people."

Relentlessly positive and passionate, Maunakea has never been trained as a professional counselor.

"But I consider myself a professional in the recovery field only because, I have 30



Members of the Bruddah Kuz Youth Jamm Steering Committee, an event Iopa Maunakea – who is also a talented musician – has put on for 15 years. - Courtesy Photo

years of recovery myself. I've spent half of my life staying sober and working a 12-step program as well."

Born and raised in Nānākuli, Maunakea admittedly did "some bad stuff" and ended up doing time in prison before going on to a successful career in construction, retiring as a general superintendent with Kiewit Construction.

"I told myself I wanted to do something different. I'm gonna make some changes, and I started to realize that the work that I do now is really what I wanted to do prior to coming out of the system," he said.

"We're the very ones who can work with these men, because we're the ones that came from that life. We were the ones robbing, stealing, cheating and lying and all of that. It's an ideal alignment where one brother who came from that space, is now helping another brother who is in that space."

"There's a lot of 'ike that brother can share, and the beautiful part about that is this work is not only impacting the people who are in recovery, but it's impacting the greater community at large as well."

The Men of PA'A currently have two grants from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

A \$100,000 Community Grant supports their Imu Mea Ai project, which helps the men connect to their culture and 'āina. Tourists are brought to the farm, they help to prepare food for the imu, and while the food is cooked they are given area sightseeing tours

before returning for dinner. A second \$15,000 Kāko'o Grant assists the organization with bookkeeping, human resources, insurance, accounting, and grant writing services.

"I thought that was really smart on OHA's part," Maunakea said. "I've seen a lot of nonprofits here in Puna that are struggling on the administrative end. I was lucky to put in for that grant for all those different services, the main one being the third-party HR services, because I didn't know how to do that. Now it's easy, they do our taxes and everything, and we're really starting to figure this thing out."

Maunakea is expecting to add three positions to his current staff of five by the end of the year.

"Because of the grants we received from OHA, we were able to leverage other grants and leverage other initiatives," Maunakea said. "We have one house now, but we're going to get another one, and another one after that. We're excited."

"What it really is, is love. It's aloha. It really is aloha. When you do things from

aloha, you get 20 times that back. People think it's work, and we work because we sweat, but people don't realize that we have fun at the same time. And it's so rewarding because it just ensures our own recovery too."

Ask Maunakea what made him turn his own life around, and he mentions his family legacy.

"I was getting into trouble, and I was losing my mind. The greatest thing that made me stop was really my grandmother. She was very sick, and I was out there doing this kolohe thing," he said.

"I could see her in my mind's eye, and I could hear her just crying for me. She was saying 'You can have more than what you have right now. You have all this potential,' and she was crying because she saw me just putting that potential down."

Maunakea's grandmother passed just before Christmas in 1993. He got clean the next month. She never lived to see him have a successful construction career or start a community nonprofit that has helped hundreds of people.

"Right now, I always hear her say maika'i, and I feel like she's pulling my ear," he said. "Not only because I was hard head, but pulling the ear is about love, it's about aloha. She's letting me know that everything is good and all right. I know she's definitely the one where I get my drive and passion from."

"This work is really about living our 'ohana legacy. It's not just about helping people; this is a legacy of service. It's our Maunakea legacy that I'm really all about."

"I'm so glad that I did stop, because in these last 30 years, I know that I've helped a lot of people not only to stay healthy, but to stay clean and sober. And I know that, the Men of PA'A, we are impacting our community." ■

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A Hub for All Things Moloka'i

By Amy Schwab

Moloka'i, often referred to as the "Friendly Isle," is not only known for its breathtaking landscapes and strong sense of community but also for its thriving entrepreneurial spirit deeply rooted in Hawaiian culture and values. Despite the challenges of operating a business on an island with a population of just under 7,500, Moloka'i's innovative and resilient entrepreneurs have found ways to flourish by embracing their cultural heritage and collaborating with one another.

At the heart of Moloka'i's entrepreneurial ecosystem is the concept of kūpa'a, commitment. This value is exemplified by the island's business owners who remain dedicated to their craft and their community, even in the face of adversity. By working together and supporting one another, these entrepreneurs have created a thriving network of locally owned businesses that not only provide unique products and services but also contribute to the island's economic sustainability.

One shining example of Moloka'i's entrepreneurial spirit is All Things Molokai, a collective of local artisans and makers who have come together to showcase their talents and share their creations with the world. Founded by Wailani Tanaka, a born and raised Molokai girl from Mana'e, All Things Molokai has become a hub for locally crafted products, including apparel, jewelry, home goods and more. The store is located in the heart of Kaunakakai town.

Tanaka's journey as an entrepreneur is deeply connected to her Hawaiian roots and upbringing. Growing up, she was immersed in the practice of making mea Hawai'i, or Hawaiian things, for various cultural events and celebrations, such as hula performances, May Day festivities, Makahiki ceremonies, and lū'au. Through these experiences, Tanaka not only learned valuable skills but also witnessed the hard work and dedication of her parents and community members, who tirelessly contributed to the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture.

"Creating this collective space for our hui of Moloka'i makers has really been a game-changer for our island's entrepreneurial spirit and economy," Tanaka shared. "When I first moved home over 10 years ago, I personally couldn't find many Moloka'i-made products in our town's shops, yet there were so many of my hoa (friends)

and anake (aunties) creating beautiful products at home."

Recognizing the need for a platform to showcase these talented artisans, Tanaka established All Things Molokai, focusing on providing a home for locally made products created by the island's kupa'aina, people of the land. The response was overwhelming, with an incredible array of Moloka'i-made items flowing into the store within the first year.

The success of All Things Molokai can be attributed to the strong sense of laulima, cooperation, that is deeply ingrained in Hawaiian culture. By collaborating and

and wives, strangers that became co-makers, so many different paths of life creating for our one space, and it is that uniqueness in each one of us that brings the vibe of All Things Molokai to life."

The entrepreneurial spirit on Moloka'i is not only driven by the desire to create and sell products but also by a deep sense of aloha 'āina, or love for the land. Many of the island's businesses prioritize sustainability and the use of locally sourced materials, ensuring that their practices align with the values of environmental stewardship and cultural preservation. This connection to the land and the concept of mālama,

or to care for, is evident in the way Moloka'i's entrepreneurs approach their businesses. From utilizing sustainable production methods to minimizing waste and maximizing resources, these business owners demonstrate a deep respect for their island home and a commitment to preserving it for future generations.

In addition to their environmental consciousness, Moloka'i's entrepreneurs also prioritize the wellbeing of their community. The success of businesses like All Things Molokai not only benefits the individual artisans and makers but also strengthens the island's economy by keeping money circulating within the community.

"And the beauty of it all is all that revenue generated goes right back into our community," Tanaka emphasized. "Just like the ahupua'a system of old, we are all interdependent of each other to make our little shop continue to go and grow and know that we are all stronger together than we are apart."

This spirit of lōkahi, unity, is the driving force behind Moloka'i's thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem. By working together, leveraging their unique skills and talents,

and staying true to their Hawaiian values, these business owners have created a model for sustainable, community-driven entrepreneurship that can inspire other small communities around the world.

In the words of Tanaka, "We hope to inspire the next generation so when they look around and see all of us doing what we love to do and in the place that we call home, they will hopefully want to do the same thing, but in their own way rooted in all of us and this place we all call home, Moloka'i!" ■



Owner, Wailani Tanaka and partner David Mireles with their son JD. - Courtesy Photo



Moloka'i Keiki proud to wear their island pride. - Courtesy: Arianna Patterson



Ola Keanini featuring Lanakila Designs on shirt and hat. Courtesy: Lace Nartatez

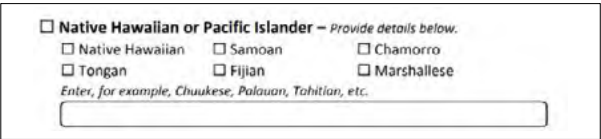
supporting one another, the collective's artists and makers have been able to thrive, even without the burden of high operational costs associated with running individual brick-and-mortar stores.

"Our shop allows our homemakers to focus on their creative hands and minds, without the huge operational expenses of a brick and mortar," Tanaka explained. "It is just so awesome to see the Moloka'i makers that have been doing it for over 40 years and those just blooming this year! We have mothers and daughter duos and sometimes, three generations deep, friends, husbands

Revised Standards for Race and Ethnicity Data Collection a Step Forward for NHPI Communities

By OHA Staff

After almost 30 years, the federal minimum standards for collecting data on race and ethnicity have been updated. The required race categories have been expanded to include six Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) checkboxes for data collection – Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian and Marshallese.



☐ **Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander** – Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian	<input type="checkbox"/> Samoan	<input type="checkbox"/> Chamorro
<input type="checkbox"/> Tongan	<input type="checkbox"/> Fijian	<input type="checkbox"/> Marshallese

Enter, for example, Chuukese, Palauan, Tahitian, etc.

Figure 1. New minimum categories for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander race and ethnicity

This revision, released on March 29, is a significant development reminiscent of the historic addition of the NHPI category to the minimum standard in 1997 after an outpouring of community advocacy.

The Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Response, Recovery & Resilience Team (NHPI 3R) was among many agencies who provided detailed recommendations last year to the White House’s Office of Management and

Budget (OMB), the agency tasked with determining the minimum set of categories that all federal agencies must use when collecting information on race and ethnicity.

The new standards directly address two critical priorities for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) data: using more detailed categories to support greater data disaggregation and provided guidance that can ensure that all NHPI community members are included in reported statistics.

According to Dr. Joseph Keawe’aimoku Kaholokula, chair of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine and NHPI 3R co-chair, “This is an important step toward improving the standardization and collection of more detailed Pacific Islander data, which will allow for better characterization of our diverse Pacific Islander groups to address health disparities and ensure resources get to those communities that need them the most.”

While these new standards are a significant improvement, it’s just a start to collecting data that will report a more accurate representation of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. NHPI 3R recommends the OMB encourage agencies to go beyond these standards by including additional checkboxes and a write-in option whenever feasible.

Tellie Matagi, director of Ka Pūnana at Papa Ola Lōkahi and the NHPI 3R Pacific Islander community lead, emphasized that providing more detailed options will help government employees gather more thorough data

and ensure that the community is accurately represented.

“When you can identify a person’s specific race and/or ethnicity,” Matagi explained, “you gain a better understanding of their cultural background, which allows for the development of solutions tailored to the community’s needs.”

Furthermore, the “alone or combination” approach to reporting multiracial data should become the norm in Hawai’i where more than one in four individuals identify with two or more races and/or ethnicities. This method of reporting data can ensure that individuals with complex racial and ethnic backgrounds are fully represented.

NHPI 3R advocates for the continued improvement of data collection practices for NHPI communities and recommends local agencies adopt and implement these new standards in Hawai’i quickly. ■

Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Response, Recovery, and Resilience (NHPI 3R) convened by Papa Ola Lōkahi, is a coalition of more than 60 agencies and organizations focused on leveraging partnerships and collective strengths to best respond to health crises. They are committed to collecting, analyzing, and reporting accurate and relevant data & information; to identifying and lending support to initiatives across the Hawaiian Islands working to address the health and wellbeing among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders; and to unifying to establish a presence in the decision-making processes and policies that impact our communities. www.NHPI3R.net

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THE VOICES OF OUR KŪPUNA ECHO THROUGH US

By Kelli Soileau

"We would not be here without our kupuna who came before us, it is their iwi that created our foundation, our 'āina."

– Keomailani Hanapī Hirata,
keiki o ka 'āina

Last year, iwi kūpuna, human ancestral remains, eroding out of the ground on Moloka'i were found along a beach path. Erosion, sea level rise, development, and human traffic are contributors to many of the iwi that have been surfacing in the past few years. Exposed iwi kūpuna need to be preserved in place, if possible. However, erosion makes it difficult and sometimes impossible to do that.

"We, the Kupa'āinas on Moloka'i, we have a hui that has to mālama our kūpuna that come up on our island," said Keomailani Hanapī Hirata, a keiki o ka 'āina of East Moloka'i who can trace her family genealogy back to time immemorial.

Growing up in the late 1980s, Hirata saw her parents and other families caring for iwi kūpuna.

"Our kuleana lands became Molokai's unofficial repository for our tūtū and kūpuna that we're being dug up," she said. "We had to learn cultural protocols at a young age to mālama the kūpuna and [know] what we can and cannot do on our own 'āina."

But it was only in 2021 that she agreed to apply to the Moloka'i Island Burial Council (MIBC). Because of the large number of open cases, she was asked to join the council.

Growing up she learned to balance the 'eha, or pain; the kaumaha, or grief; and spiritual unrest that comes with the kuleana of protecting and preserving the rest for iwi kupuna in modern times.

"This kuleana cannot be taught," Hirata shared. "It's the voices of our kupuna that echo through us, that choose us and guide us."

AHUPUA'A 'O MAPULEHU

One case in particular has been ongoing for over 33 years. "That case has not been able to be mihi [resolved] yet," she said in her testimony to the Senate Hawaiian Affairs and Energy,

Economic Development and Tourism Committees in February this year.

In the early 1990s, a discovery of human skeletal remains was uncovered during a development phase of land clearing, with a bulldozer on the parcel of land formally known as the Mapulehu Glass House.

According to the testimony of Haleloha Ayau at the MIBC meeting for the Burial Sites Working Group, the archaeologist at that time estimated the iwi of 60 individuals had been unearthed. The bulldozed iwi were crushed and scattered over four acres. The landowner was prosecuted and fined for this desecration.

Since then, the land has been sold multiple times for various proposed developments. Each endeavor would bring more iwi kūpuna into the light.

Today, the land at Mapulehu is currently in the hands of Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen's office. Hirata noted positively that with the support of Mayor Bissen and councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez the county recently "expensed funds ... to help put our tūtū and kūpunas to rest, come up with a burial management plan, hire consultants to make it happen and work with the recognized descendants."

RECENT EROSION

The iwi recently found on a beach path was reported to police. The landowner allowed the burial council members to conduct a ceremony and keep the iwi secure on site while the legal processes are followed. The law states the iwi of a single individual that arise on a Neighbor Island are to be processed within two working days.

The process entails numerous steps and individuals to the scene: identify the age of the iwi by a coroner, and archaeologist; a burial sites specialist must gather information such as oral histories to document and determine a plan to work with the burial councils; as well as notify OHA and other relevant organizations, especially if the iwi need to be removed from the location.

After a week of waiting for State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), Hirata and community members worked with the landowner to kanu, or bury, the iwi in a more protected and secure location on the property.



La'a Poepoe, Keomailani Hanapī Hirata and Kawehi Soares, the most recent members of the Moloka'i Island Burial Council. - Courtesy Photo

"On the island of Moloka'i we get no support from the State Historic Preservation Division. They never come here," Hirata said. "We have multiple open cases of inadvertent discoveries, disturbances, and some intentional desecrations."

A lot of the cases that remain open are because they have police reports attached to them. Police are first on the scene, then Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers attend to the scene and submit their report to SHPD to start their process.

Every other island has had some type of staff member from SHPD but Moloka'i has none. The law says the state is to come up with a burial management and treatment plan when iwi are inadvertently discovered. In the case of the iwi arising due to erosion a plan must be made and that requires SHPD, archaeologists or burial sites specialists to review the area.

In reference to this breakdown of the process, Kamakana Ferreira, OHA lead compliance specialist, inquired of SHPD about how inadvertent discoveries are handled without an archaeologist or SHPD staff on island.

Kealana Phillips, SHPD burial sites specialist, stated that they rely on the council and their resources when iwi are unearthed.

"It's true we don't have an archaeologist, or any representative from SHPD on island. It's been the case, at least since I've been here at SHPD (seven years). I've always relied on the 'ike of the council members and the resources that they have at their disposal on island to kōkua when iwi become unearthed," he said.

"I have full trust in their ability to make the best decision possible to care for the iwi kūpuna. Ideally, we would fly to Moloka'i and conduct site visits (history, culture and archaeology) when we do get an inadvertent call, however that has proven challenging for a variety of reasons the last few years. Until that issue can be resolved, we will continue to work with the council and community to mālama iwi kūpuna."

"That's not our kuleana, for us Kānaka Maoli who are volunteers, to come up with [Burial Treatment] Plans. It's the state's position, but they can't get here." Hirata said. "It's a dereliction of duty."

Further clarification from Ferreira to SHPD to confirm compliance with the legal processes for dealing with Moloka'i cases, and from Ka Wai Ola newspaper, regarding this article received no response as of press time.

Hirata acknowledges that there are many fractures in the current state system. The laws and procedures need to be looked at and revised, she said, and SHPD needs staff support and resources.

"SHPD is so understaffed they cannot approve applications that come through the boards and commissions who apply for the burial council," Hirata said. The MIBC cannot make quorum to do meetings.

According to the SHPD Burial Council webpage all the MIBC member seats are vacant. Hirata said she is still in a "holdover" status and the other two members, Kawehi Soares and La'a Poepoe, have termed out.

All of them have reapplied for their seats. They've received confirmation emails saying their applications were received and now they are waiting. If they are not confirmed before the legislative session ends for this year, the council could sit dormant and vacant this year and unable to address the multiple open cases.

NA WAI E MALAMA I NĀ IWI?

"Moloka'i needs the support of the state of Hawai'i. The SHPD is supposed to be the keeper of our history, our culture and all of our records and they are failing our people," exclaimed Hirata. "Not just our people but our ancestors."

For Hirata and her hui, taking care of iwi kūpuna is a generational kuleana. "There's a lot of people like me, who are generational families who take care of and mālama this kuleana of our kūpuna," said Hirata, "and we do this with or without the support of the state."

"Our kūpuna never thought that they were going to be dug up, or climate change is going to be the way it is now, and have all of this erosion," Hirata said. "That was a different time, we live in a different time." The Kupa'aina of Moloka'i will continue to mālama nā iwi kūpuna, no matter what. ■

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) supported the creation of a Burial Sites Working Group (BSWG) to look at the systemic issues surrounding the Island Burial Councils (IBC) and the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) and propose recommendations for improvements. As of print deadline these bills have been passed conference committee and will go to final floor votes.

The report's findings came from listening sessions at IBC meetings and recommendations from expert analyses of the BSWG members who have extensive experience in matters relating to burials and burial law.

The final report was sent to the Hawai'i State Legislature in February 2023. Bills were drafted and submitted this legislative session based on the report's findings. Two bills have remained active through committees and hearings.

SB2591 Relates to Burial Sites on private property and imposes a fine on any private landowner that fails to disclose or record with the Bureau of Conveyances, or in documents used to offer real property for sale, the existence of burial or archaeological sites on their property that the landowner knew or should have known of.

This bill would fine violators for not following the current rules and processes for burials on their property.

"The frustrating part for descendants is that when it doesn't get recorded with the deed and a new landowner comes in, they might not have the same access, and they might not have the same protection obligations," said Kamakana Ferreira, lead compliance specialist at OHA.

SB3154 Relates to Archaeological Inventory Survey (AIS) recommendations. This bill clarifies that failure to comply with approved mitigation commitments, conduct an archaeological inventory survey, or comply with other administrative requirements pertaining to archaeology approved by the Department of Land and Natural Resources would result in civil and administrative violations.

Presently if the commitments to do an AIS prior to development is not done, it's not technically illegal. This bill would strengthen the administrative rules already in place and hold people accountable to them.

**8th Annual Kaua'i Steel
Guitar Festival**

May 5, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.,
Lihu'e Kaua'i

A ho'olaule'a concert at Kukui Grove Center featuring Hawaiian steel guitar masters and hands-on opportunities for festival guests. Program schedule online at www.kauaisteelguitarfestival.com.

**Royal Hawaiian Band
Performances**

May 3, 10, 17 & 24, Noon - 1:00 p.m., Honolulu, O'ahu

The Royal Hawaiian Band holds free concerts on the 'Iolani Palace Grounds. www.rhb-music.com

Bishop Museum's After Hours

May 10, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.,
Kapālama, O'ahu

View a special Nā Akua Ākea: The Vast and Numerous Deities O'ahu Exhibit, enjoy weaving, lei making, and kanikapila programs, food, plantarium shows, access to all galleries. www.Bishopmuseum.org

Kama'āina Sunday

May 12, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.,
Honolulu, O'ahu

Enjoy audio tours of 'Iolani Palace, 'ono food, lively entertainment, and shop local vendors. www.iolanipalace.org.

**NAGPRA Regulations Webinar Series:
Consultation under NAGPRA**

May 17, 7:00 a.m. HST, Notices under NAGPRA

The National NAGPRA Program is hosting a webinar series on the new regulations every month. Registration is required your first session, the meeting information is always the same. Register once and attend any session. Past sessions are recorded and available for viewing online. www.nps.gov/orgs/1335/events.htm or FB @nationalnagpra

Pu'uhoonua Makeke

May 18, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.,
Waimānalo, O'ahu

A marketplace to showcase products, services, and businesses from Pu'uhoonua across Hawai'i. Pu'uhoonua o Waimānalo (Nation of Hawai'i), 41-1300 Waikupana-ha St., in the Pavilion. FB/IG @puuhonuamakeke

Lā 'Ohana Day

May 19, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Haleiwa, O'ahu

Family Day at Waimea Valley - 50% off admission for kama'āina and military families. Learn Hawaiian history, culture, explore the botanical gardens, and swim under the waterfall. www.waimeavalley.net

**Kū I Ka Mana: Voices of
Poetic Justice**

May 19, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.,
Honolulu, O'ahu

Moderator Dr. Aaron J. Salā and panelists, Snowbird Bento, Dr. Kahikina de Silva, Kihei de Silva, and Kihei Nahale-ā, will critically analyze the nuances of coded messages evident in oral/aural texts ('ōlelo, oli, mele) that ground and protect Kanaka 'Ōiwi knowledge. This programming a part of the Kapulani Landgraf: 'Au'a exhibit at Honolulu Museum of Art from through September 29, 2024. www.myhoma.org/aua.

Ka 'Ula Wena: Oceanic Red

May 25, 2024-Jan. 12, 2025

An original Bishop Museum exhibition that explores manifestations of red in the landscapes, memory, and created expressions of Oceania. Ka 'Ula Wena originates in Hawai'i, but we reach out to embrace our cousins across the vast Moananuiākea, Pacific Ocean. www.Bishopmuseum.org ■

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Luana Alapa

Trustee for Moloka'i and Lāna'i

COMMUNITY MEETING

**Wednesday, May 15, 2024
6:30 p.m.**

*Lanikeha Community Center
2200 Farrington Avenue
Ho'olehua, HI. 96729*

OHA BOT MEETING

**Thursday, May 16, 2024
9:30 a.m.**

*Lanikeha Community Center
2200 Farrington Avenue
Ho'olehua, HI. 96729*



TUNE IN LIVE!

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Nā 'Elele o Hawai'i ma Melenikia



Na Kalani Akana, PhD

Nota: Eia ka lua o 'ekolu mo'olelo e pili ana i ka po'e o ka Pākīpika e hele ana i Hawai'i no ka South Pacific Festival of Arts (SPFA/ FestPAC) ma Iune o kēia makahiki.

I ka Makahiki 1980, ua hele huaka'i au me kekahi mau po'e 'ē a'e no Hawai'i i Papua Nū Kīnī, i 'elele no ka "Ho'olaule'a Pāheona o ka Pākīpika Hema" (FestPAC i kēia manawa). Na Keahi Allen i ho'olauka'i i ka hui 'elele o nā Hawai'i ma muli o ka hana 'ole 'ana o ka moku'āina e kākō'o a ho'opū'ulu i hui 'elele Hawai'i.

Aia 'o Nū Kīnī ma ke kā'ei Pākīpika 'o Melenikia. 'O Pīkī, Kanaky, a me Nā Mokupuni Kolomona, kekahi o nā aupuni i Melenikia. Ma Nū Kīnī, nui 'ino nā pū'ulu 'ōlelo—aia ma kahi o 839 mau 'ōlelo. 'A'ole i kana mai ka 'oko'a o nā 'ōlelo a me nā mo'omeheu o nā kākāka o Nū Kīnī. He 'ōlelo ko kēlā awāwa a he 'ōlelo 'oko'a ko kēia awāwa.

'Oiai ua kā'alo nā kūpuna loa o nā Hawai'i ma o Melenikia ma ko lākou ne'epapa 'ana i ka Pākīpika, ua loa'a kekahi mau po'e Hawai'i i ka DNA (dēnū'ā) Melenikia i loko o lākou. Ma ka nānā 'ana iā lākou Melenikia, ua nui nā mea kama'ālua a kama'āina iā mākou Hawai'i. E la'a, hana kekahi mau po'e Melenikia, e like me ka po'e Pīkī, i ke kapa. Hana kekahi i lei hulu a i lei pua. Ho'okani kekahi po'e Melenikia i ka pahu a me ke kā'ēke'ēke. Eia kekahi mau ki'i mai kēlā Ho'olaule'a 1980. ■

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

To read an English translation of the article, go to kawaiola.news



Ka pū'ulu hui hula ma Papua Nū Kīnī 1980.



Kekahi alaea no nā Kuahiwi Ki'eki'e o Nū Kīnī.

Hope and Empowerment: Lydia House Opens 'Huliau' to Support Vulnerable Youth



By Cathy Cruz-George

Every Tuesday through Friday, 'ōpio between the ages of 16 and 26 can drop in at Lydia House in downtown Honolulu for food, warm showers, laundry facilities, and internet access. Trained staff members stand ready to support them in trauma-informed care. Lydia House is a pu'uhonua, a safe space, for the youth. Many have ties to foster care or the juvenile justice system. Some lack stable housing options.

To guide these 'ōpio toward brighter futures, Lydia House recently unveiled Huliau, a pilot program designed to foster independence, self-discovery, and educational and career opportunities.

The application process for Huliau began in the first quarter of 2024. Eligibility is open to Native Hawaiians, ages 18-22, who commit to the program duration, ranging from one to four years.

"We are incredibly excited about the journey ahead and the opportunity to work closely with our kamali'i, the very heart and soul of our program," says Brent Llana, Huliau Program Lead. "What excites me the most is witnessing the boundless potential of every one of them."

Huliau is the result of strategic planning by Lili'uokalani Trust, which purchased the Lydia House building at the corner of South Vineyard Street in 2018. Previously, the Trust provided services to 'ōpio, ages 18 and younger. With Huliau, the Trust can reach Opportunity Youth, ages 16-26, as they transition out of social services for minors.

Huliau's participants can apply to live in housing on the upper levels of the building. The renovated dorm rooms feature full kitchens, common areas, private baths, and furnished bedrooms. Residents have access to the amenities in the Engagement Center on the ground floor and must take part in Lydia House's programs.

Llana and his team are trained to assist in financial management, housing support, career and educational pathways, and therapy. "In our shared endeavor to nurture a thriving future, I firmly believe that it truly takes a village," Llana says. "As a collective community, we have the power to empower and uplift our kamali'i, guiding them to realize their dreams and aspirations."

Lydia House's team consists of social workers who specialize in substance abuse counseling and youth case management. "We meet them where

they are at," Sonny Ferreira, leader of the Engagement Center at Lydia House said. "We're hoping that, at the end of four years, our 'ōpio will have money saved and the critical skills they will need to further their careers and live on their own."

What sets apart Huliau from other youth services is its culturally relevant programs rooted in Native Hawaiian values. The programs are designed to cultivate resilience and help the 'ōpio heal from past traumas, as they transition into adulthood.

Earlier this year, a group embarked on a huaka'i to 'Iolani Palace, immersing themselves in the history of the Hawaiian monarchy — and the legacy and love of Queen Lili'uokalani for the people of Hawai'i.

Holli M., a participant in the huaka'i, said, "One value I learned on the visit was pono, to be responsible and respectful. I hope to be responsible with my schoolwork to help me live a better life." At age 22, this marked Holli's first visit to the palace.

Ferreira, Llana, and their teams are optimistic about the impact of Huliau as they continue supporting the youth. "Our hope is that our 'ōpio understand their Hawaiian identity, and discover who their ancestors are, so they can be proud," Ferreira says.

For more information, please call Lydia House's main line at 808-466-8022 or visit Lydiahousehi.org/huliau. ■

Cathy Cruz-George is on the Communications Team of Lili'uokalani Trust.



Lydia House is a pu'uhonua for youth. - Courtesy Photo

Cat-Proof Fence Enclosure Built on Mauna Kea to Protect Nesting ‘Ua‘u



By Diamond Badajos

Active burrows discovered on DHHL lands for first time in more than six-decades.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) has completed installation of a cat-proof fence enclosure on Mauna Kea, to safeguard and enhance an existing nesting area for ‘ua‘u, an endangered native seabird. The enclosure was completed and celebrated on a parcel of DHHL land March 22, 2024.

The ceremony, Ho‘i Nā Manu I Kaupakuhale (the birds return to the highest perches of, Mauna Kea), was conducted in partnership with researchers at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

“‘Ua‘u were once an abundant cultural resource of Mauna Kea and an important part of the ecosystem therefore the purpose of our ceremony is to call the ‘ua‘u home where they will be protected,” said Kualii Camara, DHHL ‘Āina Mauna Resource Manager. “Once ‘ua‘u were rediscovered on Mauna Kea we moved quickly and collaboratively to protect this vulnerable population; we’re working to envision and manifest the health and abundance of ‘ua‘u on Mauna Kea once again.”

In May 2021, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo researchers observed ‘ua‘u, or the Hawaiian petrel, flying above Pu‘u Kaiwiiwi and actively nesting on DHHL lands. ‘Ua‘u have not been recorded in the area since 1954. The university through the Center for Maunakea Stewardship (CMS) initially contributed \$265,000 to fund the survey of Native Hawaiian birds and bats within UH managed lands and

adjacent areas on Mauna Kea.

“UH is deeply committed to environmental stewardship and conservation, and this installation not only protects a delicate nesting area, it also showcases the strength of collaborative efforts in caring for our ‘āina,” said Greg Chun, executive director of CMS. “We extend our gratitude to DHHL for this opportunity to work collaboratively to preserve these precious ‘ua‘u, who have returned to this wahi pana.”

Since the discovery of their nesting area efforts have been made to survey for more ‘ua‘u activity and to protect burrowing birds. The primary focus has been on trapping predators, particularly feral cats, to minimize threats to the nesting ‘ua‘u.

“As stewards of ‘āina we’re dedicated to protecting and revitalizing our lands from mauka to makai,” said Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Director Kali Watson. “Preserving our natural resources not only protects the land but also upholds our cultural traditions and identity as Kanaka for the benefit of generations to come.”

Work on the more than 8, 200-foot fence began in January 2022. The fence surrounds 93-acres of DHHL land situated approximately 9,000 feet above sea level near Pu‘u Kahi-nahina. The fence is six feet tall and includes a three-foot cat-proof extension and a two-foot buried skirt to deter feral cats from accessing the enclosure. ■

Diamond Badajos is the information and community relations officer for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.



Ho‘i Nā Manu I Kaupakuhale marked the completion of a protective enclosure for burrowing ‘ua‘u and other native birds. - Courtesy Photo

Navigating Economic Realities: Insights from the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce

By Andrew Rosen



In the ever-shifting landscape of Hawai‘i’s economy, understanding the perspectives and experiences of local Native Hawaiian businesses is crucial. Recently, the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce conducted a survey among its members to glean insights into the economic climate of the first quarter of 2024. Here, we present a summary of our findings, offering a glimpse into the challenges, triumphs, and strategies employed by Native Hawaiian businesses and businesspeople navigating these economic waters.

Rating the Economy

Respondents were asked to rate the state of the economy compared to previous years. Interestingly, while a significant portion indicated stability (37% reported it as ‘Same as 2023’), there was a notable concern regarding economic deterioration, with 30% indicating it was ‘Worse than 2023.’ This sentiment underscores the complexities of our economic recovery post-pandemic in Hawai‘i.

Q1 2024 Performance

The survey delved into the performance of Native Hawaiian businesses in the first quarter of 2024. While nearly half of the respondents (48%) reported meeting their expectations, a substantial portion (29%) experienced a downturn. This variation in experiences reflects the nuanced nature of economic revival, with some sectors rebounding more robustly than others.

Employee Recruitment

Finding qualified candidates remains a challenge for many businesses, with 26% of respondents citing difficulty in sourcing suitable talent. Despite this, 69% reported having access to some qualified candidates, indicating a moderate level of availability in the labor market.

Access to Capital and AI Integration

Access to capital, a lifeline for businesses, was a mixed bag, with 29% finding it more difficult than usual. Interestingly, 35% of respondents have begun incorporating AI into their operations, a majority (65%) have yet to explore this avenue, suggesting untapped potential for technological innovation.

Participant Voices

Beyond quantitative data, participant feedback provided invaluable qualitative insights into the economic realities faced by businesses:

- **Adaptation and Resilience:** Some businesses showcased resilience, citing increased revenues and workload despite broader economic challenges.
- **Advocacy for Support:** Others emphasized the need for governmental support, urging policymakers to alleviate burdens such as taxation and bureaucratic hurdles.
- **Diversification Strategies:** Rising inflation and reduced public funding prompted businesses to pivot and diversify their offerings, demonstrating adaptability in the face of adversity.

The survey conducted by the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce offers a multifaceted view of Hawai‘i’s economic landscape through the eyes of Native Hawaiian businesses people, reflecting both resilience and vulnerability.

As Native Hawaiian businesses continue to navigate uncertainties, collaboration between stakeholders, advocacy for supportive policies, and embracing innovation will be instrumental in fostering sustainable economic growth. Through shared insights and collective action, Hawai‘i’s business community can chart a course towards a more resilient and inclusive future. ■

Andrew Rosen is executive director for the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce and a longtime member. For future information and to share your insights, Contact Andrew at andrew@nativehawaiianchamberofcommerce.org.

E Nīnau iā NHLC

I lost my home in the August wildfires, and I haven't been able to pay the mortgage since then. Could I lose my property to foreclosure?



By Sharla Manley, Of Counsel Attorney, Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation

Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC) started as an anti-eviction law firm aimed at addressing the crisis of Native Hawaiians increasingly being evicted from rural areas to make way for residential and industrial developments. Originally named the "Hawaiian Coalition of Native Claims," the organization fought against a then-new wave of dispossession from the land to make way for a boom in urban development.

The disaster resulting from the August 2023 wildfires threatens to dispossess Native Hawaiians again in a place that was once the capital of the Hawaiian nation.

This spring and summer of 2024 is shaping up to be a critical phase in the recovery from the August 2023 wildfires. Just under 3,000 people are still living in hotels as part of FEMA's non-congregate shelter program as of early April 2024. It is reported that FEMA plans to continue funding the program until May 10, 2024. The state has promised to subsidize the non-congregate shelter program until July 1, 2024.

Currently, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA)'s moratorium on foreclosures in Maui County is scheduled to continue through at least May 6, 2024. No foreclosure actions should be undertaken until at least that date, and families should continue to closely monitor for updates in case this deadline is extended or other forms of relief are offered.

The function of the court in a fore-

closure proceeding is to ascertain the precise amount due under the mortgage. If your home was damaged by the August 2023 wildfires and you had a mortgage on the property, the specific language in your mortgage may affect your potential defenses to a foreclosure, namely the precise amount due under the mortgage.

Insurance was likely required as part of your mortgage and may have been placed by the lender. If the lender made an insurance claim for damage to the property resulting from the August 2023 wildfire, it might reduce the amount of indebtedness under the mortgage if the restoration or repair of the property are not economically feasible. The precise amount due under the mortgage would have to be recalculated if an insurance policy was taken out on the property and a pay-out was made to the lender.

Because the specific language in your mortgage might allow for the indebtedness to be reduced under these circumstances, you may want to have an attorney, or a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, review the mortgage and any insurance policies placed on the property as a condition of the mortgage to evaluate your options.

To learn more about disaster relief programs and options related to housing, the FHA Resource Center can be reached at 1 (800) 304-9320 for additional information.

E Nīnau iā NHLC provides general information about the law. E Nīnau iā NHLC is not legal advice. You can contact NHLC about your legal needs by calling NHLC's offices at 808-521-2302. You can also learn more about NHLC at 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 NinaiNHLC@nhlchi.org.

An Important Legacy of Papahānaumokuākea: Part I

By Kekuewa Kikiloi and Pelika Andrade



Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is recognized as a model for Indigenous co-governance in the United States and globally. Comprising 10 island fragments, atolls, and coral reefs that extend 1,200 miles Northwest of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau, it is one of the largest marine protected areas in the world. While the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is one of four co-trustees that manage this remote region, Native Hawaiians have been actively involved in marine conservation advocacy and helping towards cultural integration in the management framework of this region for the past 24 years through a hui known as the Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group (CWG).

The CWG originated out of the Reserve Advisory Council, an advisory body formed with the creation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (i.e. the base layer of marine protection for the region) that was established in 2000. In the beginning, it was just a small working group led by William Ailā Jr. and later Halealoha Ayau to help get Native Hawaiian input into the council's recommendations for management. The group eventually increased in numbers, to include different Hawaiian activists, scholars, cultural practitioners, educators, and environmental conservation advocates that in many cases had historical ties to the region or had firsthand experience there.

Some of the notable kūpuna that were involved in those early years, but have since passed on, were: Uncle Buzzy Agard, Auntie Laura Thompson, Uncle Eddie Ka'anā'anā, Uncle Walter Paulo, Auntie Wilma Holi, Uncle Kawika Kapahulehua, Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell, Dr. Carlos Andrade, and Dr. Marion Kelly. Other important veteran leadership came from people that we are fortunate to still have with us today such as Auntie Vicky

Takamine, Uncle Paka Harp and Auntie Tammy Harp, Dr. Pua Kanahēle, and Dr. Lilikalā Kame'eiehiwa. These individuals sacrificed their time and energy to help build a strong foundation of community involvement for this culturally significant region.

Cultural expeditions were critical in the early years for us to try and understand this forgotten part of our homeland. The voyaging canoe, *Hōkūle'a*, played an important role in this cultural reconnection by taking a group of cultural practitioners called Nā Kupu'e Paemoku ("to regenerate the islands") to the first two islands - Nihoa (2003) and Mokumanamana (2005) to perform ceremonies on the islands to start this process of reconnection. The group was under the direction and guidance of Auntie Pua Kanahēle, and members represented different island genealogies from the main Hawaiian Islands in their prayers and offerings. In addition, the Polynesian Voyaging Society and *Hōkūle'a* led a voyaging expedition in 2004, under the educational banner "Navigating Change." They traveled all the way up the archipelago to Hōlanikū (Kure Atoll) and back to raise awareness about ocean protection and the importance of these islands. In all these cultural trips, *Hōkūle'a* played a critical role by allowing Native Hawaiians to experience this magnificent oceanic portion of our archipelago in the same manner our ancestors did.

Cultural values and spiritual connection have always been the foundation of the CWG's achievements. The group helped to neutralize industrial fishing threats in the region by developing "Native Hawaiian Sustenance Fishing" definitions that rooted the practice in cultural values and closed any loopholes that would allow for large extraction to take place. These definitions were shaped by the kūpuna fishermen in the group who had firsthand knowledge of the sensitivity of the resources in this area.

These are just some of the early recollections of Native Hawaiian community involvement in Papahānaumokuākea. ■

Kekuewa Kikiloi and Pelika Andrade, are co-chairs of the Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group (CWG). The CWG provides advice and recommendations through OHA to the Monument Management Board. Read Mai Ka Pō Mai at oha.org/mai-ka-po-mai.

Support our Hawaiian Home Lands Farmers & Ranchers



By KipuKai Kualī'i

The Farm Bill, typically renewed every five years, is currently before Congress. The bill covers a wide range of provisions from crop insurance to conservation programs and nutrition assistance. Hawaiian Home Lands farmers and ranchers have benefited from Farm Bill initiatives like the Farmers Market Promotion Program and the Local Agriculture Market Program which helps with local marketing and fosters community resilience and food security.

What follows are summary highlights of what's in this new Farm Bill:

1. Enhanced Conservation Programs - Prioritizes conservation efforts, with increased funding allocated towards programs promoting soil health, water quality, and biodiversity. Provides incentives for farmers to implement sustainable practices, such as cover cropping and rotational grazing, fostering long-term environmental stewardship.
2. Support for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers - Includes supporting beginning farmers and ranchers with increased access to loans, technical assistance, and educational resources tailored to the unique needs and challenges faced by new entrants into the industry.
3. Investment in Local and Regional Food Systems - Includes supporting local and regional food systems with funding for farmers markets, food hubs, and value-added processing facilities; and by facilitating market access for small and mid-sized producers while bolstering community food security.
4. Expansion of Crop Insurance Options - Expands crop insurance options to provide greater flexibility and risk management tools for producers including the development of new insurance products tailored to specialty crops, organic production, and diversified farming operations, ensuring greater resilience in the face of economic and environmental volatility.
5. Promotion of Organic Agriculture - Includes supporting the expansion of organic agriculture with increased funding for research, technical assistance, and certification cost-

share programs, as well as initiatives to facilitate the transition to organic production practices and expand market opportunities for organic farmers.

6. Incentives for Climate-Smart Agriculture - Supports incentives for climate-smart agriculture practices with funding for programs aimed at increasing carbon sequestration, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and enhancing resilience to extreme weather events, empowering farmers to play a proactive role in combating climate change while improving farm profitability.
7. Equity and Social Justice Initiatives: Attempts to address historical inequities within the agricultural sector by promoting equity and social justice with targeted assistance for historically underserved farmers and ranchers, including women, veterans, and farmers of color, as well as with initiatives addressing land access barriers and supporting agricultural cooperatives and minority-owned businesses.

The entirety of the Farm Bill reflects a commitment to fostering a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable agricultural system that meets the needs of producers, consumers, and the environment alike. In prioritizing conservation, innovation, and inclusivity, the Farm Bill also aims to position our nation's agriculture for long-term success in the face of evolving challenges and opportunities.

Many, many of our future native Hawaiian Home Lands farmers and ranchers need to get off the waitlist and onto the lands to take advantage of the resources, funding and programs that are coming our way because of the Farm Bill. On behalf of myself and our SCHHA homestead leaders, we call on the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to put forward the time, effort and resources necessary to drastically accelerate the awarding of agricultural and pastoral lots to the thousands waiting. ■

A longtime advocate for Hawaiian Home Lands trust beneficiaries and lands, KipuKai Kualī'i is the newly elected Chair of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA), the oldest and largest coalition of native Hawaiians on or waiting for Hawaiian Home Lands. Kualī'i also serves as the Kaua'i County Council Vice Chair and the Anahola Hawaiian Homestead Association (AHHA) President.

Olonā *Touchardia latifolia*

Me he lauoho māewa napenape nā lī lewalewa o luna o ka hale wili olonā.

Like swaying hair in the breeze were the strands of olonā hanging from the worksheds. - N. Gomes, as inspired by S.M. Kamakau, translated in Thrum 1919.

One of the strongest natural fibers in the world and endemic to our pae 'āina, uses for kaula olonā (olonā cordage) are nearly innumerable. The twine doesn't kink, and many gauges can be used to fashion nets of all types, cords fasten adzes to handles, and a few fibers may tie 'uo (feather bundles) to nae (very small-meshed nets) when constructing feather cloaks. Fishing nets, dyed with koki'o bark and resistant to salt water, last generations.



Uo, feather bundles, are tied to mind-bogglingly fine mesh of nae, netting made of olonā, to make 'ahu 'ula, or feathered capes. Special tools worked in and out of the net as nimble fingers knotted fibers.

Olonā and its cousin māmaki are both members of the nettle family, and prefer growing in wetter climes. Formerly cultivated in acres-big plantations, olonā is increasingly difficult to find in the wild. Introduced slugs are very fond of dining on the plants, and habitat is often destroyed by pigs or overcome by invasive plants. But, a few dedicated folks so inclined are growing olonā in shadehouses, enriching our lives, while recapturing what may have been. ■



In a shadehouse, olonā thrives, slug-free. Varieties with pale green (foreground) and dark red (background) veins intermingle.



Tiny bright orange fruits are plentiful and germinate easily. - Photos: Bobby Camara

Mahalo piha iā Gary Eoff no kāna hana maika'i ma ka ho'oulu 'ana i ke olonā. Much thanks to Gary Eoff for his fine efforts in growing olonā.

Confident Cultural Identity



By Jace Inagaki,
Grade 8
Mālama Honua
Public Charter
School

Our school's foundation of our learning comprises of six Mind of the Navigator skills (MON), skills that not only assist us in voyages but also in navigating our lives.

These MON skills consist of civic responsibility, environmental awareness, ethical problem solving, global perspective, communication and collaboration, and confident cultural identity. Through these values, they are welded together and formed through the foundational skill, confident cultural identity. This value is embedded within these skills we perpetuate as it demonstrates how we as individuals can be respectful of other cultures while also taking the intuitive to be grounded in our practices.

Coming from a school deeply embedded in the cultural practices of Kānaka, many of us have been interacting with these cultural practices since we entered kindergarten. Over the years, we've shaped our identities as proud Kānaka and fervent supporters of our school and heritage. We formed these identities through the many lessons learned from many different people.

As we go around the island, we can learn from different people who specialize in different cultural practices such as hula, food prepping, voyaging, and agriculture. With every lesson, it imparts values that contribute

to our growth as respectful individuals. Living by the ways of our kūpuna is a physical representation of how we consistently live by the value of confident cultural identity.

Being granted the privilege of a huaka'i every week, we usually visit the agricultural-focused study area of the University of Hawai'i, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). There, we learn how to apply our knowledge to the various projects we work on, such as our first project a kalo garden and our current project a lā'au garden.

During each of our visits, we make sure to acknowledge the area we are working in. We open with oli to ask for permission and leave with oli mahalo. This is to thank the land for the work we were able to get done and allowing us to be able to foster our traditional values. As we work in the 'āina, we have to keep a consistent attitude and utilize it to make sure we are mindful of what we do.

Working on a lā'au garden will help to make sure our community is able to have access to medicine and ensure better use of the practice lā'au lapa'au. As our culture is on the decline, we have the opportunity to rehabilitate our culture through utilizing this practice and repurposing it towards benefiting our community.

This demonstrates how we as Kānaka and students of Mālama Honua Public Charter School are given the opportunity to become daily users of Hawaiian practices and how we use the value of confident cultural identity towards our community's needs. ■



The Department of the Air Force invites you to participate in scoping meetings for preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Air Force Maui Optical and Supercomputing Site Small Telescope Advanced Research Facility

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) seeks public input on the scope of issues to be studied in a federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the construction and operation of the Air Force Maui Optical and Supercomputing Site Small Telescope Advanced Research (AMOS STAR) facility located on Haleakalā on the island of Maui, Hawai'i. In addition, DAF will be conducting analysis and consultation to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and is soliciting comments or concerns regarding the effect of the undertaking on historic properties. DAF would construct the facility on a previously disturbed 0.878-acre parcel that has been permitted by the Federal Aviation Administration for DAF use. The parcel is adjacent to the Haleakalā Observatory and the 15th Space Surveillance Squadron's Maui Space Surveillance Complex.

Scoping Meetings

The DAF invites the public, stakeholders, and other interested parties to attend one or more of three scoping meetings, as detailed below. The meetings will provide an opportunity for attendees to learn more about the proposed AMOS STAR facility and the scope of the EIS. Project team members will be available to answer questions, and exhibits will be on view from 6:00 p.m. on. A 20-minute presentation about the proposed AMOS STAR facility will be shown at about 6:30 p.m. Attendees will have an opportunity to provide oral comments from approximately 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Written comments are encouraged and can be submitted at any time during the 45-day scoping period.

May 13, 2024
6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
**Kahului
Community Center**
275 Uhu St.,
Kahului, Maui, HI 96732

May 14, 2024
6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
**Mayor H. Tavares
Community Center**
91 Pukalani St.,
Pukalani, Maui, HI 96768

May 15, 2024
6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
**Kīhei
Community Center**
303 E. Lipoa St.,
Kīhei, Maui, HI 96753

AMOS STAR EIS Website

All materials to be presented at scoping meetings also are available on the EIS website at www.amosstareis.com. To request accommodation to access the materials or assistance with making a comment (per the Americans with Disabilities Act), please call US Space Force Public Affairs, Space Base Delta 1 at (774) 545-0152. Requests also can be submitted by email to amosstareis@tetratech.com.

Public Comment

Written comments on the scope of the EIS for the proposed AMOS STAR facility under NEPA and/or NHPA Section 106 can be submitted during the scoping meetings, through the EIS website at www.amosstareis.com, by email to amosstareis@tetratech.com, or by U.S. Mail to:

AMOS STAR EIS
c/o Tetra Tech
1230 Columbia Street, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101

Comments will be accepted at any time during the environmental impact analysis process. DAF requests, however, that all comments be submitted by June 7, 2024, to ensure their consideration as the Draft EIS is developed.



The 'Āina Kūpuna
Dedication ordinance for
Maui County is designed
to help families retain their
family property by reducing
their property taxes.

For more information or assistance
please contact:

The Maui County Real
Property Tax Assessment
Division at (808) 270-7871

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs
(for genealogy verification) at
(808) 594-1835 or (808) 594-1888

Kekoa Enomoto Receives Namahana Award of Excellence

Kekoa Enomoto, a 30-year Hawaiian homelands leader and advocate,



Kumu Hula Kapono'ai Molitau presented Kekoa Enomoto with the Namahana Award of Excellence recently at the 32nd Celebration of the Arts. - Photo Courtesy

received the Namahana Award of Excellence at the Ritz-Carlton Kapalua resort in March. The distinction salutes kūpuna, elders, who have served the culture with a zest for life.

The Waiohuli native Hawaiian homesteader is a kahuna kakalaleo, or chanter of prayer. She serves as a charter director of two Valley Isle nonprofits: Pa'upena Community Development Inc. that works for Hawaiian homesteaders, and the disaster-relief organization, Na Kia'i O Maui, founded in the wake of the Aug. 8, 2023, Maui wildfires.

A career journalist, she retired as a staff writer, copy editor and columnist for two daily newspapers: the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, and *The Maui News*. The cultural practitioner of hula and outrigger canoe paddling has medaled at outrigger World Sprints in Australia in 2016 and England in 2022.

Organizers named the award for the late Auntie Lydia Namahana Maioho, the longtime kahu, or caretaker, of the Mauna 'Ala — Royal Mausoleum State Monument on O'ahu. Auntie Namahana was lauded as a zesty ambassador at the Ritz-Carlton Kapalua. At the citation ceremonies, Enomoto noted she herself is a Kamehameha Schools Kapālama classmate of the award

namesake's son, Abraham Maioho.

New alga discovered at Papahānaumokuākea

Earlier this year, the Journal of Phycology published the description of a new genus and species from the mesophotic (deep) coral reefs of the monument. Collected by the monument's technical dive team at depths between 265 and 330 feet, not only is this alga completely new to science, it is so distinct from all other known life forms that it warranted the creation of an entirely new genus.

The new alga is known as Aununu-uuluaehu liula, named in partnership with the Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group (CWG). The genus name, 'Ānunu'ulua'ehu, reflects the wavy, colorful red blades of this alga, the depths of the ocean in which it lives, and honors Lua'ehu, a mythic ulua fish (giant trevally, *Caranx ignobilis*). The species epithet, li'ulā, literally means twilight or dusk, is a play on the depths at which this limu is found, namely the mesophotic zone (often referred to as the "twilight zone"), as well as the 'ula, red, color of the alga.

This represents the growth of a reciprocal partnership with the CWG Nomenclature Subcommittee whose goal is to perpetuate a Native Hawaiian nomenclature process to build, strengthen, and continue relationships with elements/species as a placeholder for future generations.

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is administered jointly by four co-trustees — the Department of Commerce, the Department of the Interior, the State of Hawai'i, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Homestead Nonprofit Partners with State DHHL to Serve Waitlist Hawaiians

The Hawaiian Lending & Investments (HLI) nonprofit founded by the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA) has partnered with the State of Hawai'i, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to support home building and home ownership

by native Hawaiians waiting for a homestead lot award.

Under an agreement executed in March, HLI will administer DHHL matching down payment assistance grants of up to \$5,000 to eligible state DHHL beneficiaries toward the cost to build or purchase a home on Hawaiian Home Lands.

According to the agreement, DHHL will set aside a first investment level of \$250,000 for the matching down payment grants, with HLI processing and documenting compliance to Act 279, the Waitlist Reduction Act.

The DHHL Matching Down Payment Assistance Program supplements family funds, mortgage loan funds and grants from financial nonprofits, toward the goal of homeownership, and most importantly, the goal of moving families off the state DHHL waitlist when homestead lot opportunities are made available.

\$1 Million in NATIVE Act Funding for Native Hawaiian Organizations

In April, the Department of the Interior's Office of Native Hawaiian Relations announced \$1 million in funding for Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) through the Heritage Opportunities in Hawai'i (HŌ'IHI) grant program.

The funding is made possible by the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act, which enables Indigenous communities to participate in national tourism goals and strategies.

This is the third year that funding

has been made available to NHOs through the HŌ'IHI grant program.

"The Heritage Opportunities in Hawai'i Program seeks to encourage a tourism model that accurately showcases Native Hawaiian culture and traditions while providing protection and awareness for Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources," said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget Joan Mooney.

The HŌ'IHI program establishes a more inclusive national travel and tourism strategy and provides opportunities to NHOs that have the potential to deliver significant benefits, including job creation, elevated living standards and expanded economic opportunities, to the Native Hawaiian Community.

"We are seeking grant awardees for 2024 who exemplify Hawai'i's overall movement towards regenerative tourism, with projects enhancing Native Hawaiian community involvement, and presenting culturally mindful education opportunities for kama'āina and visitors alike," said Ke'ala Fukuda, HŌ'IHI program manager.

Native Hawaiian cultural practices may include, but are not limited to, traditional food production and preparation, health and healing, material gathering and production of implements, products and adornments, construction and recreation, and cultural activities such as dance, chant, song and arts.

The Department anticipates awarding 12 grants in 2024, ranging between \$75,000 and \$200,000, with an anticipated average of \$100,000. Depending on their proposals, successful NHOs may use grant funding

for up to three years from the date of award. Eligible applicants must affirm that they are a Native Hawaiian Organization as defined in the NATIVE Act.

Please contact Fukuda for more details at kealapualoke_fukuda@ios.doi.gov.

Grant applications must be submitted electronically to Grants.gov no later than June 3, 2024.

House Adopts Resolution to Establish Pu'uloa Range Working Group

In April, the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 18, establishing the formation of a working group to address issues related to water and air contamination and remediation arising from the operation of the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility.

Rep. Rose Martinez authored HR18 and emphasized the urgent need for action, stating, "The concerns voiced by residents regarding potential contamination and impact on marine life show that we need to address the wellbeing of the 'Ewa Beach community and act now. This is a community-led effort and the Pu'uloa Range Working Group, comprised of stakeholders and volunteers, is committed to addressing these concerns and advancing remediation efforts."

Last year, Martinez and 'Ewa community stakeholders demanded action, citing noise and potential lead contamination from the Pu'uloa Range Training Facility affecting

SEE NEWS BRIEFS ON PAGE 23



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NEWS BRIEFS

Continued from page 22

Pu‘uloa Beach Park, a popular daily recreational spot for ‘Ewa families. In November 2023, Marine Corps Base Hawai‘i (MBCH) announced the implementation of a mitigation plan to address upcoming testing for contaminants in the Pu‘uloa Range Training Facility Shoreline.

Martinez stated that the working group anticipates reviewing MBCH’s plan and intends to conduct informational briefings on issues concerning water and air contamination.

Group members will comprise area lawmakers including Martinez and City Councilmember Augie Tulba. Community members include a member of the ‘Ewa Neighborhood Board, a marine biologist from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, a representative from Kuleana Coral Restoration, a representative from the fishing industry, a representative from the United States Marine Corps, and other community stakeholders.

According to HR18, the working group will meet quarterly, provide regular reports to the House of Representatives, and shall cease on June 30, 2025.

Ho‘ākea Source Awards Funds to Ten Art Projects

Pu‘uhonua Society’s granting program, Ho‘ākea Source, in partnership with the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts’ Regional Regranting Program, announced the inaugural group of 10 awardees. Review panelists, Jaimey Hamilton Faris, Puni Jackson and Patrick Flores, selected awardees from 38 total applicants.

Awardees include artists, art collectives and artistic collaborators living and working in O‘ahu: Nālamakūikapō Ahsing and Kamehanaokalā Taylor; Kalikopuanoheaokalani Aiu; Bradley Cappello and Madelyn Biven; Sean Connelly; Kainoa Gruspe; Kamali‘ikūpono Hanohano; G. ‘Umi Kai; Anuheā & Kailikapu; Sancia Miala Shiba Nash and Noah Keone Viernes; and Sheanae Tam.

Projects celebrate the diverse practices of artists of Hawai‘i and take many forms including a zine, exhibitions, dance party, non-narrative short film, feature length experimental documentary, multimedia live performances, mapping and data visualization, community and student-cen-

tered workshops, ceremonies, and events.

Recipients have one year to bring to life a range of projects centered around ‘āina (that which feeds), pilina (relationship), and huli (change).

Grantees will present their finished art projects in venues and communities of their choice.

For more information about Ho‘ākea Source and its initiatives, visit www.hoakeasource.org.

NOAA Marine Debris Program Seeking Request for Proposals

In April, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, in partnership with the NOAA Marine Debris Program, announced a request for proposals under their Nationwide Fishing Trap Removal, Assessment, and Prevention (TRAP) Program.

Using funding from NOAA’s Marine Debris Program provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science will award up to \$1,475,000 in grants to remove derelict fishing traps throughout coastal waterways of the United States while collecting data to prevent future gear loss.

Projects may range from \$50,000 to \$200,000.

Priority will be given to projects that provide ecological and/or economic benefits; integrate innovative, sustainable approaches to derelict fishing trap disposal; and take place in sanctuaries, reserves, tribal or Indigenous community fishing grounds, or other protected areas.

Projects throughout the coastal United States, including United States territories and Freely Associated States, are eligible for consideration. Eligible applicants include American Indian and Alaska Native governments and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Organizations; non-profit 501(c) organizations; state, territorial, and Freely Associated State government agencies; local governments; commercial (for-profit) organizations; and educational institutions.

Proposals are due on May 30, 2024. More information is available at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science National Trap Program website trapprogram.org. ■



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Celebrating Tradition and Community: The Merrie Monarch Hula Festival

Every year, amidst the lush landscapes and vibrant culture of Hilo, Hawai‘i, the Merrie Monarch Hula Festival stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of Hawaiian tradition and community. This iconic event, steeped in history and reverence for the art of hula, brings



Carmen “Hulu” Lindsey

CHAIR
Trustee, Maui

together dancers, artisans, and spectators from across the islands and beyond. At the heart of this celebration are Luana and Kathy Kawelu, whose tireless dedication and vision have transformed the festival into a cherished cultural landmark.

The Merrie Monarch Hula Festival is a multifaceted affair, encompassing a rich tapestry of events and activities that showcase the beauty and depth of Hawaiian culture. Central to the festivities is the hula competition, where talented dancers from different halau (schools) vie for top honors in various categories. Months of rigorous training under the guidance of dedicated kumu (teachers) culminate in captivating performances that captivate audiences and honor the legacy of this ancient art form.

One of the festival’s highlights is the Merrie Monarch parade, a colorful procession that winds its way through the streets of Hilo. With over 80 entries, including a float featuring the Office of Hawaiian Affairs’ Trustees warmly greeting spectators, the parade is a joyous celebration of community spirit and pride. Thousands line the streets, their enthusiasm palpable as they cheer on the participants and revel in the festive atmosphere.

The organization of the festival extends beyond the main events, with meticulous attention to detail evident in every aspect of the experience. From the myriad crafts and designer clothing vendors scattered throughout town

to the impeccable coordination of logistics, Luana and Kathy Kawelu ensure that every facet of the festival delights and enchants attendees. Their dedication to preserving and promoting Hawaiian culture shines through in the seamless execution of each component, making the Merrie Monarch Hula Festival a true crowd pleaser year after year.

It is the unwavering commitment of the kumu and their haumāna (students) that truly elevates the festival to unparalleled heights. For hours, days, and months leading up to the event, these devoted teachers and dancers pour their hearts and souls into perfecting their craft. Their dedication is evident in the mesmerizing performances that grace the stage of the Edith Kanaka‘ole Stadium, captivating audiences with their grace, precision, and passion.

As the sold-out crowd watches in awe, they bear witness to the culmination of countless hours of practice and dedication. Each movement is infused with meaning and emotion, a testament to the profound connection between the dancers and the stories they tell through their art. It is a moment of pure magic, where the past and present converge, and the spirit of aloha permeates every aspect of the performance.

The Merrie Monarch Hula Festival is more than just a cultural event; it is a celebration of tradition, community, and the enduring legacy of Hawaiian culture. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Luana and Kathy Kawelu, as well as the countless kumu and dancers who devote themselves to the art of hula, this festival continues to enchant and inspire all who have the privilege of experiencing its magic. As we reflect on the beauty and significance of this cherished tradition, we are reminded of the power of culture to unite, uplift, and enrich our lives. ■

Hawaiian Panels at Merrie Monarch a Winner!!!

The Merrie Monarch was a stunning success this year, and it was not the only event that was a winner. On April 3 and 4, OHA sponsored three panel discussions at the Nani Loa on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, Āina Momona & Self-Determination, and Kai Moana.

Panelists on the Indigenous Traditional Knowledge topic were U'ilani Naipo from Miloli'i, and Kalena Blakemore, OHA's Legacy Land specialist. On the Āina Momona panel were Kawika Lewis of Āina University, Dana Shapiro from the 'Ulu Co-op, and Kū'ike 'Ohelo, OHA's Director of Ōiwi Wellbeing and Āina Momona. Solomon Kaho'ohalahala, Kalei Nu'uhiwa and Roxanne Keli'ikipikaneokolohaka were on the Kai Moana panel.

The panels were informative, uplifting and concerning. Solutions and problems emerged, all were critically important.

It was concerning to learn that there are ongoing problems facing our Community Based Subsistence Fishing Areas (CBSFA). What's that all about? Miloli'i is a good example. It's a CBSFA, but the folks living there have no authority to actually protect and preserve the fish and reef in Miloli'i!! Why? Because they cannot stop the bus loads or tourists who come to 'sunbathe,' slather themselves with suntan lotion and go in for a 'dip' every week. They cannot stop the aquarium and pet store owners who come to Miloli'i to scoop up little fish to sell. Also problematic is the increasing rent being charged Hawaiian 'tenants' whose families have lived there for generations and were real native tenants but are slowly being forced out because their subsistence lifestyle doesn't bring in enough money to pay the increasing rent being charged by the DLNR.

This problem has been going on for years. It's an excellent example of how the state tourism industry 'uses' Hawaiian culture to market the industry without preserving the 'āina, culture and rights of those who are real 'native tenants.'

It was uplifting to hear the presen-



Mililani B. Trask

VICE CHAIR
Trustee,
Hawai'i Island

tation from our Hawaii island 'Ulu Co-op. These farmers work together to grow and market 'ulu, a primary food source for Hawaiians. Dana Shapiro shared the tradition of 'ulu, which was a staple food that fed our peoples during times of famine. She talked about the health problems we face because white rice and bread cause diabetes. (Hawaiians never had diabetes when we were eating our traditional diet). 'Ulu is affordable, delicious and does not have the negative health outcomes that plague our families and kūpuna.

The Kai Moana panel was empowering. It focused on our cultural and spiritual connections to the Kai Moana – the vast Pacific – our cultural heritage and the corresponding obligations and blessings that we inherit along with it. All Pacific Indigenous peoples know that the Pacific is the mother that feeds us and through our voyaging practices, links us to the Indigenous peoples who are our cultural 'ohana. Today, these practices are maintained and strengthened by the collective effort of Pacific native peoples who are crossing government and national boundaries to protect and defend the Kai Moana.

I am working to support the coming FestPAC Hawai'i because it will bring together all the Indigenous peoples of Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia to kūkā the critical issues facing us all.

Many people were busy during the Merrie Monarch festivities and could not attend the workshops. No worry – with the help of our local high school students from KVIK, the panels were recorded and preserved. Within a few days of the events being held in Hilo, we had over 1,000 hits and the numbers continue to grow. Check out the Nā Hanana o OHA on the OHA Facebook page.

I am excited about the coming FestPAC Hawai'i and the opportunity it brings for Pacific Indigenous peoples to continue to address the need to protect the Pacific, our food, and our cultural resources.

Aloha,
Mililani ■

The 61st Annual Merrie Monarch Festival Royal Parade

This past April marked the 61st Merrie Monarch Festival, a week of hula competition, artisans and culture of Hawai'i and beyond, and royal parade in Hilo, honoring King David La'amea Kalākaua and his contributions to hula and as a patron of the arts, music and dance. As we celebrate, commemorate and perpetuate our culture as the Indigenous people of Hawai'i by showcasing to the world our talents and aloha and that this is all possible through 'ohana and community.

What an honor to represent OHA in the



Kaleihikina Akaka

Trustee,
O'ahu

Merrie Monarch Royal Parade, alongside my beloved Baby Ana Kapuahilehua'i-waiwamaikahikinai'ōla'a, fellow Trustees, and Ka Pouhana (CEO), OHA staff along with the students and family of Kua O Ka Lā Public Charter School as we share aloha for the Hawaiian language, hula, culture and traditions through this week of festivities. So much aloha went into the design and decoration of the parade float by the Kua O Ka Lā students and their 'ohana. Our float featured a wailele (water fall), kāhili, Native Hawaiian plants, banners of OHA and Kua O Ka Lā, and a snow-capped mauna, with Hae Hawai'i

(Hawaiian Flag) waved and worn. It was a joy to see 'ohana and friends from keiki to kūpuna along the parade route. Mahalo to all that make the Merrie Monarch Festival the world class celebration that it is! ■



OHA Trustees, 'ohana, & staff were honored to participate in the Merrie Monarch Festival Royal Parade with community partner Kua o Ka Lā Public Charter School who designed the float with a mauka to makai theme. - Photo: Alice Silbanuz



Hae Hawai'i (Hawaiian Flag) proudly held by Trustee Akaka and Baby Ana Kapuahilehua'i-waiwamaikahikinai'ōla'a. - Courtesy Photo



Trustee Akaka with Baby Ana, Chair Lindsey and Trustees Ahuna, Souza, Akina, Alapa, and OHA CEO Ferreira in front of parade float. - Photo: Alice Silbanuz

OHA Coming to Moloka'i May 15-16

May is a month of profound significance as we honor Mother's Day, a time to celebrate the boundless love and nurturing spirit of mothers. Personally, this month holds special resonance as I express gratitude for the presence of my beloved mother, Kauana Kanahele (Pukahi), who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Her essence embodies sweetness, beauty, and unwavering love, enriching my life in myriad ways.

Reflecting on our recent endeavors, the past three months have been notably bustling for our esteemed Board of Trustees. Our engagements have led us on a journey to Kahana Valley on the picturesque island of O'ahu. Here, we had the privilege of meeting with beneficiaries deeply rooted in their cultural heritage, steadfastly preserving their way of life through generations. However, amidst their resilience lies a pressing concern – the uncertainty surrounding their land leases. These leases, crucial for their sustenance, await renewal, casting a shadow of ambiguity over their future. As stewards of justice and equity, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs diligently engages in assessing and addressing the needs of this community, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights protected.

Looking forward, a momentous event beckons – the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture 2024, a celebration of diversity, creativity, and unity among Pacific Island nations. In a rare opportunity, our beloved state of Hawai'i (Lāhui) has been entrusted with the honor of hosting this prestigious event from June 6-16, 2024, on the cap-



Luana Alapa

Trustee,
Moloka'i and
Lāna'i



Trustee Alapa with mother Kauana Kanahele (Pukahi). - Courtesy Photos



OHA trustees meet with Kahana Valley beneficiaries.



FestPAC 2024 comes to Hawai'i in June.

tivating island of O'ahu. With over 30 island nations converging to showcase their rich heritage through music, dance, and art, this promises to be an unforgettable experience for all. For those eager to partake in this cultural extravaganza, detailed information is available online at festpachawaii.org. Your presence and support are deeply appreciated as we celebrate the richness and diversity of Pacific Island cultures.

Amidst our bustling schedules, it's imperative to mark our calendars for the Moloka'i Island OHA Community and Board of Trustees Meetings scheduled for May 15 and 16, 2024 at Lanikeha Community Center in Ho'olehua. On May 15, we will embark on visits to various Moloka'i organizations, immersing ourselves in the unique perspectives and challenges of our island communities. The day will culminate in a community meeting and dinner at the Lanikeha Community Center in Ho'olehua, offering an opportunity for dialogue, collaboration, and fellowship. Bus transportation arrangements have been facilitated through the kind support of MEO, passengers will be picked up from Kilohana Community Center and Mitchell Pau'ole Center ensuring accessibility for all attendees. For those interested in reserving a seat on the bus, please email pohair@oha.org, as bus seats are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Should you wish to connect or schedule a meeting with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my dedicated aide, Pohai Ryan, at pohair@oha.org. Your voices matter, and as trustees, we are committed to serving you.

Aloha e Ke Ekahi e Ke kahi ■

Quiet Acts of Love: A Tribute to Julia Hale Souza

In a world where the spotlight often shines on the flashy, the bold and the outspoken, there are many who don't seek the spotlight but whose tireless efforts shape the very foundation of our lives. Today, I want to shine a light on one such person: my mom, Julia Hale Souza.

Throughout my life, my mom, Julia, has epitomized selflessness. She dedicated herself wholeheartedly to serving our family, often sacrificing her own desires and dreams for ours. While some may seek recognition or praise for their contributions, my mom quietly labored behind the scenes, content in knowing that she was making a difference in our lives. Much of our successes and accomplishments are owed to her undying support, love, and encouragement.

Many of my earliest memories involve watching my mom dance hula at the Kapi'olani Park Bandstand or with Puanani Alama and Alicia Smith in the hula studio. Little did I know that these moments would ignite a passion for Hawaiian music and dance within me, shaping the course of my life.

We grew up with my mom's parents in Liliha, where my early entertainer instincts began to emerge. I would often grab my Grandma's cane, pretending it was a microphone, and sing "I Just Called to Say I Love You" to my mom and the rest of the family. While attending Kamehameha Schools since kindergarten, it wasn't until Mrs. Lynell Bright's fifth grade class, that I had a solo duet in the school play, where my mom recognized my natural talent for music. From that moment on, she stood by my side, guiding me along this new path with unwavering support and encouragement.

She encouraged me to join the Hawaiian Ensemble, and when I expressed a desire to learn to play instruments, she was there, ready to help me pursue my dreams. I vividly recall



Keoni Souza

Trustee,
At-Large

the day in high school when she took me to Good Guys Music to purchase my first guitar. Later, after forming the group, Nā Hoa, she accompanied me to the Easy Music Center to buy my first upright bass. We deliberated over the sound, type, and prices of the instruments, and I remember her advising me to invest in a high-quality bass, emphasizing that these were the tools of my craft. These were momentous occasions, brimming with excitement and anticipation for my musical journey ahead. It was with these instruments that I recorded our Hōkū-winning albums.

If someone were to ask me what I admire most about my mom, it would be the way she embraces and taught us the value of ha'aha'a. She is humble, never seeks the spotlight or acclaim, but instead finds joy in simple acts of giving. She is the embodiment of patience, always calm and composed even in our large Hawaiian Portuguese family. My family would be quick to tell you that I was a stubborn, headstrong boy who sometimes didn't listen to anyone because I wanted to do things on my own; but over the years, because of her gentle guidance, patience, and belief in me, I have grown to be the man I am today. For this, I will always be grateful.

Thank you, Mom, I love you and appreciate all you have done for us. Happy Mother's Day to you and to all the mothers out there. ■



Trustee Souza with his mother Julia Hale Souza. - Courtesy Photo

E nā ‘ohana Hawai‘i: If you are planning a reunion or looking for genealogical information, *Ka Wai Ola* will print your listing at no charge on a space-available basis. Listings should not exceed 200 words. OHA reserves the right to edit all submissions for length. Listings will run for three months from submission, unless specified. Send your information by mail, or e-mail kwo@OHA.org. E ola nā mamo a Hāloa!

SEARCH

KAHUNANUI/MAIHUI - E nā ‘ohana ‘o Kahunanui/Maihui, our ‘ohana is planning a family reunion for March 20–23, 2025. We need updated addresses and ‘ohana names. Gather your photos as we will display all the old and new! More details to follow. For more info contact: Kiana Kahunanui (808-779-9997), Kau Rin (808-753-6216), Bu Makanani (808-280-7615) or Leiko Kahunanui Mo‘ikeha (808-250-4692), or email haaheo.maiui@gmail.com. Mahalo and hope to see you all soon!

KAUAUA - ‘Ohana Kauaua 2024 Reunion (one day event). Date: July 20, 2024; Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Location: Windward Community College (Hale ‘Ākoakoa Bldg) 45-720 Kea‘ahala Road, Kāne‘ohe, O‘ahu. For more information contact Doreen LaBatte 808-485-7544 or doreenlabatte@yahoo.com.

KIPI/KAHELE - Family Reunion for April 6, 2024 is cancelled until further notice, due to no communication from officers. Auwe! Kapua. For more information contact Aldora Kahele 808-782-9359 or Ai Heen Lucero 808-853-8503.

LOPES – The descendants of Seraphine Lopes & Pakele Kaluahine Kahumoku “Last Ohana Reunion” is being held on July 26 - 29, 2024 at Swanzy Beach Park, 51-489 Kamehameha Hwy., Ka‘a‘awa, O‘ahu. The reunion gathering day is Saturday, July 27, from 10a to 8p. Please join us for lunch and dinner, bring a main dish w/ dessert. ‘Ohana will have music, games, talk story and genealogy updates during the reunion. Camping is allowed on July 26-29, but you must obtain a C&C of Honolulu camping permit. The 13 descendants of Seraphine Lopes & Pakele Kaluahine Kahumoku are: Seraphine Jr., Louie, Tom, John (Violet Makia), Thomas (Annette Bogdanoff), Frank (Christina Bogdanoff), Eben “Nahi” (Maria Torres), Charles (Annie Ale Kaleleiki Apana), David (Hannah Higgins), Jenny (Nahi Kukui), Mary (George Schutte), Carrie (Joseph Keoki Paoa), & Girty (George Medeiros). Musician volunteers are needed, and monetary donations are welcomed. Funds will be used for picnic tables, tents, and paper goods. For more information, to sign up to kōkua, and camping permits, please contact family representative: Ramona “Bully” DiFolco (808) 263-0121 or cell (808) 282-8921. ■



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY FOR THE DLNR-DOFAW HISTORIC TRAILS SURVEY, KAULEOLĪ 1-2, KEĀLIA 1ST AND 2ND, HO‘OKENA, AND KAUHAKŌ AHUPUA‘A, SOUTH KONA, HAWAII

On behalf of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), Nā Ala Hele Trail and Access Program (NAH), ASM Affiliates is preparing an Archaeological Inventory Survey for a 3.38 mile-long section of State-owned trail that begins (from north to south) near the Kēōkea-Ki‘ilae Ahupua‘a boundary and extends across Kauleolī 1st and 2nd, Keālia 1st and 2nd, Ho‘okena, and concludes in Kauhakō Ahupua‘a, South Kona District, Island of Hawai‘i. The trail corridor currently crosses several Tax Map Key (TMK) parcels.

As part of our survey of this trail section, ASM subcontracted Wes Thomas Associates, a licensed land surveyor, to conduct a metes-and-bounds survey of the trail corridor boundaries. As a result, the trail corridor will soon receive its own TMK parcel number. Furthermore, the results of this survey will aid NAH in the maintenance and management of this historical resource, ensuring it is maintained as a recreational and educational amenity within its historical context and the support of the community.

ASM is in search of kama‘āina (persons who have genealogical connections and or are familiar from childhood with the ‘āina) who are familiar with the ahupua‘a from Kēōkea to Kauhakō. We are seeking information associated with this section of the trail, as well as the area’s cultural resources, customs, practices, associated with the project area; and past and or ongoing cultural practices that have or continue to occur within the project area. ASM is also seeking input regarding strategies that will aid NAH in future stewardship and maintenance efforts. If you have and

are willing to share any such information, please contact Candace Gonzales, cgonzales@asmaffiliates.com, (808) 969-6066, mailing address ASM Affiliates 507A E. Lanikaula Street, Hilo, HI 96720. Mahalo.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION: 205-FOOT COMMUNICATIONS TOWER IN KAHUKU, HONOLULU COUNTY

Boingo proposes to build a 205-foot Self-Support Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is Near 57-350 Kamehameha Highway, Kahuku, Honolulu County, HI 96731, Lat: 21-39-57.1, Long: -157-59-59.7. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1281428.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS – Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Sara Basurto, s.basurto@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704. 512.519.9388. ■



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Fax: 808.594.1865

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484 Kalanikoa St.
Hilo, HI 96720
Phone: 808.933.3106
Fax: 808.933.3110

WEST HAWAII (KONA)

75-1000 Henry St., Ste. 205
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
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Fax: 808.327.9528

MOLOKA'I / LĀNA'I

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Phone: 808.560.3611
Fax: 808.560.3968

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Phone: 808.241.3390
Fax: 808.241.3508

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For more information on kuleana land tax ordinances go to www.oha.org/kuleanaland and for assistance with genealogy verification, contact the Office of Hawaiian Affairs at 808-594-1835 or 808-594-1888.





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