



Ka Wai Ola

NEWS FOR THE LĀHUI

kawaiola.news

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KAUAI'S ENDANGERED FOREST BIRDS

PAGES 16-18



The akeke'e is one of two critically endangered native Hawaiian forest bird species that live on the Alaka'i Plateau near Wai'ale'ale on Kaua'i. If interventions to save them are not successful, they could be extinct before the end of this decade. - Photo: Jim Denny courtesy of The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra.



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OUR LĀHUI DESERVES PONO LEADERSHIP

Aupuni (nvs. Government, kingdom, dominion, nation, people under a ruler; national.)

Aloha mai kākou,

Whenever June rolls around, my thoughts turn to Kamehameha ‘Ekahi – the parades, lei draping ceremonies and other celebrations. There are four statues honoring this acclaimed ‘Ōiwi leader: one in Honolulu; one in Hilo; one (the original) in Kapa‘au in my home district of Kohala; and one in Washington D.C.

Many of us learned about Kamehameha’s leadership qualities in school: his unification of the pae ‘āina; the way he worked in the lo‘i kalo alongside his people; and famously, his “law of the splintered paddle” – a proclamation made in humility after reflecting on his own unwarranted attack on a fishing village in Puna.

The “law of the splintered paddle” is a model for compassion and forgiveness. A reminder that just because you are in a position of power, you have no right to treat people wrongfully.

Kamehameha was almost killed when the fishermen he attacked defended themselves. When he became king, it became his unified kingdom’s first written law. It provided for the safety of civilians during war and, some two centuries later, it is preserved in the Hawai‘i State Constitution.

And there are many other models of exceptional servant leadership among our ali‘i.

By negotiating with Kamehameha in 1810, King Kaumuali‘i of Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau was able to retain his autonomy and bring his people under the unified Hawaiian Kingdom without bloodshed.

In 1859, King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma founded The Queen’s Hospital. In 1879, Lunalilo Home was founded by the estate of King Lunalilo. In 1887, Kamehameha Schools was founded by the estate of Princess Pauahi. In 1909, Queen Lili‘uokalani founded her trust for orphaned and destitute children.

And in 1921, Prince Kūhiō successfully lobbied in Washington, D.C., somehow per-

suading an all-white Congress to vote the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act into law.

Our lāhui has so many outstanding role models of impactful, pono leadership that we can learn from and emulate. And not just among our ali‘i. There are outstanding leaders in our communities, and among the patriarchs and matriarchs of our own families.

So I find it disappointing, as I reflect on governments and governance, that so many individuals seek public office not to serve, but to gain power, prestige or popularity. Candidates tell voters what they think they want to hear while on the campaign trail. But, once in office, their agendas often have little to do with upholding the principles of democracy, or fighting for equity, fairness or social justice. That is true on the world stage, the national stage and here at home.

Our lāhui deserves better. We deserve leaders who are not beholden to political favors or too distracted to carry out their kuleana because they are planning their next political move – or re-election campaign. Our lāhui deserves leadership that is united and that advocates tirelessly for our ‘ohana, mo‘omeheu and ‘āina; leaders who steward resources wisely and make policy decisions that are aligned to bettering the conditions of Native Hawaiians. Everything else is just self-serving white noise.

We can do better. ■

Sylvia M. Hussey, Ed.D.

Ka Pouhana | Chief Executive Officer



Sylvia M. Hussey, Ed.D.

Ka Pouhana
Chief Executive Officer

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Building a Sustainable Future on Kaua‘i

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BY ED KALAMA

Office of Hawaiian Affairs grantee ‘Āina Ho‘okupu o Kīlauea is helping to bring sustainability, resiliency and self-sufficiency to the people of Kaua‘i.

Baking Sweet Dreams



Cori Ehukai Nakamoto, owner of Cori's Cake Dreams, specializes in exquisitely designed cakes - although her three bakeries offer an extensive array of sweet delights. - Courtesy Photos

By Nathan Hokama

Cori Ehukai Nakamoto is living every entrepreneur's dream. She followed her passion for cake decorating and successfully turned her hobby into a flourishing business aptly named Cori's Cake Dreams. With the support of OHA Mālama Loans, today she has three Cake Dreams Bakeshop sites. Like her impressive cake designs, Nakamoto's aspirations show her boundless, creative energy and optimism for the future.

Nakamoto's sweet taste of success didn't happen overnight. For more than a decade, she dedicated herself to perfecting her craft, creating and selling her exquisitely designed luxury cakes for weddings, showers, birthdays, and other special occasions on weekends – while working full time as an orthodontic care coordinator.

The McKinley High School graduate who grew up in Kalihi first became smitten by the joy of cake decorating when she took a cake decorating class with her mom. That was a pivotal experience. She sold her first cake in 2010, nearly 13 years ago, and soon was taking as many as four to five orders a week. Her weekends were spent producing cakes from start to finish — baking, decorating and delivering — all on her own. And she enjoyed every sweet moment.

Nakamoto's professional validation came when she and



(L-R) OHA Loan Processor Robert Crowell, Nakamoto, and Hawai'i News Now Host Kainoa Carlson share a laugh while filming a video segment.

Nixon Dabalos, another Hawai'i baker, were selected by Netflix producers to be one of the four contestant-teams on the popular show, *Sugar Rush: Extra Sweet* in 2020.

"When we got to the studio it was awesome," Nakamoto said. "It was like a Disneyland for adults in the cake business. We just gave it our best shot and hoped to make it past Round 1."

The baking team representing Hawai'i actually did better, winning all three rounds and impressing the judges with their innovative creations. They were required to make desserts made with childhood sweet and savory junk food snacks.

The Hawai'i duo outshined the other contestants with their cheese-filled cupcake encrusted with cheeseball crumbs; their Hawai'i-inspired rainbow Ho-Ho made with chantilly and mango jam drizzled with Milk Dud glaze; and a boombox and gumball machine expertly designed to burst with candy when the cake was cut.

They made all of Hawai'i proud winning the grand prize of \$10,000. Nakamoto said she is still reaping the benefits of the notoriety of winning on a nationally acclaimed show, but she has remained grounded and humble and is working as hard as ever.

"Even though others tell me, 'You're there,' I don't feel like I'm quite there yet," said Nakamoto, who continually strives to get better.

In May 2022, Nakamoto successfully acquired two bakery locations, one at Fort Shafter and the other at Tripler Medical Center, and six employees, which she subsequently doubled to a staff of a dozen to greatly expand her vision and operations. It was exactly what she had been praying for to take her business to the next level. She recently celebrated the grand opening of her third bakery at Schofield in Wahiawa.

The bakeries offer every imaginable delight: cassava flan, Ube Brazo De Mercedes, blueberry cheesecake tarts, banana bread, Fruity Pebbles macarons, and even the cheeseball cupcake that won the hearts of the Netflix *Sugar Rush* judges.

With the bakery acquisitions, Nakamoto made the difficult decision to give up her orthodontic position after 20 years.

"I loved working there," she said, noting that her sisters, Darcie and Bree, and her friends from church have been her main source of encouragement as she ventured into her business on a full-time basis.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Mālama Loan program has been instrumental in supporting Nakamoto's dream. OHA helped Nakamoto to finance the purchase of a new freezer, build a new website for her bakeries, develop marketing materials, and provide employee uniforms and startup capital to cover the first month of payroll.

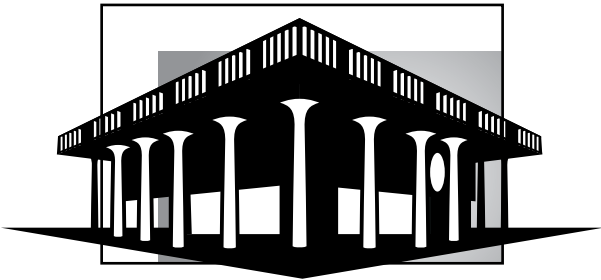
Aikū'e Kalima, manager of OHA's Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund program, said the program provides more than lend money. "We contract a vendor to provide technical assistance to every approved start-up loan applicant to ensure their success. It's like having a personal coach or mentor assigned to you to review your business plan to not only ensure you can repay the loan, but also to enjoy long-term business success."

Nakamoto does not consider herself a role model but is proud to represent Native Hawaiians. She offered some practical words of wisdom for others: "When times get rough, most businesses scale back, but that is the time to push through." ■

Visit cakedreamsbakeshop.com.

OHA Advocacy Recap of the 32nd Legislature Part 1

2023



LEGISLATIVE SESSION

By Zuri Aki, OHA Public Policy Manager

Aloha mai kākou. OHA was founded, in significant part, with the kuleana (responsibility) to ever-seek the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has steadfastly upheld this kuleana in countless ways and for us, here in OHA's Public Policy Program, we do that through advocating the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians in the laws, regulations, and actions taken by government.

I like to think of OHA's public policy advocates as nā koa (warriors), wielding their expertise in law and politics like ihe (spears) on the kahua kaua (battlefield). To be sure, navigating the tumultuous currents of governance, especially for Native Hawaiians, who have long-endured unresolved historical and ongoing injustices, can undoubtedly seem like fighting on a chaotic battlefield.

Be that as it may, advocacy is also an art form practiced and perfected by a great many advocates who have contributed to the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians, from grassroots activists to elected officials.

One of the greatest canvases for the expression of this art is the annual legislative session, where our legislators advance public policy through the development of laws that impact each and every one of us.

The State of Hawai'i has a biennial (two-year) legislative session commencing on an odd number year and carrying over into the following even number year. Each regular session convenes from the third Wednesday of January through 60 days, typically ending in early May. This year, the regular session ended on May 4, 2023, with a variety of proposed laws that will be enrolled to Gov. Josh Green for final approval (enactment) or disapproval (veto).

Through our advocacy efforts this year, OHA has tracked a grand total of 890 measures, providing support testimony for 99 measures, offering amendments on 43 measures, commenting on 80 measures, and providing opposition testimony for 31 measures. Of all these measures, only 25 were finally enrolled to the governor.

In our follow-up article to this OHA advocacy recap of the 32nd Legislature, we'll provide you with an update to the OHA-tracked measures that were enrolled to the governor, as well as what's on the horizon for the up-coming 2024 legislative session. ■



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Second Repatriation of Iwi Kūpuna from Germany

By Halealoha Ayau, Mana Caceres and Kamakana Ferreira

In early April, members of Hui Iwi Kuamo‘o, the successor organization to Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna O Hawai‘i Nei, traveled to Europe to once again conduct the repatriation of iwi kūpuna and moepū (funerary items) from five institutions on behalf of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

Since four of the museums were located in different parts of Germany and one in Austria, Hui Iwi Kuamo‘o organized into two teams. Hui 1 was led by Halealoha Ayau and included Ulu Cashman, Dane Maxwell and Kona Wong. Hui 2 was led by Mana Caceres and included Kalehua Caceres, Kaipo Torco, Starr Kalahiki and Nicole Naone.

Hui 1 traveled to Berlin and repatriated from the Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Ethnologie & Urgeschichte Berlin (BGAEU) and from the Ethnologisches Museum zu Berlin (SPK). In addition, Ayau and Cashman flew to Vienna, Austria, to repatriate from the Universität Wien on behalf of their organization.



Ulu Cashman (fourth from left) and Halealoha Ayau (fifth from left) with representatives from the University of Vienna in Austria. - Courtesy Photo

in early 2020 for further information and research notes.

This inquiry led to the discovery of additional iwi at the State Museum of Natural History in Stuttgart. Ferreira then worked closely with Ayau to prepare repatriation claims for each of the five institutions and consult with the respective museum staff.

Regarding the BGAEU repatriation, additional research was required to demonstrate a “context of injustice” for acquisition of the iwi in their possession. Ferreira and Ayau collaborated with scholar Noelle Kahanu to prepare a formal report analyzing the acquisition of these iwi by Dr. Eduard Arning (b.1855 - d.1936). Their research confirmed that injustice had indeed occurred; Arning’s removal of the iwi was done without consent from the government or affected families, thus it was illegal and a violation of Kingdom law. They also discovered that while Arning worked for the Hawaiian government to aid in treating leprosy, he misused his position to solicit burial information from patients and likely hid his acquisitions from his employers.

Once the repatriation claims for each institution were approved, Ferreira updated OHA leadership and coordinated the delegation of authority to Hui Iwi Kuamo‘o to retrieve the iwi kūpuna on OHA’s behalf. Ferreira, Ayau, and Mana and Kalehua Caceres worked to coordinate the necessary exportation paperwork from the U.S. Embassy in Berlin and respective German Foreign Ministries, and with U.S. Customs & Border Patrol to seamlessly receive the Hui Iwi Kuamo‘o team upon the return flight home via Seattle, Wash.

During a public hand-over ceremony in Stuttgart, at the State Museum of Natural History on April 5, 2023, Hui 2 leader Caceres made the following remarks in a formal speech: “158 years ago, the world was filled with individuals who traveled the world, and everywhere they went, they looted graves and stole from the dead. People like Alexander Ecker, Wilhelm Hillebrand, Rudolf

von Freydorf, Dr. Hyrtl, Dr. Brunhoff and Dr. Augustine Kramer not only stole these iwi kūpuna that we are repatriating today, they also traded them with one another like children playing with toys on a playground.

“Although we cannot turn back the hands of time to ‘unsteal’ the remains of our ancestors and their belongings, we can most certainly work together to unburden our grandchildren of these sins of the past. Today’s repatriation signifies a new beginning for us all. Let today’s repatriation serve as yet another example that when we, as human beings, recognize and acknowledge the humanity of one another, we recognize and acknowledge our very own humanity.

“The burden that we inherited when our grandparents were stolen is different from the burden you inherited when you became responsible for their remains at these institutions, but it is a burden, nonetheless. I pray that today’s repatriation ceremony will lighten that burden for us all.” ■

Mahalo to those who assisted with this repatriation to afford our ancestors respect, dignity and aloha: U.S. Department of Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary Eric Werwa, Office of Native Hawaiian Relations; Ashley Fry, U.S. State Department; Erin Robertson, U.S. Embassy Vienna; Nephi D. Camacho, Homeland Security, U.S. Embassy Vienna, Austria; Marie Trottier, TSA Tribal Affairs Liaison; Douglas Novak, Customs Border Patrol Department of Homeland Security; Tony Kalahui (Kamehameha Schools ‘96), Seattle Police Department; the Honor Guards from Homeland Security and U.S. Customs; and Kumu Kamaile Hamada and his hula hālau (Kamehameha Schools ‘82).

Edward Halealoha Ayau is the executive director of Hui Iwi Kuamo‘o, Mana Kalelani Caceres is alaka‘i for Hui Iwi Kuamo‘o, and Kamakana Ferreira is OHA’s lead compliance specialist.



Mana Caceres and Petra Olschowski from the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of the State of Baden-Württemberg at the handover ceremony at the Natural History Museum in Stuttgart, Germany. - Photo: Christoph Schmidt

Hui 2 traveled to Bremen to repatriate from the Übersee Museum and then flew to Stuttgart, Germany, to repatriate from the Natural History Museum Stuttgart and the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg. The teams reunited in Amsterdam, Netherlands, to escort home a total of 55 iwi kūpuna, 30 lauoho, and seven moepū.

Ayau undertook efforts to locate iwi kūpuna at the BGAEU and the Übersee Museum and consulted with the Ethnologies Museum in Berlin to return the seven moepū. In addition, he consulted with the University of Vienna.

OHA representative Kamakana Ferreira located possible iwi at the Albert Ludwig University through consultation with Dr. Michael Pietrusewsky, Professor Emeritus at the UH Mānoa Department of Anthropology. Ferreira, a former student of Pietrusewsky, recalled articles his professor had written about holdings of iwi in Germany and other European institutions and reached out to him

Faces of the Diaspora Series

An Unlikely Path to Missouri

By Megan Ulu-Lani Boyanton

Dawn-Erleen Fontanilla has experienced a lot in her 78 years of life: love and loss, community and solitude, the islands and the continent. When she first moved from Hawai'i to Missouri in 2004, Fontanilla paid a visit to a local swap meet. She was on a mission to buy asparagus plants, but the vendor told her that it would take three years for the vegetables to fully grow.

Fontanilla passed on the purchase, with one thought resounding in her head: "Oh, my God, three years? I'm not gonna be here for three years."

And, yet, almost 19 years later, she's still living on the continent – one of hundreds of thousands of Kānaka to make a similar journey.

Fontanilla grew up in Kāne'ohe, O'ahu, the eldest of four children. Her mother (who just turned 97) and sister still reside in the same house that she played in as a little girl. She and her siblings attended Kamehameha Schools. Always a "free spirit" Fontanilla recalls getting into trouble at school for her kolohe antics. Shortly after graduating in 1963, she got married and in a matter of a few years became the mother of five children.

Although the couple eventually divorced, Fontanilla's grateful for the union because otherwise, "I wouldn't have my children today," she said.

Fontanilla moved to Hāna, Maui, with her keiki in 1970. What she didn't realize at the time was that she would meet her second husband there. She remarried in 1972, and her new husband adopted her two daughters and three sons. For years, Fontanilla lived happily in Hāna, working at a variety of jobs and raising her children. In 1985, she relocated to Kahului where she obtained a commercial driver's license and started a job driving a semi for a local trucking company.

When her mother had spine surgery in 1988, Fontanilla, who by then had separated from her second husband, moved back to O'ahu to help care for her. The next 16 years were a whirlwind. While her mom was still recovering from her surgery, one of her sons had a serious car accident suffering a broken neck – fortunately he fully recovered. Fontanilla decided to remain on O'ahu.

In 2004, Fontanilla and her second husband finally divorced after being separated and on friendly terms for nearly two decades. It factored into her decision to uproot her life in Hawai'i and move to the American Midwest.

At the time, another of Fontanilla's sons was driving cross country as a commercial truck driver.

He encouraged his mom to buy a house in Missouri where he was living at the time, describing it as being "like Hāna. It's so green and lush."

Fontanilla took the plunge, purchasing a home sight unseen. But when she arrived in Missouri in the middle of winter - which often brings freezing temperatures - she asked him, "Um, where's all the green?"



Dawn-Erleen Fontanilla with her dog, Chica, in front of her home in Missouri. - Courtesy Photo

At first, the move to the continent was an adjustment. Her property is surrounded by forest, and "I was scared to death because I heard all of these different animal sounds I had never heard before," she recalled.

In addition to adjusting to differences in the climate, the flora, the fauna and the food, Fontanilla finds the people different too and says that she often witnesses bigotry on the continent, particularly against the Latinos in her community.

But she also points to changes back home noting that she's unsure whether Hawaiians in urban areas are fostering connections to the 'āina, culture and 'ohana like they used to. And she also reflects on the intolerance that many in Hawai'i feel towards white people due, in part, to historical injustice and the large military presence there.

"People are just people," said Fontanilla, whose maternal grandmother was pure Caucasian and from New York. "Everybody's human."

Increasingly, she's been blown away by the skyrocketing cost of living in Hawai'i.

"I don't know how people do it," Fontanilla said. "I don't know how they can survive with the price of housing, the price of everything there."

The son that encouraged her to move to Missouri has since returned to Hawai'i, and her 'ohana hopes she'll move back too, but Fontanilla's not quite ready to leave. For now, she's happy living alone with just her dog, Chica, for company. "I love it out here. It's quiet. It's nice. It's serene."

Of course, she's made friends and earned a reputation in her rural community as "the Hawaiian lady" who always wears a flower in her hair. She admits, "I miss Hawai'i, I miss the flowers, I miss the people."

Although she has been happy in Missouri - and has seen friends move to Texas and elsewhere and find contentment - Fontanilla has mixed feelings when asked if she had any advice to others considering a similar move. "If you can just keep the Hawaiian culture alive, I say go for it if you can't afford to stay in Hawai'i," she said.

As for the future, Fontanilla said, "I have a feeling I'll know when I'm going to kick the bucket." And she plans to return home before taking her last breath. ■

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INPEACE's Keiki Steps program is supported by the Native Hawaiian Education Program, Kamehameha Schools, and the Brazelton Touchpoints Foundation.

8 June 2023

June 2023 Update for Kalima v. DHHL Class Action

By Thomas Grande, Esq. and Carl Varady, Esq.

Notices have been sent to Class Members that state the estimated amount of settlement payment for each Class Member. The notice explains how the estimated settlement payments were calculated.

Waiting list claims were calculated using the Fair Market Rental Value formula approved by the Supreme Court for this case. Fair Market Rental Value measures what a Class Member would pay to rent the same type of lot (residential, agricultural, or pastoral) with infrastructure on the open market. Fair Market Rental Values are different for each year from 1960 through 2022 and increase each year.

The start date is when a Class Member applied or tried to apply; the end date is when a Class Member received a homestead award, or the date of death or the date of settlement (April 14, 2022), whichever is earliest. Construction claims were calculated by a Construction Expert appointed by the court using the reasonable repair costs at the time the claim was submitted to the Hawaiian Claims Office.

Important information for any Class Members receiving public benefits is also included in the notice.

For Relatives of Deceased Class Members

The June 2023 notice contains important instructions for relatives of deceased class members. Relatives of deceased Class Members must complete an Information Request Form that is available at www.kalima-lawsuit.com to start the probate process. The Probate Special Master and Probate Special Counsel need updated information about potential heirs, which include the spouses and children of the deceased class member, to be able to distribute any settlement payments to which they may be entitled.

Final Approval Hearing

The Final Approval Hearing will be held on Friday, July 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Class Members may submit a declaration in support of the settlement and/or ask to make a statement at the hearing. This is not required to receive payment. Please follow the instructions contained in the June 2023 notice.

Attorney Talk Story

Class Counsel will hold Talk Story Zoom sessions on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, and Tuesday, July 11, 2023, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Please go to <https://kalima-lawsuit.com> for information on how to participate.

Thank you for your continued patience and kōkua. ■

PUBLIC NOTICE

Seeking Comment on Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Process and Trustee Terms

The Hawai'i State Probate Court has appointed Benjamin M. Matsubara, Eric H. Sonnenberg, and Caycie Kahiau Gusman Wong as Special Masters to examine and report on the Trustees' Petition for Review of Trustee Selection Process and Trustee Terms, filed May 10, 2022, by the Trustees of the Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop dba Kamehameha Schools.

In reporting on the subject of the Petition, the Special Masters request comments and recommendations from the public regarding the current Trustee Selection Process and Trustee Terms (www.inkinen.com/KS-trustee). Please include your reasons in support of any comments and/or recommendations, and attach any supporting documents that are referenced.

The Special Masters will treat all information submitted for consideration as confidential and will not attribute the information in any public report to the person who submitted it unless reasonably necessary or required by law. Consequently, comments that do not include the name and contact information of the person who submitted the information will not be accepted and reviewed. This will help to ensure that the Special Masters have a person to contact to validate information and to seek clarification or additional information regarding submitted comments as may be necessary.

Please submit comments, including full name and contact information, **by July 14, 2023** to:

Special Masters, c/o Inkinen Executive Search

Email: KStrustee@inkinen.com

Mail: 1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1477, Honolulu, HI 96813

For more information, please visit www.inkinen.com/KS-trustee

Moananuiākea: Connected by the Ocean



Lucy Lee handles the hoe 'uli (steering paddle) on a training sail to Papahānaumokuākea. - Photo: Chris Blake

By Kalawaiʻa Nunies

The Alaska Federation of Natives recently welcomed Hōkūleʻa at Auke Bay on the traditional lands of Aakʻw Kwáan in Juneau, Alaska, for her upcoming voyage, “Moananuiākea: A Voyage for Earth.”

Moananuiākea will be Hōkūleʻa’s 15th major voyage. The ambitious, four-year expedition will begin this month (June 2023) and end in 2027. It will involve some 400 crew members who will sail an estimated 43,000 nautical miles around the Pacific, visiting 345 ports, nearly 100 Indigenous territories, and 36 countries and archipelagoes.

“The Moananuiākea Voyage will be longer [in terms of distance traveled] than the Mālama Honua Voyage in 2014-2017 – and we’re only going around the circumference of the Pacific Ocean,” said Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) member Chris Blake.

In preparation for the journey, Hōkūleʻa was transported via Matson to Alaska in April. In an interview with *Hawaiʻi Public Radio* published on April 17, Master Navigator and PVS President Nainoa Thompson explained that the decision not to sail Hōkūleʻa from Hawaiʻi to Alaska was made to protect both the crew and the canoe from the extreme cold still prevalent at that latitude in the spring.

The Moananuiākea Voyage will begin in Juneau, Alaska, with an expected launch date of June 15. Hōkūleʻa will sail to Seattle, Wash., and meet up with sister canoe *Hikianalia*. The voyage will continue south along the U.S. West Coast to Mexico, Central and South America, and then cross the Pacific beginning March 2024 and travel

to ports throughout Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia for more than two years. The canoes are scheduled to arrive in Japan sometime in September 2026. From there, they will be shipped to Los Angeles, sail home to Hawaiʻi, then travel to Tahiti and back in spring of 2027.

While the Mālama Honua Voyage circumnavigated the planet on a conservation mission to engage people from around the world and call attention to the importance of caring for “island earth” and its precious gifts – and finite resources – the purpose of the Moananuiākea Voyage is to “ignite a movement of 10 million ‘planetary navigators’ by developing young leaders engaging communities around the world to take part in navigating the earth towards a healthy, thriving future.”



Hōkūleʻa docked at Auke Bay in Juneau, Alaska. - Courtesy Photo

The voyage will also serve as a global educational campaign that amplifies the vital importance of oceans and Indigenous knowledge through education and storytelling.

“Western thinking held the idea that the Pacific Ocean separated us from our cousins in Kahiki and all over the Pacific. But every time we sail on the *ala kai* (ocean pathways) of our ancestors we are connecting to them. The oceans never ever

separated; our oceans always connected us,” Blake said.

Moananuiākea highlights the importance of marine environments above and below the water. Blake explained how every one of two breaths we take comes from the oxygen transfer generated from the Pacific Ocean.

PVS hopes that the voyage will empower other island communities to take charge of their environments and to push toward a more sustainable earth for future generations. Blake cited as an example the establishment of fishing zones to stop extractive methods and overfishing.

Blake is also a kumu at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama where he teaches “Kilo Hōkū,” a year-round class that educates haumāna about celestial and non-instrument navigation.

“The first thing we learn is the history of hōkū, hiki, and mō. Then we’ll start making our own star compasses, orienting ourselves in the environment, and learning about the star lines,” said Kilinoe Oliveria, a haumāna of Blake’s and alakaʻi of his Kilo Hōkū class.

“At the end of the year we plan our own voyage and make our own sail plans – how long it’s going to take, where to travel, what to eat, how many members, and who’s going to be in charge of what.”

“It’s humbling to pass on the teachings from the people I’ve learned from. To share this ‘ike is important, said Blake.”

The University of Hawaiʻi is another Moananuiākea Voyage education and mission partner. PVS member and UH Kumu Kaʻiulani Murphy teaches two courses on hoʻokele (navigation): Hawaiian astronomy and navigation, and Hawaiian voyaging and seamanship.

“I’m grateful to have this avenue to share this ‘ike that have been shared with me,” said Murphy. “It’s cool to come full circle from being a student to becoming a kumu. I feel lucky to give haumāna the opportunity to be involved with hoʻokele. It makes me happy.”

Having had the opportunity to take hoʻokele classes with Kumu Lilikalā Kameʻeleihiwa and huakaʻi (travel) off of Molokaʻi inspired Murphy to get involved with the Hōkūleʻa and the perpetuation of ‘ike hoʻokele.

Kekuhiapo iwa Leong is one of Murphy’s students. “We spent the semester talking about how the waʻa works, the different lines, and the different ways of voyaging,” Leong said. “It became super real when we put up the mast for the first time, all hands pulling on the lines for the first time and yelling ‘huki!’”

Seeing haumāna click with “aha!” moments is rewarding for Murphy. “It gives me hope that the knowledge will continue.”

The sailing of Hōkūleʻa and perpetuation of ‘ike hoʻokele across schools in Hawaiʻi is part of the Moananuiākea Voyage’s mission to inspire other Indigenous people to bring traditional knowledge back into classrooms and into the real world. ■

For more information visit www.hokulea.com or follow @hokuleacrew on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

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Kaua'i



Dan Ahuna

· Trustee for Kaua'i and Ni'ihau ·

COMMUNITY MEETING

**Tuesday, June 6, 2023
at 6:00 p.m.**

OHA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

**Wednesday, June 7, 2023
at 9:00 a.m.**

Both meetings will be held at
**Kaua'i Community College,
Fine Arts Auditorium**
3-1901 Kaumuali'i Hwy., Līhu'e, HI 96766



TUNE IN LIVE!

All meetings will be available via livestream.
To watch and see a complete schedule of
future meetings please visit
www.oha.org/BOT



Waimea Valley Kama'āina FREE Admission Thursdays from 12:00–3:00 p.m.

June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
Waimea, O'ahu

Every Thursday, before the
Hale'iwa Farmers Market
begins in Pīkake Pavilion,
all Hawai'i residents receive
FREE admission to Waimea
Valley. www.waimeavalley.net

Waimea Valley Moonwalk

June 4, 6:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Waimea, O'ahu

Experience the botanical gardens
at night awash in the light of the
moon and a cultural tour of an
authentic Hawaiian kauhale (liv-
ing site) at night. [www.waimeav-
alley.net/moon-walks](http://www.waimeav-
alley.net/moon-walks)

Royal Hawaiian Band Performances

June 2, 9, 16 & 23, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Honolulu, O'ahu

Free Friday concerts by the Royal
Hawaiian Band on the 'Iolani
Palace grounds. www.rhb-music.com

Bishop Museum's After Hours

June 9, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Honolulu, O'ahu

Pau hana music, programs, food,
drinks, planetarium programs,
gallery tours and activities. www.bishopmuseum.org/events

Ocean Day

June 10, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Waimea, O'ahu

FREE and open to the public!
Learn about our amazing ocean,
and the organizations working to
protect it: keiki activities, hālau
hūla, and a keiki art contest. By
Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea www.waimeavalley.net

Pahi Kaua Workshop with 'Umi Kai

June 10, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Honolulu, O'ahu

Learn how to make a pahi kaua
(war knife) from 'Ōlohe 'Umi Kai.
The dagger is made from the bill
(nuku) of a broadbill swordfish
(a'u kū). www.bishopmuseum.org

2023 Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival

June 10, 11:00 a.m.
Kāne'ohe, O'ahu

Steel guitar masters from O'ahu
will perform Hawai'i's favorite
Hawaiian music at Windward
Mall. The festival will livestream
on FB & YouTube. [www.kau-
aisteelguitarfestival.com](http://www.kau-
aisteelguitarfestival.com)

'Iolani Palace Kama'āina Sundays

June 11, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Honolulu, O'ahu

Free kama'āina tours, entertain-
ment, family-friendly activities,
and 'ono food options. www.iolanipalace.org

Sustainable Innovation Dialogue: Exploring the relationship between IP and climate change innovation

June 13, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. HST
Waikīkī, O'ahu & Online

Ideas on incentivizing, pro-
tecting, and commercializing
climate-related innovations from
the World Intellectual Property
Organization, industry, and the
Hawaiian innovation communi-
ty. Free with registration. [https://
bit.ly/3qauxAM](https://bit.ly/3qauxAM)

HI Island AgCurious Webinar

June 13, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Online

The first step to learn more about
the GoFarm beginning farmer
training program on Hawai'i
Island (Hilo). Attendance is
required to apply for AgXpo-
sure: July 5 - Aug. 8, 2023 to
learn from local farms and get
exposure to farm work. www.gofarmhawaii.org

Legends of Hawaiian Music with Nathan Aweau

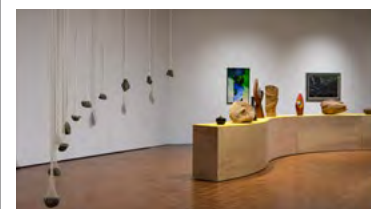
June 14, 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Kahala, O'ahu

Enjoy live music with Nathan
Aweau at the Plumeria Beach
House in the Kahala Hotel and
Resort. For reservations and list
of future Legends of Hawaiian
Music events go to
www.HMPShawaii.com

Lā 'Ohana Day

June 18, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Waimea, O'ahu

Kama'āina and military families
get 50% off general admission
to Waimea Valley. Learn about
Hawaiian history and culture, ex-
plore the botanical gardens, and
swim below a 40-foot waterfall.
www.waimeavalley.net



'Ai Pōhaku, Stone Eaters Exhibit

• **Through Aug. 13 •**

Wed, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
l.l.l., // // //

Kapi'olani Community College

• **Through Aug. 13 •**

Sun-Mon, 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
East-West Center Gallery,
UH Mānoa

• **Through Aug. 25 •**

Tues-Fri, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,
Sat. 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Hō'ikeākea,
Leeward Community College

Artwork by nearly 40 Native
Hawaiian artists, unfolding
over eight months at six
college and university ven-
ues, tell a story of Hawaiian
contemporary art that began
during the cultural reawak-
ening of the 1970s. For
locations and times go to
www.puuhonua-society.org/aipohaku



King Kamehameha I Day | June 11

Kamehameha Day Celebrations

E ala e nā kini o ka 'āina! (Arise all people of the land!)

Hawai'i Island

King Kamehameha Celebration

June 10, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Kailua-Kona
9:00 a.m. - Floral Parade
11:30 a.m. - Ho'olaule'a at
Hulihe'e Palace
<https://konaparade.org/>

105th Annual King Kamehameha Celebration

June 11 | Kohala
Sunrise Morning protocol
8:00 a.m. - King Kamehameha Statue
Lei Draping
9:00 a.m. Floral Parade
11:00 a.m. Ho'olaule'a

Kaua'i

King Kamehameha Ho'olaule'a

June 10, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Līhu'e

Maui

Nā Kamehameha Commemorative Ho'olaule'a & Pā'ū Parade

June 17 | Lāhainā
9:00 a.m. Ho'olaule'a
9:45 a.m. Pā'ū Parade - Front St.

Moloka'i

The King's Gala

June 2, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Kaunakakai
Hiro's 'Ohana Grill at Hotel Moloka'i

King Kamehameha Pā'ū Parade & Ho'olaule'a

June 3 | Kaunakakai
5:30 p.m. Pā'ū Parade, Ala Malama Ave
6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Ho'olaule'a, at
Kaunakakai Ball Park

O'ahu

King Kamehameha Statue Lei Draping

June 9, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Honolulu
Annual lei draping ceremony at Kamehameha's statue in front of Ali'iolani Hale

106th Annual King Kamehameha Day Celebration Floral Parade & Ho'olaule'a

June 10 | Honolulu
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Floral Parade
(Iolani Palace to Kapi'olani Park)
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Ho'olaule'a at
Kapi'olani Park with live music, food
and more. ■

For more information on upcoming King Kamehameha Celebration events visit:
<https://sfca.hawaii.gov/resources/king-kamehameha-celebration-commission/>

Join us for our
FREE 6th Annual
MĀLAMA NĀ KEIKI FESTIVAL!

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Family fun! Keiki activities!

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10AM-2:00PM
Pāhala Community Center
96 Kamani St. #1149
Pāhala, HI 96777

+1 (808) 969-9220 HMONO.org contact@hmono.org
f/HMONO.org hui_malama_ @HuiMalama

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Creating a Legacy of Literature for the Lāhui

By Puanani Fernandez-Akamine

“A successful translation is not the same thing as an exact translation,” Dr. Keao NeSmith says.

And he should know.

So far, NeSmith has translated 15 works of western literature from English into Hawaiian and is currently working on number 16.

NeSmith, who has a doctorate from the University of Waikato (in Aotearoa) in applied linguistics, translated his first title in 2012. “I was teaching Hawaiian language at UH Mānoa and Michael Everson, an independent publisher, contacted our department to see if anyone was interested in translating *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* into Hawaiian,” NeSmith said.

Seeing an opportunity, NeSmith volunteered.

“I had just finished my Ph.D. and was looking for a way to establish myself in my field, so that was part of my motivation. But really, it was more for the fun of it.”

The initial translation project was part of an effort to commemorate the book’s 150th anniversary in 2015. First published in 1865, Lewis Carroll’s famous story has never been out of print and, to date, has been translated into at least 170 languages.

It was supposed to be just the one book, but after NeSmith completed the translation, he asked Everson, “so are we done?” Everson asked him if he wanted to translate the book’s sequel, *Through the Looking-Glass*. NeSmith agreed, and the two have been collaborators ever since.

Born and raised in Kekaha, Kaua’i, NeSmith said that although his first language is English, “my neighbors were all from Ni’ihau.” He shared that there were also several kūpuna in his community who were ‘ōlelo kuakahi (native speakers) from Kaua’i and NeSmith spent a lot of time with them. Surrounded by native speakers, including his own grandmother with whom he lived for a time in Hau’ula, O’ahu, NeSmith acquired the language organically.

His upbringing within a Hawaiian linguistic community has enabled NeSmith to take stories with complicated text and fanciful ideas expressed using English idioms and cultural references and retell them in Hawaiian.

“I’m relying on all of my lifetime experience,” he explained. “I could not have done this without having lived with actual native speakers. It is impossible to do this kind of work without having already experienced all levels of emotion, joy and contention, as a full participant within that linguistic community.”

In addition to the two “Alice” books, NeSmith’s published translations include *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Hobbit*, *The Little Prince*, and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*. He has also completed translations of all seven books in C.S. Lewis’ *The Chronicles of Narnia* series, which will be published soon. And he is currently working on the fifth book in the Harry Potter series. Although the first Harry Potter book has already been published, NeSmith



For the past decade, Dr. Keao NeSmith has translated popular works of western literature from English into Hawaiian to create a body of literature that native speakers of Hawaiian can read and enjoy. - Photo: Milestones, UH Mānoa.

said they will wait until translation of the entire series is complete before publishing the rest of the books.

Translating popular western literature into Hawaiian has become a passion project for NeSmith who is not paid for his work. It’s a pau hana pastime for him. Rather than relaxing after work, kicking up his feet and watching television as most people do, NeSmith spends an hour or two most evenings working on his translations. “Some people enjoy crossword puzzles or Sudoku,” he quipped. “I call this ‘mental jungle gym’ and I enjoy the challenge.”

Citing this example from *The Hobbit*, “‘Great Elephants!’ said Gandalf, ‘you are not at all yourself this morning – you have never dusted the mantel-piece!’” NeSmith notes that the challenge is not finding the right nouns, verbs or grammatical patterns, but finding ways to translate excitement, disappointment, anxiety, humor or puns expressed in English in a way that makes sense in Hawaiian.

Another challenge is creating new words. NeSmith said that while creating new words is a lot of fun, he doesn’t want to create new terms that are so far out in left field that a native speaker would never understand the meaning because the word is just too foreign.

“I try to create terms that are reachable so you have a chance of getting what it means,” he said. “The example that comes to mind is the word ‘remeberall’ from Harry Potter. It’s a ball that helps you remember. Remember plus ball, so ‘rememberall.’ It was clever.

“I had to think about the two concepts and the new word I settled on was ‘kinipoina’ole.’ Kinipōpō is ball. Kini (or kinikini) is marbles and poina ‘ole means unforgettable. Kini – easy. Poina – easy. Poina ‘ole – easy. I love that ‘kinipoina’ole’ is multi-dimensional the way ‘remeberall’ is multi-dimensional. That isn’t always possible,

but sometimes we score a major pun hit.”

If a suitable Hawaiian word exists, NeSmith will not create a new one that may not be understood. In the Harry Potter books, for example, Harry encounters a boa constrictor. There is no word in Hawaiian for boa constrictor, but there is a word for snake (naheka or nahesa) which was borrowed from Greek. So that is the word he used. “I’m not going to invent a word and expect readers to understand what I just invented,” he said.

“If the author intended you to laugh, then the Hawaiian should also make you laugh,” he added. “You cannot make someone laugh by creating foreign language, you have to make someone laugh using their language. That’s trickier than inventing new words.”

With plans to begin translating the *Lord of the Rings* series by J.R.R. Tolkien once the Harry Potter series is pau, NeSmith is clearly in his creative element as an academic and a linguist. “It is exhilarating to leap into a universe that exists only in the mind and articulate it in Hawaiian and then invite others to come along,” he said.

Without a doubt, the body of work NeSmith has been building over the past decade represents a major contribution to the collection of literature available in ‘ōlelo Hawai’i. And while his work directly benefits Hawaiian immersion education and the broader ‘ōlelo Hawai’i speaking community, NeSmith is quick to point out that he is driven by his loyalty to, and aloha for, our po’e ‘ōlelo kuakahi.

“My heart lies with our kūpuna and our Ni’ihau people. They are my first priority.” He wants to create a body of literature that Native Hawaiians whose first language is not English can read and enjoy.

“It’s kind of daring for me to think that I should do this. I’m not as competent as a Ni’ihau speaker,” NeSmith demured. “Hawaiian is their first language, it’s their daily universe from the moment they’re born. They are still over there on that side where I wish I could be. I wish I could have had that same universe.”

Regardless, his efforts have been welcomed and joyfully received by native speakers – which has both surprised and delighted NeSmith. “The response has been huge – especially with Harry Potter. I wasn’t prepared for that response, and I was blown away. It caused me to reflect on the meaning of what I had previously considered to just be my own little project, and the impact the books had when they were released.”

With many more books awaiting translation into Hawaiian, this body of work will certainly become part of NeSmith’s legacy to our lāhui for future generations of Hawaiian speakers.

“I want to normalize the language of our kūpuna and po’e Ni’ihau. When I engage the text, in my head I hear the chatter of kūpuna and friends of all ages I’ve known all my life who are (or were) native speakers. That makes me smile as I fall asleep at night, and I can’t wait to dream.” ■

Dr. Keao NeSmith’s translated works can be purchased at www.nativebookshawaii.org or on Amazon.

Immersive Virtual Exhibits Coming to Kaua'i Museum

By Edward McLaurin

Kaua'i residents and visitors will soon have an opportunity to learn the rich, fascinating and sometimes controversial history of the Kingdom of Hawai'i's royal families via a new exhibit at the Kaua'i Museum in Līhu'e.

The exhibit will include a special emphasis on King Kaumuali'i, the last king of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau. His kingdom, alone, did not fall to the ambitions of King Kamehameha I and, after brokering a peace treaty, Kaumuali'i ruled peacefully as a vassal king from 1810 until 1821 until he was abducted by King Kamehameha II and forced to marry Queen Ka'ahumanu.

"King Kaumuali'i is the star here," Kaua'i Museum Executive Director Chucky Boy Chock said. "He is the biggest difference between us and other island museums."

"Long before the small group of non-native Hawaiians plotted the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani in 1893 – which set in motion the annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1898 – there was Kaua'i's fight for independence in the early 1800s," Chock said.

"Our amazing team of volunteers walk our guests through the preserved artifacts from the infamous ship, *Ha'aeo o Hawai'i*, the luxury vessel King Kamehameha II used to capture King Kaumuali'i. Smithsonian archaeologists excavated the Hanalei Bay shipwreck nearly two centuries later and have donated most of the rare discoveries to the museum."

Now the museum has partnered with nonprofit Kamāwaelualani Corp. and web designer Kaua'i Dev to create an immersive educational experience and bring

the exhibits to life with Extended Reality (XR).

"Awakening of the Ancestors" is an exhibit at Kaua'i Museum that showcases Kaua'i ali'i using XR, including virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR).

Ali'i will "be awakened" in three-dimensional form, where learners can see the ali'i represented in a realistic form as if they were in the same room as the museumgoer. Combining the cutting-edge technology of XR with unique Kaua'i Kānaka Maoli culture produces a powerful learning experience.

"It's really for our keiki of Kaua'i. What better way to use this technology then to inspire keiki to learn more about Hawaiian heritage? For the Awakening of the Ancestors exhibit we have created a series of three installations using XR to bring our ali'i and artifacts in the Kaua'i Museum into the three-dimensional realm with interactive educational technology," Chock said.

An exhibit using this degree of technology is especially powerful for Kaua'i because the island is often under-resourced when it comes to technology. Moreover, this exhibit will be the first to feature Kānaka Maoli historical figures and artifacts using XR technology for the purpose of not-for-profit community education.

"This technology isn't at risk of going obsolete. The characters have been mapped to Kaua'i Museum, so this is where they live. XR is adaptable so we can change what they say and what they do. If we have the vision and the resources, the sky is the limit," said Keoni Takekawa, the XR developer in the hui who's the artist behind the virtual creations. "Sharing these virtual creations with the community is a dream."

This project is especially powerful because it uses tech-

nology as a storytelling tool to educate learners – particularly Kaua'i youth who are already adept at using technology – to connect to Kaua'i-specific Kānaka Maoli history in a way they haven't before.

Nikki Cristobal is co-founder and executive director of grassroots Kamāwaelualani which is a partner in the project. "The learning flows seamlessly when keiki get to witness the ancestors of Kaua'i being awakened before their very eyes using a platform that they're excited to get their hands on," she said.

This project has tapped cultural practitioners from the community as experts to help inform the creation of the exhibits.

At Kaua'i Museum, learners will use 3D goggles and/or their smartphones to view the XR creations. Images, text, 3D animations, and/or sounds are superimposed to aid the learner to explore the content in-depth. "The bigger vision of this project is to inspire the next generation of Kaua'i programmers, designers, and cultural knowledge bearers to be creators of culture using technology instead of being passive consumers as they are currently," said Nani Holroyd, a XR developer working on the exhibit through Kaua'i DEV.

Six virtual kūpuna and a collection of virtual artifacts are being developed. These digital assets have been used to create three AR exhibits in the museum and two short video animations, allowing museum visitors to explore Kaua'i's history in a unique and engaging way.

Chock said this series is just the beginning of a larger effort to bring more artifacts, ancestors, and mo'olelo into the virtual space to immerse museum guests more fully into Kaua'i's history. ■



A new virtual exhibit opening soon at the Kaua'i Museum will feature unbelievably realistic, animated 3D images of Hawaiian ali'i, and use technology as a storytelling tool to educate learners in a unique and engaging way. This image from the Kaua'i Museum's website captures five of the ali'i. Depicted L-R: Liwai, a kahili bearer; Keali'i ahonui, youngest son of King Kaumuali'i and Queen Kapuaamohu; Princess Kelea, a wahine warrior considered the best surfer on Kaua'i; Kia'imakani, Protector of the Winds and a war chief of Kaumuali'i; Kahe'e, a war chief of Kaumuali'i. - Photo: Kaua'i Museum www.kauaimuseum.org/xr

"They Were Dynamiting Our Iwi Kūpuna"



Artwork in Kōloa expresses the community's opposition to Meridian Pacific's "Kauanoē o Kōloa" development. - Courtesy Photo

By Adam Keawe Manalo-Camp

For most of her adult life, Roslyn Nicole Manawaiakea Cummings of Kaua'i (who prefers to be called Manawaiakea) has focused on her kuleana as a cultural practitioner and as the proud mother of seven children.

Then she was contacted by community activist Elizabeth Okinaka regarding concerns about a proposed luxury condominium development in Kōloa on Kaua'i's south shore.

Manawaiakea accepted Okinaka's request to visit the site. After visiting and conducting protocols, she received hō'ailona (signs) that led to a kāhea (call) to protect the iwi kūpuna that were there.

"It became a deep dive into this kuleana and something that needed to be done with a pure heart," Manawaiakea said. "But we need to ask ourselves what is our kuleana as Kānaka Maoli? I am not here to be like Gollum holding this kuleana like it's 'my precious.' We all have different kuleana but it's our collective kuleana to care for our kūpuna. All of us. Not just me. Not just in Kōloa."

For centuries, the sand dunes of Weliweli, Pa'a, and Māhā'ulepū have been known burial grounds – this was attested to by Kānaka Maoli from the area to early missionaries. Rev. Samuel Whitney remarked in 1826 that when he visited Māhā'ulepū it was "white with human bones."

While surveying the area decades later, Rev. John Mortimer Lydgate noted numerous human remains in Keonelo near Pa'a and Weliweli, Kōloa, and other nearby areas. In 1835, the first commercial sugar cane plantation in the region changed the landscape of Kōloa. Over the



The Kōloa community is outraged by plans to build luxury condos in an area with known burial sites and endangered species. A grassroots organization, Save Kōloa, has filed a lawsuit to stop it. - Courtesy Photo

subsequent century, iwi from Kōloa and other nearby areas were pillaged for museums and for private collections around the world.

Community protests to protect the iwi began in 2020 when California-based Meridian Pacific's 282-unit luxury condominium development (dubbed "Kauanoē o Kōloa") was approved by Kaua'i County officials.

Compelled by an overwhelming kuleana to protect both the iwi kūpuna and the environment, Manawaiakea, Okinaka, and Nāka'ielua Villatora co-founded "Save Kōloa."

Save Kōloa started a petition, "Stop Kauanoē o Kōloa," which has garnered over 48,000 signatures. In May 2022, Save Kōloa and Friends of Māhā'ulepū filed a case in the fifth circuit court against Meridian Pacific and Kaua'i County for violating regulations protecting endangered species and culturally significant sites.

Despite the challenges to the project, Meridian Pacific began "microblasting" the construction site about a month later.

"They were dynamiting our iwi kūpuna. That's how little respect they have," said Manawaiakea. Vocal protests from the community began shortly afterward – not only to protect the iwi kūpuna, but also the extensive cave system underground.

Okinaka, who is of Paiute, Nez Perez, and Nahuatl ancestry, was raised on Kaua'i. She said the cave system in Kōloa is "one of the 10 most endangered habitats in the world and there has been no serious mapping of the area."

She noted that the cave system is home to the endangered Kaua'i Cave Wolf Spiders and to Kaua'i Cave amphipods (small crustaceans) that are only found in that

place. "We still don't understand the impact of these caves, how they connect to each other, and how it affects our water supply on Kaua'i."

"There also are oral traditions that the caves have burials and were used by Kānaka Maoli for travel and for [religious] protocols. Our kids need to visit these sites and have a connection with the 'āina. They need to know that you can actually have a sustainable future by respecting the land and living off of it instead of destroying it. We need good people in the county, on the planning commission, the burial councils, and in the State Historic Preservation Division who understand that these spaces need to be protected."

Manawaiakea added, "We have a lot of upcoming and new development going on in Lāwā'i, 'Ōma'o, Kalaheo, Kōloa Landing, and Po'ipū. Hotels like Hyatt plan to expand. We need to put a chair on the table, and not just sit at the table."

"At the end of the day, these developers are going to make their money and then leave. It's our people who are going to face the consequences. Our kūpuna are more valuable than money." ■

For more information go to: Facebook @savekoloa or www.change.org/p/stop-kauano-e-o-koloa.

OHA supports proactive protections and mālama iwi kūpuna initiatives statewide through grants and services that strengthen pilina, 'ohana, mo'omeheu and 'āina. For information about OHA's Iwi Kūpuna Repatriation and Reinterment Grant go to: www.oha.org/grants. For more information about the Island Burial Councils visit: www.oha.org/burialcouncils.

Wailua Community Says “No” to Another Hotel

By Kawehionapuaokalanikeha Haug

It's been 30 years since hurricane 'Iniki slammed into the island of Kaua'i, razing and flattening much of the island. And the Coco Palms Hotel – made famous by the 1961 movie *Blue Hawaii* starring Elvis Presley – was one of the casualties.

When the hurricane hit, the hotel had already lost most of its Hollywood glamour. Old and run-down, it quickly succumbed to the damaging winds and heavy rains and three decades later its ruins remain – a glaring eyesore that is unmissable from Kūhiō Highway.

Located in the ahupua'a of Wailua, the hotel was built in the lower river valley region known as Wailuanuiho'āno. This wahi pana (storied place) was once the social, economic, political and religious center of Kaua'i, and the seat of government for the island's ruling chiefs.

The area includes many significant sacred sites including heiau, burials, birthing stones, a bell stone, petroglyphs, ancient fishponds and canoe landings. An archaeological survey found that Wailua contained more heiau than any other ahupua'a on Kaua'i.

Today, acres of the sacred lands at Wailuanuiho'āno are buried in the rubble and ruin of the Coco Palms; a 21st-century scrapyard of collapsed structures, broken glass and crumbling concrete.

Although the Coco Palms' shine faded rather quickly after peaking during the height of Hollywood's infatuation with Hawai'i kitsch, there have been several attempts over the years by developers hoping to restore the hotel to its former glory and cash in.

But plagued by years of stalled plans, ever changing property owners, permitting hang-ups, environmental challenges (including ongoing severe flooding due to sea level rise), insufficient funding, and community protests, those attempts all failed.

However, that hasn't prevented Utah developer Reef Capital Partners from trying to move forward with its plans to build a 350-room hotel on the 40-acre site. Not surprisingly, their plan has received tremendous community opposition.

Today, Wailuanuiho'āno represents yet another struggle for Native Hawaiian 'āina stewardship.

The fight for land rights, stewardship and restoration of Wailuanuiho'āno has been ongoing for decades but has escalated since Reef Capital Partners' plans for the area were announced.

Mason Chock, vice chair of I Ola Wailuanui, a non-profit formed by Wailua residents to protect Wailuanuiho'āno, said that the land is unique and significant and that it belongs in the hands of the Wailua community.

I Ola Wailuanui proposes restoration and protection of the wahi pana via a community driven pro-

cess. Their vision is to “restore Wailuanuiho'āno to a flourishing space for cultural enrichment, education, conservation and food production.” They propose developing a Hawaiian cultural and education center and an agricultural park that can be used as a resource for the community in perpetuity.

At a May 10 meeting, Kaua'i County Council Chair Mel Rapozo proposed that Kaua'i County reclaim the Coco Palms site from the revolving bevy of developers via eminent domain.

“But that comes at a price,” Rapozo said to an audience of community members, many of whom attended to provide testimony against any further development. “Because with condemnation comes the real market value that we've got to pay [to the landowner]...[but] if this is what the community wants, we can get it done.”

By all accounts, the community definitely wants to reclaim the property although money is the biggest hurdle. At the council meeting, representatives for the developer said that they are willing to sell the land to the community for \$22 million – their own purchase price.

Undaunted, I Ola Wailua Nui is raising money to purchase the land. Like Rapozo, the organization believes that buying back the land is the first step to realizing their vision.

“Purchasing the land is really just a means of stopping another hotel from being built. Our organization is focused on ensuring that the cultural and historical significance of that area is perpetuated for the community,” Chock said.

“We recognize that this particular property, historically and up until today, has lease rights as a hotel. But we don't believe that that's in the best interest of the community, from the standpoint of climate change, sea level rise and stewardship of this wahi pana,” Chock added.

He estimates that, in addition to the cost of purchasing the land, it will cost at least \$10 million to achieve their ultimate goal: to clean and clear the land and hand it over to the community to steward. Nevertheless, Chock is optimistic.

“Looking at this project over the last two years. I feel like our organization has taken an active and necessary role toward working with the community and realizing their vision,” says Chock.

“Acquisition is just a means to an end, really. We don't see ourselves as the organization to take over [stewardship] of this property. We are the ones to ensure that it goes to the community.”

The Kaua'i Council resolution introduced at the May 10 meeting seeking reclamation of the land via eminent domain was deferred, but Rapozo has said that he plans to submit another resolution. ■

For more information go to www.wailuanui.org.



In the three decades since it was destroyed by Hurricane 'Iniki, the former Coco Palms Hotel in Wailua, Kaua'i, has sat in ruins. The land beneath the rubble was once the seat of government for Kaua'i's ruling chiefs, a sacred wahi pana with countless cultural sites. A Utah-based developer has purchased the land to build another hotel, but a community group, I Ola Wailuanui, is trying to raise the funds to buy back the land and restore it for cultural enrichment, education, conservation and food production. - Photos: Courtesy of Mason Chock

Building a Sustainable Future on Kauaʻi



OHA grants are helping AHK put together Farmers Market Boxes with fresh fruits and vegetables for Native Hawaiians on Kauaʻi. - *Courtesy Photo*

The Office of Hawaiians Affairs is one of several entities supporting the work of community nonprofit ʻĀina Hoʻokupu o Kīlauea

By Ed Kalama

“He aliʻi ka ʻāina, he kauā ke kanaka.
The land is a chief; man is its servant.”

They describe themselves as modern day ʻĀina Warriors, helping to bring sustainability, resiliency, and self-sufficiency to their island home. Their vision is an economically diverse and food secure Kauaʻi, and they are rallying the community through the value of mālama ʻāina.

It's critical work, and if the pandemic proved anything, it's that Hawaiʻi needs more organizations like ʻĀina Hoʻokupu o Kīlauea (AHK) spread out across the entire pae ʻāina.

“AHK is here to manage, listen and care for the ʻāina within the reality of this modern world,” said AHK Executive Director Yoshito L'Hote. “How do we continue to uphold these values that describe the land as a chief, and the man as its servant? Our project is an approach toward re-establishing a role for Kānaka to become a provider and steward by providing a space where we can thrive in this modern age.”

Established in 2015, AHK's goal is to facilitate solutions to economic, social, agricultural and food security challenges that the Kīlauea community and Kauaʻi faces.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, AHK was able to support local farmers by purchasing their goods and putting together Farmers Market Boxes that were then sold at a drive-through to local residents. The pro-



The Kīlauea Community Agricultural Center is a 75-acre parcel on the North Shore of Kauaʻi. - *Courtesy Photo*

gram boomed, and as the volume of produce gathered increased, AHK started purchasing the fresh fruits and vegetables with donations from the community and began servicing kūpuna and families economically impacted by the pandemic.

A \$50,201 Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) COVID-19 Impact and Response Grant in 2021 allowed AHK to provide 3,500 mixed locally grown produce boxes that supplied weekly deliveries to more than 500 Native Hawaiian families on Kauaʻi for some five months.

AHK went on to garner support from the federal USDA Farmers-to-Families Food Box program, the County of Kauaʻi and CARES Act funding, which allowed them to purchase equipment, greenhouses, and the necessary infrastructure to start producing the food that was going into the boxes.

In September of 2022, AHK was awarded a \$100,000 OHA ʻĀina Community Grant intended to provide 3,600 produce boxes to more than 300 Native Hawaiians across



Yoshito L'Hote (right) and his son, Malu, are committed to supporting Hawaiian and other local families on Kauaʻi to build food security and sustainability. - *Photo: Jason Lees*

Kauaʻi over the next two years. Specifically, the grant funds 1,800 boxes per year (36 per week) to benefit Native Hawaiian families.

Boxes are approximately 10 lbs. each and cost about \$25 for the produce and \$5 for aggregation, construction and delivery.

The community grant from OHA is being used as matching funding for a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant, which is a three-year grant of \$125,000 per year. AHK also secured \$75,000 from a private donor but still has to raise matching funds for the second and third year. Along with \$75,000 in private donations, AHK will be able to continue producing Farmers Market Boxes for the rest of this year.

“Our partnership with OHA is allowing us to continue providing this great gift from the ʻāina through our non-profit partners that serve our Hawaiian community. The more boxes get purchased, the more food can be grown at the Kīlauea Ag Center, and the more connected the benefiting families are to the ʻāina,” L'Hote said.

AHK has been developing the Kīlauea Community Agricultural Center (KCAC), a 75-acre parcel on the North Shore of Kauaʻi formerly owned by the Kīlauea Sugar Plantation Co., to build food resiliency, economic diversity and provide an avenue to connect with ʻāina.

“KCAC is a place where beginning farmers can have access to land, infrastructure and expertise to facilitate their success,” L'Hote said. “We currently have seven independent farmers on-site, and we farm 5 acres to grow produce going toward the boxes, along with other produce purchased from our on-site location and from other local farmers,” L'Hote said.

“Recently, we are continuing to vertically integrate the farm by adding our new support kitchen and market/deli, capturing the retail dollar and its profitability to help maximize the revenue from local production, and continue to allow us to maintain our produce boxes system hopefully in perpetuity,” he added.

“KCAC is an attempt to support Hawaiians and local people to maintain their sense of place, and allow them to perpetuate their culture. We're also providing access to entrepreneurial support, access to land to farm, and skillsets to have them contribute to their community in a meaningful way,” L'Hote said.

L'Hote said he enjoys serving his community and providing a positive path forward that honors the island's host culture.

SEE BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE ON PAGE 17



The Farmers Market Box contains a variety of fresh produce. - Courtesy Photos
A Kaua'i kupuna is the recipient of fresh fruits and vegetables.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Continued from page 16

"The best thing about this grant work is to see the smiling faces of the recipients when they see the beautiful fruits and vegetables that they would normally not be able to purchase, and to connect the most disadvantaged parts of the community to our 'āina," he said.

"We are nurturing a sense of hope and direction for Kaua'i. It is our responsibility, as stewards of this land, to prioritize the needs of 'āina. Our project allows the continuity of Hawaiian values while succeeding in this modern era.

"Because locally grown produce is more expensive, those who are financially well off are able to purchase it. As a producer and aggregator, we utilize the philanthropic mechanism to ensure fresh produce is readily available to all regardless of income, because nobody should go without a healthy balanced diet in Hawai'i." ■

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Protecting Lo'i Pa'akai in Hanapēpē

By Amee Hi'ilawe Neves

The mokupuni of Kaua'i holds many beautiful treasures preserved by the hardworking Kānaka on the island and the renowned lo'i pa'akai of Hanapēpē, Kaua'i, is just one shining example of what can happen when Kānaka come together to perpetuate traditional cultural practices.

The lo'i pa'akai 'o 'ukulā ma Hanapēpē is one of the few remaining sites for traditional Hawaiian salt farming. In this wahi pana (storied place), Hui Hana Pa'akai o Hanapēpē (Hui) is perpetuating traditional salt-making practices and passing this 'ike down to upcoming generations.

However, this work comes with its own set of challenges.

In close proximity to the lo'i pa'akai sits the Port Allen Airport, also known as Burns Field. Once the first emergency landing strip on Kaua'i, the airfield is now utilized by scenic helicopter tour operators. Currently operating on the airstrip are Smoky Mountain Helicopters (dba Maverick Helicopters) and D & J Air Adventures (dba Sky Dive Kaua'i) both of whom have previously caused issues for the salt-makers.

In August 2019, the Hui reached out to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Hawai'i Department of Health for the immediate investigation of an unpermitted restroom facility utilizing a cesspool – which generated concerns about contaminants leaching into the soil and affecting the salt beds.

Later that year, the County of Kaua'i Planning Department sent a Notice of Violation and Order to Pay Fines to Smoky Mountain Helicopters and D & K Air Adventures.

As of 2023, the cesspool is not in use, but the salt-makers are looking much further to preserve the lo'i pa'akai. "To my knowledge, they're not using the cesspool anymore. But being very honest, our goal was really to shut them down and so we were trying to block them wherever we could," said Malia Nobrega-Olivera, an alaka'i for the salt-makers of Hanapēpē.

Today, the airfield has limited activity which has been a huge win for the Hui.

"During COVID, a lot of their operations really slowed down which, from our point of view, was a blessing," said Nobrega-Olivera. "It's still a high priority for us that the airstrip be not used [at all]."

Although the pandemic slowed helicopter operations, it also brought a significant number of houseless people into the Hanapēpē area. And many of them created makeshift bathrooms close to the lo'i pa'akai during the stay-at-home order.

The Hui is currently working with the county to move the nearby camping area further from the salt-making areas as the same issue is prevalent with campers in the area. With the houseless population



Pa'akai from Hanapēpē, Kaua'i, is treasured throughout the pae 'āina, and often given as a gift to grateful recipients. Harvested in traditional salt beds for centuries, this ancient cultural practice is threatened by encroaching commercial activities and climate change. - Photo: Pi'ilani Kali

in Hanapēpē decreasing, the Hui hopes that moving the campsite will help stop the mistreatment of the lo'i pa'akai from visitors.

"When they're right there, nearest to the salt-making area, and they get lazy, instead of walking to the bathroom, which is maybe 50 steps away, they just end up making shishi or whatever right in the area," said Nobrega-Olivera.

Another major issue the Hui faces is flooding due to both rainfall and high tides. By working with the county, they were able to place boulders to block vehicular traffic on the beach area.

"That has really been a big one of our best solutions yet because we can see the natural restoration of the sand dunes and are also seeing some of the mea kanu (plants) coming back through the sand dunes," Nobrega-Olivera said.

"Ākulikuli kai is coming back and with these plants naturally growing through the sand dunes it helps to hold the sand in place and then, without the vehicles driving on the sand, it mitigates the overtopping of waves."

As a result of recent heavy rainfall on Kaua'i, salt-making was halted during May because the salt-pans were flooded.

"It's slowly starting to dry up. So we're hoping maybe in about a month the place will be really dry and hopefully the weather will stay hot," said Nobrega-Olivera.

As the Hui looks to the future, they are in talks with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to possibly take on the lease of a nearby 10-acre abandoned property.

"I don't know if that's the best thing for us because it's not like we have the time to be doing all of that too," Nobrega-Olivera said. "But when they [DLNR] asked us what we would do on that piece of property, I told them that it was more for creating a buffer zone around our area so that we can prevent development in the area. And if we can implement other mitigation efforts, maybe we can slow down erosion." ■

To learn more about this ongoing issue go to: <https://kawaiola.news/moomeheu/protecting-the-paakai-traditions-of-hanapp-kauai/>.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN FOREST BIRDS FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

WITHOUT INTERVENTION KAUA'I'S HIGHLY ENDANGERED 'AKIKIKI AND AKEKE'E FACE EXTINCTION



AKEKE'E



'AKIKIKI

BY LISA HUYNH ELLER

High atop the mountains of Kaua'i sits the Alaka'i plateau, a native forest dotted with bogs that receives 200 inches of rain each year. Here, you can find hāhā, a rare Hawaiian lobelia with curved, brightly colored flowers that resemble the beaks of native birds such as 'iwi – a striking similarity that is the result of millions of years of evolution.

Sadly, disease and climate change now threaten the native birds that call the Alaka'i home – and at least two of them face extinction within the next decade. This summer will be a crucial time for the survival of these two bird species: the 'akikiki and the akeke'e.

There are only about 40 'akikiki left in the wild with another 48 in captivity. Experts believe the bird could go extinct this year or by 2025. "Based on these estimates, this is do or die time for the 'akikiki," said Dr. Lisa "Cali" Crampton, who has been leading the Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project since April 2010.

While akeke'e are also declining at an alarming rate, their wild population is larger, with an estimated 640 birds. The akeke'e has more time, but experts say they could go extinct between 2025 and 2030.

Both species belong to a group of small birds known as Hawaiian honeycreepers, all of which have declined in recent decades due to the spread of avian malaria, a disease carried by non-native mosquitoes. Scientists say more than 55 native honeycreepers once existed in Hawai'i. Today, there are just 17 species left – and 10 of them are endangered.

Crampton's team conducts a population survey of Kaua'i's forest birds every five years. The latest one was completed earlier this year. "We've already noticed this year that there have been very striking declines in a number of the honeycreeper species," Crampton said.

"Just based on the raw numbers of birds, there are fewer now than there were five years ago of the other honeycreeper species. When we do analyze those data, it could be pretty grim. We could be looking at taking some pretty dramatic actions for some of the other species too."

At an elevation of 4,000 feet, the Alaka'i and other historically cooler, higher-elevation native forests used to be too cold for mosquitoes. But warming temperatures brought on by climate change have allowed the insects to reach further ma uka.

"Our native bird species evolved in isolation on the Hawaiian Islands in very unique conditions that didn't require a lot of defenses against outside diseases or predators," said Mele Khalsa, The Nature Conservancy in Hawai'i's (TNC) natural resource manager on Kaua'i. TNC manages about 5,000 acres on the Alaka'i.

"For millions of years, this was their existence. From the time the birds first arrived, up until fairly recently, avian malaria was not a thing. It wasn't until the early to mid-1800s, during the whaling era, that mosquitos and avian malaria arrived on our shores."

With no natural defenses to protect them, native birds can die from one infected mosquito bite.

Given the pace and scale at which Hawai'i is losing its honeycreepers, the conservation community is focused on

rapidly driving down mosquito populations using a tool called the Incompatible Insect Technique. A statewide coalition of government, private and nonprofit groups called Birds, Not Mosquitoes (BNM) has been advocating for the use of this technique for several years.

The technique, which does not involve any genetic modification, takes advantage of a quirk in insect biology: when two insects of the same species carry different, incompatible strains of bacteria and mate, their eggs do not hatch. This approach has already been used for decades to control fruit flies in southern California. As recently as last year, a similar technique was also used with mosquitoes to reduce cases of human dengue fever in Singapore and Australia.

In Hawai'i, the technique will involve rearing male mosquitoes that carry a naturally occurring, incompatible strain of *Wolbachia* bacteria. Those will be released to mate with wild female mosquitoes so that they lay eggs that do not hatch.

"The result is much smaller populations of mosquitoes. Male mosquitoes do not bite and cannot spread diseases," according to a statement from the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Through BNM, the groups working to save Hawaiian honeycreepers have been sharing the birds' plight since 2017. The coalition has had a presence on social media, in classrooms, at the state legislature and at community events as large as the Merrie Monarch Festival.

Lukanicole Zavas, the American Bird Conservancy's BNM outreach manager, said the public has been largely supportive of their efforts. "It's a small minority that's very vocal about their opposition, but everybody else we have spoken to is very supportive and knows if something isn't done, then we will lose the birds," she said.

The National Park Service and DLNR gained approval in March 2023 to use the technique on federal and state lands in East Maui, after the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural



Lukanicole Zavas, American Bird Conservancy's Birds Not Mosquitoes outreach manager. - Courtesy Photos



Kumu Sabra Kauka, cultural practitioner and Hawaiian studies teacher at Island School.

Resources approved the project's Final Environmental Assessment. Like Kaua'i, Maui is home to two honeycreeper species facing extinction - the kiwikiu and 'akohekohe.

The team working on recovery on Kaua'i is several months out from completing the same regulatory process as Maui. The assessment is the first hurdle in successfully deploying the incompatible mosquitoes. Assuming Kaua'i's environmental assessment is approved, the field teams must also conduct a small-scale study to track the movements and behaviors of the incompatible mosquitoes in the wild, Crampton said.

If the study goes well, the technique could be used in the spring of 2024, at the earliest. After that, ongoing deployments will depend on securing more funding.

In addition to getting the technique out in the field, there are ongoing efforts to raise "insurance" populations of 'akikiki and akeke'e in captivity. Starting in 2015, the

birds' eggs were brought to the Maui and Keauhou Bird Conservation Centers, both run by the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

The akeke'e nests proved much more difficult to locate, resulting in fewer eggs collected, said Crampton. Once in captivity, the 'akikiki had more success than the akeke'e in terms of hatching and reaching adulthood. The team continues to collect 'akikiki eggs, and possibly adults later this year, for breeding in captivity.

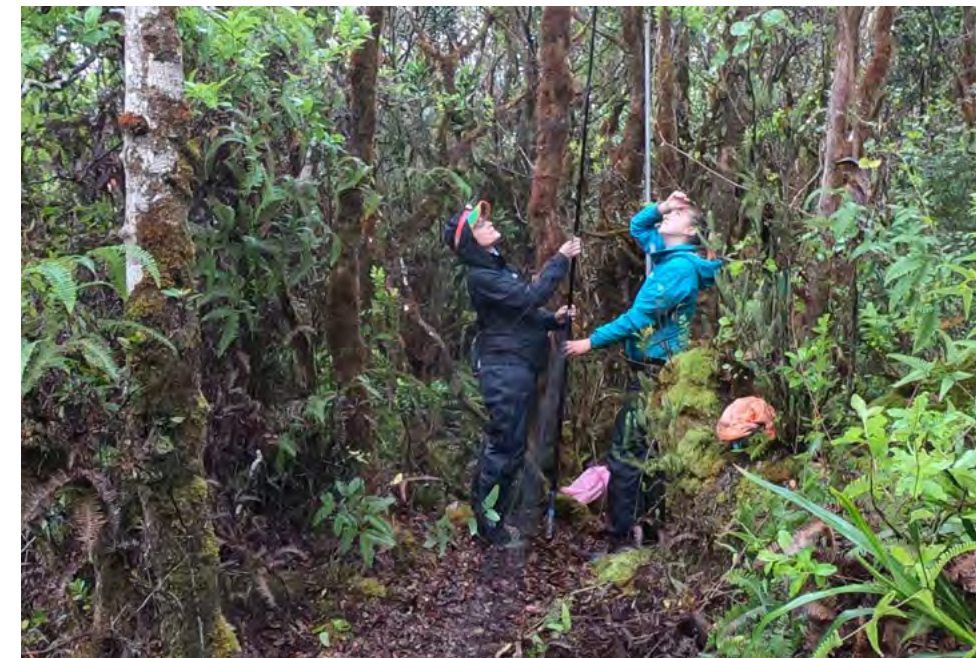
"We believe we can capture enough genetic diversity that the 'akikiki population should be able to sustain itself without inbreeding," Crampton said. "There's really a good chance that there will be a robust flock of 'akikiki ready to recolonize the Alaka'i once we've controlled mosquitoes, which is the goal."

In spite of dispiriting predictions for the birds' survival in the wild, Khalsa and others expressed an optimism rooted in a cultural reverence for the birds. Keiki and kūpuna alike recognize what Hawai'i stands to lose with the birds' extinction.

"Hawaiian culture and our native birds have been connected ever since we've been in these islands. They have been an important part of our culture, our beliefs, our spirit, our practices. And this is why it's so important to us that they exist," said Kumu Sabra Kauka, a cultural practitioner and Hawaiian studies teacher at Island School on Kaua'i.

"You've seen all the beautiful feathered capes and helmets for ali'i. All of these things were made from the birds' feathers. That's just an indication of how much we treasured them and hope to see them continue to live. We've lost so many, it's just disturbing." Kauka said she supports all of the efforts to save the birds, including the mosquito-suppression technique.

SEE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL ON PAGE 20



Scientists set up "mistnets" to capture endangered native forest birds. The birds are measured, tested for avian malaria, banded for future identification (each band has a unique combination of colors), and released back into the forest. - Photos: Courtesy of Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project



Dr. Lisa "Cali" Crampton, gently untangles a tiny Kaua'i 'elepaio (*Chasiempis sclateri*) from the mistnet. The birds are measured and a blood sample taken, then unique color bands are placed around their legs to individually identify each bird.



Working swiftly and deftly, Dr. Lisa "Cali" Crampton prepares to take a blood sample from a Kaua'i 'elepaio to test the diminutive native forest bird for avian malaria. - Photos: Courtesy of Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project

FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

Continued from page 19



Conservationists use speakers to broadcast bird calls and lure the birds close to their nets.

Khalsa, who grew up on Kaua'i, said Hawai'i's culture of mālama 'āina keeps her optimistic about the birds survival. "I do feel like here in Hawai'i we understand the value of our native species in a way that goes beyond appreciating their beauty," she said. "There are deep cultural connections that people have here to the species on a generational level. That makes a huge difference. Respect for the 'āina is so intrinsic to our culture."

During this past legislative session, bird advocates – including many keiki – successfully petitioned state lawmakers to pass a resolution to create a day to honor these native birds and on Aug. 8, 2023, Hawai'i will celebrate its first "Hawaiian Honeycreeper Day."

"What really touched my heart was [that] these students not only went to the resolution hearings, they also went to the Board of Land and Natural Resources to lis-

ten about the East Maui [environmental assessment]," said Zavas. "They heard this was going on and came and shared their voices there too. It really showed the support for these amazing birds."

Everyone has a role to play in the recovery of the birds, notes Crampton. Speaking out publicly in support of the birds, changing personal habits to reduce climate change, or reducing mosquito populations at home – these are all ways people can make a positive difference, she said.

Back out on the wild, the birds persist in their fight for survival.

Crampton shared the story of Pākele, a female 'akikiki who has rebuilt her nest four times with two different mates this season. In their first attempt, the eggs hatched and their chicks lived for six days, but a windstorm in March blew the nest out of the tree killing the babies. The pair then built a second nest, where they laid more eggs. Those eggs were collected and brought into captivity by Crampton's team. The pair then built a third nest, which was likely raided by predators. After Pākele's mate died from avian malaria, she found a new mate and built a fourth nest with him.

"The birds are out there day after day, trying to have babies, trying to find food, trying to find a mate. They keep going, so we keep going," Crampton said. "And it's our kuleana. It really is. We put the birds in this pickle. We brought these [mosquito] species to this island. We are the engines of climate change that are allowing the mosquitoes to increase their range up into the forest bird habitat.

"It's our duty to save these birds." ■



The 'akikiki (*Oreomystis bairdi*), is a critically endangered honeycreeper endemic to Kaua'i. Of the 17 remaining species of native Hawaiian honeycreepers, the 'akikiki is considered the most endangered with only about 40 left in the wild and 48 more in captivity. It is found only on the Alaka'i plateau and in the highest elevation rainforests of Kōke'e. - Photo: Agami Photo Agency courtesy American Bird Conservancy



The akeke'e (*Loxops caeruleirostris*) is another critically endangered endemic Kaua'i honeycreeper. With about 640 akeke'e living in the wild, its status is not as dire as that of the 'akikiki but experts fear that without intervention, it could be extinct by 2030 or sooner. It is found on the Alaka'i plateau, in the high elevation rainforests of Kōke'e, and in the upper reaches of Waimea Canyon. - Photo: Ann Tanimoto Johnson/ LOHE Lab

Kaua'i Climate Adaptation Plan Taking Shape

By Cheryl Chee Tsutsumi

Even as a young teen growing up on the North Shore of O'ahu, Marie Williams knew change was afoot in the area of Kamehameha Highway where she sometimes caught the bus to school. "There's a segment of the road in Hau'ula that's built right on the shoreline," she said. "From the bus stop on the ma kai side, I could see the ocean going under it, destabilizing the land and creating holes in the asphalt. Now I know that one result of global warming — climate change — is rising sea levels, which accelerates such coastal erosion."

Today, Williams is the long-range planning division manager in Kaua'i County's Planning Department, overseeing the development of the Kaua'i Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP) along with project consultant Raimi + Associates. Its goal is "to present a framework of actions to ensure people, places, and natural and built systems are able to adapt to and mitigate climate change." Once implemented, it will help guide the county's projects, programs and master plans.

Studies have shown the primary driver of climate change is human activity related to the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas for heat, electricity and transportation. Burning fossil fuels produces greenhouse gas emissions that trap heat in Earth's atmosphere, warming the air, land and ocean.

Climate change impacts are evident worldwide. In addition to rising sea levels and coastal erosion, they can exacerbate weather events such as storms, cyclones, droughts, wildfires, heat waves, precipitation and floods. Kaua'i residents clearly remember the torrential floods of 2018, 2019 and 2020, which damaged or destroyed infrastructure and hundreds of homes.

"The Kaua'i CAP started in fall 2021 just as a climate adaptation plan," Williams said. "But when we started talking to people, some of them asked an excellent question: 'Why is the focus only on adapting to climate change? We don't want to just wait for climate change to happen; we want to fight it, too.'"

Thus, the scope of the plan has expanded to proactively mitigate climate impacts as well as to prepare for them. It will develop strategies for Kaua'i County to meet emissions reduction targets, identify its vulnerability to climate change risks and hazards, and offer recommendations that will help residents become more resilient and thrive in the face of them.

Kaua'i CAP's advisory committee comprises people from all walks of life: scientists, educators, health officials, Hawaiian cultural experts, high school and college students and staff from government departments and agencies. Community feedback is also key.

"We've already completed a series of open houses and small-group talk-story sessions around Kaua'i," Williams said. "We've just started virtual and in-person workshops to give residents a forum to talk about what they think is appropriate in the context of their lives and homes. For



Coastal erosion at Pākalā Village, near Kekaha in West Kaua'i. - Photo: Marie Williams

example, should the plan concentrate on nature-based strategies such as restoring dunes or 'managed retreat' alternatives such as property buyouts, typically by the federal government, in vulnerable neighborhoods?"

Bill No. 2879, which Mayor Derek Kawakami signed into county law last October, is an example of another approach. The result of a collaboration between Kaua'i's Planning Department and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Climate Resilience Collaborative (soest.hawaii.edu/crc), it regulates new construction based on scientists' sea-level rise projections (Kaua'i is one of the first counties in the country to do so).

Coastal flooding and erosion are bound to occur as sea levels continue to rise. Using published and peer-reviewed computer modeling predictions, the County of Kaua'i Sea Level Rise Constraint District Viewer was created as an online tool, so buildings and infrastructure are built with future conditions in mind.

"This map is a zoning overlay for properties exposed to sea level rise," Williams said. "Bill 2879 requires it to be used for all new construction in those areas. You can



Kaua'i Mayor Derek Kawakami. - Photo: County of Kaua'i

click on a specific parcel, and the map will show annual projections of flooding and high-wave heights, calculated at 3.2 feet above sea-level rise. Whatever those numbers are, non-residential structures must be built one foot higher and residential structures must be built two feet higher to be at a safe elevation."

There are other ways a community's wellbeing can be affected by climate change. For example, several consecutive days of excessive heat will disproportionately affect keiki and kūpuna.

"We've identified neighborhoods that have a higher percentage of children and seniors, so their needs can be addressed," Williams said. "We also know being on a fixed household budget would determine whether or not someone can afford to install air conditioning. We will be incorporating those kinds of social aspects into the Kaua'i CAP; in this case, perhaps providing air-conditioned cooling shelters in neighborhood centers in those areas."

All community input should be gathered by fall, and it will take another few months to draft the plan. By the end of this year, the public will have opportunities to comment on it.

Kawakami is excited and optimistic about what the plan can accomplish.

"As a surfer, I have a great level of respect and awe for the ocean and our natural environment," he said. "Being in the water is where I reflect on life, it's where I go to pray, it's really where I do my best thinking. That's why I'm passionate about the development of the Kaua'i CAP and why I'm proud of our Planning Department for leading this charge so that we can protect our people and this beautiful place we call our home." ■

For more information about the Kaua'i CAP, call (808) 241-4050, email plankauai@kauai.gov or visit kauaiadaptation.com.

Ka Mo'olelo o Kamehameha I

By Anakala Wayne Hinano Brumaghim

Looking back at Hawaiian politics over six centuries, unrest existed within the ruling families such that there was a need to unify, to conquer, to acquire power, and to divide/make strong. Hawai'i Island Chief Kalaunuihewa attempted, but failed, to unite the archipelago in 1270 A.D.

Liloa, a Hawai'i Island chief during the 15th century, divided his legacy between his two sons: his eldest son, Hakau, received his kingdom; his youngest son, 'Umi, received his war god, Kūkā'ilimoku. 'Umi later killed Hakau becoming sole heir following the first division of power in Hawaiian history.

In 1782, Chief Kalani'ōpu'u, in a second division of power, divided his legacy between his son and nephew. He left his kingdom to his son, Kalanikauikeaouli-Kīwala'ō, and his war god to his nephew, Kamehameha. Later that same year, Kamehameha killed Kīwala'ō at the Battle of Moku'ōhai and became sole heir.

Kapoukahi, a kahuna from Kaua'i, advised Kamehameha to build Pu'ukoholā Heiau at Kawaihae to confirm his mana to unite the archipelago. In 1792, after inviting his adversary Keōua Kū'ahu'ula to Kawaihae under false pretenses, Kamehameha killed him as he entered the harbor at Kawaihae and offered him as a sacrifice to sanctify the newly built heiau.

Kamehameha subsequently defeated O'ahu Chief Kalanikupule at the Battle of Nu'uano (1795) and

Hawai'i Island Chief Namakeha at the Battle of Kaipalaoa (1797). Maui Chief Kahekiliāhumanu had died of old age in 1794. And in 1810, Chief Kaumuali'i became the vassal king of Kaua'i and Niihau within the unified Kingdom of Hawai'i without a fight.

Kamehameha I was born in 1736 and died on May 8, 1819, at Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i Island. In life, he had 21 wives and in death he left four widows: Keōpūolani, Ka'ahumanu, Kalakua and Nāmāhāna. He was buried in secrecy in North Kohala, Hawai'i Island, by the high chiefs Ho'olulu (1794-1865) and Hoapili (1776-1840). In 1832, at the passing of Queen Ka'ahumanu, Ho'olulu and Hoapili buried the queen as a Hawaiian chiefess beside her mō'i (king), following Christian services at her first burial site at in Honolulu.

Before his demise in 1819, Kamehameha I designated Queen Ka'ahumanu to rule beside his son Liholiho as Kuhina Nui (Prime Minister), and thus Hawai'i allowed women a "voice" in government a century before the U.S. passed the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the same "voice."

In her book, *Hawai'i's Story* by Hawai'i's Queen, Queen Lili'uokalani noted that "my great-grandfather Keawe-a-Heulu, the founder of the Kamehamehas, and Keoua, father of Kamehameha I, were own cousins." In retrospect, then, Queen Lili'uokalani was the last Hawaiian monarch to come from the Kamehameha dynasty, Ka Hale o Kamehameha. ■

E NHLC...

My family hunts pig with dogs and knife on a large tract of undeveloped land ma uka from our home. We've hunted and gathered there for generations, passing the knowledge and practice down to the next generations. This feeds our family. We had a good relationship with the prior landowner, but the land was recently sold to new people who do not understand our relationship to the land. What should we do?



Daylin-Rose Heather,
NHLC Staff Attorney

The continuation of cultural subsistence practices is crucial to the perpetuation of Hawaiian life and the preservation of Hawaiian cultural identity, especially when done with deep care for the 'āina, its resources, and each other. We strongly encourage Hawaiian cultural practitioners, including traditional hunters, to seek advice from counsel specializing in Native Hawaiian law for these questions. It's good to know where the law is pa'a (firm) and the areas of uncertainty. Though it's important to get legal advice about your specific situation, we can provide general information as a frame.

Through Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, ratified during the 1978 Constitutional Convention, the State of Hawai'i committed itself to protecting rights customarily and traditionally exercised by Native Hawaiians for subsistence, cultural, and religious purposes. See also Hawai'i Revised Statute (HRS) §§ 7-1 and 1-1.

The constitutional delegates contemplated that hunting, along with other subsistence gathering practices, was an integral part of ancient Hawaiian civilization. They also recognized the importance of this amendment because "large landowners – basically 10-12 corporations and estates and who own almost 90% of all private lands – have intruded upon, interfered with and refused to recognize such rights." Because of these constitutional protections for customary Hawaiian practices, the Hawai'i Supreme

Court has noted that "the western concept of exclusivity [in private property] is not universally applicable in Hawai'i."

The law recognizes that access to resources is vital to sustaining a cultural practice and seeks to balance that with western concepts of property rights. For example, HRS § 183D-26 states that hunters need permission from landowners in order to hunt on private land. However, the Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals in *State v. Palama*, a 2015 criminal case involving a practitioner hunting pig with knife and dogs, demonstrates that this requirement must still be weighed against legal protections for traditional and customary practices, based on the specific facts of a case and interests at stake. Given these considerations, it's mutually beneficial when large landowners and practitioners have a positive relationship.

When concerns are raised, making efforts to resolve them amicably is a good idea. If mutual agreement isn't possible, then litigation may occur. Some landowners have even sought to press criminal charges against practitioners for trespass. In those instances, it's crucial that practitioners seek legal assistance from an attorney. Cultural practitioners may raise a traditional and customary defense with courts considering and weighing numerous factors when deciding whether it applies.

Ultimately, I hope that your family's subsistence practices – and your neighbor's respect for those practices – continue as they had with the previous landowner and for generations to come. If interested in further exploring this important topic and the elements a court will consider, the William S. Richardson School of Law's Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law has published a Native Hawaiian Law Treatise and a free Legal Primer for Traditional and Customary Rights in Hawai'i. ■

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 native-hawaiianlegalcorp.org.

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

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Pū'alalā

By Lisa Kapono Mason



'Alalā select tools to be able to successfully probe cavities in logs while foraging. 'Alalā and New Caledonian crows (*Corvus moneduloides*) are the only known corvids to use tools. - Photos: Ann Tanimoto Johnson/ LOHE Lab

As vigilant overseers of Hawai'i forests, the once abundant 'alalā, or Hawaiian crow (*Corvus hawaiiensis*), were important fruit and seed dispersers of plants like hōawa, 'ie'ie, and 'ōlapa and served as a natural alarm system of nearby disturbances.

Long ago, bird collectors lamented the presence of 'alalā as their cries would send other forest birds into hiding with a barrage of shrieks and howls.

Oli (chant) practitioners have embodied these sounds into several well-known 'alalā chanting styles, some notably used in love chants to arouse strong emotions in their listeners.

Today, 'alalā are extinct in the wild and are no longer heard in the forest. However, conservationists are working hard to soon release captive-bred birds and reestablish wild populations in Hawai'i. 'Alalā are more closely related to common ravens than crows and are highly intelligent. They have an extensive vocal repertoire and learn their songs socially from other individuals. ■

Lisa Kapono Mason was raised in Hilo and happily resides in Kea'au on the island of Hawai'i. She is a community educator, conservation researcher, and native bird enthusiast with a passion to help strengthen relationships between our manu and lāhui.



A newly formed breeding pair of 'alalā that was established during the 2019 release of captive 'alalā at Pu'u Maka'ala Forest Reserve, Hawai'i Island.

Keahualaka ma Ke'e

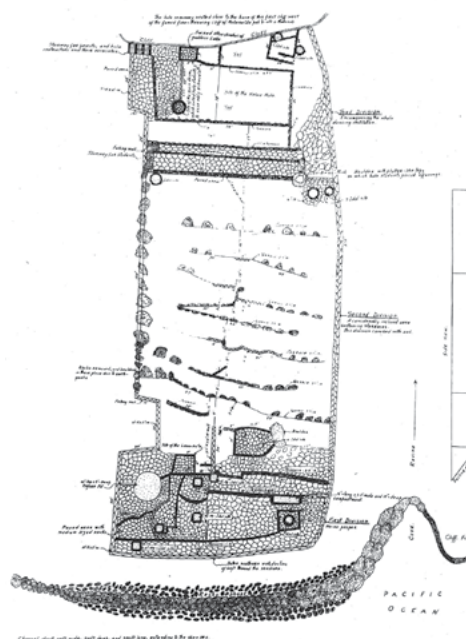
Na Kalani Akana, Ph.D.



I ka mahina 'o Malaki aku nei, ua huaka'i au me ka'u mau haumāna hula i Ke'e e hula i hula pahu ma Keahualaka, kāhi kaulana loa no ke a'o 'ana i ka hula. He mēheuheu kēia 'ano huaka'i

kīpa 'ana me ka hō'ike hula i ho'okuluma 'ia no nā moho e ho'omākaukau ana i ka 'ūniki hula.

Wahi a Henry Kekahuna, ka mea nāna i kaha ki'i i palapala 'aina o ia wahi pana kaulana o Kaua'i, ua kīpa 'ia kēia wahi e nā po'e hula no waho e 'ailolo ma lalo o ka 'olohe hula o ia wahi. Aia a pau ke a'o 'ana, ua pono ke ho'ā'o 'ia 'o ia e kekahi mau hō'ike. 'O ka hō'ike nui ka 'au'au 'ana i ke kōā kai 'o Kohola ma kai o Ke'e. Aia kekahi manō e kali ana ma waho o ka hāpapa a inā ua hehi kekahi moho hula i kekahi kapu a laila ua po'ipū 'ia 'o ia e ke kia'i manō a make. Laki no mākou, 'a'ole i pono ka hō'ike 'au'au kai!



Palapala 'aina a Kekahuna o Keahualaka lāua 'o Kauluapaoa.

'O Laka ke kumu hula mua o ia wahi kapu a he kumu ia no ke kapa 'ana i kēlā heiau pili pali 'o Keahualaka. Aia ma lalo o ia heiau hula, ke kahua 'o Kauluapaoa. A ma lalo o Kauluapaoa kekahi pōhaku nui 'o Kilioe ka inoa. Pa'apū ua pōhaku la 'o Kilioe me nā poho no nā piko o nā keiki i hānau 'ia o nā 'ohana o Hā'ena. Eia kekahi, Kilioe ka inoa o ka mo'o i kia'i i ke kupapa'u

o Lohi'au akā wahi a Wiliama Laiki, 'o Kilioe ke kaikuahine o Lohi'au a he kumu hula ho'i 'o ia. 'O ia paha ke kumu o ke kapa 'ana o ia wahi 'o Kauluakilioe ma mua e Thomas T. Thrum, ka mea kākau mo'olelo.

Wahi a Henry Kekahuna, 'o Wahinekeoli (Wahineikeouli Pā) ke kumu hula hope o Keahualaka. 'O kēia Wahineikeouli kekahi o nā mea oli a Helen Roberts i ho'opa'a ai ma ka līpene. Eia kekahi, he wahine haku mele 'o ia a ua ho'ouna i kāna mau mele i nā nūpepa Hawai'i e ho'opuka.

'O Jacob Maka ke alaka'i no Kekahuna ma Ke'e. 'O ia ho'i kekahi o nā haumāna hope loa ma Keahualaka i puka ma lalo paha o Wahinekeouli. Ua hele a kaulana na'e 'o Maka i pu'u-kani a puni o Kaua'i. 'O *E Ke Akua Ola* kekahi o nā hīmeni āna i haku ai. Eia kekahi 'o kēia kanaka 'o Maka kekahi kama'aina i ha'i i nā mo'olelo Hawai'i iā Fred Wichman, ka mea i kākau iā *Kaua'i Tales*.



Keahualaka lāua 'o Kauluapaoa mai luna iho. - Courtesy Photo

I ka'u kīpa mua i Keahualaka ma 1979, 'o Roselle Bailey me kāna haumāna nā kahu o ia wahi. I kēia kīpa aku nei, 'o Kamealoha Forrest me kāna mau haumāna nā kahu. He mea nui kā lākou mālama 'ana iā Keahualaka me Kauluapaoa ma hope hō'ino 'ia e nā po'e 'ae'a e ho'ohauka'e i kēlā wahi u'i hanohano. Ua 'ōlelo 'o Kekahuna he "kula nui." Ma kēia ho'omana'o 'ana i nā kūpuna hula no'ea o ia wahi pana o Keahualaka, ua 'oia'io nō kā Kekahuna 'ōlelo. ■

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

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

Rate Change for VA's Native American Direct Loan Program



By Reyn Kaupiko

In 1993, the Native American Direct Loan (NADL) was first made available to the Native Hawaiian Veteran community through the Veterans Administration (VA), providing a critical financial resource for home and land financing.

Recently, in March 2023, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Hon. Denis R. McDonough, lowered the interest rates of the NADL from 6% to 2.5%, potentially saving thousands in home and land costs for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Since the inception of the NADL program, more than 110 Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) have been signed with Native Communities throughout the nation and Pacific, the Native Hawaiian Community (NHC) being one of them.

The NHC MOU exists between the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) and the federal government. DHHL land inventory is classified as "Federal Trust Land" allowing for DHHL veteran beneficiaries on the lease document to utilize the NADL benefit only for DHHL lands. Unlike the stereotypical VA loan, there is no third party loan vendor – the VA will directly finance this loan.

The NADL allows for direct loan op-

portunities from the VA for both financing and refinancing towards the purchase, construction, or improvement of a home. Veterans who are interested in qualifications should check with their local or state VA resources to ensure they meet eligibility and qualification standards for enrollment.

Veterans currently with an interest rate of 3.5% or higher will be able to refinance their current loan to take advantage of the lower interest rate of 2.5%. This rate adjustment is approved for the next 24 months.

Currently, DHHL has more than 10,000 active leases with more than 4,450 actively financed. The NADL program finances more than 180 mortgage loans, roughly 4%.

The Native Hawaiian veteran community has been and continues to be at the forefront of NADL home financing; of the existing 550+ NADL loans throughout the nation, Samoa and the Marshall Islands the NHC accounts for more than 30% – far more than any other group. With 40,000 beneficiaries on the wait list and limited opportunity for financial institution financing, for those who qualify the NADL provides an excellent opportunity towards home financing. ■

Reyn Kaupiko is a US Navy veteran who actively advocates for the veteran community. He currently sits on the Veterans Affairs Tribal Advisory Committee working with other tribal leaders from around the nation. All thoughts and ideas shared in this piece are solely those of the author.

Ke Ana La'ahana is Making an Impact



By Kealani Beck, Grade 12
Ke Ana La'ahana PCS

Being born and raised in the small community of Keaukaha has taught me a lot throughout the 18 years of my life. And a small school right here in my community, Ke Ana La'ahana PCS, has had a huge impact on me.

Ke Ana La'ahana PCS was founded and established as a school in August 2001. Its Hawaiian cultural curriculum intermingles with our present educational system. Ke Ana La'ahana PCS strives for a higher academic achievement for each and every student no matter their ethnicity. So being told by others that Ke Ana La'ahana PCS students won't graduate and being labeled as "stupid Hawaiians" aggravates my well-being.

My great-grandfather fought through thick and thin and was involved in many discussions during Ke Ana La'ahana PCS's foundation. His offspring's children were the next in line to take over his farming business and mālama 'āina. The eldest took the initiative and took over a few acres of farming land across from Home Depot planting fruit trees such as macadamia nut, papaya and banana.

Being a senior here at the school puts a lot of pressure on myself, though the intentions are right. I have attended this school since August 2017. During middle school, I had the pleasant opportunity to welcome and guide a group from Aotearoa

(New Zealand) that was visiting the island. Learning about their culture and expressing our similarities and differences as a community brought much aloha. Having more foreigners as well as others from different ethnicities come together shows a sense of unity and mālama towards each other's beliefs.

Instead of the normal electives you'd find in most middle/high schools, at Ke Ana La'ahana PCS our electives intertwine with our Hawaiian heritage. Some examples include papa hula, pa'iki'i, wa'a, 'āina, and kai. Each of these classes include the history of our ancestors; how they've survived and kept their stories intact and alive till this day. Hula was used to express the mythology that has created our island – the land that provided for us way before Western culture was introduced to us. And we contributed our blood, sweat, and tears to the land and water by creating rock walls and supporting our kalo patch.

This school has offered so many opportunities that I have taken advantage of due to the fact that tomorrow isn't promised. Many opportunities involve engaging in my culture and honoring our kūpuna before us, including participating in the Winter Solstice, Makahiki, Merrie Monarch and, Hi'uwai which were performed early in the school year.

Our school deserves to be acknowledged with the same importance as others. Sure, our school doesn't have a lot of students – and some show disrespect from time to time – but I strongly believe that our students deserve a chance to change and prove to their kūpuna who have fought for them to exist to this day that it wasn't just a waste. ■

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About Hawaiian Place Names



By Mālia Sanders

Hawaiian place names are given with much thought to incorporate landscape features, observations of weather and natural phenomena, and stories both legendary and contemporary. Hawaiian place names honor the people who named them and the natural forces and stories these names convey. In using proper Hawaiian place names, we bestow the highest honor to the land and the history of place.

Many places in Hawai'i are best known for things built on those places or designations given in modern times. These names are appropriate in some cases, but certainly, modern buildings or designations should never erase the history of a place.

If the place has an English nickname, the recommendation is to use the Hawaiian place name first and then add the optional English nickname (e.g., Lē'ahi, also referenced as Diamond Head).

Consider whether the nickname is an interpretation of the Hawaiian name, relays a Hawaiian tradition of the place, or is just an application acquired over the years.

The reference for Hawaiian place names used by NaHHA is *Place Names of Hawai'i* by Mary Kawena Pukui, Samuel Elbert and Esther Mo'okini, available online.

The Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (GNIS) was created by Act 50 of the 1974 Hawai'i State Legislature to develop uniformity in the use and spelling of the names of geographic features and the database can be used as a resource for researching the most recently approved orthography.

When there is a question on orthography of a place name after checking with 'Aha-hui 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (1978) and *Place Names of Hawai'i*, the GNIS relies on Native Hawaiian speaking elders of a particular area for assistance. When a decision cannot be reached as to the proper spelling or pronunciation, the name is given no orthography until

further research is conducted. In this case, NaHHA recommends as a best practice to reference in parenthesis, "orthography and pronunciation vary" after a place name that may have multiple pronunciations, spelling or mana'o on orthography.

Today, the normalization of Hawaiian language is a catalyst for change. As we grow the number of Hawaiian language speakers and we support projects like Awaiaulu and the digitization of Hawaiian language newspapers, we are able to unlock the knowledge found in honoring our native language. In learning the correct spelling, pronunciation and orthography of our places we mālama our home.



Lē'ahi, also referenced as Diamond Head. - Photo: HTA / Vincent Lim

Mahalo nui to all of our kūpuna, researchers and community members who continue to contribute their mana'o to the Board of the GNIS to ensure that our place names are properly honored and respected into the future. ■

To learn more visit www.wehewehe.org or https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/gis/bgn/Guidelines_for_Hawaiian_Geographic_Names_v1.1.pdf

Mālia Sanders is the executive director of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA). Working to better connect the Hawaiian community to the visitor industry, NaHHA supports the people who provide authentic experiences to Hawai'i's visitors. For more information go to www.nahha.com Follow NaHHA on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @nahha808 and @kuhikuhi808.

#BeatPlastic Pollution



By Jodi Leslie Matsuo, DrPH

Microplastics are extremely small pieces of plastic – generally 5mm in size or less – that are the result of the disposal and breakdown of consumer and industrial plastic products. It has been found on the tallest mountain tops and in the deepest oceans. We breathe, eat, and drink microplastics that have contaminated our water supply and food systems.

Microplastics are formed from various chemicals used in the production process. This includes lubricants, dyes, flame retardants, plasticizers, UV stabilizers, and fillers from rubber, silica, asbestos, talc, and other materials. Microplastics also absorb heavy metals and other toxins from the environment, increasing its hazardous potential.

Once microplastics find their way into the ocean, it is almost impossible to eliminate. Marine creatures, from tiny zooplankton to sharks and whales at the top of the food chain consume microplastics – on their own or by feeding on smaller marine creatures who have eaten them.

Larger plastics can pass through their bodies, but tiny ones pass through the gut and travel to the lungs, liver, and other organs. Physical damage can result and reproduction and growth affected. Oysters, clams, 'opihi, and mussels rapidly accumulate microplastics, as they filter water when feeding. Other filter feeders, such as whale sharks and manta rays, are also particularly vulnerable.

Microplastics have been discovered in the cells, blood, organs, and even placentas of humans. Not surprising considering sugar, salt, alcohol, tap and bottled water, fruits, vegetables, grains, animal products, and seafood have all been shown to be contaminated with it.

It is in our clothes, lotions, cosmetics, and other personal care products. Microplastics can cause inflamma-

tion, change our gut microbiome, damage cells and DNA, cause memory and learning problems, affect levels of hormones in our bodies that affect behavior, metabolism, and reproduction, and increase the risk of breast, prostate, thyroid and other hormone-related cancers.

We can take steps to limit our exposure to microplastics and to lessen the amount entering the environment.

Start by not microwaving plastic containers, take-out boxes, and frozen meals in their containers. Hand wash plastic containers rather than use a dishwasher, as heated water can degrade the plastic. Store your leftovers in glass or silicone containers instead of plastic, as acid from certain foods can also degrade the plastic.

Instead of grabbing a disposable water bottle, fill up your glass or stainless steel bottle instead. Drinking distilled water or using a water filter for home use has been shown to filter out 100% of known microplastics. Likewise, instead of using paper or takeout coffee cups, bring your own reusable coffee cup or mug during your coffee stop or while at work.

Purchase cosmetics, toothpaste, shampoo, and other personal care products that are labeled "fragrance-free" or "phthalate-free." Avoid products with ingredients such as acrylate copolymer, polypropylene, nylon, and other plastic-based ingredients.

Limiting your consumption of shellfish, dusting and using a vacuum with a HEPA filter, and avoiding single-use tea bags are other ways to reduce the amount of microplastics that get in your body. And don't forget to recycle!

Support World Environment Day this month by committing to a global effort to reduce microplastics daily. ■

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

Kaua'i Hawaiian Homestead Beneficiary Projects



By KipuKai Kualii

A summary of Kaua'i projects developed by the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA), Homestead Beneficiary Associations (HBAs) and the Homestead Community Development Corporation (HCDC).

SCHHA was founded in 1987 as a coalition of HBAs from across the state. It includes more than 40 HBAs working together to advance good policy and the fulfillment of the promise of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA).

Registered with the U.S. Department of Interior, SCHHA is the only national HBA dedicated to both enrolled native Hawaiians issued a homestead lease and those on a homestead waitlist. An HBA is defined by the federal government in 43 CFR Part 47/48, as a self-government representing the interests of and provision of services to native Hawaiians defined in the HHCA. HCDC was founded in 2009 by SCHHA and its HBA members to establish a housing and economic nonprofit developer to pursue and implement projects of HBAs statewide.

Here are some of the Kaua'i projects we've developed together:

Anahola Café. The Anahola Hawaiian Homestead Association and HCDC operates a nonprofit café at the Anahola Marketplace to create food industry jobs and workforce development opportunities, including business training for managing a food service operation.

Anahola Marketplace. AHHA and HCDC cleared 10 acres of trust lands of junk cars and other dumped items to develop an open-air marketplace with a certified kitchen facility and renovated shipping containers to serve over 15 local micro-enterprise business owners. By providing affordable retail space, access to a certified kitchen space, and business support services the Anahola Marketplace is creating a stronger rural economy and job creation.

Anahola Solar Facility. AHHA and HCDC invited Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) to pursue renewable energy through a solar facility on Hawaiian homelands in Anahola. As a result, DHHL leases 55 acres of trust lands to KIUC which developed a \$50M

solar project, with 60,000 solar panels generating 12MW to the island utility grid. KIUC entered into a Homestead Community Benefits Agreement with AHHA through HCDC whereby we receive a share of the value of the energy produced quarterly for reinvestment in entrepreneurs and workforce housing.

Halenani Street Apartments. The Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands (AHHL) and HCDC purchased six rental apartment units of studios and one-bedrooms in 2020 to preserve their affordability. We currently manage the units and maintain affordable rent levels for our tenants.

Kumu Camp. AHHA and HCDC cleared 8 acres of trust lands at Anahola Bay replacing illicit drug use and garbage dumping with the development of a campground featuring 12 tentals and three yurts, 15 campsites, a pavilion and bathroom facilities. We've been operating the campground sustainably for well over 10 years now.

Office Facility. AHHA and HCDC purchased and renovated two abandoned and dilapidated residential structures on 0.5 acres of land creating nonprofit offices for affordable housing, financial literacy and homebuyer assistance, as well as a salon for a micro-business owner.

West Kaua'i Enterprise Center. The West Kaua'i Hawaiian Homestead Association (WKHHA) and HCDC cleared 3 acres of trust lands of kiawe trees and overgrowth to develop a 1,200-square-foot community facility in Kekaha. The center, built in partnership with Kaua'i Community College (KCC) and HUD, replicates KCC's Hawaiian Studies building floor plans.

Youth Center Facility. AHHA, HCDC and KCC utilized a U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) grant to develop a youth center facility located at Anahola Park currently serving more than 60 youth each week, providing experiential learning and recreation in a safe environment. ■

A longtime advocate for Hawaiian Home Lands trust beneficiaries and lands, KipuKai Kualii 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. Kualii also serves as the Kaua'i County Council Vice Chair and the Anahola Hawaiian Homestead Association (AHHA) President.

46th Annual 'Ō'ō Awards Honorees



By Andrew Rosen,

"Na ke kanaka ma-hi'ai ka imu o nui - A well-filled imu belongs to the one who tills the soil." (Pukui #2239)

As we continue to rise from the chaos of the pandemic, we take stock of all of the ways we protect, nurture and preserve waiwai, richness. We look to our 'Ōiwi leaders in community, politics and business to work with us to ensure a thriving lāhui. The Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce (NHCC) is proud to announce its honorees for The 46th Annual 'Ō'ō Awards: Dr. Diane Paloma, Kahu Kenneth Makuakāne, and Mr. Scott Seu.

When not dancing or teaching hula at Ka Pā Hula O Ka Lei Lehua, Paloma divides her time between her husband and children, serving on the boards of 12 community organizations, and fulfilling her role as CEO of Hawai'i's largest dental insurance provider, Hawai'i Dental Service. The recent Omidyar fellow and University of Hawai'i Regent was named one of the "20 for the next 20" by *Hawai'i Business Magazine*. Rooted in the traditions of our people, Paloma's passion for the health and wellbeing of Hawai'i is evident in her decades of commitment to the field and her dedication to preserving our way of life.

Kahu Kenneth Makuakāne is a household name across the pae 'āina. A renaissance man in his own right, he now leads Kawaiaha'o Church as its senior pastor. Makuakāne is a prolific singer and songwriter with 21 Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards, and is the 2015 recipient of the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts Lifetime

Achievement Award. He is an accomplished entrepreneur, producing music for some of the biggest names in Hawaiian music. Makuakāne's life, both personal and professional, has been dedicated to Hawaiian culture and to the caring of Hawai'i's people.

Crediting his work ethic and dedication to Hawai'i to foundations built at Kamehameha Schools in his youth, Scott Seu was determined to be a successful engineer and serve his people. He earned two degrees in engineering from Stanford and served in the Air Force reserves, returning home in 1993. Seu has been with Hawaiian Electric for 28 years and is its current president and CEO. He has worked to increase the number of Kānaka engineers here at home and his community work includes serving as board chair for Hale Kipa and as a board member of Teach for America – Hawai'i and Partners in Development Foundation.

This award was conceived 46 years ago to showcase and honor Native Hawaiian business leaders that demonstrate courage, resilience and dedication to their craft and the people of Hawai'i. These 'Ōiwi leaders remind us that Hawaiian culture and values continue to be important pillars for how we do business and what we pass on to the next generation of leaders. ■



NATIVE HAWAIIAN
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Andrew Rosen is executive director for the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce and a long time member. Contact Andrew at andrew@native-hawaiianchamberofcommerce.org.

Data Dialogues with our Kaiapuni Schools



By Elena Farden

Community is the authority in identifying their priorities in education. This is a philosophy deeply rooted in our annual community engagement sessions across the pae ‘āina to lean in, listen, and learn from community about their educational priorities for funding.

But this year, we’re doing things a bit different. We’re sharing the data we’ve collected from the community over the past three years and asking them to help us ground-truth the data we’re seeing. Why? Because our same philosophy for community also extends to the data about the community: if it’s about them, it should include them.

How we do it

Community data dialogues are interactive participatory events designed to share open data with community in a way that is digestible, prompts deeper conversations about topics of mutual interest, and supports expanding understanding through meaningful feedback. With this in mind, we’ve not only changed our community engagement format to be data-driven dialogues, but also focused in on a specific community priority: ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i.

Why we do it

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC) has a long-standing history in advocating to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to prioritize funding for programs that assert Hawaiian language as a medium of instruction. Data to underline why this is important points to the 2020 Native Hawaiian Education Program grant awardees where 24 programs were awarded, but only four programs indicated Hawaiian language as a medium of instruction. So, to understand this better we are taking our community data dialogues to our kaiapuni communities (kumu, haumāna, ‘ohana) across our island home with our partners, ‘A‘ali‘i Alliance.

Where we do it

Sharing open data with community is just one step in our journey together. NHEC must also contextualize data dialogues for accountability as diverse and equal partners with our community to make sense of our work in a way that is appropriate, meaningful and equitable. This means meeting community where they are at and hosting dialogues in spaces that are familiar, accessible, and comfortable.

Enter, Merrie Monarch.

Yes, we did that! Our first community data dialogue was hosted on Moku O Kēawe during Mele Manaka at Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo school where over 100 mākuā and haumāna engaged with us and shared their feedback.

We understood the assignment that this one-day event in a fair atmosphere would need to look different than our standard sit-down, curated consultations. We designed this data dialogue to be interactive and inclusive. Community were given dot stickers and invited to place their stickers on a poster-sized display of our priority recommendations. The stickers provided an accessible and interactive way for both students and adults alike to indicate their agreement or their push-back on the priorities presented. Conversation was also sparked about standards, data, and learner outcomes.

How to get involved

During May, our community data dialogues continued with our kaiapuni communities on O‘ahu (Pū‘ōhala Elementary) and Moloka‘i (Kualapu‘u Charter School). We are still in process of securing a kaiapuni community group for Lāna‘i. We encourage program staff or ‘ohana connected to these kaiapuni communities to please join us in data dialogue events.

For more information about NHEC and our priority recommendation advocacy efforts, please visit us at nhec.org.

Elena Farden serves as the executive director for the Native Hawaiian Education Council, established in 1994 under the Native Hawaiian Education Act. Elena is a first-generation college graduate with a BS in telecommunications from Pepperdine University, an MBA from Chaminade University and is currently pursuing a doctorate.

Helping a Grandmother Rebuild Her ‘Ohana



By David Onoue

Reuniting kamali‘i with their birth parents or a family member from foster care can be long and arduous. For Tūtū

Jackery, the process of uniting her twin grandsons with their ‘ohana started before their birth. “The language, cultural barriers, and the prejudice, all of that was being fired at me,” Tūtū said. “I thought I was crazy.”

To help her through this process, EPIC ‘Ohana contacted Lili‘uokalani Trust (LT), partners in the Ka Pili ‘Ohana (KPO) program.

KPO is a community-based, culturally grounded program designed to achieve better outcomes for Native Hawaiian kamali‘i in foster care. It’s a collaboration between Child Welfare Services (CWS), LT, EPIC ‘Ohana, and various community partners.

After hearing about Tūtū’s story, LT social worker Yuki Lei Tanaka-Pabo met with her at her home in Wai‘anae and explained what LT could offer, such as the Queen and her values, along with a safe, nurturing space for her and the ‘ohana to rebuild.

Tanaka-Pabo will never forget the importance of ‘ohana to Tūtū. “That

was her goal,” she said. “She wanted to restore and rebuild the relationships with her ‘ohana.”

Tūtū recalled numerous occasions when the information she received was not pono and could have caused her to lose her grandsons. But LT was at her side to explain things to her in a way she understood.

It took years for the adoption of her grandsons to be finalized, complicated by the fact that there were two fathers and one mother, in addition to the resource caregiver (foster parent).

There were divisions and communication issues, causing situations to escalate. “We cannot do this,” she said, tears rolling down her cheek. “I cannot because I can imagine their foster momma crying for them. How can this happen? This is not pono. So, I asked for a ho‘opono session from LT.”

With encouragement from the ho‘opono team at LT, Tanaka-Pabo facilitated two sessions, once with the resource caregiver and once with one of the twins’ fathers, to make things pono.

The ho‘opono process includes Kūkulu Kumuhana – finding out what is wrong, pule (prayer), kūkulu kumuhana (statement of problem), mahiki, mihi/kala/oki, and pani.

“They love these babies,” Tūtū said. “They took care of these babies, but something went break.” And through ho‘opono, both parties opened the lines of communication to allow for a two-mākuā (parent) relationship.

Tūtū happily reported that they now celebrate the twins’ birthday together.

“If Lili‘uokalani Trust didn’t come in, I don’t think I would have my grandsons the way I have them now,” she said.

David Onoue is the manager for communications and marketing at Lili‘uokalani Trust. He was born and raised in Honolulu and holds a master’s degree in magazine, newspaper, & online journalism from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.



Tūtū Jackery and the twins with Lili‘uokalani Trust’s Yuki Lei Tanaka-Pabo. - Photo: Courtesy of Yuki Lei Tanaka

Napoleon Appointed KCC Vice Chancellor

David John Nāwā'akaulua-okamehameha "Nāwā'a" Napoleon has been appointed as vice chancellor for academic affairs of Kapi'olani Community College (KCC).



David John Nāwā'akaulua-okamehameha "Nāwā'a" Napoleon

Napoleon has been an educator, administrator and leader at KCC for 33 years, most recently serving as dean of arts and sciences.

"I started as a lecturer in Hawaiian language here at KCC when I turned 21-years-old and I have truly been raised by the college's community," said Napoleon. "I appreciate the opportunities that have provided for me to learn, teach and grow. As we look to the future, I am excited to continue working with the campus to carry on our mission and values."

"Nāwā'a has a multitude of qualifications and experiences in Native Hawaiian epistemology and education including hula, 'ōlelo, haku mele, oli, hoe wa'a (canoe paddling), in addition to [holding] bachelor's and master's degrees in Hawaiian studies. He has elegantly integrated the leadership skills developed in all of his experiences to support the students, staff, faculty and administrators [and] he is a trusted leader who will be immeasurably valuable as we navigate through the new phase of our growth as a campus," said KCC Chancellor Misaki Takabayashi.

State Awarded \$26M to Fund Coastal Climate Change Initiatives

The U.S. Department of Commerce will give \$26 million to eight climate change resiliency projects in Hawai'i. It's part of the Biden Administration's Climate-Ready Coasts initiative, funded through the Bipartisan

Infrastructure Law.

Three projects under the UH Mānoa Sea Grant College Program will use the funding to address the problem of marine debris. One program to study the use of aerial drones to detect trash will receive \$1.8 million to identify the most effective method to find garbage in Hawai'i's

shallow waters.

The second project (a partnership with Hawai'i Pacific University) will receive \$2.9 million to repurpose plastic waste into asphalt roads. The third program was awarded \$299,000 and will share climate-resilience plans with American territory Pacific Islands as they are disproportionately

affected by ocean garbage.

Other organizations receiving funding include the Conservation International Foundation. They will receive \$8.9 million to construct coral reefs using a 3D printer that will provide a foundation upon which coral can grow and eventually build a

OHA's Board of Trustees Meet with Maui Kupa



As part of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees' recent Maui Island community and regular board meetings on May 24 and 25, trustees took the opportunity while on the island to visit with Bobby Pahia and his team at Hawai'i Taro Farm in Wailuku (top photo) and with iwi kūpuna advocate Noelani Ahia at Parkways at Maui Lani in Kahului (bottom photo). Pictured at the Hawai'i Taro Farm are: (kneeling) Bobby Pahia and his daughter, Kiana Reyes. In the back row (l-r) are trustees Dan Ahuna, Brickwood Galuteria, Luana Alapa, Hawai'i Taro Farm's Germaine Balino, trustees Hulu Lindsey, Keli'i Akina, Mililani Trask and Keoni Souza, OHA CEO Dr. Sylvia Hussey, and Trustee Kalei Akaka. Hawai'i Taro Farm is a hui of 23 family farmers who are trying to create a network of growers and a centrally located hub with processing and food distribution facilities for the island. They are encouraging new farmers to come and farm on their 310 acres to help build sustainability and food security on Maui. Pictured at Maui Lani (l-r) are Trustee Akaka (with her daughter), trustees Ahuna and Souza, Noelani Ahia, trustees Lindsey, Galuteria, Trask, and CEO Hussey. Iwi kūpuna were discovered during the construction of the Maui Lani housing development. Ahia and her hui of volunteers were able to block the construction of some of the homes and reinter some of the iwi that were disturbed, but could not stop the entire project. Homes at the Maui Lani development range from \$900,000 to \$1.5 million. - Photos: Jason Lees

natural reef. The project focus is Waikiki's coral reefs.

Mālama Maunalua will get \$7.8 million to restore watersheds and reefs in O'ahu's heavily urbanized areas and use traditional ahupua'a systems to study the flow of water from land to ocean and determine the best way to build climate-resilient watersheds.

Kuleana Coral Reefs will receive \$465,000 to train residents living in West O'ahu in reef conservation via its Community Dive Program.

Stem Cell Donors Needed

Be The Match® is the world's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to helping patients with life-threatening blood cancers find bone marrow and stem cell donors. In May, as part of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, they partnered with singer AJ Rafael, a celebrity advocate for Be The Match and a blood stem cell donor himself at a special concert in Los Angeles.

Be The Match is committed to eliminating health disparities and increasing access to cellular therapy for patients of all backgrounds. Currently, AANHPI patients have only a 47% chance of finding bone marrow and stem cell donors.

Anyone can help increase those odds by joining the registry with a simple cheek swab.

For more information about how you can get involved, visit BeTheMatch.org/AAPi.

KS and Chaminade Offer 150 Mu'o Scholarships

Kamehameha Schools (KS) and Chaminade University have announced an innovative and community-focused partnership to educate, train and prepare aspiring early learning kumu via 150 full-tuition Mu'o Scholarships.

"Native Hawaiian keiki are at

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the center of everything we do at Kamehameha. Equity and social justice start with access – access to foundational early learning opportunities in all of our communities. To achieve this, we must ensure we have qualified early learning kumu to welcome and prepare our keiki,” said Dr. Wai’ale’ale Sarsona, KS vice president of Hi’ialo.

Beginning in fall 2023, 50 Mu’o Scholarships will be provided to enroll in Chaminade’s online bachelor’s degree in teaching program. This will continue for two additional years for a total of 150 funded scholarships as a partnership through KS Kaiāulu (community).

“This 100% online program means a future educator could be living in Ka’ū or Moloka’i or Hāna or Kaua’i and doesn’t have to leave their community or island to become an educator,” Sarsona said.

Scholarship applications are now being accepted with a requirement to complete a student-teaching track. Students will be paired with an academic advisor. Applications are open to all Hawai’i residents with additional consideration extended to those of Native Hawaiian ancestry. Recruitment and admittance priority will also be given to early childhood education applicants.

New Water Sources Sought for Honolulu

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) is seeking new water sources to compensate for the capacity it lost after the 2021 Red Hill water crisis required BWS to take its Hālawā shaft offline.

BWS, which supplies drinking water to most of O’ahu, had hoped that the six sites it has been exploring would be suitable for well development, but BWS Manager and Chief Engi-

OHA Leaders Meets With Nānākuli Neighborhood Board



At their May 16 meeting, the Nānākuli Neighborhood Board (NNB) passed two unanimous resolutions in support of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). One was to kāko’o OHA’s planned development at Hakuone, and the other to kāko’o OHA’s Biennium Budget. Attending the meeting were representatives from OHA’s Board of Trustees and executive leadership team. Front row, l-r: OHA CEO Dr. Sylvia Hussey, Samantha DeCorte, Trustee Kalei Akaka, Trustee Hulu Lindsey, Germaine Meyers and Trustee Keli’i Akina. Back row, l-r: OHA Interim Chief Advocate Capsun Poe, OHA BOT Chief of Staff Colin Kippen, David Carona, NNB Chair Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya, Richard Medeiros, Joe Akana and Paul Aio. - Courtesy Photo

neer Ernie Lau says four of the locations have been deemed unsuitable.

Lau said the BWS is looking at locations farther uphill, meaning the wells would need to be deeper.

The search for new water sources began soon after jet fuel leaked from the U.S. Navy’s Red Hill facility in November 2021, polluting the aquifer located just 100 feet below the underground tanks. BWS shut down its Hālawā shaft, which is about a mile from Red Hill, the following month, resulting in a 20% reduction in the water supply for urban Honolulu.

Lau said BWS is also conducting a water treatment study to see whether petroleum chemicals, as well as PFAS (forever chemicals) can be cleaned from the water at the Hālawā shaft.

Concerns about deadly PFAS have increased after the Navy reported a 1,300-gallon leak of concentrated fire suppressant foam at Red Hill in November 2022.

LGBTQ Romantic Adventure ‘Aikāne’

The team behind the acclaimed

animated short Kapaemahu premiered a new film, *Aikāne*, at the Animayo and Seattle International Film Festivals in May.

Aikāne, a term for intimate friends of the same sex, has taken on new relevance with the resurgence of anti-LGBTQ hostility. The film premier will be followed by a series of screenings during “Pride Month” in June.

Producer Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, who has been collaborating with co-directors Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson for a decade, said there was also a personal aspect for creating the film. “As a Kana-ka, a native person on an island occupied by a foreign power and ideas, I want our young people of all genders and sexualities to understand that being their authentic selves, and loving who they love, is a reason to rejoice not to fear.”

Aikāne tells the story of a warrior who falls into a strange underwater world after being wounded in battle. When the octopus who rescues him shape-shifts into a handsome young man, sparks fly and an epic adventure begins. Love, trust, and courage are the glue that bind

the unlikely couple together in their fierce battle against foreign invaders.

Upcoming screenings include Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival (June 7-11) and the Abhimani Queer Film Festival Sri Lanka (June 19-21).

WCC Receives \$3.5M Grant

The Kia’i Loko Center for Limu Research, created and managed by Windward Community College (WCC), has received a \$3.5 million grant to provide education and limu research opportunities for the long-term benefits for the Windward community. The grant is from the National Science Foundation’s Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP).

The center focuses on applying traditional Native Hawaiian knowledge alongside Western scientific methods to study limu and traditional Hawaiian fishponds. Aquacultural practices used to maintain healthy fishponds and produce limu are essential aspects of traditional Native Hawaiian lifestyles that contribute to critical contemporary issues such as food security, biodiversity and cultural perpetuation.

Student-led research will advance the knowledge base surrounding limu ecology and production.

“Students [will be trained] to work in an important emerging industry promoting sustainability and self-reliance in these islands,” Dave Krupp, WCC professor of biological and marine sciences said. “Working with our partners, we will serve our Ko’olaupoko and Ko’olaupoko communities to solve issues such as the restoration of native limu to our reefs and elimination of invasive seaweeds.”

Kahahawai to Play for USA Volleyball

Devin Kahahawai, a Kamehameha Schools Kapālama graduate and the 2022 Hawai’i



Devin Kahahawai

Gatorade Player of the Year, was one of 18 athletes selected by USA Volleyball for the 2023 Women’s U21 NORCECA Pan American Cup roster.

Twelve players from this group will be chosen to compete at the 2023 Women’s U21 NORCECA Pan American Cup.

Dan Fisher, head coach of the University of Pittsburgh’s women’s volleyball team, will be the U21 team’s head coach.

“USA Volleyball has put together a wonderful group of athletes and coaches, and it is humbling to get a chance to lead this group,” Fisher said. “I expect intense competition in our training, preparing us for another strong showing at the Pan Am Cup.”

Kahahawai is one of eight players returning from the team that won the 2022 Pan American Cup and qualified for the 2023 FIVB World Championship. The roster for the 2023 FIVB U21 World Championship on August 17-26 in León and Aguascalientes, Mexico, will be announced later this summer.

Register for CNHA’s Convention in Las Vegas

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) will host its first convention on the continent, June 19-22, 2023, at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino.

For two decades, CNHA’s annual convention has served as the largest gathering of Native Hawaiians to discuss issues facing the community. CNHA is taking the convention to the continent now that the number of Native Hawaiians living there has surpassed the number residing in Hawai’i.

The convention will also include an ‘Aha ‘Ōpio (youth gathering) strand with a registration

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waiver for and all participants attending the 'Aha 'Ōpio (ages 12-26).

Pre-convention activities will feature cultural workshops on mele, oli, hula, 'ōlelo Hawai'i, genealogy and Mauna Kea, as well as a panel discussion on public policies impacting Native Hawaiians.

The convention officially begins on June 20 with formal protocol and will include panel discussions and breakout workshops on an array of topics that include politics, land, cultural awakening, social justice, health and business.

Evening festivities include Māhū Magic on June 20, showcase of 'Ōiwi and Polynesian drag performers featuring Sasha Colby. And June 21 will feature a performance by Nā Hōkū Hanohano Award winning musician Josh Tatofi.

For more info go to: www.hawaiiancouncil.org/convention/.

Protecting Hawai'i's Only Designated Koa Canoe Forest

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is seeking public input on a plan to protect Hawai'i's only designated koa canoe forest.

The 1,257-acre Kapāpala Koa Canoe Management Area on Hawai'i Island is located on the southeastern slopes of Maunaloa. The land ranges from 3,000 to 5,000 feet in elevation and is almost entirely covered with native koa and 'ōhi'a trees.

The area was first designated for koa conservation in 1989 when the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) approved it for commercial koa timber production. The designation was later refined to specify that the timber would be used specifically for koa canoes.

The proposed preservation plan has a lifespan of 100 years, with official check-ins every 10

OHA Hosts Native Hawaiian Climate Resilience Scoping Meetings



On May 8, 2023, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs hosted the first in a series of scoping meetings for the federal government's Native Hawaiian Climate Resilience Program. An initiative of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Native Hawaiian Relations (ONHR), the program is an effort to build capacity within the Native Hawaiian community to increase resilience in the face of climate change and to enhance the ability of our community to cope with the effects of climate change by incorporating ancestral ingenuity into climate change adaptation. To achieve this, ONHR plans to provide funding to advance climate change resilience and adaptation activities that serve the Native Hawaiian community. The meeting was attended by dozens of Native Hawaiian organization and community leaders. - Photo: Jason Lees

years. It outlines strategies to mitigate environmental threats such as climate change and invasive species, as well as plans on how timber harvesting will be regulated.

The draft is now available to the public for input until June 7. DLNR has also released an interactive digital mapping system for users.

The proposed preservation plan can be viewed at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/blog/2023/05/08/nr23-86/>.

To submit comments, email forestry@hawaii.gov or send a letter to the forestry program manager at 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Kauhane Named Next KS Trustee

The state Probate Court has selected Michelle Kauhane as the next trustee for Kamehameha Schools. She will replace Lance Keawe Wilhelm, whose term expires on June 30, 2023.

Kauhane has more than 15 years of executive leadership experience in public and nonprofit



Michelle Kauhane

administration. She has been with the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) since 2018 and currently serves as senior vice president – chief impact officer, overseeing the foundation's external facing departments, including community grants and initiatives, development and donor relations, and strategic communications and public policy.

Prior to joining HCF, Kauhane was president and CEO of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA). She also served as deputy director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands from 2011 to 2012 and as executive director of Hawaiian Community Assets from 2004 to 2011.

In 2021, Kauhane was appointed by President Joe Biden to the Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to help advance equity, justice and opportunity for Asian Americans and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander

communities.

Kauhane is vice chair for CNHA, a board member of the Kapolei Community Development Corporation, and a member of Ahahui Sivila O Kapolei. She is a 1986 graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama, and has a bachelor's degree in communication from Gonzaga University.

First Kū'oko'a 'Āina Based Leadership Graduates



Brissa Christophersen and Kaleohano Farrant.

Last month, UH Mānoa's Kamakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies (KCHS) graduated its first cohort of more than 30 Kū'oko'a 'Āina Based Leadership graduates. Of these, two students received a brand new Kū'oko'a Graduate Certificate created to cultivate aloha 'āina leaders connected to and caring for Hawai'i's 'āina using interdisciplinary skills grounded in 'ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge).

Receiving the Kū'oko'a Graduate Certificates were Brissa Christophersen and Kaleohano Farrant. They both earned master's degrees from the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Department.

"As a Kanaka 'Ōiwi, I find myself with my two feet in separate worlds at times where the field of science/environmental management often disagree with Hawai'i lifeways. The Kū'oko'a program was foundational in providing me with the support I needed to understand what it means to walk in both worlds," Christophersen said.

"Since 2020, I have been involved with restoration and research in the ahupua'a of Waiale'e on the northern shore of O'ahu, where the North Shore Community Land Trust is working to restore 20 acres of historic lo'i as well as Kalou, a 2-acre loko i'a wai (fishpond). The Kū'oko'a program is a great opportunity for students to invest themselves in projects that matter to them as well as communities in Hawai'i," Farrant said.

Director of Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement at Hawai'inuiākea Malia Nobrega-Olivera said, "We celebrate the accomplishments of our Kū'oko'a leaders that are committed to sustaining their relationships with the 'āina and the community and to kia'i or protect, care for and make decisions about, natural and cultural resources."

Onishi Named New CNHA COO



Paige Onishi

Paige Onishi has been named the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement's (CNHA) new chief operating officer (COO).

She will oversee day-to-day operations and ensure that CNHA departments are working collaboratively and strategically.

"With more than 25 years of management experience and proven success in stewarding large-scale projects in Hawai'i, Paige is a highly qualified candidate to fill our COO role," Kūhio Lewis, CNHA CEO said.

Prior to joining CNHA, Onishi was the COO of Hawaiian Building Maintenance where she oversaw all daily business and administrative operations for over 200 locations and more than 700 employees encompassing a mix of retail, commercial and residential accounts on O'ahu, Maui

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and Kaua'i.

Onishi has also served as business development director with Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. where she was instrumental in managing contracts that provided comprehensive wireless services to residents of Hawaiian homelands.

Onishi is a graduate of UH Mānoa and has actively volunteered with the Pilot Club of Honolulu since 2011. She resides in Salt Lake.

Artates Receives Four Pele Awards



Wailani Artates

The American Advertising Federation – Hawai'i Chapter hosted its annual Pele Awards on May 6 in Waikiki which celebrates the best of the best in advertising

and design.

The big winner of the evening was 'Ōiwi graphic designer Wailani Artates of Artistry8 on Maui. Artates was awarded "Best of Show," – the competition's highest honor – for her outstanding designs for Pono Portions, an O'ahu-based business with a line of artisanal flavored syrups using locally sourced ingredients. Artates also received a Pele Gold Award and a Pele Silver Award for Pono Portions' packaging and logo designs, and a second Pele Silver Award for the logo design she created for Haku Maui, a lei and flower shop in Makawao.

Pele Awards are Hawai'i's most prestigious design awards and recognizes excellence in advertising and design across a wide range of categories, including print, digital, advertising, film and video, and social media.

"I am truly humbled to receive this honor, there's nothing like being recognized by your peers,"

she said. "We have a job that makes the world a more beautiful and meaningful place."

Artates previously garnered four Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards for her album design covers. In 2011, she won for Nāpua Greig's album "Mōhalu," in 2015 for Sean Robbins' album "Olanui," in 2018 for Nāpua Greig's album "Makawalu," and in 2020 for Amy Hānaiali'i's album "Kala-wai'anui."

State and City Leaders Sign Unified Agreement on Red Hill

In a historic show of solidarity, state and city leaders gathered at the Hawai'i State Capitol on May 9 to sign a unified statement on Red Hill, calling for aquifer remediation and an integrated approach to resolving the water crisis. The statement represents the shared kuleana of Hawai'i's leadership to preserve access to safe, pure water and signifies a commitment to cooperation across all governmental levels and agencies.

Members of the House Special Committee on Red Hill developed the unified statement with the help of community advocates. The seven-member committee was initially formed by the House of Representatives in December 2021 after thousands of gallons of jet fuel leaked from the Red Hill facility, and contaminated the drinking water of hundreds of families living on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and nearby areas.

"All of us in leadership positions — whether government, community organizations and, of course, the military — have to work together to ensure the water and the land at Red Hill and the aquifer under it, will be remediated properly and expeditiously. Clean water for future generations must be our shared goal," said Gov. Josh Green.

"What is at stake regarding the quality and purity of our aquifer, is the health and well-being of all of our people living on O'ahu now, and for future

generations," said Mayor Rick Blangiardi. "There is no greater priority."

Smith Akana Wins MLK Poetry Competition



Smith Akana is pictured with International Peace Poem Project Coordinator Melinda Gohn and his kumu, Waianuhe Walk. -

Photo: Courtesy of Gary Kubota

Kia'iokapo Smith Akana, a seventh-grade student at Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Pū'ōhala in Kāne'ohe, O'ahu, took top honors in the Hawaiian language division of the 24th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace Poem competition. More than 250 people attended the award ceremony last month at the Mission Memorial Auditorium in downtown Honolulu. Smith Akana received an 'ukulele from Kala 'Ukulele President Mike Upton. Winning students in all divisions also received a limited edition posted of the Hōkūle'a sailing past the United Nations building in New York City from the Polynesian Voyaging Society and 'Ōiwi-TV.

Hawai'i Feature Film Explores New Genre

My Partner, a new feature film directed by 'Ōiwi filmmaker Keli'i Grace, follows the evolution of a relationship between two teenage boys in Lāhainā.

Written by Lance D. Collins, the film focuses on the relationship between Pili, a Native Hawaiian student-athlete portrayed by Kaipo Dudoit, and Edmar, a high-performing Filipino student portrayed by Jayron Munoz.

The film is of the "Boy Love" genre which originated in Japan.

The genre has spread worldwide; this is the first feature film of its kind from Hawai'i.

The film explores social themes including cultural and self/sexual identity, immigration, and 'āina stewardship. Respecting Hawaiian culture throughout the filmmaking process was a conscious effort to ensure that the film and all aspects of the production would have a positive impact on Hawai'i and the various communities represented.

The cast is all local and the majority are first-time actors and real-life representatives of the issues highlighted in the film. The production crew was also either Native Hawaiian or local.

My Partner premiered last month at the Asian Pacific Film Festival in Los Angeles where it won a Narrative Audience Award.

Supporting Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property

Before the 2023 Legislative Session ended, the House adopted House Concurrent Resolution (HCR)108, urging the formation of a working group to study policies and legislation with respect to Native Hawaiian intellectual property. The resolution seeks to protect the intellectual property rights of Kānaka Maoli, including cultural expression, language, and art forms.

Introduced by Rep. Darius K. Kila, the measure calls for the creation of a nine-member working group peopled by cultural practitioners and experts in Native Hawaiian law, Indigenous intellectual property, or Native Hawaiian cultural customs and art.

"There is a kuleana to address the global cultural appropriation that has occurred in various forms," Kila said. "For years, we've observed mainland companies opening businesses and using a Hawaiian name to increase sales, despite having no connection to our culture."

Kila noted that disputes over ownership and control between Indigenous peoples and third-party users of Indigenous knowledge resources have steadily increased in the last decade. A recent example was a non-Hawaiian food chain from Chicago, Aloha Poke Co., which issued cease-and-desist letters threatening small food shops in Hawai'i from using the words "aloha" and "poke," claiming "ownership" of the words.

Indigenous people worldwide have developed strategies and frameworks to protect their collective intellectual property rights. Groups include the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, the Toi Iho registered trademark for Maori art and artists, and the Alaska State Council on the Arts Silver Hand Program for Alaska Native artists. ■

Letter to the Editor

I live in Leilani Estates, near the Puna geothermal plant.

I am writing to support Mililani Trask's brilliant ideas for a Hawaiian-run, culturally respectful geothermal utility. This would address my concerns and those of many people who have mixed feelings about the foreign-owned Puna Geothermal Ventures plant.

Many of us in the community, though not Hawaiian by birth, wish to see the Hawaiian people flourish. We also wish to be safe, culturally and spiritually pono, environmentally sound, and not overpay for electricity.

I have lived on Hawai'i Island for eight years and work at Pāhoā Elementary School as a Title I tutor. ■

Catherine Veritas

Dysfunctional Legislative Session an Affront to Native Hawaiians

We cannot let one of the most dysfunctional legislative sessions in recent history end without comment from OHA.

We are appalled that our 300,000 beneficiaries were deliberately silenced once again by the refusal of the House of Representatives, for the second year, to even hear or deliberate on OHA's Hakuone bill, or to provide funding to repair a defective bulkhead fronting a public harbor that was the victim of the state's long-standing neglect.

OHA sought legislation to build a community for Hawaiians and local families in Kaka'ako that would have included residential housing, related services like day care for keiki and kupuna, parks and open spaces, and a Hawaiian cultural center to bring us together around our shared Hawaiian values of 'āina, community and 'ohana.

We regret that under the leadership of Speaker Scott Saiki and some House Committee chairs, OHA for the second year was denied a hearing on its proposal in spite of large public support for OHA and its plans.

Voters expect their legislative leaders to serve the greater public good by hearing and deliberating on proposals in both houses, and the denial of a hearing by House leadership on OHA's bill which was heard by the Senate should not and cannot go unanswered.

Advocates don't expect that every bill introduced will be passed in both chambers, but we do expect that a proposal that has been heard in the Senate for two years will at least be granted a hearing in the people's house - the House of Representatives. The arbitrary killing of OHA's proposal in the House without even being afforded a hearing after garnering substantial support signals a highwater mark of disrespect by the House Speaker and his committee chairs for the will of the people and for OHA's Hawaiian beneficiaries.



**Carmen
"Hulu"
Lindsey**

CHAIR
Trustee, Maui

Through actions such as this, we at OHA believe democracy is being seriously undermined, and that all voters should sit up and take notice of it.

Our proposal to lift the restrictions on residential housing on our lands in Kaka'ako - the parcels that we call Hakuone - was not even given the basic courtesy of a hearing in the House. For a second legislative session, OHA was not allowed the opportunity to make its voice heard in the House, to present its case for residential development on its lands, and to have that august body consider and deliberate upon it.

Even so, we expected that funding for the needed repairs to the defective bulkhead and revetment - which is the state's responsibility - would come through. The money allocated for this expenditure was not a gift to OHA but was intended to remedy the state's longstanding neglect of basic maintenance on the harbor lands transferred to OHA in settlement of the state's monetary debt to OHA.

By its actions, the House Speaker and his committee chairs have seen fit to completely ignore OHA's request that it be made whole. And with each passing day, the state's debt to Hawaiians continues to grow.

How will we at OHA move forward? We stand fast on our dream of building residential housing for working families on Hawaiian land in Hakuone, we stand fast on our dream of providing services for both kupuna and keiki, we stand fast on our dream of creating a cultural center and gathering place in celebration of our culture and our traditional ways, and we stand fast on our vision of creating opportunities for business and economic development.

And we will not be silent when we are faced with disparate treatment, unfairness, or injustice. ■

The House Refusal to Hear OHA's Bill was "Red-lining"

We tend not to think about "red-lining" in Hawai'i. But the recent legislative session and some unearthed history make me think it's time we recognized how that concept operates here. Red-lining is a real estate practice in which public and private housing industry officials operate in a way that denies certain communities access to loans or financing because they are deemed "high risk" on the basis of their ethnicity.

Thanks to scholar Tina Grandinetti's essay in *Detours: A Decolonial Guide to Hawai'i* (edited by Hokulani A. Aikau and Vernadette V. Gonzalez. Duke University Press, 2019) we learn that a 1982 draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Housing and Community Development Authority (HCDA) said this: "New Kaka'ako residents are expected to be predominantly Caucasian and Japanese...Because they tend to have lower incomes, Part-Hawaiians, Filipinos and most other ethnic groups are not expected to be represented in proportion to their share of O'ahu's population."

She tells us that "while the existing community in Kaka'ako was a mixed plate of Japanese, Chinese, Hawaiian, and Filipinos, the two new condo towers housed predominantly haole (Caucasian) residents and a large number of Japanese residents." It is clear to her that "HCDA had decided that effective development would be defined by profit and investment even though it knew that this would bring drastic changes to the neighborhood."

HCDA might as well have hung a banner outside Kaka'ako that said "Hawaiians not welcome."

Grandinetti concludes that "Kaka'ako planners had effectively decided that a successful development was a profitable one. In so doing, they deemed Kānaka Maoli and working-class families as undesirable."

HCDA's requirements exclude those who most desperately need housing - from essential workers, to teachers to police officers. "Roughly 75% of housing demand comes from low income house-



**Mililani B.
Trask**

VICE CHAIR
Trustee,
Hawai'i Island

holds, but they are not served by HCDA and are left out of the growing community in Kaka'ako."

This disdain for Kānaka Maoli and working class families was reflected in the behavior of Speaker Saiki and Sen. Moriwaki who, despite being repeatedly briefed on OHA's plans for Hakuone, feigned ignorance. They bought into and supported the campaign of disinformation conducted by the so-called "Friends of Kewalos" who had also been given the courtesy of

meetings with OHA executives and the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

The message we heard loud and clear was that we, the Indigenous people of these islands, were literally obstacles in the way of the settler colonizers. Or as the Speaker himself said, housing on Hakuone might interfere with the "view-planes" of those living in the luxury condos.

As Professor Emeritus Jonathan Okamura pointed out in his column in *Civil Beat*, "settler colonialism" is no longer confined to academia. It has been brought vividly to life in the treatment accorded to OHA this past legislative session.

Okamura explains that "settler colonialism is a system of power and control by a resident racial or ethnic group over a native people in their homeland." He cites fellow scholar Candace Fujikane who describes Asian settler colonialism as "a constellation of the colonial ideologies and practices of Asian settlers in Hawai'i."

Okamura notes that "the ideologies include racism and the practices consist of institutional discrimination." We saw both at work in the denial of a hearing for OHA's bill in the House, and in the refusal to fund OHA in ways that the Senate saw as justified.

But OHA and the Indigenous peoples of these islands will not take this disrespect lying down. We will respond. And we will prevail. Our research shows that people of goodwill of all ethnicities support our fight for justice even if the Speaker does not. ■

From the 60th Merrie Monarch Festival to a Royal Coronation

This past April marked the momentous 60th anniversary of the Merrie Monarch Festival. A legacy shared through a week of hula competition, artisans and a parade in Hilo, honoring King David La'amea Kalakaua and his contributions to hula as a patron of the arts, music and dance.

We celebrate, commemorate and perpetuate our culture as the Indigenous people of Hawai'i by showcasing to the world our talents and aloha.

What an honor to represent OHA in the Merrie Monarch Royal Parade, alongside Chair Hulu Lindsey, Vice Chair Mililani Trask, Trustee Luana Alapa and Trustee Keoni Souza.

Also riding at my side was my beloved baby, Ana Kapuahilehua'i-waiwamaikahikina'i'ōla'a as we share aloha for the Hawaiian language, hula, culture and traditions through this week of festivities. Mahalo to all who make the Merrie Monarch Festival the world class celebration that it is!



Top: Trustee Akaka and her daughter along with trustees Trask, Lindsey, Souza and Alapa riding in the parade. Bottom: Sharing shakas and smiles along the parade route.

- Courtesy Photos



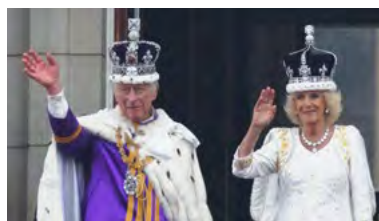
Kaleihikina Akaka

Trustee,
O'ahu

The coronation of their majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla on May 6, 2023, brought forward continuity, inclusivity and fusion of past and present, celebrating diversity of the nation. Highlighted in the King's coronation is his lifelong mindfulness and genuine interest in the natural world and passionate care for the environment to nurture our young people and ingrain how important our environment is for our future and to find solutions to these challenges.

The King stated "I come not to be served but to serve." His duty of service to the people and his notable creation of the Prince's Trust launched in the 1970s with his navy severance pay of £7,400 has helped a million young people and more to live, learn and earn.

I was happy to hear highlighted during the coronation, similarities of our work through the years with the same goals of teaching children where their food comes from and educating them on farming and the food industry, and the Queen's commitment to taking on gender-based violence.



Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla wave to onlookers on Coronation Day.

At the Coronation Concert, William Prince of Wales spoke of his grandmother Queen Elizabeth II looking from above with pride quoting her 1953 coronation speech, "Coronations are a declaration of our hopes for the future...And I know she's up there fondly keeping an eye on us."

As we are guided by our 'ohana before us, service is aloha in action.

It's Time for OHA to Change its Messaging About Kaka'ako Makai

As a Trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), I am dedicated to the advancement of Native Hawaiians and all people in Hawai'i.

That is why it disheartens me to see that OHA, for the third consecutive year, has been unsuccessful in obtaining permission from the legislature to construct three residential towers on our Kaka'ako Makai property known as Hakuone. OHA has attributed our legislative failures to dysfunctional politics and racial prejudice, among other reasons. However, I believe that the messaging OHA uses to promote this development project could be connected to our failure to rally support in the legislature.

OHA has presented its case for lifting residential restrictions at Hakuone as a "matter of justice," citing historical injustices against Native Hawaiians as grounds for legislative approval.

For instance, OHA has argued that we are victims of racial discrimination because the legislature has denied its request to build residential towers while allowing "non-Hawaiian" businesses across the street to do so on their properties.

Additionally, OHA claims that it was "short-changed" in the 2012 settlement agreement, as the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committees implied that entitlements such as lifting residential restrictions could be obtained in the future.

Although these claims have been made, the available facts do not entirely support them. In reality, restrictions on residential development have been in place since 2006, six years before we acquired the lands in question. At that time, Alexander and Baldwin, Inc., a historically significant "Big 5" company, was denied permission to construct residential towers. These restrictions were not established on the basis of prejudice against Hawaiians.

Regarding the assertion that OHA was short-changed in the 2012 set-



Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.

Trustee,
At-large

tlement, the residential restrictions were public knowledge before the agreement was entered into. We accepted the offer "as is." Whether some legislators in 2012 made representations to the contrary, the settlement agreement makes no mention of any entitlements. OHA's Trustees in 2012 had a fiduciary duty to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries to exercise due diligence before accepting any offer.

Despite recent setbacks, there is still hope for OHA's Hakuone vision. Our agency's marketing and communications efforts during the past legislative session elevated the conversation about Hakuone and the needs of Hawaiians to new heights. Through a recent survey, nearly 80% of voters indicated that they support OHA's overall development project while two-thirds of voters support the lifting of residential restrictions. This demonstrates significant public support.*

The strongest argument for allowing residential development at Hakuone is the project's merits. Developing residential units would help address Honolulu's critical housing shortage, and OHA could use the resulting revenues to meet the needs of Hawaiians. This would be a win-win solution for everyone.

Rather than framing the issue as a matter of justice, we should emphasize the benefits of the project and how it would benefit the community. By taking responsibility for our decisions and focusing on our strengths, OHA can build credibility and move forward from the past. Hakuone can become a showcase for culture, community, economic opportunity, and civic pride in Honolulu, benefitting all residents of Hawai'i.

It's time for OHA to change its messaging. ■

*Grove Insight via Kuilei Consulting, "Hakuone Community Outreach Campaign Report," May 4, 2023.

For questions or comments about this column, please contact TrusteeAkina@oha.org.



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

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**CULTURAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT NOTICE:
WAIHEHU, WAILUKU
DISTRICT (MAUI)**

Honua Consulting, LLC, on behalf of Pacific Rim Land, Inc., is conducting a cultural impact assessment (CIA) for the Proposed Waiehu Workforce Housing Project, TMKs: (2) 3-3-001:102. The Proposed Action is a workforce housing project.

Honua Consulting is seeking consultation with practitioners, Native Hawaiian Organizations, stakeholders, and other individuals. Specifically, consultation is sought on a) identification of historic properties or cultural resources that may be in the proposed project area, b) historic or existing cultural resources that may be impacted by the proposed project, c) historic or existing traditional practices and/or beliefs that may be impacted by the proposed project, and d) identification of individuals or organizations that should be sought out for consultation. Individuals or organizations interested in participating can contact Honua Consulting at community@honuaconsulting.com or (808) 392-1617.

**CULTURAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT NOTICE:
WAIHE'E, WAILUKU
DISTRICT (MAUI)**

Honua Consulting, LLC, on behalf of Munekiyo Hiraga, is conducting a cultural impact assessment (CIA) for the Proposed Waihe'e Point Farm Project, TMKs: (2) 3-2-001:002 (Por.) and (2) 3-2-002:041 (Por.). The

Proposed Action is the proposed establishment of Waihe'e Point Farm and use of the property for agriculture purposes.

Honua Consulting is seeking consultation with practitioners, Native Hawaiian Organizations, stakeholders, and other individuals. Specifically, consultation is sought on a) identification of historic properties or cultural resources that may be in the proposed project area, b) historic or existing cultural resources or traditional practices that may be impacted by the proposed project, and d) individuals or organizations that should be sought out for consultation. Individuals or organizations interested in participating can contact Honua Consulting at community@honuaconsulting.com or (808) 392-1617.

**CULTURAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT NOTICE:
HONOKOWAI,
LAHAINA (MAUI)**

Honua Consulting, LLC, on behalf of Sea Engineering, is conducting a cultural impact assessment (CIA) for the Proposed Ho'ala Honokowai Project, TMKs: (2) 4-4-001:097, 098, 100 (seaward). The Proposed Action is to restore and preserve Honokowai Beach in Honokowai, Maui. Restoration of Honokowai Beach could be accomplished by one of three methods - beach nourishment, beach maintenance, or beach nourishment with stabilizing structures. The preferred method will be selected after completing studies for the DEIS and receiving public comments. Additional objectives are to preserve and

enhance cultural and shoreline access, increase resilience to coastal hazards, and enable planning for long-term adaptation to sea level rise.

Honua Consulting is seeking consultation with practitioners, Native Hawaiian Organizations, stakeholders, and other individuals. Specifically, consultation is sought on a) identification of historic properties or cultural resources that may be in the proposed project area, b) historic or existing cultural resources or traditional practices that may be impacted by the proposed project, and d) individuals or organizations that should be sought out for consultation. Individuals or organizations interested in participating can contact Honua Consulting at community@honuaconsulting.com or (808) 392-1617.

**CULTURAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT FOR
THE PROPOSED
PĀHOA TRANSIT HUB
AND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i Mass Transit Agency and the Hawai'i State Public Library System, ASM Affiliates is preparing a Cultural Impact Assessment to inform a HRS, Chapter 343 Environmental Assessment being prepared for the proposed Pāhoa Transit Hub and Public Library which is planned to be developed on one of three possible alternative sites. The three alternative sites are located along the northern part of Pāhoa town in the area between the existing Pāhoa Marketplace and Apa'a Street on the mauka side of Pāhoa Village Road. The three

alternative sites, are all privately-owned parcels zoned A-1a:

- Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) inclusive of the 9.572-acre parcel identified as TMK (3) 1-5-007:007; Located at the northwest corner of Pāhoa Village Road and Kahakai Boulevard between Pāhoa Marketplace and the Puna Kai Shopping Center. The site provides a large parcel with a good shape and could provide a gateway opportunity for Pāhoa. Bus access can be placed away from high pedestrian traffic areas. There are opportunities to enhance walkability, connectivity, and pedestrian safety along Kahakai Boulevard and Pāhoa Village Road frontages with opportunities to create a pedestrian friendly environment from Puna Kai Shopping Center to the site.

- Alternative 2 inclusive of the 10-acre parcel identified as TMK: (3) 1-5-007:005; located south of Puna Kai Shopping Center. This site provides a large parcel with a good shape. This site is slightly separated from congested Puna Kai Shopping Center, which might be easier for bus access. There is good street frontage, but the site is adjacent to fewer pedestrian-oriented uses.

- Alternative 3 inclusive of 5.641 acres and comprised of following four parcels, TMK: (3) 1-5-007:004, 076, 082, and 083. Located along Pāhoa Village Road at the northwest corner of Apa'a Street. The site has good street frontage and is close to commercial areas but separate from the congested Puna Kai Shopping Center area. The parcel size just meets the basic minimum footprint with no room for potential expansion. It is also adjacent to single-family development, which is less pedestri-

an-oriented.

More information about the project can also be found on the project website <http://pahoa-transithub.info/> or by scanning the QR Code

ASM is seeking kama'āina familiar with the areas' cultural resources and traditional customary practices. We also seek input regarding strategies to prevent or mitigate impacts on culturally valued resources or traditional customary practices. If you know of such information, please contact Candace Gonzales, cgonzales@asmaffiliates.com, (808) 969-6066.

**KA PA'AKAI
ASSESSMENT NOTICE:
HĀ'ENA, KAUA'I**

Pacific Consulting Services, Inc. (PCSI), on behalf of AT&T Mobility, is conducting a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) and Ka Pa'akai assessment in support of the proposed development of a 95-foot stealth monopine telecommunications facility within a 927 sq ft area west of 5-7505 Kūhiō Highway, Hā'ena, Kaua'i (Tax Map Key: (4) 5-8-010:011). The CIA team is seeking to engage with cultural practitioners and other knowledgeable individuals who can provide information concerning cultural, historical, or natural resources that may be present within the project area for the purpose of completing a Ka Pa'akai Assessment. If interested in sharing your mana'o, there are several ways you can participate or obtain additional information: by email at haena-cultural@pcsihawaii.com; via an online survey form at pcsihawaii.com/atthaena; or by calling PCSI at 808-546-5557. ■

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HAWAII ISLAND HOME IN KEAUKAHA. 3 bdrm/2+bath consisting of 1394-sf living area on 13,920-sf lot w/rockwall & chainlink fencing & many value added upgrades including but not limited to: air conditioning, solar hot water heating, garage door & more. \$379K MLS# 668794, Linda Kaeo, RS-60549, (808) 990-0481 Iokua Real Estate Inc. RBO-21856-1.

HOMES WITH ALOHA- Kula Maui 43, 168 sq. ft. lot with a 2, 816 sq.ft. unfinished home. Ocean views, wraparound lanai. Cash. This is a leasehold property - Charmaine I. Quilit Poki (Realtor) (808) 295-4474. RB-15998 Keller Williams Honolulu RB-21303.

HOMES WITH ALOHA- Unique property in Papakolea one story 3 bedrooms + room with no closet used as an office, 2 baths, level lot with a warehouse like structure attached. \$899,000 Must see!. This is a leasehold property -Charmaine I. Quilit Poki (Realtor) (808) 295-4474. RB-15998 Keller Williams Honolulu RB-21303.

HOMES WITH ALOHA -Looking for homes in the Kapolei, Waimanalo, Papakolea, Nanakuli, Big Island areas, Maui areas. If you are thinking of selling please call, text or email Charmaine I. Quilit Poki (Realtor) (808) 295-4474. RB-15998 Keller Williams Honolulu RB-21303. charmaine@homeswithaloha.com

NI'HAU 45" 10-STRAND GINGER STYLE ONIKINIKI MOMI LEI strung in the 1970s. Appraised by NaMea authenticator Kai Hyde. Email Lovebudsunny@aol.com for copy of appraisal pic and price.

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E Ō Mai, e Kuleana Land Holders!

THE KULEANA LAND TAX exemption helps Native Hawaiians keep their ancestral lands by reducing the rising cost of property taxes. All four counties have ordinances in place that allow eligible kuleana land owners to pay minimal to zero property taxes. Applications are available on each county's website.

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 808-286-8033.



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HO'OHUI 'OHANA

FAMILY REUNIONS

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

KAOHI/MAKEA – The family of Joseph Kalua Kaohi (1894 – 1971) and Rachel Kaneheokalani Makea (1895 – 1951) of Hanapepe, Kaua'i is having a reunion July 26–30, 2023, in Hanapepe, Kaua'i. For more information, please contact Julie Kaohi at 808-551-7572 or lehuabua@aol.com. Any genealogy information would also be greatly appreciated. Please contact Jolynn Kaohi Chew at 480-773-9313 or mamachew@aol.com.

LU'ULO A-AE'A-MORTON-KALIMA – This is a kāhea to the descendants of Annie Meleka Lu'ulua and her three (3) husbands: Albert Kamaukoli Ae'a I, Sampson Pālama Ae'a Morton, and Paul Aukai Kalima. The 'ohana is planning a family reunion in the summer of 2023 and all direct descendants of this bloodline are invited to attend this event. What: Aloha Kekahi i Kekahi 'Ohana Reunion; When: September 1–4, 2023, FOUR DAY EVENT; Where: Our Lady of Ke'au – Makaha, HI. The 'ohana requests all attendees to RSVP here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/alohareunion2023>. For more information please contact Ronnette Abregano and alohareunion2023@gmail.com.

STEWART-KAMEHAMEHA, KANAHELE, KUNA – Family search from Maui to Kahalu'u O'ahu. Looking for descendants or 'ohana of James and Mea-alani Stewart of Kahalu'u, O'ahu. Please contact William Stewart: wsteward52@yahoo.com if you are interested in a family reunion. ■



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