



# Ka Wai Ola

NEWS FOR THE LĀHUI

kawaiola.news

Nowemapa (November) 2023 | Vol. 40, No. 11



## KĀKO‘O ‘OIHANA ‘ŌIWI



Every November, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs celebrates Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs with its free ads section and by profiling a few 'Ōiwi-owned businesses. This year, we are featuring Maui businesses to support the island's post-wildfire economic recovery. Pictured clockwise from top left: Kūlua, JN Veterinary, Cymz Sweet Kre8tionz, 'Opihi Maui, Maui Vehicle Storage, and Polipoli Farms. - Courtesy Photos

**SPECIAL FREE ADS SECTION**

*Supporting Native Hawaiian-owned Businesses*

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# Was your business impacted by the Maui wildfires?

The **Maui Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce** and the **Office of Hawaiian Affairs** invite ALL business owners in Hawai'i impacted by the Maui wildfires — Hawaiian, non-Hawaiian, large and small — to take a few minutes to respond to the Native Hawaiian Business Maui Wildfire Impact Survey.



NATIVE HAWAIIAN BUSINESS

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## DISEASE, DISPOSSESSION, AND OVERTHROW: A CASE FOR THREE MEMORIALS

Aloha mai kākou,

Hawaiians are born historians. Before our language was written, we invested incredible effort to memorize and transmit our mo‘olelo through oli. We revere the past because it holds the wisdom of our ancestors.

Like oli, memorials are vehicles to impart historical knowledge. In Honolulu there are many: the statue of Queen Lili‘uokalani ma kai of the capitol; Father Damien stands ma uka of the building; ‘Ewa of the rotunda are Korean and Vietnam War memorials. These figures and events left immeasurable marks on Hawai‘i and deserve to be recalled at the nexus of our civic life. Yet more space remains on the canvas.

Waves of pestilence wiped out over 90% of the native population between Cook’s arrival and the close of the 19th century. However, there is no memorial to the countless souls lost to foreign diseases. Our traditional ahupua‘a land tenure system was eradicated by the Māhele. However, there is no memorial to the terrible dispossession of the maka‘āinana. The armed overthrow of 1893 ended the Hawaiian monarchy. However, there is no memorial to our kingdom’s stolen sovereignty.

These three events are foundational to our present reality. Each begat the next. Mass death left ‘āina fallow and vulnerable to predation. Loss of land paved the way for political disenfranchisement and then outright conquest. There is more that should be etched into the popular narrative, but the absence of these monumental catastrophes in the public space must be rectified. They call out for remembrance.

We need memory to build our lāhui. Hawaiians are bound by our shared history, and our achievements shine brighter against the darkness of our traumas. It is critically important to enshrine this history now when ‘Ōiwi are increasingly living in

exile. Imagine such memorials as places of pilgrimage for the diaspora, touchstones of education that recommit our people, near and far, to the struggle for justice.

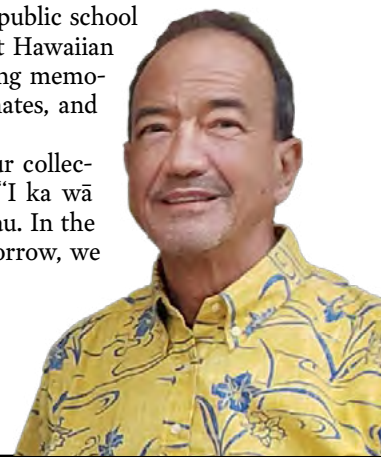
We need memory to build bridges across borders. No matter your opinion of tourism, Hawai‘i is a destination, and the impact of visitors immense. Many outsiders only experience Hawai‘i on vacation. How can we expect malihini to learn if we do not teach? How can we expect them to respect us if they do not know us? Imagine a day when tourists’ itineraries include truthful commemoration of these momentous tragedies.

We need memory to build unity. Hawai‘i is diverse, just as it was during the time of our multi-ethnic kingdom. We can only advance Native Hawaiians, and solve the deep crises facing our islands, together. How can we move forward unified if we do not start on the same page? When I attended public school in the 1960s, my curriculum made no mention of lost Hawaiian lives, land, and liberty. I imagine my mo‘opuna visiting memorials to these events with their non-Hawaiian classmates, and that vision gives me hope.

Justice for Hawaiians requires understanding of our collective kuleana – kama‘āina, ‘ōiwi, and malihini alike. “I ka wā ma mua, i ka wā ma hope,” rings a storied ‘ōlelo no‘eau. In the future is the past. To build a flourishing Hawai‘i tomorrow, we must account fully for the calamities of yesterday. ■

Colin Kippen

Ka Pouhana Kūikawā | Interim Chief Executive Officer



Colin Kippen

Ka Pouhana Kūikawā  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

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# OHA Awards \$1.8 Million to 16 Native Hawaiian-Serving Nonprofits

By Ed Kalama

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs' (OHA) Grants Program supports Hawai'i-based nonprofit organizations that have projects, programs and initiatives that serve the lāhui in alignment with OHA's strategic plan, which targets economic, health, housing, and education strategic directions.

In October, more than \$1.8 million was awarded to a total of 16 community nonprofits.

The slew of grant awards approved last month were highlighted by two community nonprofits that would provide experiential employment and workforce development programs for Native Hawaiians.

An Economic Stability grant of \$500,000 was awarded to the Homestead Community Development Corporation for its statewide Residential Employment Living Improvement Project, which would provide employment opportunities, training and job placement services for an estimated 95 individuals.

A \$400,000 grant was awarded to Kaua'i's Ho'āke-olapono Trades Academy and Institute for its Building Through Innovation Program which would offer workforce development in the building and construction industry for an estimated 32 community members.

"It is our honor to stand side by side with these community partners as we work in unison to better the lives of Native Hawaiians," said OHA Board Chair Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey. "Our intent is to strengthen our 'ohana, our culture and our 'āina, and together with these outstanding organizations, we can accomplish so much more for our beneficiaries."

OHA also awarded six \$100,000 'Āina Grants to the following organizations: Hui Mālama i ke Ala 'Ūlilili to restore and steward 20 acres of regenerative 'ulu agroforestry on Hawai'i Island; Aloha Kuamo'o 'Āina for its Mālama Kuamo'o Community Stewardship Program which will help restore a 3-acre portion of Kuamo'o on Hawai'i Island; 'Āina Alliance for preservation, stewardship and restoration activities along Kaua'i's Anahola coastline; The Men of PA'A for its Imu Mea 'Ai project, an 'āina-based recovery and community service program for men transitioning from the justice system and at-risk youth in Puna on Hawai'i Island; Papakōlea Community Development Corporation for its Pūowaina Research and Education Project to increase educational programming in Papakōlea, O'ahu; and Keaukaha Pana'ewa Community Alliance for its Mahi'ai Project to provide agricultural workshops on Hawai'i Island.

A \$100,000 Mo'omeheu (cultural) grant was awarded

to Ka Ipu Makani Cultural Heritage Center for its Moa'e Moloka'i Digitization Project, which will assist with the preservation of cultural content unique and specific to Moloka'i.

In addition, back in July 2023, OHA presented the first of its new Kāko'o Grant Program awards. Kāko'o Grants are intended to strengthen community organizations' grant applications and post-award monitoring and reporting - not just for OHA, but for county, state, federal, and community resourcing as well. They are intended for operational administration funding and support services and may include, but are not limited to: grant writing; program implementation and evaluation support; paying for financial audits, accountants and accounting services; business insurance; or Form 990 preparation.

Organizations awarded Kāko'o Grants in July were: Going Home Hawai'i (\$25,000), Hawaiian Historical Society (\$25,000), 'Aha Punana Leo, Inc. (\$25,000); Homestead Community Development Corporation (\$20,000), and the J. Walter Cameron Center (\$15,000).

In October, trustees approved additional Kāko'o Grants awards for: La'i'ōpua 2020 (\$25,000), 'Āina Alliance (\$25,000), Infinite Reach [dba Native Hawaiian Innovation Institute] (\$25,000), The Men of PA'A (\$15,000) and the Kalaeloa Heritage & Legacy Foundation (\$15,000). ■



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# Continuing a Tradition of Indigenous Innovation

A pair of OHA grants are helping Purple Mai'a inspire and educate the next generation of culturally grounded, community-serving technology makers

By Ed Kalama

He mai'a ke kanaka a ka lā e hua ai.  
A person is like a banana tree on the day it bears fruit.  
One can tell what kind of a person they are by their deeds.

**T**hey honor the past by looking to the future. Their goal is to build an innovation and technology ecosystem in Hawai'i that's locally grown and based in Hawaiian culture. Their hope is to stand as a world class Hawaiian institution that sets the standard for excellence in education, innovation, and entrepreneurship in service of land and people.

Purple Mai'a Foundation is a technology education nonprofit that was founded in 2013. Its programs started with a single afterschool technology class at Jarrett Middle School that taught Native Hawaiian and local kids to code. Since then, the organization has grown to work with hundreds of learners annually in three distinct programs: Youth Education (Kaikaina), Entrepreneurship (Mālama Design Studios), and Workforce Development and Training (Hiapo).

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) recently awarded a pair of community grants to Purple Mai'a, joining a host of major funders that support their work including Kamehameha Schools, the U.S. Department of Education's Native Hawaiian Education Program, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Castle Foundation, Kosasa Foundation, Stupski Foundation, Nakapuna Foundation, and many others.

"Hawaiians have always been innovators. From navigating our oceans to creating a thriving culture in one of the most isolated places in the world, Hawaiians have always been technology forward," said Co-CEO Kelsey Amos, who co-founded the nonprofit along with Co-CEO Donovan Kealoha and Advisor Olin Lagon. "Through our grants from OHA, Purple Mai'a has been enabled to continue this tradition of Indigenous innovation by pushing the boundaries of what it means to be a modern-day Hawaiian."

A \$498,660 OHA economic grant has been awarded for the company's Mālama Design Studio initiative, an incubator program that supports Native Hawaiian businesses. The grant project entails educating 20 Native Hawaiian business owners through a collaborative design research process that results in the implementation of a technology solution that can improve their business, and ultimately cultivate economic development in and for Hawaiian communities.

A first cohort for the grant has already been selected.



Purple Mai'a Foundation's Mālama Team includes: Back row (l-r) Angel Permito-Kaheaku (FoundHer program coordinator), Keoni DeFranco (Mālama Studios managing director), Ikaika Bishop (educational specialist) and Zach Pili (technology and education apprentice); Middle (l-r) Kea'a Davis (lead design and product strategist), Jazzy Kealoha (Mālama Design Studio program manager), and Pōhai Panoke (creative developer); Front row (l-r) Cheyenne Diehl (designer) and Darien Siguenza (FoundHer program director). - Courtesy Photo

"We received 85 applications from Native Hawaiian businesses across Hawai'i and selected 10 exceptional partner businesses, representing each island, with owners of Hawaiian ancestry," Amos said. "With this selection, plus ongoing relationships with businesses we've formerly worked with, we've established a wide-ranging coalition of Native Hawaiian businesses from a diverse set of industries committed to attaining economic self-sufficiency."

"We've established a wide network of skilled Native Hawaiian web, digital marketing and graphic design contractors to assist our project team in serving partner businesses," said Keoni DeFranco, managing director of the Mālama Design Studio. "We've begun to assist these companies with technological implementations, and provided resources for their business operations, and seen both revenue and social media marketing footprints dramatically increase."

"We chose companies that believe in the importance of a regenerative, circular Hawai'i economy that prioritizes environmental sustainability and social justice and it's really been paying off. To us, this is the definition of waiwai – community abundance and wealth."

DeFranco said Purple Mai'a is dedicated to supporting the development of a self-sufficient economy for Hawai'i.

"As an entrepreneur with 10 years of experience running a venture-funded technology company in the Healthcare IT space, I personally understand that early stage companies need more than advice, they need a community supporting them, directly adding value to their roadmap and working alongside them," he said.

"We view the Mālama Design Studio as an opportunity to add firepower into a company for the duration of the program and beyond. Working across our pae 'āina allows us to have a better vantage point into the needs of the community, and we have identified where commercial kitchens, value add centers, distribution hubs, manufacturing facilities and other aspects of the supply

chain are needed to truly scale our local economy. We understand this requires Kānaka ownership of 'āina and infrastructure.

"Our goal is to develop a coalition of Native Hawaiian social entrepreneurs focused on aloha 'āina, sustainability and regenerative business models to cultivate waiwai and uplift our lāhui," DeFranco added. "We've taken a systemic approach assisting social enterprises and industry leaders in target areas that include food security, land stewardship, health and wellness, renewable energy, housing solutions, and biocultural restoration, all accelerated by innovative technologies."

A \$200,000 OHA education grant will go toward the "Waiw.AI: Building a Flourishing Future for Kanaka with AI" project that will equip Native Hawaiian students and kumu with AI (artificial intelligence) knowledge and skills.

Waiw.AI Studios will focus on introducing students and teachers in Hawai'i to AI through a variety of activities, such as workshops, training sessions and mentorship programs.

"By equipping Native Hawaiian students with AI knowledge and skills, we aim to increase their college, career, and community readiness, and ensure they are prepared to participate in the rapidly evolving field of AI," Amos said.

"Moreover, by increasing the number of Native Hawaiian professionals in AI-related fields, we hope to contribute to the development and innovation of AI in Hawai'i and ensure that Hawaiian perspectives and values are integrated into the field. Waiw.AI encourages a multigenerational perspective that engages students in the problems of the present with an eye towards a flourishing future."

Vice President of Educational Design Mike Sarmiento said Purple Mai'a is thankful for OHA's belief in their skillset.

"For Waiw.AI studios, we have appreciated OHA's commitment to taking a chance on our ability to amplify our cultural values and 'ike using an emerging technology. The flexibility to work with both haumāna and kumu will enable this studio to have the most impact and to grow our communities' understanding and capacity to utilize these new tools for the betterment of our lāhui," he said.

Sarmiento said that innovative Native Hawaiian organizations like Purple Mai'a need the support of innovative funders like OHA.

"Sometimes when you are pushing the edge of what it means to be a Hawaiian today it can feel risky and controversial for funders. We believe that although it can be scary, there is waiwai to be found at the outer edges where the known meets the unknown," he said.

"Organizations and funders must find courage. The same courage that it took for our ancestors to venture out on their wa'a to discover Hawai'i, is the same courage we need today as modern Hawaiians to rediscover Hawai'i. This can only be done together." ■



# A Spirit of Lōkahi

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kamehameha Schools, Lili'uokalani Trust, Papa Ola Lōkahi and The Queen's Health System form the Native Hawaiian Research Hui

By Ed Kalama

Ho'okahi ka 'ilau like ana.  
Wield the paddles together.  
Work together.

It's said that in the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity.

In 2020, with the pandemic raging, researchers at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) saw a need for collaboration on obtaining and examining COVID-19 data specific to Native Hawaiians. They reached out to their colleagues at Kamehameha Schools (KS) and Lili'uokalani Trust (LT) and invited them to join the conversation.

"Each organization felt an urgent need to understand the effect of COVID-19 on Native Hawaiians, and it made more sense to look at this data as a collective rather than individually," said Wendy Kekahio, a strategy consultant with Kamehameha Schools. "Since many of us already knew each other, we were able to move quickly on working as a collaborative, and this collective nature has remained a theme throughout all of our work."

Since 2020, the Native Hawaiian Research Hui (NHRH) has expanded from looking solely at data related to COVID-19, to analyzing topics like Native Hawaiian education, health, economics, and overall quality of life and wellbeing. Papa Ola Lōkahi (POL) joined the group in 2022, and The Queen's Health System (QHS) came on board in 2023.

"The hui was built on the initial collaborative work done by KS, LT and OHA on the Native Hawaiian Data Portal, which then made it easier to deepen our collective work together during the pandemic," said Dr. Pālama Lee, the director of Research and Evaluation at LT. "The pilina, trust and success we experienced was a facilitator to us working together as a hui."

The Native Hawaiian Data Portal was an effort to inventory and access data about Native Hawaiians from multiple public sources. The pilot program was a testing ground in determining how the organizations might work best together and involved collaborative planning and funding, and data sharing agreements.

The NHRH holistically explores the interconnections and multi-dimensionality of Native Hawaiian wellbeing. The overall goal of the group is to collect, elevate, and provide Indigenous data on Native Hawaiians to inform strategic planning, policy, advocacy, and programming, and this is accomplished by adhering to Indigenous research methodologies.

"Each organization has its main focus - such as education or health for example - yet these focuses are all



The Native Hawaiian Research Hui is a collaboration of Native Hawaiian-serving organizations. Pictured here are a few of its members. Bottom (l-r): Dr. Pālama Lee (LT), Dr. Brandon Ledward (KS), Wendy Kekahio (KS), Kanilehua Kim (QHS), and Keith Gurierrez (OHA). Top (l-r): Dr. Samantha Scott (POL), Carla Hostetter (OHA), Dr. Kathy Tibbets (LT) and Dr. Penn Pantumsinchai (LT). - Photo: Jacob Chinn, Kamehameha Schools

a means to reach a higher shared vision where Native Hawaiians are thriving for generations to come," Kekahio said. "As wellbeing is multidimensional and interconnected, the pathway to a thriving lāhui is strengthened when Native Hawaiian serving organizations partner together to reach this collective vision. Research and data for and about Native Hawaiians are critical to advance our vision of collective and individual wellbeing."

The 'Imi Pono Hawai'i Wellbeing Survey is a major project designed and stewarded by the research hui. The survey examines wellbeing from Indigenous, holistic, and strengths-based perspectives and draws heavily from the hui's experience as researchers, evaluators, and advocates working alongside Native Hawaiian communities to reclaim knowledge and address social inequalities.

This spring will mark the fourth consecutive year of data collection where over a thousand Hawai'i residents - many Native Hawaiians - share about their connections to culture, 'āina, and spirituality as well as their civic engagement, quality of life, and aspirations for their community.

"The best thing about this hui has been the development of long-term relationships between these Native Hawaiian organizations. Through the past three years of weekly meetings and many small to large collective research projects, we've been able to continuously inform each other's work and really strengthen our organizations' understanding of the assets and needs of Native Hawaiian communities," said Carla Hostetter, director of OHA's Office of Strategic Management.

"Our organizations are deeply committed to working together to best serve the lāhui. This hui now serves as one of the numerous coordinated efforts between our organizations and can operate as a model for

cross-organizational engagement."

"We hope the community sees us as one voice, one lāhui, even if we are from different organizations with different histories," said Dr. Penn Pantumsinchai, Research & Evaluation manager at LT.

"We do this work by centering a Native Hawaiian worldview and shifting the framework of wellbeing from a Western-centric lens to a holistic, Hawaiian perspective. Our strengths come from this re-grounding, and the multidisciplinary backgrounds and training of each member. We each have our own skillset to contribute to the work, and the hui makes room for each voice equally."

"When I think about our hui, I think of the word makawalu which literally translates to eight eyes," said Dr. Samantha Scott, director of Data and Research at Papa Ola Lōkahi. "In Hawaiian understanding, it's the ability to view an issue from multiple perspectives and consider all possible impacting factors."

"One of the things that has been beneficial is the ability to makawalu various issues impacting our lāhui. Our organizations collaborate to uplift our Native Hawaiian communities and produce data and research that promote equity and wellbeing."

"From our standpoint at Queen's, comprehensive data is critical as we look for ways to increase accessibility to quality health care. We envision a future in which we continue to use data sovereignty to empower Native Hawaiians," said Nina Murrow, a clinical data analyst at The Queen's Health System.

"The research hui's beliefs are rooted in uplifting the Native Hawaiian community and working together as one. Each member of the hui offers an invaluable skill set that is humbly grounded in servitude for our community, and each meeting is not only an opportunity to learn from each other, but also reinforces our collective goals and unity."

"This team enables a broader scope of action and the ability to tackle complex challenges that might be unfeasible for individual organizations," said Dr. Brandon Ledward, a principal strategist at Kamehameha Schools. "Moreover, this unity fosters a spirit of mutual support, trust, and camaraderie, fostering an environment where all are committed to achieving the shared goals. The diversity among members and organizations, yet all sharing a common goal and vision, is a unique strength of this hui."

"Our weekly check-ins allow us to talk about what we're working on that might be of interest to others and, through that, we often find commonalities. We share as much as we can with one another, which has alleviated each organization from duplicating work. When our organizations work together, the community benefits." ■



# FIND A NEED AND FILL IT

By Nathan Hokama

Paula Gushiken is a perfect example of the innovative entrepreneur who has the outlook and ability to turn challenges into opportunities. Gushiken is the energetic owner of Maui Vehicle Storage – a business that has filled an unusual niche and leveled up.

The company primarily serves part-time residents – the so-called “snowbirds” who typically retreat to Maui from the continent during the winter season. Although snowbirds rent out their condos when they are away, condominium regulations prohibit them from leaving their vehicles unattended on the property for long periods of time.

Meeting that need, Maui Vehicle Storage provides its clients with a place to safely store their vehicles until they return to Maui.

It's a win-win. Gushiken's service gives her customers peace of mind knowing their vehicles are secure – and it allows her to operate a successful business with six other family members, including her three adult children. Today, the company stores up to 500 vehicles on 2 acres of leased land in Kahului and continues to grow.

## Starting with Aloha

Gushiken's business had an interesting start. She didn't have the luxury of developing a full-fledged business plan before launching Maui Vehicle Storage. It was her genuine concern for a friend – and an unwavering confidence in her abilities – that started the business.

Originally named the Car Barn, the company's first owner was moving to the continent and sold the business to his neighbor for \$400,000. The neighbor had big dreams, acquiring the business so that he could leave his job to care for his wife, who had suffered a debilitating stroke.

The ownership transfer included 150 vehicles, which were moved to the new owner's Ha'ikū property. However, because his property was zoned as agricultural land, he learned that he would be fined \$11,000 a day until he removed the cars.

He reached out to Gushiken for help.

At the time, she was busy running Pu'unēnē-based Diversified Crane Services Maui, which she also owns and operates. However, she and her daughters agreed to take the business off his hands and offered to pay him in installments to alleviate his financial stress.

## Welcome Support from OHA

Gushiken had set the law of reciprocity in motion, and soon found help for her unplanned, newly acquired business. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs' (OHA) Mālama Loans program provided both low-

cost financing and no-cost technical assistance to help ensure their success.

“We're glad to be a partner with Maui Vehicle Storage,” said OHA Loan Processor Robert Crowell. He explained that after loan applicants participate in the coaching sessions, their loan request is presented to a quorum of the OHA Mālama Loans board of directors for approval, a one- or two-day process.

“OHA's technical assistance provider was extremely knowledgeable and very well connected to assist with all our business needs. They are the true meaning of the word aloha in our community,” Gushiken said. I am so fortunate they were able to help us!”

## Turning the Pandemic Crisis into an Opportunity

In retrospect, Gushiken's acquisition of the business in November 2019 could not have occurred at a worse time. Four months later, the world locked down in response to the global pandemic. But instead of despairing, Gushiken looked for new business opportunities.

“I reached out to the car rental companies, Budget, Avis and others, and asked if I could store their vehicles for them,” Gushiken said, noting that, with tourism at a standstill, rental cars were not being used.

“Within two weeks, I received a call asking to store 500 vehicles. And soon after that, I received a request to store another 500 cars.”

She made some quick calls to lease more space, and the property owners obliged. At the pandemic's peak, she was storing an additional 1,500 vehicles - in addition to the vehicles of her regular customers.

## Road Tests for Driver's License

Always open to opportunities to grow her business, Gushiken recently saw another niche that needed to be filled when her niece could not meet the strict requirements of the county's Motor Vehicle and Licens-



Maui Vehicle Storage owner Paula Gushiken has built her business over the years by turning challenges into opportunities. - Courtesy Photo

ing Division (DMV) to complete her road test.

Learning that many people are unable to meet the requirements, Gushiken purchased a vehicle dedicated to road tests which she rents out solely for that purpose. She even helps clients get familiar with the car before they take their road test.

Taking the idea a step further, Maui Vehicle Storage recently acquired a half-acre property strategically located adjacent to Maui County's DMV. Gushiken plans to expand the company's capabilities for more vehicle road tests.

It's just another testament to Gushiken's creative problem-solving skills combined with her uncanny ability to not only identify needs, but fill them. ■

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# CREATING CUSTOM CONFECTIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY



Cymbree Kailiehu-Fevella, owner of Cymz Sweet Kre8tionz, displays some of her scrumptious desserts at a recent party venue. Most of her business comes from the community and she has created custom orders for countless milestone celebrations from wedding to birthdays to graduations. - Courtesy Photos

By Kalawai'a Nunies

Before becoming the mixer, baker, decorator, and creative force behind Cymz Sweet Kre8tionz, Cymbree Kailiehu-Fevella held a variety of different jobs including working at Macy's, at a floral shop, and serving as a dental assistant. She refers to herself as a "Jill of All Trades," but never in her wildest dreams did she expect to end up where she is today.

"Dreams don't work unless you do" is the mantra that Kailiehu-Fevella lives by. "You gotta put in the work, you gotta put in the time, you gotta put in the hard days, you gotta put in the bad days, you gotta just have the whole mix of everything for it to all work," she said.

Located in Kahului, Maui, Cymz Sweet Kre8tionz is fast approaching its 10th anniversary. It's been quite a journey for Kailiehu-Fevella, whose love for creating the unique sweet confections she has become known for began when she was a young girl learning to bake from her mother, Davelyn Kailiehu.

Before rebranding in 2015 as Cymz Sweet Kre8tionz, Kailiehu-Fevella started out as Cymz Cake Pops in 2014 baking the little bite-sized cakes on sticks in her garage. "I didn't see anybody making cake pops here on Maui, and thought maybe that's something I should do," she said.

During her first year in business, Kailiehu-Fevella expanded from making cake pops to experimenting with chocolate-dipped treats, using ingredients like pretzles and oreo cookies.



Cymbree and her husband, Glen Fevella. When he isn't working at his day job, Glen helps with the business.

"We started out in the garage at home," Kailiehu-Fevella explained. "We had a gas oven outside in the garage where we baked. We had a small office with sugar, flour, refrigerators, chest freezers, and tables. Then, once we started distributing to stores, we fell into the wholesale category." Kailiehu-Fevella realized that the next step for growing her business meant getting a license and working out of a commercial kitchen.

Kailiehu-Fevella was able to secure use of Lōkahi Kitchen, Maui's first shared-use commercial kitchen located in Wailuku. For three years, Kailiehu-Fevella produced her baked goods there. "We had to sign in and reserve time," she recalled. "We took all of our things with us to make and prepare there. Then distributed to our accounts – including to the Sunday market at Ka'ahumanu Ave."

Kailiehu-Fevella's dessert innovations include a line of tarts. "We are the makers and creators here on Maui of the 'Hawaiian Chantilly Tartletz.' We hand stamp, hand press, and make our own shortbread crust in-

house." The bite-sized shortbread crusts are available in many flavors, including red velvet, liliko'i, guava, ube and chocolate. Her shortbread crusts are filled with surprises and then topped off with chantilly.

Kailiehu-Fevella's passion for baking began when she was young. "Growing up, I was the only child so my mom would go to Lee Bear (a candy store and supplier) in Kahului. They had molds, chocolates, and sprinkles. My mom used to bake a lot growing up, and I would be the one licking the bowl and helping."

These days, at Kailiehu-Fevella's storefront in Kahului, their roles have flipped, and her mother is now helping her.

On any given day, Kailiehu-Fevella's mother can be found making Cymz Sweet Kre8tionz's famous tarts, from mixing up the ingredients to hand stamping the shortbread. Kailiehu-Fevella's husband, Glen, also helps at the bakery after hours from his job with the state. Glen's uncle, Bruce Fevella, helps with the baking too and specializes in wedding cakes. "It's a small intimate local family business," said Kailiehu-Fevella. "It's home."

After almost a decade of creating, making, and selling Cymz Sweet Kre8tionz' confections, 95% of her business comes from the local community on Maui, with Kailiehu-Fevella creating custom orders for countless milestone celebrations such as weddings, birthday parties, graduation parties and more. Tourists comprise the remaining 5% of her revenue.

"The community has been super tremendous with our growth with maintaining where we are," Kailiehu-Fevella said gratefully.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, to support her community, Kailiehu-Fevella cut her prices and created special deals for essential workers, such as buy-one-get-one deals for nurses and first responders. These promos contributed to the growth of Cymz Sweet Kre8tionz through the pandemic.

With her business continuing to grow, Kailiehu-Fevella hopes to start hiring people and perhaps to open a second location on another island.

She also encourages everyone to go and pursue their dreams.

"For wāhine and young girls – or anyone who wants to start something – don't be scared, just do it! When things get hard, don't sit on the sidelines and give up. Stick with it and stay with it. Get in that grit of that hard time because it will be worth it in the long run."

*Cymz Sweet Kre8tionz is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is located at 153 Ma'a Street in Kahului. For more information: [www.cymzsweetkre8tionz.com/](http://www.cymzsweetkre8tionz.com/).*



# GROWING PILINA



Lehia Apana and Brad Bayless, owners of Polipoli Farms in Wai'e'hu, Maui, are dedicated to agro-forestry - cultivating Polynesian food plants in regenerative "food forests" using traditional methods, including planting according to the kaulana mahina (Hawaiian moon calendar). Their farming practices combine Indigenous wisdom and modern knowledge. - Courtesy Photos

By Adam Keawe Manalo-Camp

“It all started around 2011. I began learning about GMOs and Monsato. I wanted to know the mystery of what is in our food and what, exactly, we were eating. So we began by planting a garden in the backyard to grow some of our own food and I loved it,” said Lehia Apana explaining the start of her journey as a farmer.

Around the same time, Apana began to eat kalo every day from Hui No Ke Ola Pono's Simply Healthy Café.

“Growing up, kalo was a luxury item. But when I was able to eat kalo regularly, I began to have a pilina with Hāloa. I could feel my ancestors. Having access to kalo was meaningful, and kalo was able to meet me where I was at the time.”

Inspired by her growing pilina with Hāloa, Apana reached out to experienced farmers as mentors, adopted a lo'i kalo, and began to research Indigenous methods of agriculture including agroforests – also known as food forests. “The more I learned, the more I felt that pilina. I wanted others to have that pilina too. I wanted kalo to meet them where they were at.”

Apana and her husband, Brad Bayless, both had stable careers, but the land called to them.

“I was hesitant at first, but I knew that farming was what I wanted to do,” Apana shared. “Working on the land makes you think differently. You also begin to appreciate how our kūpuna were efficient resource managers.”

As if a hō'ailona, 3 acres of land in Wai'e'hu in the



Lehia Apana works at her farm.

‘ili of Polipoli came up for sale in 2017. Apana was able to purchase the land and that was the beginning of Polipoli Farms, a “heart centered” business that fosters connection. “When we arrived, it was covered in invasive grass. We knew there was an ‘auwai somewhere, but it was choked out,” Apana recalled. “It took over two years to clear the land. But little by little, as we cleared, we found a lo'i kalo that was once there and that we did not know about. That was a big smack on the forehead. It showed us that was what the land wanted us to restore.”

She notes that the region where Polipoli is located is called “Nā Wai 'Ehā,” the place where the four major rivers of Maui Komohana (West Maui) meet. At one time this was one of the largest kalo producing regions in all of Hawai'i. That changed when the area was taken over by sugarcane plantations.

“Sugarcane and crops like pineapple extracted from the ‘āina and broke down our food system leaving us to the point that we now import more than 85% of our food,” Apana said.

“We need to reverse that, not only by enaging in farming, but by supporting our farmers. When you buy from a mahi'ai (farmer), you are empowering ev-

ery mahi'ai. Anyone who eats is part of the food system and what you choose to eat has an impact.”

When she first started, Apana said that finding resources to begin the farm was a huge challenge, particularly due to the high costs of land, labor, shipping, establishing a support infrastructure, plus access to water and competition from cheaper imports. “But these are struggles that farmers all face,” she noted.

“Building pilina is important especially when you are starting,” Apana reflected. “Farmers help each other out. You cannot act any 'kine. Building pilina is a kuleana. When I look back at the moments in the beginning of Polipoli Farms, and people who helped me, pilina always stands out. When the pandemic hit, and recently with the Lahaina fires, the pilina you have with the community is what helps you through any crisis.”

Apana added, “For Hawaiians, the land is personified. The land is kūpuna. The land is family. It is watered with our tears – not just tears of sadness but tears of joy. Having that pilina with the land is everything.”

As part of its vision of “to grow for the future, we must learn from the past,” Polipoli Farms is dedicated to agroforestry, essentially creating a food forest – a traditional growing style that mimics natural forests and integrates trees and multi-level crops that support one-another in a single ecosystem. They are primarily cultivating “canoe plants” (plants originally brought to Hawai'i by our ancestors) such as kalo, 'ulu (breadfruit), mai'a (banana), and niu (coconuts).

Polipoli Farms also serves as the Maui hub for Project 'Ulu which helps other farmers with growing 'ulu and is currently in discussion with members of the Lahaina community about replanting 'ulu there to restore the famous 'ulu groves of Lele (the old name for Lahaina).

They are also members of Māla 'Ōiwi, a safe space and support network for Kānaka Maoli farmers that embraces Indigenous values and farming techniques.

And Apana and Bayless are working to build a food processing center on their land so that they and other farms can scale up their processing and increase community access to Indigenous foods and medicinal plants.

On its website, Polipoli Farms currently sells their special māmaki and 'ulu tea blend and chewy dried mai'a, and they plan to launch more online products soon.

“It's not just about the farm,” said Apana. “It's about the people. We invite people to farm. We want people to have that pilina to the 'āina, so they understand why the 'ike of our kūpuna is still so revelant. We want them to feel the wai (water) so they have a pilina to wai and understand why it's so important. We want to grow pilina.” ■

For more information go to: [www.polipolifarms.com/](http://www.polipolifarms.com/).



# MAUI'S MOBILE VETERINARIAN



As a mobile services veterinarian providing health care for large animals, Dr. Naomi Kamakau-Sakugawa is in high demand by farmers and ranchers. Here, she checks the vitals of a porcine patient. - Courtesy Photos

By Lisa Huynh Eller

Growing up in Captain Cook on Hawai'i Island, Naomi Kamakau-Sakugawa was surrounded by animals. Her 'ohana raised pigs on their farm and she competed in the rodeo circuit. But while the island had many ranches and farms, Kamakau-Sakugawa recalled that there were very few large animal veterinarians.

It was this realization that inspired her to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

After high school, she left Hawai'i to pursue a degree in animal science at Colorado State University. While attending school there, she met Maui-born James Sakugawa who would eventually become her husband.

After completing her bachelor's degree, Kamakau-Sakugawa continued her education at Washington State University located in rural southeast Washington near the Idaho border because it reminded her of home. "The people there are just genuinely kind. I immediately gave my acceptance letter when I went to visit. I loved it that much," she recalled.

Although she planned to return home to Hawai'i Island after school, she and her husband ended up

settling on Maui.

"My then-fiancee's family had a feedlot [on Maui]. He said there was no way he was moving unless I could find him land to run cattle on the Big Island. We tried but we couldn't find land so it was either we stay separated, or I move to Maui," she said.

In 2018, Kamakau-Sakugawa founded her mobile veterinary business, JN Veterinary and Livestock Services, while also working at Central Maui Animal Clinic, an emergency veterinarian clinic in Kahului.

"I knew there was a big demand for large animal vets here on Maui because there's only one large animal vet clinic in Makawao," Kamakau-Sakugawa said.

At the time, Maui was experiencing an outbreak of strangles, a highly infectious respiratory disease affecting horses. Because of the outbreak, rodeos were requiring vaccinations for the disease. The tremendous need to get horses vaccinated against the disease helped propel Kamakau-Sakugawa's business forward.

In 2019, after giving birth to her first child and feeling burned out, Kamakau-Sakugawa decided to take a job with Maui County while continuing to run her mobile clinic on the side.

During the lockdowns resulting from the pandemic, the need for at-home animal services increased sharply and Kamakau-Sakugawa found her services in high demand. Even though her business relies solely on word-of-mouth, demand for her services has stayed steady since the pandemic.

In December 2021, flooding caused by an extreme winter storm devastated her home and property. Kamakau-Sakugawa decided to return to work at Central Maui Animal Clinic to help meet the family's financial needs.

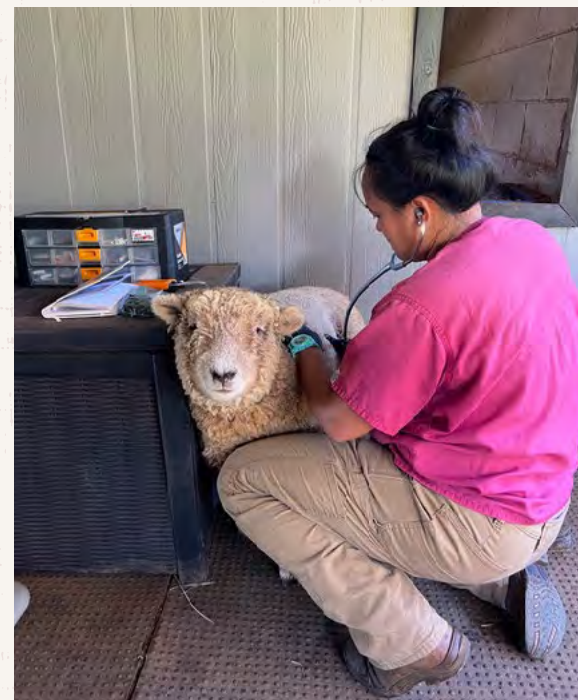
After Maui's devastating wildfires, the clinic became busier but, thankfully, they did not see as many burn patients as they anticipated. Similarly, Kamakau-Sakugawa's business was not significantly impacted, although, since the fires, she has been caring for several pigs rescued from a farm that burned down in Lahaina.

As a Native Hawaiian veterinarian, Kamakau-Sakugawa is one of a rare few. In fact, Indigenous people are underrepresented in the field of veterinary medicine.

Yet she finds that her background actually makes it easier to connect with the people and communities she serves. "It helps being Hawaiian and being born and raised in Hawai'i as I am able to build rapport with clients since I understand the Hawaiian/local culture, mentality, and thinking," she said. "This also allows me to easily converse with them and speak in a way that they are comfortable with and understand."

Kamakau-Sakugawa traces her lineage back to one of Hawai'i's most renowned Native Hawaiian historians and scholars.

"I wanted to stay true to my maiden name. Samuel



Veterinarian Dr. Naomi Kamakau-Sakugawa's gentle touch reassures one of her nervous patients.

Mānaiakalani Kamakau, the Hawaiian historian, is my great-great-great-grandfather," she said. "[My name] is a tie to my Hawaiian culture and ancestors. I made a point, when I became a doctor, to stick with it. When I introduce myself it's always as 'Dr. Kamakau.'"

Just prior to the fires, Kamakau-Sakugawa was asked to be the veterinarian for a new agriculture program starting at Lahainaluna High School. She spent time meeting with the agriculture program's teacher and students and ended up at the school library to look at senior projects.

"I didn't realize that the name of their library is Samuel Mānaiakalani Kamakau Library," she said. Samuel Kamakau had been a student there, having enrolled at Lahainaluna Seminary in 1833. "I had to take pictures and send them to all my family. That was awesome. I just feel like my ancestors would be proud."

In the future, Kamakau-Sakugawa said she would love to focus solely on her mobile business and expand it to include Hawai'i Island and possibly other islands too.

She has recently gained success providing bull breeding services to some of Maui's larger ranches. And she is exploring the possibility of purchasing a mobile veterinary vehicle manufactured by La Boit Speciality Vehicles.

"It's a full surgical suite in a vehicle," she said. "If I can get that down the line, I can safely spay and neuter dogs and cats, as well as larger animals like pigs and goats. The sky's the limit from there." ■



# SUSTAINABLE CLOTHING INSPIRED BY 'ĀINA, NATURE AND CULTURE



Anna Kahalekulu and her daughter, Amaya, in front of Kahalekulu's small-batch clothing business, Kūlua, in Makawao, Maui. - Courtesy Photos

By Megan Ulu-Lani Boyanton

Most days, customers can find Anna Kahalekulu at her clothing store, Kūlua, located in Makawao, Maui, alternating between sewing, cutting, and working on fabric patterns.

"There's usually always someone sewing because that's the majority of the work," said the 38-year-old owner and designer.

Kahalekulu opened the doors of her studio shop almost five years ago. She sells small-batch clothing, accessories, and home goods using sustainable fabrics and utilizing industry best-practices for eco-friendliness. She credits her career as an entrepreneur to her lifelong interest in fashion – and to her kūpuna.

Kahalekulu comes from a long line of Hawaiian weavers, sewers, and quilters. Her tūtū wahine on her father's side introduced her to these art forms when she was still in elementary school.

Although she grew up in Highlands Ranch, Colo., Kahalekulu spent her summers on Maui. The youngest of five children she notes that, "out of all of my siblings, I was the one that was really drawn to our heritage and our culture."

The summer after she finished fifth grade, Kahalekulu attended Kamehameha Schools' Ho'omā-ka'ika'i (Explorations) program. She returned to her tūtū's house excited to share the traditional crafts she learned there.

During their summer visits, her grandmother taught her how to weave lauhala and to quilt as they talked story. Kahalekulu still remembers how fast her kupuna's fingers could finish a project.

While on the continent, she stayed connected to her Hawaiian culture through hula as an 'ōlapa (dancer) studying under Kumu Hula Māpuana de Silva. "[This was] a big part of my identity."

As Kahalekulu finished college at the University of Colorado Boulder, she felt the 'āina call to her. After she met her future husband, Chris, who was from Upcountry Maui, she made the decision to return to Hawai'i.

She initially settled on O'ahu in 2007, then moved to Maui three years later to start her family. Kahalekulu and her husband are raising their two children, Keanu and Amaya, in her late tūtū's house in Waiehu.

When she was a new stay-at-home mom weighing her career choices, Kahalekulu filled much of her time with sewing, and eventually decided to enroll in UH Maui College's fashion technology program. Kahalekulu launched her brand, Kūlua, in 2015 with a keiki collection, initially selling wholesale to a couple of boutiques before opening her own shop in Makawao.

Although the pace of life is slower in Upcountry, Kahalekulu hoped her studio shop would attract foot traffic. Attracted to the storefront's "peaceful" energy, she foresaw the space accommodating both retail and in-house production.

"I didn't want to outsource because it meant more to me to create something that helped our community, provided more jobs, and represented more than just me," she said.

She characterizes that choice as the both the business' strength and its "Achilles' heel," as she puts in lots of time and labor to create her wares.

Her team produces its women's clothing at the store, and two additional local contractors handle the keiki clothing and home goods, respectively. Kahalekulu works with a manufacturer in Honolulu to create her aloha shirts, and her employees and relatives serve as models for the products.

"I've done my best to keep it local," she said.

In-house production also means Kūlua can repurpose its fabric scraps and off-cuts to minimize its environmental impact as much as possible.

About a year after opening her storefront, Kahalekulu faced her greatest challenge to date: the COVID-19 pandemic. As a new entrepreneur, she was already fighting to strengthen her business' foundation before the virus began to spread and lockdowns were enforced.

"Being a small business is not easy," she said, pointing to a lack of resources and an abundance of sacrifices necessary to keep the store financially healthy.

Once the pandemic had run its course, Kahaleku-



Kūlua's "small but mighty" team (l-r): Cathy Yago, Rosa Gonzales, Kawena Sado, Dava Leynes, Anna Kahalekulu, Tesha Fernandes, Sadie Ferris and Kyani Bateman.

lu faced the added pressure of restructuring her team and trying to recruit new employees. She eventually fell into the flow of running the shop from Wednesday through Saturday.

Because her business isn't tied to outside manufacturers, the Kūlua team took it week by week, cutting and sewing what they could. "In a way, it all happened how it needed to happen," Kahalekulu said. "But I've never been that stressed out in my life."

Today, she employs three workers who are regularly scheduled, one worker who is casually scheduled, and two contractors. "We're small, but mighty," she quipped.

The wildfires that devastated Lahaina "felt like COVID again," Kahalekulu said. Her husband's great-uncle passed away in the disaster, and several of Kahalekulu's relatives were displaced.

"I just can't imagine losing everything like that," she said.

In response, Kūlua has committed to supporting the community over recent months through donations. Kahalekulu remains hopeful about efforts to rebuild Lahaina, although politics, land ownership and water rights complicate that vision.

Although her studio shop has been quiet lately, Kahalekulu has seen increased traction on her website. For now, she's embracing Kūlua's newfound stability and turning her attention to creating more products.

She is also working on building out the store's wholesale business (which she paused at the end of the pandemic), and eyeing a second retail location on O'ahu, which could come to fruition within the next two years.

Her ultimate goal for the future is to "elevate ourselves, as far as our creativity and craft goes."

But one aspect of Kūlua that will never change is the source of Kahalekulu's inspiration: "Always from 'āina, always from nature, and always from culture." ■

For more information and to shop go to: [www.kulua-maui.com/](http://www.kulua-maui.com/). Or visit their storefront at 1156 Makawao Avenue, Ste. 1A in Makawao.



# MAKING ART THAT MAKES PEOPLE SMILE



Artist Kiani Yasak, owner of 'Opihi Maui, has a little fun in front of a display of her happy handpainted signs. - Courtesy Photos

By Cheryl Chee Tsutsumi

When she was a young girl, one of Kiani Yasak's favorite pastimes was watching her paternal grandmother, a gifted artist, at the easel. "She used acrylic paints to create beautiful Maui landscapes," Yasak said. "My favorite ones were her paintings of Kula – where I grew up – with the narrow country roads, hillsides of Haleakalā and jacaranda trees in bloom. The colors were so vibrant, it was like you were there."

From ages 7 through 16, Yasak studied with acclaimed Maui fine artist Philip Sabado, and entered art contests in school winning several of them. Today, she is the owner, founder, and creative force of 'Opihi Maui, which specializes in hand-painted wooden signs, magnets and ornaments adorned with Hawaiian words and illustrations.

Yasak launched the company in January 2012, five months after she started teaching social studies for Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kekaulike, a Hawaiian language immersion program at Kalama Middle School in Makawao.

Yasak is also a product of Hawaiian immersion education and has danced with Hālau Kekuakalā'au'ala'iliahī for 15 years, performing at the Merrie Monarch Festival eight times.

"Dancing hula and being fluent in the Hawaiian language have kept me closely connected to my culture," Yasak said. "I started 'Opihi Maui as a side business to perpetuate Hawaiian culture, values and language; to share my love for art; and to make people happy."

Feeling good is easy when you look at 'Opihi Maui's products, which come in about 35 different designs. Colors are typically bright, cheerful blues, greens, pinks, oranges, yellows and lavenders. Illustrations include iconic local images such as shells, whales, pineapples, shave ice, the shaka sign and tropical plants and flowers.

Some designs feature just one or a few Hawaiian words such as aloha, mahalo, and e komo mai. Others share short messages: e mau ana ke aloha (love shall endure); e ho'ohemo i kou kalipa (please remove your slippers); and e ola mau ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i (perpetuate the Hawaiian language). Realizing many of her customers aren't fluent speakers of Hawaiian, Yasak provides English translations or combines Hawaiian and English words for some designs.

Her dad, Mike, a painting contractor, has been an invaluable supporter from the beginning. "We get most of our scrap wood from building contractors and job site dumpsters," Yasak said. "Rather than have it go into the landfill, we repurpose it to make our products. We want to do our part to mālama the 'āina."

Redwood and pine are their usual materials, but recycled wood can be "any kine," Yasak said. "We've also worked with rare and coveted koa and 'ōhīa."

Mike handles most of the prep, including planing, cutting, and sanding the wood. He makes keyholes on the backs of signs so they can be mounted flush against a wall. All products have a protective clear coat finish. Yasak does the creative work, using exterior paint so they can be displayed indoors or outdoors.

"Everything is hand done; I don't use stencils," she said. "Every piece we make is an original work of art, they're sturdy, they're gender-neutral and appeal to all ages. They celebrate all kinds of occasions – weddings, birthdays, moving into a new home or opening a new business."

"When my students graduate from eighth grade, I give each of them a sign that has our school's name on it, the year they're graduating and a frame where they can put a nice picture of themselves with classmates."

'Opihi Maui products are sold online and at select stores, including Na Mea Hawai'i on O'ahu and on Maui at Sunkissed Wahine in Kihei, Paradise Now Hawai'i in Wailuku and at Ports, the sundry shop at the Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea. Yasak also sells her products at special events on Maui, including the Made in Maui County Festival and Ho'omau, an annual fundraiser for immersion schools on Maui.

Online customers can even customize orders by choosing the font, wording, colors and/or design they want at no additional charge unless they are request-



Entrepreneur Kiani Yasak's business, 'Opihi Maui, has gained a reputation for its cheery, colorful handpainted signs with lots of support from her 'ohana and friends. Pictured at the Made in Maui County Festival (l-r) are brother Kūākea Yasak, Kiani Yasak, friend Celina Bailey, mom Kili Namau'u, sister Kālia Akinaka, and dad Mike Yasak.



'Opihi Maui's handpainted wooden signs, ornaments and magnets are sold online and can even be customized.

ing an intricate logo or color that's not normally in stock.

Large retail companies have approached Yasak about carrying 'Opihi Maui products, but she doesn't want to make major changes just to meet demand. For instance, she would have to stencil designs instead of hand-painting them to increase production. And since she and her dad both have full-time jobs, time is already tight.

"I considered it, but that's not what we're about," Yasak said. "What's important to us is doing what we enjoy, making people smile and showing what it means to be Hawaiian and live aloha." ■

For more information email [opihimaui@gmail.com](mailto:opihimaui@gmail.com), or shop their online store at [www.opihimaui.com](http://www.opihimaui.com) or @opihimaui.



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November 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i

The film adaptation of the stage show written by Hawai'i Poet Laureate Emeritus Kealoha presents solutions for healing Earth in an era of climate change. [www.storyofeverything.org](http://www.storyofeverything.org)

**Makahiki Festival & Te Moana Nui Polynesian Sports Contest**

November 4, 6:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
Hale'iwa, O'ahu

Ceremony, celebration, sports competitions, and culture, plus vendors, live music, and hula by local hālau. Kama'aina admission \$5 [www.waimeavalley.net](http://www.waimeavalley.net)

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November 5, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
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**Hawaiian National Trivia Night**

November 9, 6:00 p.m.  
Wailuku, Maui

A fundraiser for Kula Kaiapuni O Maui Papa 2033 hosted by Hui Aloha 'Aina o Lahaina. Celebrate Lā Kū'oko'a, refresh your Hawai'i history knowledge and win prizes. Form your team and buy your tickets at [www.tinyurl.com/HawaiianTrivia](http://www.tinyurl.com/HawaiianTrivia).

**Makahiki Nui**

November 11, 8:30 a.m.  
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**Kama'aina Sundays**

November 12, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
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**Lā 'Ohana Day**

November 19, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
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The 3rd Sunday of each month is family day at Waimea Valley with 50% off general admission for kama'aina and military families. Learn about Hawaiian history and culture, explore the gardens, and swim under the waterfall. [www.waimeavalley.net](http://www.waimeavalley.net)

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**Lā Kū'oko'a  
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November 28, 1843

The sovereignty of the Hawaiian Kingdom was formally recognized by England and France via the signing of the Anglo-Franco Proclamation, and through a verbal acknowledgement by the United States thanks to the efforts of Timoteo Ha'alilio, William Richards, and George Simpson. For the next 50 years Hawai'i celebrated this national holiday, closing businesses and government offices to enjoy horse races, mele, parades, feasts, speeches, and church gatherings. Learn more at "Pa'a Ke Aupuni: The Reel History of Hawai'i"  
[www.kamakakoi.com/paa](http://www.kamakakoi.com/paa).



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## E NHLC...



By Makalika Naholowaa, NHLC  
Executive Director

*FEMA recently announced an extension of time to apply for aid. The new deadline for FEMA applications is Thursday, November 9. In our October article we answered*

*questions about whether to apply for aid and concerns people have about FEMA. You can find that article at [www.kawaiola.news](http://www.kawaiola.news). Many families have applied and have questions about what happens next. This month we are providing information about next steps. Anyone affected is also welcome to call NHLC if you have other questions.*

### After I applied, I never heard back from FEMA. What should I do?

FEMA will send you a letter notifying you of their decision in response to your application for aid. They will deliver the letter the way that you requested when you applied. That could be physical mail or by email. If you have not received a letter, then you can create an electronic account online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov). When FEMA sends you correspondence, it will also be uploaded to your online account. As long as you register online, you can check for letters from FEMA there. You should check frequently when you are waiting for a FEMA response, in case you do not receive your physical mail or email.

If you need help setting up your FEMA account online, or if you are not able to create an online account, you can talk to a FEMA agent. FEMA agents can look up your account and tell you the status. They can also answer questions about next steps. FEMA can be contacted by phone at 1-800-621-3362 or in person at locations where FEMA is available, including at the Lahaina Civic Center.

### I applied to FEMA and got a letter that said I was not approved. What should I do now?

If FEMA denies your request for aid, they will issue a letter. The letter will tell you the reasons for the refusal and explain what they need from you if there is an opportunity for you to request that FEMA reconsider your application. The letter will also include the deadline to respond. If you reply requesting that FEMA reconsider, that is called a FEMA Appeal. You should

reply by the deadline and provide FEMA with the information they request.

### Can I have help with my FEMA appeal?

If you need help with the appeal, there are resources available. You do not have to do it yourself. You can seek legal assistance. The Hawai'i State Bar Association may be able to direct you to pro bono attorneys. The Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC) is supporting families needing help with FEMA appeals pro bono (at no fee). You can contact NHLC at 808-521-2302 to request help with your FEMA appeal.

### My appeal was not successful. Should I try again?

Yes. FEMA must consider your first appeal as long as you submit it by the deadline in your denial letter. FEMA may, at its discretion, consider late appeals or additional appeals. If you need to make a late appeal, or an additional appeal after your first, you may benefit from legal assistance with your appeal.

### Where can I learn more and apply for FEMA?

FEMA information and an online way to apply are available at [www.disasterassistance.gov/](http://www.disasterassistance.gov/). You can also find FEMA's information page for Maui here: [www.fema.gov/disaster/4724](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4724). Guidance and information for Maui is being frequently updated. FEMA, NHLC, and numerous other legal providers are also regularly staffing the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement's Kāko'o Maui Resource Center at Maui Mall. ■

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

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

## DHHL breaks ground on Hanapēpē Phase II

### The development will add 82 residential lots to the area



By Diamond Badajos

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) conducted a groundbreaking ceremony in August to mark the start of construction at Hanapēpē Phase II on Kaua'i's west side.

Eighty-two single-family residential lots will be developed across more than 28 acres as part of Phase II. The homestead's existing subdivision, Phase I, consists of 47 residential lots. Both phases are part of a nearly 350-acre parcel identified as one of three priority areas for new residential and agricultural homestead developments on the Garden Isle.

"This project ensures that more of our 'ohana will weave their stories into the tapestry of this cherished community," said Hawaiian Homes Commission Chair Kali Watson. "Each plot of land here is not merely a piece of earth; it's a testament to hope, growth, and a brighter future for our homesteading families. As families settle here, they don't just receive a house; they become part of a home brimming with laughter, love, and memories that will stand the test of time."

The Hawai'i State Legislature appropriated \$17,800,126 through SLH 2022, Act 279 for the construction of infrastructure and site improvements at Hanapēpē Phase II. Act 279 appropriates \$600 million in general funds to provide a multi-pronged approach to reduce the DHHL Waiting List.

Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company will begin work on the project in September and is slated to complete the job in November 2024.

"We commend the Hawai'i State Legislature and DHHL for investing in West Kaua'i, which will ultimately provide hundreds of homes for families," said Mayor Derek S.K. Kawaka-

mi. "Housing is a top priority for our administration, and we remain on track to break ground on 400 new affordable housing units this year, including development on the Westside at Lima Ola in 'Ele'ele."

The Hanapēpē homestead community is envisioned as the Department's largest residential and agricultural community on Kaua'i. The site includes some of the most fertile agricultural lands within DHHL's holdings and its location near Hanapēpē town makes it an attractive location for homestead development.

Upon the proposed project's completion, the Hanapēpē homestead community will put forward a total of 440 new residential lots and up to 111 new subsistence agricultural lots (based on



L-R: Len Dempsey (Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company), Claudine Allen (HUD Honolulu), Dana Hazelton (Gov. Green Kaua'i Representative), Chair Kali Watson (Hawaiian Homes Commission) Rep. Dee Morikawa (House District 17), Kaua'i Commissioner Dennis Neves (Hawaiian Homes Commission) at the groundbreaking ceremony. - Courtesy Photo

waiting list preference and estimated development costs). Commercial and community spaces, as well as undeveloped and conservation lands, are also included in the master plan. ■

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



# "Ola Nā Iwi" i o nā Po'e Hakulau Paikini Hawai'i



Na Kalani Akana, Ph.D.

**A**loha e nā makamaka o kēia kolamu nūpepa. Ma nā makahiki o nā 1990, ua pa'i 'ia 'ekolu puke inoa e OHA: *Kū Mai Ka Po'e*

*Hula* (1993), *Ola Nā Iwi* (1995), a me *Nā Lima Mikioi* (1997). I kēia makahiki, e ho'opuka hou loa 'ia ana nā puke ma [www.papakilo-database.com](http://www.papakilo-database.com). E hiki ana nā kānaka ke e'e ma kēlā wahi punaewe e huli a loa'a i ka 'ike e pili ana i nā kānaka e ho'omau ana i ka mo'omeheu Hawai'i.

**Ola Nā Iwi.** Ma ka makahiki 1995, ua ho'opuka 'ia ka puke inoa 'o *Ola Nā Iwi* me nā mo'olelo e pili ana i nā po'e heona me nā kānaka makakū like 'ole e like me nā kānaka pena ki'i, kaha ki'i, pa'i ki'i, kālai ki'i, a pēlā aku nō. Ua kono 'ia ho'i nā kānaka e hana ana no ka 'aukahi ho'āla 'olelo Hawai'i e ho'ouna i mo'olelo no ka pa'i 'ana ma ka puke inoa. Eia kekahi, 'o ka po'e hakulau paikini Hawai'i kekahi mau kānaka i kono 'ia 'oiai 'a'ole nui ka heluna o lākou i kēlā manawa.

'O Nāke'u Awai ke kupuna o nā po'e hakulau paikini Hawai'i i loko o *Ola Nā Iwi*. 'O ia nō ka 'oiwi hakulau paikini Hawai'i mua nāna i ho'ohana i nā lau mea kanu 'oiwi i kāna mau lōle. Makemake nui 'ia kāna mau hakulau e like me "Nā 'Ōlapa Kāne" me "Ohe Kāpala." 'O "Dreamcatcher" a me "Kāhili" kekahi o ka'u mau pālule punahele. 'Akahi a ho'omaha 'o Nāke'u a ke ho'omau 'ia nei kāna 'oihana ma Houghtailing e kāna lae 'ula, 'o ia nō kāna keiki papekema 'o Keane Akao.

Inā 'o Nāke'u ke kupuna paikini, 'o Puamana Crabbe ka hulu makua o nā po'e paikini i loko o *Ola Nā Iwi*. 'O kāna 'oihana mākaukau loa 'o ia ka ho'ohana 'ana i nā lau ku'una e like me nā lau kapa kuiki i luna o ka lōle.

Ua loa'a 'elua po'e paikini ku'una Hawai'i wale nō i loko o *Ola Nā Iwi*. 'O lāua 'o Kawai Aona-Ueoka a me Reni Bello. 'O kā lāua hana ka 'oihana hana kapa, 'o ia ho'i ka hakulau 'ana ma ke kapa i kuku 'ia ma ke kua hana kapa, ka ho'owehiwehi 'ana i ke kapa me nā waiho'olu'u kūlohelohe Hawai'i a me ke kāpala 'ana me ka 'ohe. Ma ka makahiki



(H) Nāke'u Awai ma kāna hale kū'ai me ke Alanui Houghtailing. (U) Puamana Crabbe me kona mu'umu'u lau kapa kuiki. - *Courtesy Photos*

2011 ua ho'okahakaha 'ia nā 'ōlapa o Hālau o Kekuhi i nā kapa i hana 'ia e kekahi hui huli-mahi hana kapa. 'O Bello kekahi o nā kānaka i kēlā hui. Ua komo pū 'o Sabra Kauka me Moana Eisele i ka hui hana kapa akā aia lāua i ka puke inoa 'o *Nā Lima Mikioi* no nā kānaka heona e hana ana me nā ma'awe like 'ole—no ke kapa, no ka nala lauhala, no ke kōkō, no ka hīna'i, a pēlā aku.

I kēia au, nui nā kānaka hakulau paikini e ho'ohana ana i nā lau 'ohe kāpala i luna o kā lākou lōle. 'O Manaola Yap a me Micah Kamohoali'i kekahi mau po'e hakulau paikini 'ōpio i hele a kaulana ma kēia 'ano hana hakulau 'oiwi. Ā laila ho'i 'o Kanoelani Davis no Moloka'i a 'o Ka'ano'i Akaka no O'ahu, nā wahine 'oiwi e ho'opuka ana i nūpaikini Kanaka Maoli. 'A'ole na'e lākou i loko o ka puke 'o *Ola Nā Iwi*. E ō mai!

Na Liliha i ho'opuka i ka 'ōlelo kaulana, "Ma o kēia keiki e ola ana nā iwi o nā kūpuna." He wānana kēia 'ōlelo e pili ana iā Kalākaua. Pololei ho'i kēia 'ōlelo no'eau no Kalākaua a no nā kānaka i loko o *Ola Nā Iwi*. Inā he kanaka hakulau paikini a i 'ole he kanaka heona 'oe a he ake kou e kā'ana i kou kālena me ka lehulehu i o *Ola Nā Iwi II* ma Papakilo, e leka uila ia'u ma kalia@oha.org a na'u 'oe e ho'ouna i kekahi palapala ho'opiha. E ola nā iwi o nā kūpuna. ■

*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](http://kawaiola.news)*

# Who Wants Something Artificial Anyway?



By Jodi Leslie Matsuo, DrPH

**A**rtificial sweeteners are used by many who believe it to be a healthy substitute for regular sugar.

While we should all be limiting the amount of regular sugar in our diets, replacing it with artificial sweeteners is not doing us much good either.

Aspartame, sucralose, saccharine, acesulfame K, and erythritol are the most common artificial sweeteners. They are found in foods and drinks we consume every day. This includes cookies, crackers, and other baked goods, yogurt, pudding, gelatin, cereal, diet soda, energy drinks, sports drinks, flavored waters, and powdered drink mixes.

Artificial sweeteners are also found in other products that you may not expect, such as chewing gum, breath mints, ketchup, toothpaste, salad dressings, breads, dried and canned fruit, instant oatmeal, and protein powders. Foods labeled as "keto" or "sugar-free" almost always contain artificial sweeteners.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently advised against using artificial sweeteners to control body weight or reduce risk of chronic diseases. Results from their research show that replacing sugars with artificial sweeteners does not have any benefits for these conditions, has no nutritional value, and is not essential to the diet. Moreover, with long-term use, artificial sweeteners have the potential to cause type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and early death in adults.

Artificial sweeteners have also been shown to increase high blood cholesterol and triglycerides, high blood pressure, abdominal weight gain, and blood clot formation. It can cause stiffening of the arteries and inflammation. These all increase the risk for heart attack and stroke.

Use of artificial sweeteners has been shown to lower insulin secretion and decrease insulin sensitivity, causing high fasting blood sugar (glucose) levels. It can also interfere with gut bacteria that helps to regulate glucose levels and metabolism.

Eating or drinking foods and drinks with artificial sweeteners can signal your body to create more fat cells and to hold on to fat cells already created. It can cause dysfunction related to your hunger signals, causing you to feel hungry more often and not feel satisfied when filled. And it can cause people to crave high sugar foods.

This doesn't provide justification for eating high sugar foods. Instead, we should seek foods and drinks that are naturally sugar-free or that contain natural sugars. Choosing fewer processed foods will automatically decrease your consumption of artificial sweeteners.

Eating balanced meals at regular mealtimes lowers the chance of snacking between meals or overindulging on cookies and other desserts. You should also include more unprocessed starches, such as poi, rice, sweet potato, taro, breadfruit, pumpkin, and oatmeal in your diet. If you crave something sweet, studies show that fruit is perfectly healthy to eat and does not affect blood sugar and cholesterol, cause diabetes, or cause you to gain weight.

Instead of flavored drinks, choose water or waters infused with lemon, mint, or fruit. Mamaki and other herbal teas are another good choice. Limit your intake of specialty coffee drinks. And if you are looking for an energy boost that would normally come from an energy drink or a soda, try matcha green tea instead. The more natural the product, the better it usually is. ■

*Born and raised in Kona, Hawai'i, Dr. Jodi Leslie Matsuo is a Native Hawaiian registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator, with training in integrative and functional nutrition. Follow her on Facebook @DrJodiLeslieMatsuo, Instagram @drlesliematsuo and on Twitter @DrLeslieMatsuo.*



## A Reminder of What "Aloha" Looks Like

*NaHHA would like to share a feature from one of our Lamakū Ho'okipa, our Beacons of Hospitality who are making a positive impact through the value of mālama and as a contributing member of the Native Hawaiian community.*

By Kaleiopuaonālani 'Uwēko'olani

'O ka pono ke hana 'ia  
a iho mai nā lani.  
Continue to do good  
until the heavens come down to you.

- 'Ōlelo No'eau #2437

Every time I look at my wrist, there she is - my mother. An inscription written on a solid piece of gold. A piece of gold that serves as my daily reminder to continue to do good until the heavens come down.

My mother, so lovingly called "Aunty Susie," wasn't from my one hānau (birth place). She didn't have koko Hawai'i (Hawaiian blood). Nor did she have any idea that she would lead people to understand what aloha meant.

Originally from Victoria, B.C., this blonde-haired, green-eyed woman found herself married to a kanaka from Pu'unēnē. By the time we lost her 62 years later, she had embraced the culture, the traditions, and the language so much so that her aloha was never second-guessed. She had taken the word, the idea, the actions of aloha and had given people one of the greatest gifts....aloha! She was loved by my father, his 'ohana, the community, and many others that were able to see, feel, and reciprocate her aloha.

Through the eyes of strangers, she showed reverent love, offered never ending kindness, supported those who wouldn't ask for help, and gave from the heart without hesitation. She made lei for an entire pā'ū unit only wanting to see the pooper scooper win, baked cookies for the holidays while going through chemotherapy treatment, sewed costumes for an entire hālau hula after a 36-hour shift at the hospital, and never remembered to say no because all she knew was yes!

A-L-O-H-A: Akahai. May we be gentle to each other with our actions. Lōkahi. May we bring peace towards one another. 'Olu'olu. May we be gracious in the thoughts we carry. Ha'aha'a. May we be humble no matter where we end up. Ahonui. May we have patience with each



The beautiful wili lei pictured here is the very first lei that Aunty Susie created for her mo'opuna (Kalei's daughter).  
- Photo: Kalei 'Uwēko'olani

other and most importantly yourself.

Though she has been gone four years now, it's like she is still here. Upon my wrist, I wear her bracelet. Around my wrist, I think of her every time I put on a kūpe'e. And within my wrist, with the pulse of every beat of my heart is the aloha she instilled within me.

In my role today as a lamakū ho'okipa at Grand Wailea Resort, I share that aloha knowing that it is Hawai'i's kilohana - the highest expression of who we are and the generations who shaped us. I share it knowing that it inspires.

To all the "Aunty Susies" out there who remind us of what aloha looks and feels like: Mahalo! ■

*Kalei 'Uwēko'olani is the cultural programming manager and leadership educator at Grand Wailea Resort. She leads a team that focuses on perpetuating cultural traditions, culinary collaborations, and a commitment to support both artists and artisans within our lāhui. Kalei is a single parent who has dedicated her time instilling and engaging in the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language, culture, and traditions in her daughter. For more information, contact kalei.uwekoolani@waldorfastoria.com.*

## Reclaiming Time and Space - Part 1

By Kalei Nu'uhiwa, Ph.D.



Aloha kākou e nā hoa makamaka o nei nūpepa, welina. The Cultural Working Group (CWP) for the Papahānaumokuākea

Marine National Monument recently held its quarterly in-person meeting in September.

Always thinking about continuity and legacy strategies, part of the meeting was structured to recount the formation of the monument, the responsibilities of the comanagers, and the important contributions that the CWP has made towards the evolutionary development and preservation of Papahānaumokuākea.

As founding and core members spoke, my own thoughts went towards my first experiences with accessing the akua islands where kōnaka acquiesce to the natural environment and subserviently become a part of the food chain.

My very first visit changed the trajectory of my life's path. The monument had not yet been formed and a protocol team named Kupu'eu, trained under the tutelage of Dr. Pualani Kanaka'ole Kanahale, had learned several chants and rituals appropriate to Nīhoa and Mokumanamana.

The protocol team was going to be traveling as crew members aboard *Hōkūle'a* using the stars and other celestial guides as markers to raise Nīhoa and Mokumanamana up out of the northwestern horizon. Another companion double hulled canoe named *Hōkūalaka'i* with their crew who only spoke 'ōlelo Hawai'i, was also sailing alongside *Hōkūle'a*. It was June 2005, when we all converged on Hanalei Bay, Kaua'i, to prepare for the adventure of a lifetime.

Invited by Dr. Kanahale, I was going to stay on the escort boat, the *Double Barrel*, for the entire trip. Somehow, while on the shores of Hanalei awaiting the approval for all the wa'a and their escort boats to travel, three of us who traveled with Aunty Pua - myself, Huihui Mossman Kanahale, and Ulumauahi Kanaka'ole - were told that we would also be joining the protocol team on Mokumanamana.

To be honest, at the time we didn't know the severity of what that approval meant. However, when your mentor says "you're going on the island and you're going to memorize and perform the chants and rituals like you have been studying them for a year," you just do exactly what was asked to the best of your ability.

We were whisked off to Wailua to shop for the appropriate gear. We didn't have much time to think about it so we just grabbed whatever we needed from random tourist shops and grocery stores. To visit the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, you must have brand new clothes and gear that has been frozen for 48 hours to prevent any foreign organisms from arriving to the pristine akua islands. We had four days to memorize and perform everything. We returned just as a huge contingency of Kaua'i community members came to Hanalei to send us on our way.

That night we were escorted by lightning and rain.

In the morning as we left Nīhau and entered into the wild deep ocean, the crew on our escort boat conducted our own ceremony to reintroduce ourselves and our mo'okū'auhau to the ocean, reclaiming our kūleana to the space during this modern time.

Determined, the three newbies studied the chants at every waking moment and frankly, most of the sail going up to Mokumanamana was a blur because I was busy trying to memorize everything. We followed the Noio line and arrived at Nīhoa a day and a half later. In Part 2, I'll share more about the continued voyage to Mokumanamana. But until then, I wish you all a most insightful and productive Makahiki. Aloha. ■

*Dr. Kalei Nu'uhiwa is Native Hawaiian from the island of Maui, a progressive pioneer with 30 years of experience in conducting research in various Hawaiian practices of time keeping, lunar calendars, heiau ritual, ceremonies, and epistemologies connected to phenology, strategic resource management and social wellbeing. Her expertise is Papahūlilani, which is the study of celestial cycles and atmospheric phenomena.*



## Ho'omana Graduates Eight



By Andrew Rosen

**C**onsider this: about 50% of small businesses fail after five years. It is believed that, for Native Hawaiian-owned businesses, the percentages are higher.

Those stats are unacceptable, and the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce (NHCC) set out to help increase the success rate of micro and small businesses by 20% in five years.

With that goal in mind, Ho'omana was born. NHCC members met in person, Monday - Wednesday, 7:30-9:30 a.m., two weeks per month, to plan Ho'omana's pilot program.

The program has three modules: Building a Stronger Business Plan, Creating a Brand Identity Development Guide, and Marketing. With this information, entrepreneurs can market to their target consumers more effectively and efficiently.

Ho'omana became a reality when the Mayor's Office of Economic Revitalization (OER) raised their hand to help launch this important initiative.

OER, Executive Director Amy Aselbayer said, "The Office of Economic Revitalization supports O'ahu's small businesses by connecting them to programs and the resources necessary to start-up and thrive for the long term. We are excited to partner with the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce on the Ho'omana pilot program. By working together, we will create an economy that is more diverse and equitable."

NHCC leaders met with Vance Roley, dean of UH Mānoa's Shidler College of Business, which is committed to helping the Native Hawaiian community. He connected us with their Department of Marketing Chair Dana Alden, who introduced us to Drs. Qimei Chen and Kelly Holden.

"We were delighted to have the opportunity to partner with the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce in the inaugural Ho'omana program,"

Roley said. "We feel it was a great opportunity for us to help small Native Hawaiian businesses to succeed. We look forward to future cooperative efforts."

It was time reach out to the Native Hawaiian business community and find up to 10 participants, of which eight qualified and completed the program. We asked for their feedback, and these are some of their comments.

"When you are a small business owner, it often feels like you are on your own," said Kawehi Onekea of Onekea Bros. General Store. "There is a lot of information available, but who has the time to study and evaluate it all?"

"Ho'omana provided actionable information I could trust. The facilitators, professors, and cohort members provided (and continue to provide!) the support and community I need as a solopreneur."

"The NHCC cohort has not only expanded my way of operating and planning my business but opened up my network to Hawaiian business operators alike," noted Rene Julian of AC Cleaning Hawai'i.

"Through the Ho'omana Program, I connected with fellow Native Hawaiian businesses, gained a deeper understanding of how to position my architecture and project management business to ensure that my team creates spaces that inspire and are authentic to the Hawaiian culture, history, and ecology," commented Caly Di Mattia of Vernacular Pacific.

With Ho'omana completed, the real work begins. Implementation is key. We will continue to supply feedback as participants continue their journey to long term success. And yes, Ho'omana will be back soon! ■

*If you'd like to learn more about Ho'omana please contact [andrew@nativehawaiianchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:andrew@nativehawaiianchamberofcommerce.org).*

*Andrew Rosen is executive director for the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce and a long time member. Contact Andrew at [andrew@nativehawaiianchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:andrew@nativehawaiianchamberofcommerce.org).*

## Homestead Leaders Visit Community Partners in Maryland



By KipuKai Kualii

**A** few months ago, four Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA) leaders went to Maryland for a Mid-Atlantic-Hawai'i Exchange with Enterprise Community Partners (aka Enterprise).

Our SCHHA cohort included Kammy Purdy from Moloka'i, Kainoa MacDonald from Maui, Jordyn Danner from Kaua'i and me. Our three community partner hosts from Enterprise were Evelyn Immonen, program officer from their Tribal Nations and Rural Division, Jennie Rodgers, vice president mountain, from the same division; and, Ben Hyman, senior operations manager of Enterprise Community Development (ECD).

Day one started with an overview of Enterprise by Ben. We also met and heard from several other Enterprise representatives about their work in areas like asset management, project development and property management. We visited four different affordable housing projects: Legacy at Twin Rivers, Ranleagh Court, Waverly Winds and Hickory Ridge. It was especially interesting to see the different types of units and common areas, as well as to hear from the onsite managers and staff. One project was much older and slated for demolition and rebuild. Another was brand new and still in the final stages of construction.

Day two started with a training on development and philanthropic funding by Enterprise VP of Development Tammy Garlow. She taught us about the fundraising cycle, types of grants, understanding audiences and identifying opportunities, stressing the importance of building relationships and trust. At our request, she also spoke about philanthropic giving and high net worth individual investors (HNWI). We learned HNWI's are mostly self-made individuals who support education, social services and arts, culture and the humanities, and that trust and aligned values are key to them.

We also had a pro-forma spreadsheet training with Jennie and a brainstorming

strategic planning session with Evelyn. We learned that pro-forma is a tool for overall financial feasibility of a project. We used a spreadsheet model with real data from our Anahola 4-Plex Affordable Rentals project. It was revealing to see how different data inputs affected the bottom line instantly. Our brainstorming session compiled input from our SCHHA leaders in key areas like supporting affordable housing for homesteaders including rentals, supporting small businesses, increasing food sovereignty by supporting agriculture, and investing in our homestead facilities and infrastructure.

Day three started with a site visit to affordable housing project, Hollins Station, led by Janelle Dow Summers, Enterprise's senior property manager. We also visited Enterprise's Baltimore office and toured their historic headquarters, a modern open-concept, team-centered layout with old-world charm and historical photographs from when the building was a garment factory. We lunched in their conference room along with several of their top leaders including their Interim President Christine Madigan and Enterprise Residential President Gayle Filo. It was wonderful to experience how community-minded they were and how genuinely interested they were in our work and our struggle. Although I had to leave early, the rest of our team finished the day with a visit to a newer project in Baltimore called Metro Heights.

We are forever grateful to Enterprise for the opportunity, and we re-dedicate ourselves to working tirelessly to bring about more affordable housing opportunities for our Hawaiian homestead families and everyone else in need. ■

*A longtime advocate for Hawaiian Home Lands trust beneficiaries and lands, KipuKai Kualii is the 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 vice chair of the Kaua'i County Council and is on the National Association of Counties (NACo) board. After more than 10 years on the continent, Kualii moved home in 2001 and now lives in Anahola, Kaua'i where he serves as the Anahola Hawaiian Homestead Association (AHHA) president.*



# Lā Kū'oko'a



By Māhealani  
Figueroa-Lee, Grade 11  
Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo  
Public Charter School

‘A u h e a  
‘oukou e  
nā pu‘uwai  
aloha ‘āina mai ka lā  
puka i ka hikina kahi

ho‘i i ho‘opē ‘ia i ke ‘ala o ka ‘ō‘ūholowai  
a hiki i Lehua ka moku ho‘i nona ka  
lima kā‘ili lā. Eia ka welina a me ke  
aloha o ka ua Kanilehua ke pāhola  
aku nei i mua o ‘oukou nā makamaka  
heluhelu o *Ka Wai Ola*.

I ka makahiki 1842, ua ho‘oholo ka  
Mō‘ī ‘o Kauikeaouli e ho‘ouna i ‘ekolu  
mau ‘elele ‘o Timoteo Ha‘alilio, Wil-  
liam Richards, a me Sir George Simp-  
son e ‘imi i ka hō‘oia ‘ia o ko Hawai‘i  
kū‘oko‘a e nā ‘āina ‘o ‘Amelika, Palani  
a me Beretania. No laila, i ka lā 28 o ka  
mahina ‘o Nowemapa i ka makahiki  
1843, ua kāhiko ‘o Hawai‘i Pae ‘Āina i  
ka lei o ka lanakila a me ke kū‘oko‘a.

Eia nō kākou i kēia au he 180 mau  
makahiki ma hope mai, a ua mau nō  
ka hanohano a me ke kilakila o ia lā  
kulāia. I kēia wā, ke akāka hou mai  
nei ko kākou mo‘olelo a ke ulu nui a‘e  
nei ho‘i ko kākou mahalo i nā ‘elele na  
lākou i hele ma nei huaka‘i e hō‘oia ‘ia  
ai ke kūlana kū‘oko‘a o Hawai‘i. Ke  
‘ike pū ‘ia nei ho‘i ko ka lāhui komo  
pū ‘ana i loko o ka hau‘oli a me ka  
ho‘omana‘o ‘ana no ia lā ma nā ‘ano  
hanana like ‘ole a puni ‘o Hawai‘i. A  
‘o mākou pū nō ho‘i ko Ka ‘Umeke  
Kā’eo kekahi e komo iho nei i loko o

nā hanana ho‘olaule‘a no kēia lā nui o  
Hawai‘i nei.

Ma ke kula nei o Ka ‘Umeke Kā’eo,  
ho‘ohanohano mākou i ka Lā Kū‘oko‘a  
ma nā ‘ano mea like ‘ole. ‘O kekahi o  
ia mau mea ka mālama ‘ana i nā ‘ano  
kauno‘o li‘ili‘i. Ma ia mau kauno‘o i  
mālama ‘ia ai ka ha‘i mo‘olelo no ka lā  
kū‘oko‘a, ka pa‘i pālule-T, ka ulana lau  
hala, ke ku‘i kalo, a pēlā wale aku nō.  
‘O kekahi hana nui a mākou e hō‘ike  
ana i ko mākou ha‘aheo e kū ai ‘o Ha-  
wai‘i he ‘āina kū‘oko‘a, ‘o ia ke hīmeni  
‘ana no ko kākou ‘āina hānau ma ka  
ho‘okūkū mele.

Ua nui nō nā ala e ho‘omana‘o ai  
a e ho‘ohanohano ai nō ho‘i i ka lā  
kū‘oko‘a. A ‘o ia wale nō kā mākou e  
puana a‘e nei a e paipai a‘e nei iā ‘oukou.  
‘O ia ho‘i, e ‘imi ‘oukou i nā kīpuka ma  
ko ‘oukou mau mokupuni e komo pū  
ai i loko o ka ho‘olaule‘a ‘ana i kēia lā  
ha‘aheo o ka lāhui.

No laila, e nā makamaka helu-  
helu, e ho‘olaule‘a kākou i kēia lā nui  
o ke kulāia o Hawai‘i. E ho‘omana‘o  
iho nō ho‘i kākou, no kākou nā kula,  
nā kaiaulu, a me ka lāhui ke kuleana  
e ho‘omana‘o ai a e mālama ai a e  
ho‘omau ai i ka hana nui a nā kupu-  
na a me ke ko‘iko‘i ho‘i o kēia lā o ka  
mo‘olelo o Hawai‘i no nā hānauna  
hou. A iā kākou e ki‘i nei e paio no ka  
loa‘a hou mai o ia mana e kū hou ai  
ka lāhui i ko kākou ‘āina aloha, ‘o ka  
hui ‘ana a me ke komo ‘ana o kākou nā  
Hawai‘i Pono‘i loko o nā hana i waiho  
‘ia maila e nā kūpuna, ‘o ia ka mea e  
mau ai ke ea o ka ‘āina, ke ea ho‘okahi  
nō ho‘i o kākou. ■

## Nā Koloa o Imaikalani

By Lisa Kapono Mason



Koloa pair: A pair of “pure” koloa cruising the Hanalei River Valley, Kaua‘i. Distinguishing between pure and hybrid koloas can be challenging even for experts. True koloa will have straight (uncurled) tail coverts, white eye rings, and fully marked back/scapular feathers. - Photo: Gary Kramer/USFWS

One of the great chiefs of Ka‘ū  
was the warrior Imaikalani.

He was a man of immea-  
surable strength and for many years he  
was undefeated in battle. Other chiefs  
wondered about the source of his pow-  
er because Imaikalani was blind. One  
day, a challenger named Pi‘imaiwa‘a  
from Puna spied on Imaikalani during  
his training and saw two koloa ducks  
flying overhead directing Imiakalani’s  
spear and club. Armed with this knowl-  
edge, Pi‘imaiwa‘a killed the koloa and  
subdued Imaikalani, the giant of Ka‘ū.

Today, Hawai‘i’s native duck, koloa  
maoli (*Anas wyvilliana*), is not typi-  
cally seen in Ka‘ū – although current  
wetland and loko i‘a restoration efforts

may again establish a viable waterbird  
habitat.

Pure populations of koloa maoli ex-  
ist only on Kaua‘i due to widespread  
hybridization with the introduced mal-  
lard. You can catch a glimpse of koloa  
hybrids on most of the main islands.  
Look for their mottled dark brown  
plumage, defined golden chevrons, and  
bright emerald speculums. ■

*Lisa Kapono Mason was raised in Hilo  
and happily resides in Kea‘au on the is-  
land 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.*



Honuapa: Coastal rehabilitation including the removal of sediment and invasive weeds from Honuapa loko i‘a (fishpond) is a priority for the community of Ka‘ū. - Photo: Lisa L.K. Mason/LOHE Lab

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# Kalima Lawsuit Appeal Resolved

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

On Oct. 9, 2023, First Circuit Judge Lisa W. Cataldo ruled that an Aug. 17, 2023, letter from a class member is a valid notice of appeal, and ordered the case transferred to the Hawai'i appellate courts. The appeal delayed transfer of the settlement money to the settlement trust and the payments class members will receive. Both matters now have been resolved.

On Oct. 26, 2023, the Hawai'i Supreme Court ruled that the class member filing the appeal does not have a valid claim because he was not eligible during the claims period of Aug. 21, 1959 through June 30, 1988. The Supreme Court recognized the "extraordinary public importance of the case" and took only one day to review the briefs before dismissing the appeal.

The Hawai'i Supreme Court's decision removes the last major obstacle to distribution of the settlement payments for living class members. Class counsel will ask the trial court to immediately transfer the settlement funds it is now holding to the settlement trust, so that payments can be made as soon as possible. We expect this process will take two to three weeks once the funds are transferred. We understand the needs of the class members and will move forward without any unnecessary delay.

Probate Special Master Emily Kawashima and Probate Special Counsel Scott Suzuki will continue to work on probate claims for deceased class members. Relatives of deceased class members who have not already done so should submit a Deceased Class Member Information Form. Please visit [www.kalima-lawsuit.com](http://www.kalima-lawsuit.com) for a copy of the form and for more information about the probate process.

Updates will be published as soon as they are available on [www.kalima-lawsuit.com](http://www.kalima-lawsuit.com). If you have any questions, please email the Claims Administrator at [info@kalima-lawsuit.com](mailto:info@kalima-lawsuit.com) or call 1-808-650-5551 or 1-833-639-1308 (Toll-Free). Do not contact the Court directly. ■

## Maui Employment Opportunities with HILT

Nonprofit Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT), has received a \$1.1 million grant from the Hawai'i Community Foundation Maui Strong Fund to create temporary workforce opportunities specifically for Maui residents affected by the recent wildfires.

HILT is encouraging residents to apply for one of the 48 available six-month positions being offered in partnership with nonprofit KUPU, with work beginning Dec. 4, 2023.

The positions will support land stewardship and conservation activities at HILT's 277-acre Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge in Waihe'e, its 82-acre Nu'u Refuge in Kaupo, and its 4.5-acre Veteran's Peace Park in Wailuku. Most positions do not require previous experience.



HILT has 48 six-month conservation jobs available for Maui residents beginning in December. - Courtesy Photo

"We are focusing this workforce development effort on individuals who lived and worked in Lahaina and are out of work due to the wildfires," said 'Olu Campbell, HILT president and CEO. "We are grateful to be able to provide meaningful opportunities that will empower families to support themselves financially through this tough time, while gaining valuable green workforce experience, and improving the wellbeing of our 'āina."

HILT's mission is to protect and steward the lands and connect people to the 'āina through education, public access, and cultural practice. HILT has preserved nearly 22,000 acres through land purchases and conservation easements. Partner KUPU is a nonprofit dedicated to providing environmental stewardship opportunities.

To apply go to: [www.hilt.org/careers](http://www.hilt.org/careers). Applications must be submitted by Nov. 17, 2023.

## OHA Trustees Visit Fitted Hawai'i



Prior to their Honolulu/Papakōlea community meeting on September 28, Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustees visited Native Hawaiian-owned businesses in Honolulu including Fitted, whose flagship store is located on Kona Street near Ala Moana Shopping Center. Fitted is a clothing brand co-founded in 2005 by former pro skater Rene Matthyssen and former Tori Richard designer Keola Rapozo, and is best known for its contemporary Hawaiian caps. Fitted is a previous OHA Mālama Loans recipient. Pictured (l-r) are Trustees Dan Ahuna, John Waihe'e, Mililani Trask, Kalei Akaka and Hulu Lindsey, Fitted co-owner Keola Rapozo, and Trustee Keoni Souza. - Photo: Nathan Takeuchi

## FEMA and SBA Deadlines Extended to November 9

Homeowners and renters with uninsured or underinsured damage to their property from the August 8 wildfires on Maui now have until Thursday, November 9 to apply for federal disaster assistance from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Survivors should file insurance claims for damage to their homes, personal property and vehicles before applying to FEMA for assistance. To apply for FEMA disaster assistance go to: [www.disasterassistance.gov/](http://www.disasterassistance.gov/) or call the FEMA Helpline at 1-800-621-3362.

SBA provides low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations. Apply online at: [www.sba.gov/hawaii-wildfires](http://www.sba.gov/hawaii-wildfires) or call SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955.

Businesses with economic losses can apply for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan until May 10, 2024.

## Makuakāne Named a MacArthur Fellow

San Francisco-based Kumu Hula Patrick Makuakāne was recently honored by the MacArthur Foundation as a 2023 MacArthur Fellow.

The MacArthur Fellowship is an



Kumu Hula Patrick Makuakāne - Photo: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

\$800,000, no-strings-attached award to extraordinarily creative individuals as an investment in their originality, insight and potential, and to encourage them to pursue their own creative, intellectual and professional inclinations.

Although formally trained in traditional hula and graduated by renowned Kumu Hula Mae Klein, Makuakāne has forged his own unique style that he calls, "hula mua" (hula that evolves) by blending traditional hula and oli with contemporary music, staging and subject matter.

Balancing traditional hula with modern innovations, Makuakāne's hālau, Nā Lei Hulu i ka Wēkiu, often presents long, narrative performances exploring subjects such as colonialism, sovereignty, the impact of Christian missionaries on 19th century Hawai'i, the digitization of Hawaiian language newspapers and most recently, gender fluidity and the role of māhū in Hawaiian culture.

In addition to demonstrating exceptional creativity, selected Fellows have an existing track record of significant accomplishments, and potential for the funds to facilitate subsequent creative work. Twenty to 30 Fellows are select-

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## NEWS BRIEFS

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ed each year. Recipients may be writers, scientists, artists, social scientists, humanists, teachers or entrepreneurs. Since 1981, 1,131 people have been named MacArthur Fellows.

Founded by the late John D. And Catherine T. MacArthur, the MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks actively working to build a more just, verdant and peaceful world.

## Defueling at Red Hill Has Started

Blessings offered by Kahu Kordell Kekoa and Kumu Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on October 14 prepared the way for the safe defueling of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, which began on October 16.

The 80-year-old facility includes 20 fuel tanks, 15 of which are still operational. With 104 million gallons of jet fuel stored there as of mid-October, the gravity defueling process will take an estimated three months to complete.

More than 16 million gallons of fuel were removed from the facility by the end of the first week, according to the Joint Task Force-Red Hill, the team leading the defueling process.

Using gravity, the fuel is being drained into pipelines at the lower part of the 250-foot-tall tanks. The pipelines run through roughly three miles of tunnels to Pearl Harbor where the fuel is loaded onto tanker ships then transported to existing Defense Fuel Support Points.

The merchant tanker *Empire State* received the first 12 million gallons of fuel and hauled it to a storage facility in Kapolei owned by Island Energy Services which can store up to 63 million gallons. A second tanker, *Torm Thunder*, is also being used to transport the fuel.

## Kapaemahu Monument Gets New Signage



(L-R) Kumu Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu and filmmakers Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson celebrate the Honolulu City & County's dedication on October 24 of a new bronze plaque installed in front of the Kapaemahu Monument in Waikiki. The three collaborated, along with artist Daniel Sousa, on the 2021 Academy Award-nominated animated short film, *Kapaemahu*, that tells the mo'olelo of the stones. It is the story of four travelers from Tahiti who brought healing arts to Hawai'i. The four were māhū, individuals with dual male and female spirits. When they departed Hawai'i, they transferred their names and healing powers into the stones. The story of the healers and their identity as māhū was nearly lost, not just through antiquity, but through deliberate erasure and prejudice. About 10 years ago, a movement began to restore the truth of the stones and honor to māhū as respected members of society. Previous signage did not mention that the healers were māhū or that their duality was intrinsic to their healing abilities, so the installation of the new plaque is a hard won victory. - Photo: Puanani Fernandez-Akamine

Once the gravity defueling phase of the process is completed in mid-January 2024, work will begin to remove up to 70,000 gallons of residual fuel expected to accumulate at the bottom of the tanks or in the pipelines during gravity defueling. That work should be completed in the spring.

## Red Hill CRI Calls for More Water Testing

The Community Representation Initiative (CRI), a 10-member citizen group overseeing community concerns related to Red Hill Bulk Storage Facility defueling, closure and drinking water safety, has called on the

U.S. Navy to fully investigate recent reports of water contamination in the Navy water distribution line, to include testing their hot water tanks.

In mid-October, more than a dozen families on the Navy water line reported symptoms consistent with water contamination and provided documentation, including photographs.

CRI representatives say that the Navy Emergency Operations Center has received 34 calls pertaining to water quality since September 1. The Navy informed CRI that one gallon of fuel leaked on October 14, two days before defueling began.

As defueling efforts progress over the next few months, CRI is

urging households in communities adjacent to Red Hill to document and report any observed changes in water quality, noting the date, time, and location.

Reports can be made to the DOH Safe Water Drinking Branch (808-586-4528), the Navy Rapid Response Team (808-449-1979), and the Environmental Protection Agency (415-947-4406).

## The Story of Everything



'Ōiwi Poet Kealoha performing in *The Story of Everything*. - Courtesy Photo

*The Story of Everything* (TSOE) is a film produced and directed by Engaging the Senses Foundation and based on a live theater performance written and conceived by Hawai'i Poet Laureate Emeritus Kealoha that premiered in Honolulu at the Mamiya Theatre in 2015.

The film will be screened on November 3 at 7:00 p.m. and on November 4 at 2:00 p.m. at The Honolulu Museum of Art, and at the Kaua'i Writers Conference in Lihue on November 11 at 7:30 p.m.

TSOE illuminates the intersection between science, the environment, the arts, and mindfulness. The film explores humanity's rich and diverse explanations for the origins of life. It also presents hope, encouragement, and powerful solutions for the healing of Earth in an era of devastating climate change.

"*The Story of Everything* is my most important work, it's the culmination of everything I have learned throughout life," said Kealoha, founder of renowned HawaiiSlam and a MIT nuclear physics graduate. "It took me half my life to study the science behind this piece, half my life to

study the art of poetry and storytelling, and about half a decade to actually create this work."

TSOE incorporates the talents of Kumu Hula Kau'i Kanaka'ole, 'ukulele virtuoso and composer Taimane; Hawai'i-based freeform band Quadraphonix; aerial dancers Jamie Nakama and Jory Horn; hip-hop artist Jonathan Clarke Syper; and visual artist Solomon Enos.

*The Story of Everything* film premiered at the Maui Film Festival in 2022 where it won the People's Choice Award. For more information visit: <https://storyofeverything.org/>.

## Manuel Reinstated as Water Commission First Deputy

After considerable pushback from the Native Hawaiian community and water protectors, the State Commission on Water Resource Management reinstated popular First Deputy Kaleo Manuel, the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* reported on October 9. His reinstatement was effective immediately.

Following the Maui wildfires, Manuel was "reassigned" on August 15 to another division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources by Chair Dawn Chang at the request of Hawai'i State Attorney General Anne Lopez pending an investigation of "certain personnel events" related to the August 8 wildfires.

The decision angered the community who responded with rallies, criticism at public meetings and a lawsuit seeking his reinstatement.

As *Ka Wai Ola* reported last month, some aloha 'āina and conservationists suspected his removal was politically motivated, as Manuel had become an "obstacle" to large-scale water consumers on Maui, such as West Maui Land Company.



## NEWS BRIEFS

Continued from page 26

Makuakāne and Paloma  
Honored at 2023 'Ō'ō  
Awards

Kahu Kenneth Makuakāne and Dr. Diane Paloma were honored at the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce's 46th annual 'Ō'ō Awards last month. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is a proud sponsor of the 'Ō'ō Awards which were established to recognize leaders who demonstrate resilience and dedication to their craft and has become one of the lāhui's most prestigious honors.

Makuakāne serves as senior pastor at Kawaiaha'o Church. Born and raised in Hilo, he comes from a long line of pastors. He is also an accomplished musician – both a

singer and songwriter. Over

the years he has received 21 Nā Hōkū Hano-hano Awards and in 2015 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hawai'i Academy of Recording



Kahu Kenneth Makuakāne - Photo: Kawaiaha'o Church

Arts. Makuakāne is also an accomplished entrepreneur who has produced and recorded more than 100 albums.

Paloma is the CEO for Hawai'i Dental Service. Previous roles include serving as CEO for Lunalilo Home, as director of The Queen's Health Systems Native Hawaiian Health Program, and as a faculty member at the John



Dr. Diane Paloma - Photo: UH Mānoa

A. Burns School of Medicine. She is a University of Hawai'i Regent, an Omidyar Fellow, and was named one of "20 for the next 20" by *Hawai'i Business Magazine*. Paloma is a long-

Hawai'i Island Chamber of  
Commerce Hosts its Annual Meeting

Hui 'Oihana, Hawai'i Island's Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce held its annual membership luncheon on October 12 at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel in Hilo. The event was attended by over 80 business owners, nonprofit and community leaders, government officials and residents and co-sponsored by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), and local Hilo-based businesses Creative Arts and Aiona Car Sales. The meeting focused on the impact of Native Hawaiian culture on business, community planning and the future direction for Hawai'i County. CNHA CEO Kūhiō Lewis was the keynote speaker. Other speakers included Councilwoman Sue Lee Loy, KU A KANAKA executive director Dr. Kū Kahakalau, and former Bay Clinic CEO Dr. Kimo Alameda. Chamber President Benson Medina closed the event with a talk about connection, community and culture. Pictured (l-r) are: Dr. Kū Kahakalau, Nā Leo TV CEO Ashley Keirkiewicz, NHCC past-President Richard Ha, Benson Medina, and OHA Hawai'i Island Trustee Mililani Trask. -

Courtesy Photo

time dancer with Ka Pā Hula O Ka Lei Lehua.

Acclaimed Film by  
Kahunahana Hits Hawai'i  
Theatres

Christopher Kahunahana - Courtesy Photo

Filmmaker Christopher Kahunahana took the film festival scene by storm with his gritty, paradigm-shifting film, *WAIKIKI*, an intimate narrative that challenges the stereotypical images of paradise.

*WAIKIKI* is the story of Kea, a hula dancer played by Danielle Zalopany. While trying to escape her abusive boyfriend, Kea crashes her van into a mysterious homeless man and soon finds herself in a surrealistic journey of self-discovery. The movie is a vulnerable and authentic portrayal of indigeneity and tackles the generational trauma of Ha-

waii's post-colonial culture.

Kahunahana has shown the film at festivals for the past three years, earning numerous awards, from Best Feature Film to Best Cinematography. Having completed the film festival circuit, *WAIKIKI* debuted at selected theatres in New York, Miami, and Los Angeles on October 27.

*WAIKIKI* will be released in Hawai'i on November 3.

"The Hawai'i of my childhood is a world far different from the glossy misrepresentation presented in Hollywood films," Kahunahana said. "The repercussions of colonialism and statehood have left a people severed from ancestral land and culture. This has had a profound effect on Hawaiian psychology and self-image."

To find a theatre or watch the film's official trailer go to: [www.waikikithemovie.com/](http://www.waikikithemovie.com/).

UH Hilo to Lead \$6.6M  
National Native  
Language Resource  
Center

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) recently awarded a \$6.6 million grant to establish a National Native American Language Resource Center (N-NALRC) over the next five years. The center will operate as a consortium of three entities under the leadership of UH Hilo.

UH Hilo's Hawai'i 'Imiloa Institute will work in collaboration with the University of Alaska Southeast and Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University in Wisconsin, organizations with long-standing ties with 'Imiloa that have been working relentlessly to reclaim their languages as well.

The award is the first of its kind to implement, lead and advocate for training and resource

development for Indigenous language education pathways in America. The NALRC Act was authored by Hawai'i Sen. Brian Schatz.

"This is not only an acknowledgment of the value of our Native languages but is also a testament to the hard work our community has put into renormalizing our 'ōlelo Hawai'i over the past 40 years while also working to uplift other 'ōlelo 'ōiwi nationally and internationally," said Ka'iu Kimura, director of Hawai'i 'Imiloa and UH Hilo's Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language.

"Culturally based instruction is critical to promoting and revitalizing native languages," said Schatz. "This funding will directly support [these institutions] in developing resources and fostering collaboration to promote the use of Native American languages across the country." ■

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mahalo for so many wonderful articles about Lahaina in the October issue of *Ka Wai Ola*. So many memories were conjured for me, especially of my childhood.

Reading Hailama Farden's "Mahalo Lahaina!" was like riding down Front Street to Nagasaki's in the backseat of Grandma and Grandpa's old Datsun, listening to them talk about different things. My grandparents are the same Uncle Ned and Auntie Pua Lindsey mentioned in "Mahalo Lahaina!"

It wasn't only the memories contained within and relived through those articles; it was the nuanced connections between them. Those connections demonstrate the power of generational memory and belonging to a place.

*Mo'olele*, the 42-foot long double-hulled sailing canoe celebrated in "Remembering Mo'olele o Lahaina," was cared for by my grandparents and kept in their yard for many years. Ned Lindsey composed the song, *Mo'olele*, which was recorded by Makaha Sons of Ni'ihau. Those verses are his poetry and storytelling, and his aloha for *Mo'olele*.

Like Hailama, I am transported to the Lahaina of my childhood, where I hear Grandpa on his 'ukulele singing a song he wrote about Polanui, our 'ohana home in Lahaina: "That is where I long to be, by the murmuring silvery sea, 'neath the hau and the coconut trees, on the shores of Polanui."

Hokulei Lindsey

*Editor's note: Mahalo nui e Hokulei for naming your grandfather, Ned Lindsey, as the haku mele (music and lyrics) of the song, "Mo'olele." We are pleased to be able to give him the credit he deserves for composing this beloved mele and ensuring that Mo'olele o Lahaina will live on.*





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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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## Fiscal Sustainability: Securing the Future of OHA

### Is it time to update OHA's fiscal sustainability plan?

When gathering limu, one must not pick the root to ensure that it can rejuvenate. This practice can be found throughout our culture and history. This idea that we must preserve the root, the source, or the principal, is fundamentally Hawaiian. This ideology is inherent to us, taught to us by our ancestors. Our kūpuna were the greatest stewards of their resources.

Here at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), the Board of Trustees, our executive team, and administration are tasked with the stewardship of the Native Hawaiian Trust Fund, land assets, and other revenues granted to OHA. We have been chosen by the lāhui to uphold the kuleana of ensuring the sustainability of OHA's assets.

Like our kūpuna who were sustainable, and as one of the fiduciaries of OHA, I am proud to share with you some of the aspects of our Fiscal Sustainability Plan (FSP).

OHA was able to develop steps necessary to initiate the FSP. It involves the entire organization and requires that we look at OHA from a holistic perspective. There are two areas of improvement that the FSP addressed. The first is with our policies, and the second is with our administrative operations. For timely and efficient changes to occur, it will take interdisciplinary teams with voices that include the Trustees, executive management, and subject matter experts in the organization.

For instance, cross communication and open dialogue is critical when OHA attempts to change policies or strategizes on an initiative. When a proposal to amend a policy happens, it can affect the nature of our other policies. We cannot exclusively propose and amend policies without considering their impacts. One example is attempting to amend our spending policies and ignoring the impacts on our investment policies.



**Carmen  
"Hulu"  
Lindsey**

CHAIR  
Trustee, Maui

OHA is committed to ensuring services and programs are consistently available and delivered to our lāhui through fiscally responsible and sustainable spending. OHA will:

- Adopt and implement a fiscal sustainability implementation plan.
- Provide within it a financial structure that will establish fiscal objectives and result in increases to: 1) the value of OHA's assets and endowments; and, 2) OHA's capacity to deliver on its vision and mission.
- Incorporate specific success indicators and report on our progress at year 1, year 3, and year 5 post-implementation.
- Incorporate a code of ethics applicable to OHA Trustees, officers, and employees.

As for the BOT, we have engaged in serious deliberation regarding the areas where our policies can improve. This is done in concert with the appropriate executive members and managers who are in their respective roles overseeing day-to-day operations. It is important that the subject matter experts and managers are at the table so they can provide the necessary insights so the Trustees can develop policies to ensure fiscal sustainability.

The Board also officially adopted use of the financial analysis model developed by our consultant to help implement the operational aspects of the FSP. It is the financial tool that will help OHA's administration to understand any impacts of administrative or operational changes on our financial standing in the short and long term.

Now is the time we look to our past to secure our future. We look to the example of our kūpuna and translate their ideology, innovations, and stewardship to our modern context.

E mau ana kākou i nā mea waiwai o ka lāhui. ■

## Geothermal Development: Setting the Record Straight

On Aug. 23, 2023, the *Hawai'i Tribune Herald* published an article about geothermal sites being developed on DHHL property. In the article I was identified as a principal of a geothermal permitted interaction group (PIG) and as a member of Waika Consulting.

That was incorrect. I am not a consultant with Waika, but I am a supporter of renewable energy – including geothermal and hydrogen.

Hawai'i cannot achieve renewable energy self-sufficiency in the near future. The development of geothermal renewable energy was proposed years ago, but culturally appropriate development was not pursued.

Instead, political influence was pursued. The first site chosen was the sacred location of Kīlauea. That failed due to Native Hawaiian opposition. Millions of dollars later, another site was selected, Wao Kele o Puna, Pele's sacred forest. Over 1,000 people marched to oppose that site and several kūpuna were arrested and jailed.

The first (and only) geothermal plant was developed on private land. Since then, Hawai'i Island residents have experienced shutdowns, evacuations, and closures due to toxic fumes – allegedly due to outdated technology.

It's time to recognize that Hawaiians and the public own geothermal energy (it's considered a mineral under Hawai'i law). The old rubric – Hawai'i develops its renewable geothermal energy to benefit private investors from abroad while residents and owners of the resource reap the highest electricity bills in the nation – is no longer acceptable. It's time for a change.

Hawaiians should be directly involved. As owners of geothermal energy resources, Hawaiians need to be at the table. Only then will we have the power to determine how development should proceed, where it should occur, and what technology should be used to ensure

clean and safe energy for Hawai'i.

Moreover, other critical concerns need to be addressed when development proceeds. Will government, including OHA and DHHL, utilize geothermal revenues as a dedicated revenue stream for affordable housing for residents? Will state and county players recognize that Hawai'i Island will need – and should receive – a significant

share of geo-revenues to fund development of our agricultural and pastoral resources for future food security for our island and state? Given construction costs, is it time to integrate a plan to utilize Hawai'i Island's basalt minerals for roads, bridges and other infrastructure needs in our state?

As Hawai'i County Councilwoman Sue Lee Loy has noted, geothermal development would be a game changer for DHHL – which has 29,000 Hawaiians living and dying on waitlists for a homestead award. DHHL has long carried this burden. It's time for the State Legislature to move forward with a renewable energy plan for the state.

I opposed geothermal development in the 70s and 80s because it was being pursued without the direct involvement of Hawaiians for the benefit of foreigners with political connections in Washington D.C., and because there was no benefit or consultation with Hawaiians.

The records also reflect that I supported geothermal development when it was proposed and developed by Hawaiians (Huena) who had a business model that ensured the development would be culturally appropriate, economically sustainable, and socially responsible.

I supported that plan and went to several communities on Hawai'i Island and Maui to host workshops on a culturally appropriate model for geothermal development for Hawai'i and Hawaiians. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

Mililani ■



**Mililani B.  
Trask**

VICE CHAIR  
Trustee,  
Hawai'i Island



## Restoring Lahaina's Economy: Time is of the Essence

In the wake of the devastating wildfires that ravaged the historic town of Lahaina, we are witnessing the heart-wrenching stories of individuals and 'ohana who are grappling with the task of recovering from their profound losses.

For instance, I had the privilege of meeting Kimokeo Barus, an educator and beneficiary of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), during OHA's community meeting at Kawānanakoa Middle School in Honolulu this past September.

Kimokeo recounted how several of his family members lost their homes in the Lahaina wildfire. He expressed, "My family is getting very desperate and deciding whether to leave Hawai'i."

Many people in Lahaina are going through emotional trauma, are uncertain about their long-term housing situations, and need legal assistance.

A few days later, a close friend invited me to dinner with his cousin, another OHA beneficiary, who I'll refer to as "Auntie Mona." For generations, Auntie Mona's family has called Lahaina their home, but her house was reduced to ash during the fire.

Like many other homeowners, she is eager to begin rebuilding her home as soon as possible. Mona expressed her frustration with the slow pace of recovery efforts and the revival of the tourist economy, which she considers crucial for her 'ohana's survival. She says it is especially vexing when government officials and community activists who haven't experienced the loss of their homes dictate what should happen in Lahaina.

Auntie Mona is just one of many voices in the debate that preceded the reopening of West Maui's tourism sector in October. Some wildfire survivors argued that more time is needed for them to mourn their loss, both in terms of lives and property.

Some also contended that it's offensive and inconsiderate for the state to permit



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

Trustee,  
At-Large

tourists to traverse their communities while they grapple with the trauma of recovery. Additionally, community representatives have articulated concerns rooted in culture, the environment, and spirituality regarding the future trajectory of Lahaina.

Irrespective of one's stance on the future of Lahaina, there is a stark reality: the loss of tourism due to the town's destruction has had a profound impact on Lahaina and Maui.

*Honolulu Civil Beat* reported that Maui County faces a \$31.2 million budget deficit due to the wildfires in Lahaina, Kula, and Olinda. Unemployment on the island has become rampant. In the four weeks following the fires, there were 10,448 new unemployment claims in Maui County, an increase of approximately 9,900 compared to the preceding four weeks.

For many Lahaina residents, the clock is running.

More than 6,000 people from Lahaina have been displaced and are currently accommodated in hotels across Maui, with an additional 1,000 residing in short-term vacation rentals. Numerous survivors are anxious that their temporary lodging arrangements may soon expire, leaving them without a place to call home. In light of an uncertain future, many Lahaina residents may find it necessary to leave Maui or the state.

The question of rebuilding Maui's economy, of which tourism is a vital part, will not go away, and there will be many voices with many views.

Personally, I believe that Maui residents, particularly those in Lahaina, should have the right to determine what is best for themselves, their families, their properties, and their communities.

We should work together with the people of Lahaina to replace the economic capacity they have lost with a pono and sustainable tourist economy that benefits all. Time is of the essence. ■

## Counting our Blessings

Aloha mai kākou! In this season of gratitude, it is more vital than ever for us to come together and count our blessings, especially as we focus our attention on the Lahaina wildfire disaster that has deeply affected our state.

I am profoundly thankful to Ke Akua for the love and support that has poured in from all around the world, directing their attention to the tragedy that befell Maui on that fateful day. We continue to send our prayers, positive energy, and unwavering support to all those whose lives have been forever altered as they embark on a new path toward recovery.

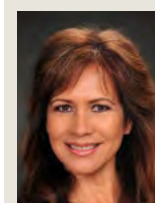
As I enter my third year as trustee, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the people of Hawai'i who entrusted me with the role of serving as their Moloka'i-Lāna'i representative in 2020.

These past years have been challenging, marked by the pandemic that disrupted our daily lives.

Now, in 2023, with the pandemic officially behind us, I realized the need for swift action. I initiated a series of informal meetings with the kūpuna of my Moloka'i community, where I shared the purpose and function of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). It became clear that many were unaware of OHA's role as a grant provider and advocate for our lāhui, covering areas such as housing, healthcare, education, employment, and economic stability.

Furthermore, I discovered a lack of knowledge in grant writing, a critical skill for individuals seeking financial support for essential needs like roof repairs or wheelchair ramps.

To address this, I've been working on the implementation of Grant Writing Workshops for our beneficiaries in dire need of support. This endeavor required time and coordination, but I am thankful for the support from our administration. Once workshop details are available they



**Luana Alapa**

Trustee,  
Moloka'i and  
Lāna'i

will be posted on OHA's website.

This past July, I had the privilege of hosting my annual Board of Trustees meeting on Moloka'i. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to my trustee aide, Pohai Ryan, a Moloka'i native who played a crucial role in coordinating activities and meals for our administration and Trustees.

The community meeting at Lanikeha in Ho'olehua was a resounding success, with a delicious dinner for island beneficiaries and an opportunity for them to share their mana'o with trustees.

We are currently in the process of selecting a new CEO for OHA. I pray that our board chooses a qualified leader with innovative ideas and strong leadership skills to guide our organization towards optimal functionality. OHA deserves a dynamic CEO with a vision for positive and productive progress.

Throughout the year, I have been fortunate to attend various activities. Among these, the 'Ō'ō Awards, which recognizes outstanding Hawaiian members of our community, stands out as a personal highlight. It was a joy to share the evening with my 89-year-old mother, who faced health challenges and had been homebound for the past two years. I am immensely grateful for her thriving health and the opportunity to treat her to a fantastic evening at the 'Ō'ō Awards.

As we settle into the holiday season, reflecting on the things for which we are grateful, I am thankful for the blessings and opportunities in my life. I cherish my family, my health, my friends, and the privilege of serving as your OHA Trustee. Mahalo Ke Akua, and may you all have a blessed holiday season filled with gratitude.

For those wishing to schedule appointments with me at the Moloka'i office, please contact Pohai Ryan at: pohair@oha.org.

A hui hou! ■



Trustee Alapa and her mother, Kavana Pukahi, at the 2023 'Ō'ō Awards. - Courtesy Photo



### CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: KEAHUOLŪ, NORTH KONA, HAWAII

On behalf of the Lili'uokalani Trust, Helen Wong Smith is preparing a Cultural Impact Assessment to inform a Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 343 Environmental Assessment being prepared for the proposed Makalapua Project District —located within the ahupua'a of Keahuolū in the district of North Kona on the Island of Hawai'i. The District is comprised of two sections of Trust lands, 213 acres [TMK: (3)-7-4-008:002 por.] and 110 acres [TMK (3) 7-4-008:002 Por., (3) 7-4-025:001, 002, 003, 005, 007, 010, 011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016, 017, 018, 019, 020, 021, 022] ma kai Queen Ka'ahumanu and ma uka of the Kona Airport Recreation Area along Kuakini Highway. The district extends north from Makala Blvd toward Pāwai Bay and south at Kaiwi Street. If you have such information, please contact Helen Wong Smith, Archival and Historical Consultant at wongsmith808@gmail.com, phone (808) 987-4854. Mahalo for your māna'o and kōkua.

### CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT NOTICE: PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY, KAUA'I

International Archaeology, LLC., on behalf of the United States Department of the Navy (Navy) and the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on the island of Kaua'i, is conducting a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) and seeks input from kama'āina, cultural practitioners, and other stake-holding parties with knowledge of indigenous cultural practices for the area around PMRF and specifically the Moku of Kona, Kaua'i. The CIA is being conducted to support an HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statement for a proposal to pursue new real estate agreements with the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources. Several existing leases and easements on State lands that make up a portion of the PMRF installation will expire between 2027 and 2030. The new agreements would be needed to support the contin-

ued operation of the PMRF installation on Kaua'i. Individuals willing to share any information that can increase our understanding of cultural resources and past or ongoing cultural practices within the area can contact: Kaumaka Anae (808) 237-9322 or hanae@iarii.org.

### CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: KALAMA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT - MAKAWAO, MAUI

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) is conducting a cultural impact assessment (CIA) in support of the State of Hawai'i, Department of Education's proposed Samuel E. Kalama Intermediate School (KIS) administration building project. This project is located within the ahupua'a of Makawao, in the moku of Hāmākuapoko, on the mukupuni of Maui. KIS is situated on an approximately 10.4-acre parcel in TMK (2) 2-4-032:109. As part of this study, SWCA is attempting to identify and consult with individuals and organizations possessing knowledge of the past and present cultural uses of the project area. We seek your kōkua and mana'o regarding the following aspects of our study:

- Help in identifying kama'āina, kūpuna, and other individuals who might be willing to share their cultural knowledge of the project area
- Information on the present and past land use of the project area
- Information on place names and cultural traditions associated with the project area
- Knowledge of traditional gathering practices within the project area, both past and ongoing
- Information on any current cultural practices being carried out within the project area
- Any other cultural concerns the community might have related to Hawaiian cultural practices within or in the vicinity of the project area

We appreciate any information you would be willing to share regarding the

project area and those individuals knowledgeable about its past and present cultural uses. Please contact us at Wainani. Traub@swca.com or by phone at (808) 646-6309 or at Tamara.Luthy@swca.com or by phone at (808) 892-3432.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION: PUAKŌ WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LĀLĀMILO AHUPUA'A, DISTRICT OF SOUTH KOHALA, ISLAND OF HAWAII

Notice is hereby given that the Hawai'i County Department of Water Supply (COH-DWS) seeks to utilize the State of Hawai'i's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), which are federal funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and are administered by the Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH), to replace the existing waterline beneath Puakō Beach Drive. The use of federal funds make the proposed waterline replacement project subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The proposed undertaking involves the replacement of approximately 11,000 linear feet of 8-inch and 12-inch waterline, situated beneath the 40-foot wide Puakō Beach Drive right of way (ROW), that is deteriorating and prone to leaks and breaks. Ground disturbance associated with the project will include trenching to replace the existing main waterline and lateral waterlines within the Puakō Beach Drive ROW. All improvements will be underground except for the addition of new above ground fire hydrants. The existing underground waterlines will be abandoned in place, but all old water infrastructure above grade will be removed and disposed of. Road repaving will occur following the trenching.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, the agencies involved seek public consultation with respect to the identification and protection of any potential historic properties. If you are interested in participating in this process please contact Mr. Keith K. Okamoto, P.E. with the County of Hawai'i Department of Water Supply,

via email at dws@hawaiiidws.org, or by U.S. Postal Service to the County of Hawai'i Department of Water Supply (Attn: Mr. Keith K. Okamoto, P.E.), 345 Kekua-naoa St., Ste. #20, Hilo, HI 96720.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION: MULTIPLE AHUPUA'A (O'AHU)

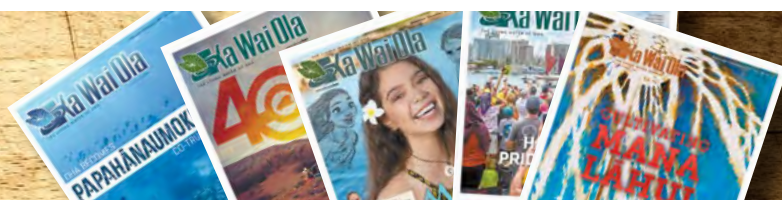
The Federal Highway Administration and State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) propose the Traffic Signal Controller Installation and Adaptive Traffic Signal Control Technology at Various Locations Project, Island of O'ahu, Federal-Aid Project Number STP-0300(189). The proposed project is located at various traffic signal locations on the island of O'ahu. The HDOT O'ahu Traffic Signal Inventory and City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) O'ahu Traffic Signal Inventory are available at <https://hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/oahu-traffic-signal-inventory/>.

The proposed project will install new traffic signal controllers in existing cabinets at locations on the HDOT O'ahu Traffic Signal Inventory, and intersections C138 and C139 on the DTS O'ahu Traffic Signal Inventory. Adaptive traffic control systems, which include magnetometer sensors cored 3" deep into existing pavement, will be installed at locations indicated on the HDOT O'ahu Traffic Signal Inventory. New traffic signal controllers may be installed by the City and County of Honolulu through cooperative purchasing agreement at locations on the DTS O'ahu Traffic Signal Inventory.

There will be no new ground disturbance. The area of potential effect (APE) is completely in the roadway and existing disturbed areas.

Native Hawaiian Organizations and Native Hawaiian descendants with ancestral, lineal or cultural ties to, cultural and historical property knowledge of and/or concerns for, and cultural or religious attachment to the proposed APE are requested to contact Tara Lucas, tara.yi.lucas@hawaii.gov, (808) 692-7696 within 30 days of notice. ■

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Phone: 808.594.1888  
Fax: 808.594.1865

### EAST HAWAII (HILO)

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

### WEST HAWAII (KONA)

75-1000 Henry St., Ste. 205  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
Phone: 808.327.9525  
Fax: 808.327.9528

### MOLOKA'I / LĀNA'I

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Fax: 808.560.3968

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Phone: 808.241.3390  
Fax: 808.241.3508

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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](mailto:kwo@OHA.org). E ola nā mamo a Hāloa!

### SEARCH

**KIPI-KAHELE** - 'Ohana o Katherine Kaahea to Samuel Kipi and William Kahele: Reunion April 6, 2024. Site pending. Talk story, talents, games, pot-luck. Call Aldora Kahele (808) 782-9359, Airleen Lucero (808) 853-8503, or Kapua Kahele (808) 940-1413.

**PUKANA O KANIALAMA** - family reunion July 12-14, 2024, in Hilo. Descendants of Kinikahikiainoa and Poouli Pahane, Kanialama and Kaohuaino (their 3 keiki Keali'ikua'aina, Kaniakaio and Poouli), Kai'anui and Nakahili (parents of Poouli Pahane), Kelupaka Kona and Pila Kauahiokona (parents of Kai'anui). Main branches from the previous mentioned are Kahanu, Gooman, Long, Kona, Kai'anui. Please send contact information or questions to [pukanahilo@gmail.com](mailto:pukanahilo@gmail.com)

**WOOLSEY** - The descendants of William G Woolsey and Eliza K Pemberton are planning a family reunion on July 25-28, 2024, at One Ali'i Park, Moloka'i, Hawaii. We will talk story, have music, games, enjoy each other's company and have genealogy updates during the reunion. Camping is allowed for a small fee. For more information, please visit our website at [www.ohanawoolsey.com](http://www.ohanawoolsey.com), contact Alisha by text or phone at (808) 658-5658 or email [ohanawoolsey@gmail.com](mailto:ohanawoolsey@gmail.com). ■

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