



Ka Wai Ola

NEWS FOR THE LĀHUI kawaiola.news

Ianuali (January) 2024 | Vol. 41, No. 01

May Their Songs Fill our Forests

PAGES 16-18



See inside

2023 OHA Annual Report

Today, the endangered 'ākepa is only found in native forests on Hawai'i Island at elevations of 4,500 feet or higher, although they were once found on Maui and O'ahu too. It is one of the tiniest endemic Hawaiian honeycreepers measuring about 4-5 inches long and weighing less than 0.4 ozs. - Photo: Bret Nainoa Mossman



I AM A FRIEND I AM AN 'ŌIWI LEADER I AM A CHANGE MAKER I AM A VISIONARY **I AM AN EXPLORER.**

From our littlest learners to growing 'ōiwi leaders, we're here to nurture the dreams of our keiki. Kamehameha Schools provides a variety of educational programs for Native Hawaiian learners of all ages.

PRESCHOOL

Our 30 preschool sites statewide offer Hawaiian culture-based education for 3- and 4-year-old keiki.

Apply at ksbe.edu/preschool

Application window: Aug. 15, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024

SUMMER SCHOOL

On-campus summer courses are available for students at each of our campuses across the pae aina

Apply at ksbe.edu/summer

Application window: Jan. 2 – Feb. 15, 2024

HO'OMĀKA'IKAI

Our week-long boarding program provides foundational Hawaiian values and practices through hands-on, community-based learning days.

Apply at ksbe.edu/hoomakaikai

Application window: Jan. 2 – Feb. 15, 2024

Kamehameha Schools' policy on admissions is to give preference to children of Hawaiian ancestry to the extent permitted by law.



Kamehameha Schools®

Embrace and Carry Forward the Themes of Makahiki

Aloha mai kākou,

As we enter the final stretch of Makahiki season, a time traditionally marked by peace, festivity, and reflection, it's pivotal for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to embrace these deep-rooted themes. This period, significant in Hawaiian culture for its celebration of Lono, the god of agriculture, peace, and fertility, offers a unique lens through which we can view and shape our strategies for the coming year.

Education remains an important cornerstone of our mission. As Lono symbolizes growth and prosperity, we're reminded of the vital role education plays in nurturing the minds of our keiki and 'ōpio. In 2024, OHA is committed to supporting educational environments that honor Hawaiian culture, language, and history, ensuring that our future generations carry the wisdom of our ancestors.

In healthcare, the Makahiki season's emphasis on rejuvenation and well-being aligns perfectly with our goals. We are dedicated to improving access to quality healthcare for Native Hawaiians, focusing on holistic approaches that encompass physical, mental, and spiritual health, deeply rooted in our traditional healing practices.

Housing is more than a basic need; it's a right. In the spirit of Makahiki, a time of abundance and peace, OHA will continue to advocate for affordable

housing solutions that respect the land and culture, ensuring that every Native Hawaiian has a safe and nurturing place to call home.

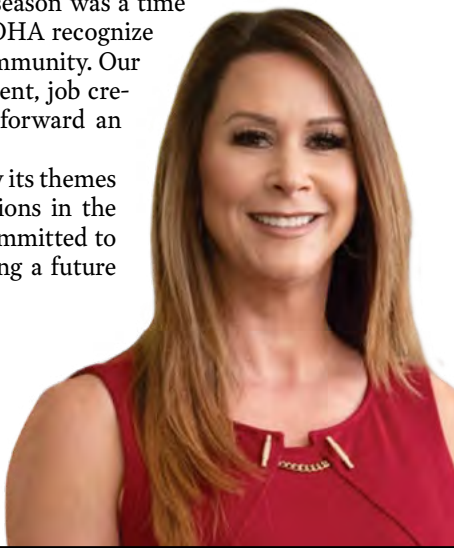
Economic stability is crucial. Just as the Makahiki season was a time for the redistribution of wealth and resources, we at OHA recognize the importance of economic empowerment for our community. Our strategies for 2024 will focus on sustainable development, job creation, and support for Hawaiian businesses, driving forward an economy that benefits all Native Hawaiians.

As we bid farewell to this Makahiki season, let's carry its themes forward, allowing them to guide and inspire our actions in the coming year. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs stands committed to honoring our past, embracing the present, and building a future where every Native Hawaiian thrives. ■

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira

Ka Pouhana | Chief Executive Officer



Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira
Ka Pouhana
Chief Executive Officer

COMMUNICATIONS

Alice Malepeai Silbanuz
Communications Director

Amy Schwab
Communications Manager

Puanani Fernandez-Akamine
Publications Editor

Ed Kalama
Communications Strategist


Kelli Soileau
Communications Strategist

Jason Lees
Multimedia Designer


Kaleena Patcho
Multimedia Designer

EMAIL/WEBSITES

kwo@OHA.org
https://KaWaiOla.news

 @kawaiolanews

 @kawaiolanews

 /kawaiolanews

MEA O LOKO TABLE OF CONTENTS

MO'OLELO NUI | COVER STORY

May Their Songs Fill our Forests PAGES 16-18

BY JONEE LEINĀ'ALA KAINA PETERS

FEATURE STORIES

DOI Announces Revised NAGPRA Regulations PAGE 7

BY CEDRIC DUARTE

January is Kalaupapa Month PAGE 7

BY VALERIE MONSON

A New Local Lifestyle Show PAGE 11

BY PUANANI FERNANDEZ-AKAMINE

Lahaina "Fishing for Housing" Advocates Change PAGE 14

BY ADAM KEAWE MANALO-CAMP

'Ōiwi Leaders Rebuke Deep Sea Mining PAGE 15

BY PUANANI FERNANDEZ-AKAMINE



Special insert
2023 OHA Annual Report

Ianuali (January) 2024 | Vol. 41, No. 01

OHA IN THE NEWS

A Summary of OHA's 2024 Legislative Package PAGE 4

BY ZURI AKI

Reelitz Named OHA Director of Advocacy PAGE 5

BY ED KALAMA

Reconnecting to Roots Yields a Fruitful Life PAGE 6

BY NATHAN HOKAMA

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Memoriam: Jim Kauahikaua PAGE 9

BY LISA HUYNH ELLER

Memoriam: Fred Kamaka, Sr. PAGE 10

BY THE FRED KAMAKA 'OHANA

Ha'i Mana'o: 'Onipa'a Peace March PAGE 12

BY HEALANI SONODA-PALE

Letters to the Editor PAGE 13

A Summary of OHA's 2024 Legislative Package

By Zuri Aki, OHA Public Policy Manager

On Dec. 9, 2023, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Board of Trustees approved OHA's 2024 Legislative Package containing four measures, each of which was developed with three foundational principles in mind: Stop Native Hawaiian identity erasure; elevate Native Hawaiian identity as an inseparable facet of the state's identity; and uplift and empower our most vulnerable communities as a crucial component of Native Hawaiian self-determination.

2024



LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Be an Advocate for our Lāhui in 2024

Check out the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' governance webpage and stay up-to-date on issues and legislation affecting OHA and our lāhui throughout the 2024 Legislative Session.

Our webpage provides practical information on how to register for an account on the Hawaii State Legislature's website, as well as how to submit testimony online. There is also a short video that explains how a bill becomes law, along with links to other resources and information.

Bookmark www.oha.org/governance on your laptop or mobile device.

OHA-1:

Amending the Board of Agriculture to include OHA

WHAT? We are asking the Legislature to include OHA on the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture.

WHY? Native Hawaiians were the first mahi'ai (farmers) and kahu holoholona (ranchers) in the Hawaiian Islands. Our traditional and customary hānai 'ai (food producer) practices, rooted in time-proven principles of sustainability and self-sufficiency, should provide guidance to the future of food security here in Hawai'i.

Despite this obvious fact, Native Hawaiian farmers and ranchers struggle with high operational and land ownership costs, facing greater disparities at a higher rate than others. The unfortunate result here is the loss of Native Hawaiian lands and the severing of Native Hawaiian cultures that were integral to the mālama of the 'āina they were pili to.

By including OHA on the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture, the broad scope of Native Hawaiian knowledge will have a decision-making seat in the strategic agricultural and aquacultural directions of the state. OHA would also have the capacity to work more collaboratively within the Department of Agriculture to address the needs of Native Hawaiians throughout the food system for the overall betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians.

OHA-3:

Urging the State's Commitment to Providing Culturally Appropriate Resources, Services, and Programs for Native Hawaiian Individuals and Families Experiencing Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)

WHAT? We are asking the Legislature to urge the state government to better address the needs of the I/DD community with a focus on Native Hawaiian cultural pathways for overcoming challenges.

WHY? The State of Hawai'i has a very long way to go in terms of providing the necessary resources, services, and programs to meet the needs of individuals and families in the State of Hawai'i who are experiencing I/DD. For socially and historically disadvantaged people, like Native Hawaiians, the disparities are even greater, and their vulnerabilities are far more pronounced.

Native Hawaiians with I/DD have the right to find healing through their culture. There needs to be Native Hawaiian cultural and combined cultural solutions, to existing and emerging challenges that individuals with I/DD, and their 'ohana, face.

OHA-2:

Requesting OHA to Identify the Scope of Native Hawaiian Cultural Appropriateness for the Purpose of Addressing Native Hawaiian Disparities

WHAT? We are asking the legislature to reaffirm its support for Native Hawaiian identity by asking OHA to identify the scope of what it means to be "culturally appropriate" in every relevant policy area.

WHY? Native Hawaiian identity is a facet of Native Hawaiian existence, and it faces widespread erasure from the severing of Native Hawaiians' culture from 'āina to cultural misappropriation. The State of Hawai'i should have a very strong Native Hawaiian identity. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i should be normalized and widely used. Native Hawaiian culture should be normalized as part of everyday life instead of exploited and commodified. Hawai'i should feel like the homeland of Native Hawaiians and be an inviting home for all Native Hawaiians to which to return. This is where that all begins. From education and economic development to housing and health, this measure will echo the state's commitment to the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians.

OHA-4:

Requesting OHA to Report on Strategies for Native Hawaiian Rural Resiliency

WHAT? We are asking to provide the Legislature with a report on the unique needs of Native Hawaiian rural communities.

WHY? A century ago, everywhere in the Hawaiian Islands outside of Honolulu would have been considered "rural." Socio-economic upheaval essentially drove Native Hawaiians out of rural communities and into urban centers for economic opportunities – for survival. Does this sound familiar?

The difference today, is that Hawai'i has become so expensive that Native Hawaiians are being forced out of their ancestral homeland for economic opportunities – survival – elsewhere. The passage of time here chronicles the systematic erasure of Native Hawaiians from 'āina throughout Hawai'i. Our rural communities are some of the last bastions of intact Native Hawaiian identity rooted in place.

By identifying and addressing the unique needs of each rural community, OHA can assist the state and counties in providing meaningful and effective guidance on this crucial matter of Native Hawaiian self-determination.

Reelitz Named OHA Director of Advocacy

By Ed Kalama

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) recently named Ke’ōpū Reelitz as the agency’s new director of Advocacy (chief advocate). She began her new role on December 1.

Reelitz will lead OHA’s Advocacy Division and oversee mission aligned public policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as OHA’s current co-trustee role with the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. She will also be responsible for working with OHA’s director of Community Engagement and OHA’s Washington, D.C., bureau chief on related public policy matters.

Reelitz previously served OHA as a governance specialist from 2014 to 2015.



OHA’s new Director of Advocacy Ke’ōpū Reelitz - Photo: Jason Lees

“I’m honored and humbled to return to OHA to help lead advocacy efforts. I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve and advocate for the lāhui and I look forward to moving the needle - alongside our communities across the pae ‘āina - on policies that will help us Kānaka Maoli to not only be able to stay here in the state but, more importantly, to thrive and lead here in our homeland.”

Reelitz comes to OHA from the Hawai’i Children’s Action Network where she served as director of Early Learning and Health Policy. She is a former communications lead with the State of Hawai’i Executive Office on Early Learning and has also served as a public information officer for the State of Hawai’i Department of Human Services and as editor of MANA Magazine.

A graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama, Reelitz holds a juris doctorate from the University of Arizona and a bachelor’s degree in international studies and political science from Loyola University Chicago.

“Ke’ōpū’s vast experience in policy and advocacy work and her background in the communications and legal arenas will serve OHA well as we head into the upcoming legislative session,” said OHA Ka Pouhana/CEO Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira. “We are excited to welcome such an outstanding young ‘Ōiwi leader to our team as we move forward with our mission of improving the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians.”

642 Acres at Mahukona Protected in Perpetuity

By OHA Staff

After a decades-long collaborative effort, nonprofit Hawai’i Land Trust (HILT), in partnership with nonprofit Nā Kālai Wa’a, federal, state and county agencies, and the Kohala community announced in December that they successfully closed on its largest purchase, permanently protecting 642 acres at Mahukona on the Kohala coast of Hawai’i Island.

The property includes the coastal regions of six ahupua’a, including a portion of the famed Kohala Field System. This expansive landscape provides habitat for threatened and endangered native plants and animals. It is also a rare space for Hawaiian cultural practice and subsistence gathering to thrive.

Mahukona holds layered histories as a bustling harbor town and was a training ground for non-instrumental navigation for 1,000 years. To date, 175 ancient cultural sites have been identified in the area, including four heiau, agricultural and housing villages and complexes, shrines, burials, and ancient trails. Among these sites

is Ko’a Heiau Holomoana, a navigational heiau known and highly regarded throughout Moananuiākea.

Since the 1980s, the lands were slated for various development proposals, with a portion of the property previously zoned for resort development.

HILT and Nā Kālai Wa’a will co-steward Ko’a Heiau Holomoana and associated cultural sites with generational ‘ohana providing ‘āina- and culture-based educational opportunities. Nā Kālai Wa’a will continue using a warehouse it renovated on-site where it drydocks its voyaging canoe *Makali’i* and other sailing vessels.

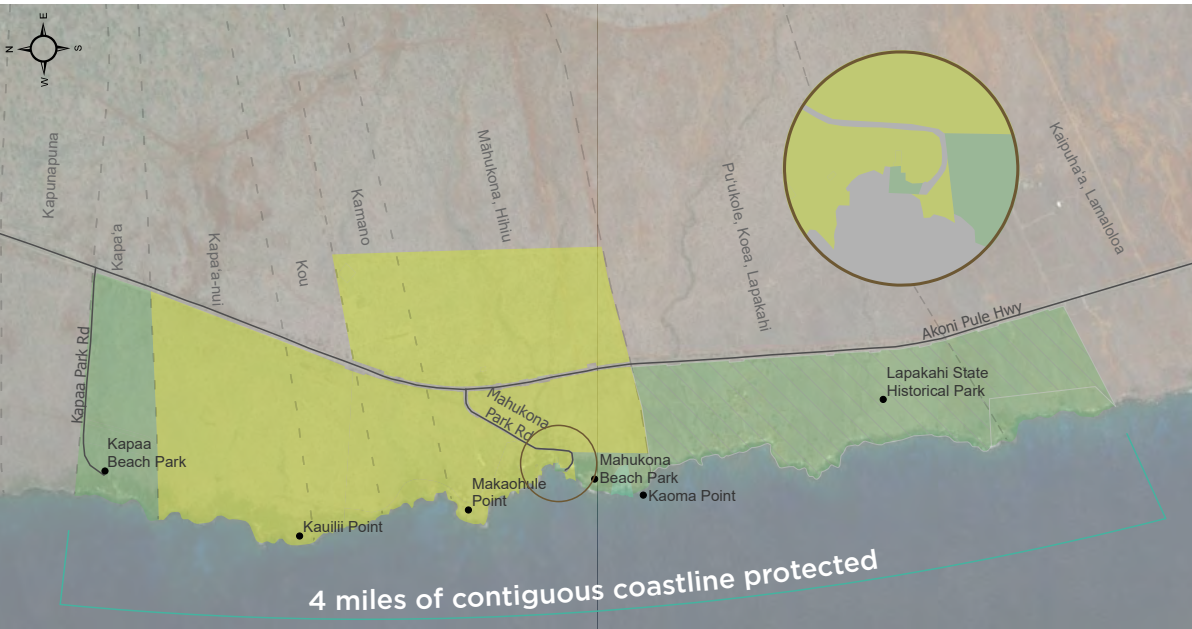
Hawai’i County’s Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission ranked Mahukona its number one priority for protection in 2020, understanding the significance of the place; members of the Kohala community have been nominating Mahukona for protection every year since 2012.

With the support of the county, State Department of Land and Natural Resources, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and private contributors, HILT raised \$18.86 million to purchase the land toward the total project goal of \$20 million.

SEE MAHUKONA PROTECTED ON PAGE 8

MAHUKONA NAVIGATION AND ECOLOGICAL COMPLEX

KAPAA NUI, KOU, KAMANO, MAHUKONA, HIHIU, AND KAOMA AHUPUAA, KOHALA, HAWAII ISLAND



Map Key

- Project Area (642 acres)
- State of Hawaii
- United States of America
- Ahupuaa





Let OHA Help Your Business Grow!

Mahi 'Ai Agricultural Loan Program

Designed with Farmers in Mind

The Mahi 'Ai Agricultural Loan Program helps you establish or expand your small agricultural business with working capital for produce or livestock. In-ground or above-ground farming, greenhouse, hydroponic, and more.

Generous Terms

Receive loans from **\$2,500** to **\$100,000** with up to seven years to pay back your loan. **Low 4% APR***. You can defer loan payments for the first six months to make sure you're off to a great start!

Loan amounts over \$50,000 require non-real estate collateral.

Eligibility Requirements for Principals:

- U.S. citizen
- State of Hawai'i resident
- Applicant and all owners of the business must be of Native Hawaiian ancestry
- 18 years of age or more
- Credit score 600 or higher
- Debt-to-income ratio is no more than 45%
- Business must be registered with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and be in good standing

To apply for an OHA Hawaiian Registry Card, please visit: www.oha.org/registry

Questions?

Please contact us at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund at **(808) 594-1888** or **NHRLF@ohaloanfund.org**. Neighbor island residents may contact the OHA office on their island.

East Hawai'i (Hilo)
(808) 933-3106

Moloka'i
(808) 560-3611

Kaua'i & Ni'ihau
(808) 241-3390

West Hawai'i (Kona)
(808) 327-9525

Lāna'i
(808) 565-7930

Maui
(808) 873-3364

Apply for a Mahi 'Ai Agricultural Loan visit:

<https://loans.oha.org/mahiai-agricultural-loan/>

*Interest rates may be subject to change.

Reconnecting to Hawaiian Roots Yields a Fruitful Life

By Nathan Hokama

As a young man, Umi Martin left his hometown of Kekaha to attend college in Missouri. He later moved to Oregon – which is where he was living when he decided it was time to return home and reconnect with his roots. Today, Martin operates a successful farming business and country store on Kaua'i.

"When you're in your early 20s, you start to think about these things, about your Hawaiian culture," Martin said.

Martin aspired to pursue a master's degree in Hawaiian studies at UH Mānoa, but none was offered at the time (an MA in Hawaiian studies was not approved by the Board of Regents until 2005). Undaunted, he immersed himself in the lifestyle of the lo'i at Kānewai on the UH campus for six months.

Instilled with a passion to mālama 'āina, Martin decided to seriously pursue agriculture, using an acre of his grandmother's kuleana land in Waimea, Kaua'i, to start growing taro. For the next 15 years, Martin and his wife, Ka'iulani, lived in a small house adjacent to their lo'i working and raising their young family.

When a store in Waimea came up for sale, Martin saw an opportunity to grow his business. With the help of an OHA Mālama Loan, he purchased the store and got it up and run-



Entrepreneur Umi Martin (left) and his nephew, Moku Moniz, at Umi's Farm in Kekaha. - Courtesy Photos

ning, turning it into a flourishing go-to local style "convenience store" aptly named Umi's Store.

For the next six years, the 'ohana continued to work their small farm selling their vegetables to restaurants while running the store. Martin hoped to someday expand into growing tropical fruit and invested time growing his nursery and researching farming methods in anticipation of one day having land for a tropical fruit orchard.

In 2014, his dream became a reality when Martin secured a lease for state agricultural land in a secluded area of Kekaha plus valu-

SEE HAWAIIAN ROOTS ON PAGE 8



(L-R) Ka'iulani Martin, Office of Hawaiian Affairs Loan Processor Robert Crowell, Umi Martin and HI Now Daily host Rachel Pacarro in a recent segment. In the foreground is some of the amazing, oversized fruit grown on Umi's Farm on Kaua'i.

DOI Announces Revised NAGPRA Regulations

New Federal Rules Prioritize Indigenous Knowledge for Repatriation of Iwi Kūpuna and Moepū

By Cedric Duarte

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) has unveiled revised federal regulations for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The new provisions prioritize and defer to Indigenous knowledge and culture when repatriating native remains and burial items.

Enacted in 1990, NAGPRA mandates that museums identify Native American human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, and other objects of cultural significance within their holdings and collections. NAGPRA defines “museum” as “any institution or state or local government agency (including any institution of higher learning) that receives federal funds and has possession of, or control over, Native American cultural items.”

These museums must then collaborate with lineal descendants, Tribes, or Native Hawaiian organizations to facilitate their repatriation.

“Finalizing these changes is an important part of laying the groundwork for the healing of our people,” said

DOI Secretary Deb Haaland.

NAGPRA also addresses the discovery of Native American human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, and other objects of cultural significance from federal lands and Hawaiian Home Lands. Redefining “discovery” to include both inadvertent and intentional discoveries is significant for lineal descendants and Native Hawaiian organizations, including ‘ohana – especially for those who have been engaged for decades in these matters.

The revision process for the final changes began in 2011, involving consultation sessions that extended through January 2023. In October 2022, the DOI published a proposed rule for public comment and received 181 individual submissions, generating over 1,800 specific comments.

The final rule, published on Dec. 13, 2023, takes effect on Jan. 12, 2024. It introduces comprehensive revisions and updates to the existing NAGPRA regulations – a pivotal step toward ensuring the rightful return of cultural artifacts.

The final rule revises and replaces definitions and procedures for lineal descendants, Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, museums, federal agencies, and the State of Hawai‘i Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to implement NAGPRA.

Critically, the final rule enhances processes for the disposition and repatriation of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of

cultural patrimony. It also provides a step-by-step roadmap with specific timelines to aid all stakeholders in understanding the process and the necessary steps.

The DOI’s Office of Native Hawaiian Relations (ONHR) is seeking public input on the best ways to support lineal descendants and NHOs with the new regulations.

“We heard from the Native Hawaiian Community [about] how climate change and its effects on erosion, both coastal and inland, are causing more exposures of iwi kūpuna, moepū, and many cultural resources, said ONHR Senior Program Director Stanton Enomoto. “Thus, improvements to NAGPRA implementation on federal lands in Hawai‘i and on Hawaiian Home Lands are very important.”

In addition to seeking funding from the National NAGPRA Program, Native Hawaiian organizations can apply for funding from ONHR’s Kapapahuliau Climate Resilience Program to cope with these climate change effects on burials. ■

Interested parties can email their comments to ONHR at hawaiian@ios.doi.gov with the subject “NAGPRA Final Rule.”

The final rule is available in an 89-page document on the Federal Register website at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-12-13/pdf/2023-27040.pdf>

January is Kalaupapa Month

JANUARY IS KALAUPAPA MONTH *A Time To Remember*



By Valerie Monson

Two years ago, Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa proposed designating January as “Kalaupapa Month” to the Hawai‘i State Legislature. The bill passed unanimously and then-Gov. David Ige signed the legislation into law.

Ka ‘Ohana President Charmaine Woodward, whose great-grandparents are buried at Kalaupapa, says Kalau-

papa Month is a “time of remembrance and celebration, the time we celebrate their lives, their legacy, and their love. By overcoming adversity, the people of Kalaupapa guide us on how to traverse difficult situations by portraying characteristics of unconditional love, true faith, and family.”

January was selected as the month to honor the people of Kalaupapa and learn more about their history because there are a number of important January dates related to the settlement’s history, such as Jan. 6, 1866 - the date that the first 12 people affected by leprosy were sent to the Kalaupapa. They were the first of nearly 8,000.

Both Josef DeVeuster (later Father Damien, now Saint Damien) and Barbara Koob (later Mother Marianne Cope, now Saint Marianne) have January birthdates. And January 1978 marked the beginning of a more than five-year-long protest led by the people of Kalaupapa and Hale Mōhalu to assert their rights to be included in the decision-making affecting them.

This month, Ka ‘Ohana will be hosting two webinars and distributing essays about the people associated with these key historical events. The webinars are narrated slide shows featuring historical and modern-day photos and are offered to the public at no charge (see sidebar).

Kalaupapa Month Webinars

Kalaupapa Memorial Webinar

· Sat., Jan. 13, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. ·

Learn how Kalaupapa residents inspired the creation of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa and how they have led the effort to establish the Kalaupapa Memorial.

Save Hale Mōhalu Movement

· Sat., Jan. 27, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. ·

This webinar includes 40-year-old television clips of residents and supporters who were arrested at the protest, along with quotes from residents taken from interviews about why they took a stand.

Email info.kalaupapa@gmail.com to sign up to attend the webinars and receive the essays.

SEE KALAUPAPA MONTH ON PAGE 8

MAHUKONA PROTECTED

Continued from page 5

“We feel so privileged to have been welcomed by Nā Kālai Wa’a and lineal descendants of Mahukona to a place of such cultural significance and community importance,” said HILT President and CEO ‘Olu Campbell. “I am grateful for the community’s trust in our organization to close this acquisition and take on perpetual stewardship of these lands.”

“This huge undertaking ensures the safeguarding of cultural sites, fosters environmental resilience, and highlights community-based stewardship on a truly massive scale,” said Hawai‘i County Mayor Mitch Roth. “[These] contributions are instrumental in shaping a Hawai‘i Island where our keiki can thrive and succeed for generations to come.”

“Twenty years from now, Ko’a Heiau Holomoana will continue to be that school — it will continue to write the stories from this generation now, to allow them to see the importance of caring for place,” said Chadd Paison, senior captain, Pwo navigator and executive director of Nā Kālai Wa’a.

“The protection of Mahukona in perpetuity means that Hawai‘i’s people will always have a foundational site of navigation that connects us to all of the Pacific,” said Department of Land and Natural Resources Deputy Director Laura Kaakua. “May traditional Hawaiian navigation and ‘āina stewardship practices thrive forever more at Mahukona and across Hawai‘i.” ■

To help HILT raise the remaining \$1.14 million needed for community co-stewardship of Mahukona go to: www.hilt.org/mahukona.

KALAUPAPA MONTH

Continued from page 7

Kalaupapa Month is also great time to visit two award-winning exhibits produced by Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa.

“A Source of Light, Constant and Never Fading,” at ‘Iolani Palace is a historical exhibit that focuses on the strong relationship between the ali‘i and the people of Kalaupapa. “A Reflection of Kalaupapa: Past, Present and Future” at the Moloka‘i Museum & Cultural Center features 100 framed photos of Kalaupapa residents and their family members along with landscapes of the peninsula, mostly taken by acclaimed photographer Wayne Levin over the years.

Finally, a Kalaupapa Month digital brochure featuring additional information and suggested ways to remember Kalaupapa can be viewed on the ‘Ohana website: www.kalaupapaohana.org. ■

“A Source of Light, Constant and Never Fading” exhibit at ‘Iolani Palace is open in January on Tuesday through Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (tickets will not be sold after 4:00 p.m.). Go to www.iolanipalace.org for more information.

“A Reflection of Kalaupapa: Past, Present and Future” exhibit at the Moloka‘i Museum and Cultural Center (1795 Kalae Hwy., Kualapu‘u) is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 for adults; \$1:00 for ages 5-18.



Umi Martin’s niece, Shelly Moniz, works on his farm. ‘Ohana is an important part of his success. - Courtesy Photos

HAWAIIAN ROOTS

Continued from page 6

able technical support from the state’s Agricultural Development Corporation. By the end of 2016, he was up and running. A second OHA Mālama Loan helped Martin establish his orchard.

It took him three years to plant his 5-acre parcel, growing 20 different tropical fruits. Martin’s knowledge of fruits is as impressive as his tenacity. He grows a variety of different oranges plus jackfruit, liliko‘i, guava, and soursop.






But Martin is best known for his mangos – he

grows five different varieties. He notes that the mangoes flourish in Kekaha’s hot, dry weather enabling yields of 5,000 pounds every other year. “Rain makes the fruit ugly,” Martin added.

Martin is optimistic about the future and hopes to one day expand his farm to 50 acres – and he encourages others who may be thinking about pursuing agriculture to not hesitate.

“Now that the days of sugarcane are over, the opportunity is here!” he said. ■

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs now offers a Mahi’Ai Agricultural Loan program, with unique features for farmers. For more information: <https://loans.oha.org/>.



The Department of the Navy
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE
in the Public Scoping Process for the Hawaii-California
Training and Testing EIS/OEIS

The Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army, and U.S. Air Force, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental effects associated with the Proposed Action to conduct at-sea military readiness activities within the Hawaii-California Training and Testing Study Area. The Navy also proposes to modernize and sustain its ranges in a manner necessary to support these readiness activities. The Proposed Action is needed to ensure U.S. military services are able to organize, train, and equip service members and personnel to meet their respective national defense missions.

Public Involvement Opportunity

The Navy is hosting a virtual open house presentation on the project website during the scoping period from Dec. 15, 2023, to Jan. 29, 2024. The presentation provides information about the Proposed Action, its purpose and need, environmental resource areas to be analyzed in the EIS/OEIS, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 process, and public involvement opportunities. The public can view the virtual open house presentation and submit comments at www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/ anytime during the scoping period.

The Navy invites the public to comment on the scope of the EIS/OEIS including identification of potential alternatives and environmental concerns, information and analyses relevant to the Proposed Action, issues that should be addressed in the NEPA analysis, and the project’s potential to affect historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA.

Comments may be submitted via the project website at www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/ or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific
Attention: HCTT EIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

This public scoping effort will also support consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations part 800, as members of the public are invited to participate, provide comments, or raise concerns.

Comments must be postmarked or received online no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on Jan. 29, 2024, for consideration in the Draft EIS/OEIS.

In His World, Science and Culture Were Strands of the Same Cord

Remembering Jim Kauahikaua, the First Native Hawaiian to Lead the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory

James “Jim” Kauahikaua

Aug. 1, 1951 – Oct. 8, 2023

By Lisa Huynh Eller

To the world, Jim Kauahikaua was the face of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) for decades. He is celebrated as the first Native Hawaiian volcanologist to lead HVO, and humbly inspired generations of scientists who followed. To his ‘ohana, he was all those things and more – a dedicated father, husband, brother and contributor to cultural knowledge.

“He was a remarkable guy, and humble – you wouldn’t have known about his [accomplishments] just by talking to him,” said his brother, David Kauahikaua, a lifelong musician and Nā Hōkū Hanohano award winner.

Kauahikaua, who passed away in Hilo at the age of 72, loved music. Originally from Kailua, O‘ahu, he grew up with a mother who insisted that her children learn piano and a father who taught them to play ‘ukulele.

Decades later, music introduced Kauahikaua to his wife of 34 years, Jeri Gertz. The two met while she was working as a singer at a bar called Rosey’s Boathouse. She was singing Carole King’s *I Feel the Earth Move* when he walked in with a group of field geologists. Kauahikaua had come to Hawai‘i Island to study the eruption of Kīlauea that began in 1983 – to literally observe the earth moving under his feet.

“When I look back on that, after we were falling in love, [our relationship] probably began then. Something shifted in me towards him, and he towards me, and I think we both knew it,” said Gertz. “We went on to have lots of music in our lives. We were members of the Kamehameha alumni choir, so we got to sing together. He had a beautiful baritone voice.” The couple’s wedding invitations were cassette recordings of them singing together.

Although Kauahikaua became a public figure having been interviewed numerous times over the years about Kīlauea’s eruptions, he avoided the limelight. “He had a quiet way of inspiring,” Gertz shared. “He was not a shout-from-the-rooftops kind of man. But he worked hard to understand, and he wanted to convey what he understood.”



Jim Kauahikaua walks the lava fields with his young daughter, Lilinoe. - Photo: The Jim Kauahikaua ‘Ohana

Kauahikaua contributed to science and culture in ways his family would not learn about until after his passing; he worked with the Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation sharing scientific knowledge to help deepen cultural understanding of lava.

His daughter, Lilinoe Kauahikaua, recently learned that her father and her kumu, Dr. Ku‘ulei Kanahale, combined their knowledge to add detail to the understanding of lava.

“He would send her newspaper clippings with words

about different lava flows. She would translate them into English and then he used his scientific knowledge to share what [those] exact types of flows were,” said Lilinoe. “This allowed Papakū Makawalu scholars to update their lexicon of understanding of different lava forms.”

At this year’s Edith Kanaka‘ole World Oli Festival, Kanahale and Lilinoe wrote and performed oli to honor her father using ‘ōlelo no‘eau about the genealogy of their family and the parallels between the life journeys of her ‘ohana.

A few years ago, Kauahikaua and Lilinoe began their own journey to learn more about Hawaiian culture. They started a two-person book club during the pandemic to read and discuss nonfiction titles. Their first read was *Detours: A Decolonial Guide to Hawai‘i* edited by Hoku-lani K. Aikau and Vernadette Vicuña Gonzalez. Through the portal of books, they bonded over culture and family history.

“I learned a lot from him. He was an amazing father – very sweet and very kind,” said Lilinoe.

When Kauahikaua passed, his ‘ohana received an outpouring of messages from people who spoke about Jim’s influence on their lives. David said he was happy to know the extent of his brother’s impact. “He inspired so many young people. The work that he did – people knew and appreciated it. It was neat to read [what] people wrote about him.”

Kauahikaua generously shared his love of Hawai‘i’s volcanoes. Both David and Lilinoe shared stories of trying to keep up with him as they hiked over lava fields.

“He was used to walking over lava. I asked him, ‘Is this going to cave in?’ and he said, ‘No, the weight is much more than the weight of your body, so keep going!’” David recalled, imitating his brother’s deep voice.

Lilinoe remembers a scary moment when her dad’s leg broke through the crust of the lava. He used the incident to teach her what not to do. More than anything though, he taught her reverence for Pele. “He didn’t want me to be afraid of lava. He didn’t want me to be afraid of Pele. He wanted me to see the strength and the awe.”

In Kauahikaua’s world, science and culture were strands of the same cord.

“Hawaiians were great scientists and Jim used his research to help others gain the respect he innately had about Hawaiian ways and Hawaiian culture. He had a very strong relationship with Pele. He wasn’t so much engaged in ritual. He didn’t need or crave that. But in some ways, his scientific ways were his ritual,” Gertz reflected.

“Science was his first language, but it didn’t mean that [his work] was without heart and depth. A lot of people think you’re either science or you’re spiritual. I believe he was both because of his connection to this land.”

Though Gertz acknowledges the difficulties her husband experienced after being diagnosed with cancer in 2003, she does not want his life to be defined by it. She wrote in his obituary: “He did not ‘lose his battle’ to disease. We will have no war metaphors here. Jim simply lived how he knew how to live – leading with his amazing intelligence, with constant honesty, integrity, and as the giver of the world’s warmest smiles and best hugs.” ■

A Purpose-Filled Life: Love, Service and Music

*Honoring Fred Kamaka, Sr., Beloved Father, War Hero,
and Famed ‘Ukulele Maker*

Frederick “Fred” Ku Kamaka, Sr.

Sept. 16, 1924 - July 23, 2023

By The Fred Kamaka ‘Ohana

Frederick “Fred” Ku Kamaka, Sr., was born on Sept. 16, 1924, in Honolulu. There to welcome him was his father, renowned ‘ukulele maker Samuel Kaiali‘ili‘i Kamaka, Sr., of Waihe‘e, Maui, and his mother, Liholiho Elementary School teacher May Akeo of Kā‘anapali, Maui. Also there to welcome him was older brother, and life-long best friend, Sam Jr.

Fred lived the first years of his life in Kaimukī before the family moved to Kāne‘ohe in 1929. Their home was always a gathering place for musicians and hula dancers, as his mother was a kumu hula and his aunts were all musicians.

Fred’s fondest memories growing up included spending time with his older brother and cousins. They would swim in Waikīkī and Kāne‘ohe streams, fish off Wai‘ālae and Wai‘anae, play sports, ride bikes down Wilhelmina Rise, and ride horses through the Kāne‘ohe countryside.

Hard work and the value of family was instilled in Fred from a young age. He started working in his father’s ‘ukulele factory on South King St. when he was 5 years old, cleaning up sawdust. He was rewarded with ice cream, which remained one of his favorite foods – along with apricot pie.

Fred attended St Louis School and then the Kamehameha Schools where he became a proud member of the class of 1944. Reunions with his classmates were full of laughter and singing, and Fred’s rich tenor was an important addition.

His time on the Kapālama campus would set the stage for his military career. Fred was in the JROTC and witnessed the bombing of Pearl Harbor from the campus. This was followed by many nights of guard duty, protecting the water tanks at the top of the hill.

After graduation, Fred joined the merchant marines. Soon after, he and his brother, Sam, were drafted on the same day to serve in WWII. Fred worked as a military policeman at Ft. DeRussy and on Hawai‘i Island. In 2021, the brothers proudly became recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal award to Chinese American WWII veterans.

When the war ended, the brothers went to Washington State University on the GI Bill. The two roomed together and were active entertainers through the Hawai‘i Club, which they founded.



Fred Kamaka, Sr., continued to work at the iconic Kamaka ‘Ukulele Factory well into his 90s. - Photos: The Fred Kamaka ‘Ohana



Fred and Elisabeth Kamaka enjoy a spin on the dance floor.



Fred Kamaka, Sr., (center) surrounded by his ‘ohana.

his military contributions and sacrifice.

In 1972, Fred joined Sam at the Kamaka ‘Ukulele Factory. Sam focused on the manufacturing side and Fred on the business side. Together, through hard work and commitment, the company rose to prominence as the world’s premiere ‘ukulele maker. Fred continued to work at the shop into his 90s, where he loved to lead tours, meet people from around the world and share the history of the company. The COVID-19 pandemic would mark the end of his popular tours.

“Love knows no boundaries,” applies to the story of Fred and Elisabeth Theelen. The two grew up on opposite sides of the world. Elisabeth was from a small farming village in Germany; Fred was from Hawai‘i. As fate would have it, the two met in the middle, at a lū‘au in New Jersey. At the time, Fred was stationed at Fort Dix and Elisabeth was a flight attendant for Pan American Airlines stationed in New York City. The two married in August 1959.

Fred’s military career took his young family to Puerto Rico, North Carolina, Germany, and finally back home to Hawai‘i. They raised three children – Martina, Heidi, and Fred Jr. – on the family property in Kāne‘ohe. He always admired and was grateful for Elisabeth’s willingness to adapt and move. “We lived in such a different way,” he said, compared to her German upbringing.

Frederick Ku Kamaka, Sr., passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family on July 23, 2023. He was 98 years old. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife. He is survived by three children, 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. If asked, he would say his proudest achievement was his family. His family would say they were most proud of who he was, and how much he humbly accomplished in his life. ■

Radio Personalities Collaborate on a New Local Lifestyle Show

By Puanani Fernandez-Akamine

Weekday afternoons are about to get a lot more fun.

Popular radio personalities and best friends Davey D (David Daniels), Lina Girl (Lina Langi) and Mele Apana are transitioning to broadcast TV. For decades, the three brought laughter, humor and news to Hawai'i's airwaves.

The trio announced that, beginning on January 8, they are collaborating on a brand-new show, *Island Life Live*, that will air weekdays at 4:00 p.m. on KITV4 Island News, KIKU and all supporting streaming platforms.

The hour-long lifestyle show will include news, traffic, and weather updates – but with more fun and flair than a regular news program. The show will feature in-studio and on-location interviews and segments covering anything that piques the interest or inspires.

"We'll be island hopping and beyond," laughed Langi. "Anywhere there are concentrations of Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i locals, we plan to go there!"

Island Life Live will leverage the trio's considerable community connections to feature segments on everything from lifestyle, food, music, culture and trends to current events. And don't be surprised if they also take a



(L-R) Mele Apana, Lina Girl Langi, and Davey D share music and laughs as they collaborate on the theme song for their new local lifestyle show, "Island Life Live," premiering January 8. - Courtesy Photo

look at the lighter side of some current "hot topics" – the sky is the limit and laughter is the best medicine.

The trio also collaborated on writing and recording the show's theme song.

Daniels started his career in radio at KCCN FM100 in 1992. He has served as KCCN FM100's program director and as a consultant for Hawaiian 105 KINE and is a veteran of the morning drive teams at KCCN and Krater 96. Most recently he has been doing the traffic and weather reports on KITV4's *Good Morning Hawai'i* news show.

Apana started in radio at KCCN FM100 in 1998. For years, she worked with teams and as a solo radio personality on KCCN FM100, KXME Power 104.3, Island Rhythms 98.5, and Hawaiian 105 KINE. With her hula background, Apana is the "go-to" emcee for hālau fundraisers and events, and in 2023 emceed the Merrie Monarch Festival with Kimo Kahoano.

Langi got her start as part of Nā Hōkū Hanohano-nominated group Nā Waiho'olu'u o ke Ānuenue. She moved into radio in 1993, also starting at KCCN FM100 as a producer and later had a solo show on Hawaiian 105 KINE. She also did a brief stint on *Love Songs* on Krater 96 while working in public relations at Kanile'a 'Ukulele.

"We are excited to continue uplifting and entertaining our lāhui and community here in Hawai'i and worldwide," said Langi. "For many years we got to do just that on the radio every weekday morning. This time around, we get to welcome you home in the afternoons – but now, we have to look good for the camera!" ■

Wai Connects Us.



WAIWAI COLLECTIVE

Let's celebrate 'A'ala Park's storied past, present, and hopeful future with an urban makahiki.

Join Waiwai Collective and its community partners for a fun wai (water) themed gathering of interactive demonstrations, games, and cultural activities for all ages and cultures on **Saturday, January 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 'A'ala Park. Free to the public.**

presenting sponsor



The Annual 'Onipa'a Peace March: Observing the Overthrow



Thousands of Kānaka Maoli and supporters participated in last year's 'Onipa'a Peace March. - Courtesy Photo

By Healani Sonoda-Pale

The story of the Indigenous people of Hawai'i is one of resilience.

Over the past 245 years, Kānaka Maoli have survived an apocalyptic decline in our population, an aggressive American missionary brainwashing agenda, the introduction of an exploitative economic system, the privatization and theft of our native lands, and the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom on Jan. 17, 1893, resulting in the complete loss of Kānaka Maoli political power in our own homeland.

The overthrow was the blow that has reverberated through the decades. It was the day a small gang of Haole

businessmen, with the protection of American Marines and the support of the American Minister in Hawai'i, declared the establishment of a "Provisional Government" forcing our beloved Queen Lili'uokalani to yield her authority to the United States – which she did to avoid the loss of Kānaka Maoli lives.

U.S. imperial interests in the Pacific thwarted efforts to restore Queen Lili'uokalani to power. Despite U.S. President Grover Cleveland's acknowledgement to Congress that "a substantial wrong has been done" regarding the overthrow, and a well-organized resistance movement of Aloha 'Āina leaders, efforts to reestablish the monarchy failed in the wake of the Spanish-American War and the violent consolidation of U.S. territorial interests in the Pacific that required Hawai'i as a foothold.

To reinforce and support America's presence in Hawai'i, history was rewritten, and the true events of the overthrow were suppressed. Generations of Kānaka Maoli grew up believing that we gave up our kingdom for a better life under U.S. rule; but nothing could be further from the truth.

Today, we don't have to look far to see that life under U.S. rule is not working. Depressing socioeconomic statistics, the high cost of living, and spiraling environmental degradation are all telltale signs that all is not well in our homeland. Kānaka Maoli fill Hawai'i's prisons, O'ahu's aquifer was poisoned by the Navy, and the historic

town of Lahaina was burned to ashes along with 100 innocent victims.

It's been 131 years since the overthrow and despite decades of adversity Kānaka Maoli are still here. Our population rallied from a low of 37,000 in 1900 to 680,000 strong today. Calls for Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination have been ongoing since the 1980s and struggles to take back control of our lands and water are on the rise.

Nine years ago, the Queen's Court led by a Kailana Moa-Eli marked the overthrow with a peaceful march from Mauna'ala (Royal Mausoleum) to 'Iolani Palace with a handful of Aloha 'Āina protectors. This event evolved into the annual 'Onipa'a Peace March with thousands of participants each year – including dozens of schools – who congregate on the palace grounds for speeches, music and education.

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, we are gathering and marching as one lāhui acknowledging and remembering the wrongs done to our kūpuna so future generations will never forget and carry the struggle forward for a livable future that is possible only through the liberation of Hawai'i's Indigenous people. ■

For more information and to register your school or group for the 'Onipa'a Peace March go to kalahuihawaii.net/oni-paa.

With a Home Refinance, Pay Off Credit Card Bills and Car Loans!

We offer quotes on:

- DHHL Properties • VA Refinance/Purchase • Reverse Mortgages
- FHA Loans • 30/15-year Fixed Rate Loans • Add a person to Mortgage

Leaf Funding Mortgage
Mary Joe Sato, Branch Manager
(808) 791-1044
leaffunding.com

Over 30 years of Mortgage Experience
 Sato #50726, NMLS#1631620



We are a lender not affiliated, nor endorsed by The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands or any government agency. Leaf Funding Mortgage 1188 Bishop Street Honolulu, HI 96813 (808)791-1044. This is not a commitment to lend. All loans subject to property approval. Certain fees, restrictions and conditions apply. Closing cost does not include mortgage insurance. May need to purchase flood, hurricane, or fire insurance. Rates subject to change without notice. Equal Housing Lender. CA-NMLS#1621985, CA-DRE#02037132, SATO-NMLS#50726, HI-NMLS#1631620. All Rights Reserved. Leaf Funding Mortgage ©Copyright 2023



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Aloha mai kākou

I wanted to send a big mahalo for your nūpepa. I enjoy reading the articles and I especially enjoyed this most recent volume titled “Kānaka, Come Home.”

My husband, born and raised in Nānākuli, was forced/encouraged by his dad to leave Hawai‘i to “grow up” after high school. He was away 45 years, made a great living in California but always desired to return home. We agreed that at retirement we would leave California and live out our kupuna years on his kulāiwi. He retired five years ago and here we are on beautiful Moku o Keawe.

There is no greater joy and peace than to have our feet planted on this ‘āina.

All the festivals, the dedication to hula, the weekly kanikapila we attended was the lifeline we gripped on to so tightly to maintain our connection to Hawai‘i. Looking back, all of that was great, but as we awake to the rooster each morning and hear ‘ōlelo spoken by the waitress at our favorite restaurant, we now realize that what the continent offered pales in comparison to being fully present here.

He was a Kanaka who came home, and I agree that we need more like him. The more Kānaka are physically present here, the stronger the lāhui can be. My hope is that we find a way to encourage them to come home and at the same time discourage the droves of Americans and foreigners settling on these islands and diluting the beauty of this culture through their ignorance and lack of respect.

Mahalo hou for the great work you do. Eō Hawai‘i nei.

- Julia Kamaile Estigoy-Kaho‘onei

Aloha Readers,

Due to COVID-19 and various personal reasons, it took me more than four years to be able to return to my beloved motherland. Finally, in mid-November 2023, I boarded the flight that would take me back to the country of my birth.

Then what happened next left me shocked and perplexed. There, in the inflight magazine, was an article titled “The Guns of Yesteryear.” These guns, as stated in the article, were the weapons used by the “Citizens Guard of Hawai‘i” and are planned to be donated and displayed inside the Iolani Palace.

In Hawai‘i, and most of the civilized world, the Citizens Guard with their sharpshooters would be called a terrorist group that had murdered our kūpuna especially during the revolts by our people against the criminal theft of our nation.

And now the murderous weapons of the enemy of our people are to be displayed in the home of our Queen. Would anyone be proud to display weapons in their homes that had killed their family? INSANE! The only way they should be displayed is all broken up with a note that states “murder weapons of enemy terrorists that killed Hawaiians loyal to the Queen and nation.”

Kānaka people, please be aware of cruel acts that hurt the Hawaiian soul and resist and fight in kapu aloha. If not, slowly Hawai‘i will be lost forever. AUWĒ.

- Kaihinu Namokuea

Aloha e Ka Wai Ola,

I just read the article, “Kānaka, Come Home” written by guest author Naka Nathaniel and found it quite provoking.

In 2010, I composed a mele, *Lā Hea Manu*, for my late sister’s 70th birthday. The song is based on her Hawaiian name “Lāheamanu.” But it’s really not about her, but rather her name which I used to basically issue a call to our “manu ‘ōiwi” (native birds) who are living in the diaspora to come home because of the important work that needs to be done here.

Reading the article reminded me of my mele. I am sharing the lyrics and translation of that mele. I also have a recording of the group, Holunape, singing the mele at my sister’s birthday party.

That was back in 2010 and we’re now in 2023, as we recognize that now a majority of our Kānaka are living outside of Hawai‘i.

- Julian Keikilani Ako

Lā Hea Manu
The Day the Birds Are Called to Gather

Ke hea nei

A call is being made

Auheha wale ana ‘oe e ka manu ‘ōiwi?
‘O ka lā hea manu e ho‘i mai nō
I ka pu‘uhonua i ka pūnana ‘olu.
Kahi pumehana me nā kūpuna.

*Where are you our dear native birds?
This is the day a call is being made for the
birds to return
To the place of refuge, to the comfortable nest.
A place of warmth with your kūpuna.*

Hui:

E maliu mai i ke kāhea nui
E ho‘i mai i ko kulāiwi nei
I ke aumoe i moe ‘uhane ai.

Chorus:

*Harken to the important call
To return to this, your homeland.*

‘Tke i nā manu ma kēlā ‘āina ‘ē
Me ka ‘īini nui a‘o ka pu‘uwai
E ho‘ola‘i pa‘a ma Hawai‘i nei

*It was in the wee hours of the night that a
dream occurred.
The birds were seen on that foreign land
With a deep yearning in their hearts
To alight permanently once more in Hawai‘i.*

Hui:

Pehea ho‘i ke ola i ua ‘āina ‘ē?
Pehea ka ‘ono a‘o ka ‘ai ma ‘ō?
‘O ka lawa miki‘ai a kēna e ka pu‘u.
He hana ko‘iko‘i a nā Hawai‘i

Chorus:

*So how is life over there in that foreign land?
How tasty is the food over there?
A simple fingertip of poi is sufficient to quench
the thirst.*

Hui:

Ke hea nei.

*There is important work to be done by us
native Hawaiians*

Chorus:

A call is being made.

SHARE YOUR
MANA‘O IN
 Ka Wai Ola

In an effort to create a place for
our lāhui to share their mana‘o on
issues affecting our pae ‘āina and
Kānaka Maoli, Ka Wai Ola offers
two ways to do that:

a letter to the editor

or

an “OpEd” (opinion piece)

For more information on how to submit go to:
kawaiola.news/about/submissions

Lahaina “Fishing for Housing” Advocates Call for Change



Since November 10, Lahaina residents displaced by the August wildfires have “occupied” Kā’anapali Beach to keep their need for housing in the public eye. - Photos courtesy of Lahaina Strong via Facebook

By Adam Keawe Manalo-Camp

In an effort to address the ongoing critical housing needs of residents displaced by the wildfires that ravaged Lahaina last August, the Lahaina Strong Hui, comprised of 38 West Maui organizations and businesses, launched the “Fishing For Dignified Housing” movement on November 10.

“Our ‘fish-in’ is simply Lahaina Strong occupying Kā’anapali Beach while raising awareness for the many issues we are still dealing with in Lahaina,” explained Lahaina Strong Campaigns Coordinator Jordan Ruidas. “Our routine as Lahaina Strong is to hold down camp, support community members, educate tourists, take interviews, etc.”

She adds that the group’s other activities include empowering the community by raising awareness, and by holding community events and meetings.

The Lahaina Strong Hui, also known simply as “Lahaina Strong,” was formed five years ago to address the needs of Lahaina residents after an earlier wildfire scorched some 2,100 acres in Lahaina, destroying 21 homes and causing \$4.3 million in damages on Aug. 24, 2018.

Since that time, Lahaina Strong has been advocating for centering the recovery of Lahaina on the needs of Kānaka Maoli and kama’āina residents, as well as for the restoration of water and land rights.

“We are taking a stand for housing to be provided and will keep standing up for the people of Lahaina through

the whole process and beyond,” Ruidas declared. “Community is what always comes through when stuff like this happens. We have seen it with the 2018 fires and saw it again this time. Community is our best attribute!”

For many in West Maui and beyond, Lahaina Strong also represents a powerful call for change as more Kānaka Maoli and local residents are priced out of Hawai‘i due to soaring housing costs and the overall high cost of living.

“Maui was already going through a major housing crisis before the wildfires. The fires displaced roughly 10,000 people by burning most of the local people’s housing. We are taking a stand for housing to be provided – and will keep standing up for the people of Lahaina through the whole process and beyond,” said Ruidas.

For many in the community, the ‘fish-in’ has provided much needed educational and emotional support as people continue to be shuffled between hotels.

According to Lahaina Strong, there are about 6,700 people still living in hotels – and many have had to relocate more than eight times in the last four months.

Displaced families have reported that, while some hotels have been compassionate towards them, others have not. Families can be evicted on short notice and many do not have access to kitchen and laundry facilities. Large families with children have even been placed in different hotels due to maximum room capacity.

Ruidas said that while she believes that state and federal agencies have done their best, the most daunting problem to finding long term solutions is the actual lack of available housing.

“We have heard the agencies say that they want to sign long-term leases for victims, but they can’t find places to actually sign long-term leases for,” Ruidas noted.

To help address this, the Maui County Council recently passed Bill 131 that incentivizes short-term rental owners with a 100% real property tax exemption to those willing to provide long-term housing for displaced families. The bill passed on its first reading and received over 680 written testimonies proving the measure has strong community support. As of press time, the bill was awaiting final approval.

Ruidas believes that there are additional measures that the governor and mayor could take to increase the inventory of

long term housing. “It’s time for our mayor and or governor to enact an immediate moratorium on short-term rentals, especially in Lahaina, so they can be rented long-term by fire victims,” Ruidas said.

Compounding the situation has been the re-opening of tourism in West Maui. While displaced families are grateful for the support hotels initially provided, many now feel that tourists are being prioritized while they are still struggling to find stable housing and coping with trauma.

“They [the government] did not provide housing before they [re]opened tourism. What does that say to you? It says you don’t matter. Tourism matters,” said Maui advocate and Nā Aikāne Hub volunteer Carol Lee Kamekona. “Our families still don’t know where they will lay their head the next day. ‘Shelters’ are not housing.”

Kamekona, like many others on Maui, applauds the efforts of Lahaina Strong as well as groups like Maui Rapid Response.

“I love them. They are bringing awareness that something must be done and telling the government to stop this nonchalant attitude. Sometimes direct action needs to be taken. People don’t understand the amount of destruction that has happened in Lahaina. It will take years to rebuild Lahaina and in the meantime, why should we keep getting pushed off our own homeland?”

Adds Ruidas, “Maui needs help, major help. The tourism industry is being put before the people once again. We in West Maui are looking to flip the script, diversify our economy and create the Lahaina we, the people, want. We are hoping to inspire other places to do so as well.” ■



Lahaina residents and supporters pile on Kā’anapali Beach. They are keeping vigil there to remind the government, tourists and the general public that thousands of Lahaina residents still do not have semi-permanent housing months after the devastating August wildfires.

'Ōiwi Leaders Firmly Rebuke Deep Sea Mining

By Puanani Fernandez-Akamine

The skies were grey and the biting wind gusted and whirled, whipping the half-dozen or so Hae Hawai'i (Hawaiian flags) into an urgent, noisy frenzy. There, undeterred by the cold and intermittent rain, nearly a hundred *kia'i*, dressed in black, gathered on the beach at Sand Island – the weather a manifestation of their solemn purpose.

It was December 14, the day that the *Hidden Gem*, one of the world's largest deep sea mining vessels, was scheduled to enter Hawaiian waters and dock in Honolulu.

The vessel, flying under the Maltese flag, is operated by AllSeas, a Swiss-based offshore contractor specializing in subsea construction and commissioned by The Metals Company, a Canadian mining company. The *Hidden Gem* is believed to have been carrying over 3,000 tons of polymetallic nodules extracted during a deep sea mining trial conducted in waters southeast of Hawai'i.

The rally and press conference was organized by long-time 'āina protector Andre Perez (of the land-back group Ko'ihonua) to raise community awareness about the imminent and environmentally catastrophic danger posed by deep sea mining (DSM).

"The greed of corporations aiming to profit from the devastation of our deep seas is no different from the colonial powers that exploited and devastated native lands everywhere. We will not allow the same in our oceans," said Perez.

The press conference was attended by at least a dozen media outlets. Speakers included Polynesian Voyaging Society CEO and Pwo Navigator Nainoa Thompson, Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee for Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Dan Ahuna, celebrated Lahaina waterman Archie Kalepa, cultural practitioner and educator Kumu Hinalaimoana Wong-Kalu, and Solomon Kaho'ohalahala, a long-time activist and member of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Advisory Council and Native Hawaiian Working Group who has emerged as Hawai'i's leading spokesperson against DSM at the international level.

Just offshore, *Hōkūle'a* sister canoe *Hikianalia* and her crew were anchored in a show of solidarity for the burgeoning 'A'ole Deep Sea Mining movement.

"We know we can kill the ocean. We have the capacity to do that. But we also know [if] the ocean dies, we die. We hurt the oceans, we hurt ourselves. [We are] changing the chemistry of the ocean and, at some point," said Thompson, pausing to gesture towards the sky, "the ocean will change the atmosphere because it's the same thing. It's water."

Of particular interest to international mining companies is the 1.7 million square mile Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ). It is about 500 miles south of Hawai'i Island and stretches about 3,100 miles from the central Pacific Ocean towards Mexico (wider than the continental United States). The CCZ is incredibly deep – 2.5 to 3.5 miles – and an area of tremendous biodiversity with



On December 14, the nonprofit group Ko'ihonua organized a press conference and rally at Sand Island in Honolulu to bring awareness to the dangers of deep sea mining (DSM). DSM poses an imminent existential threat to the Pacific Ocean's ecosystem. The technology DSM uses to extract minerals from the ocean is so utterly destructive that the areas where mining occurs become permanent dead zones. - Photos: Jason Lees



OHA Trustee Dan Ahuna spoke out strongly against deep sea mining, emphasizing that the ocean is our source of life and must not be exploited for profit.

most of its inhabitants as yet unnamed by human beings.

Mining companies covet the potato-sized polymetallic nodules found on, or just below, the seabed of the CCZ. These nodules contain valuable deposits of minerals such as nickel, manganese, copper, zinc and lithium – metals sought for use in batteries and other so-called "green" technologies.

The process for extracting the nodules is violent and destructive. Huge robotic machines crawl over the seabed indiscriminately scraping off the top layer of the ocean floor to excavate the nodules. The nodules, along with sediment and the creatures who live there, are sucked into tubes and pumped up to the surface.

The nodules are extracted from the resulting sludge and then the waste water and debris are dumped back into the ocean forming large toxic sediment clouds that can spread over hundreds of square miles. Data from experimental dredge sites indicate that decades after the seabed is disturbed by mining, the areas remain dead zones.

"The Indigenous people of this planet have been its greatest protectors," Kalepa said. "As Indigenous people who come from the sea, our responsibility is to be the voice for those who cannot speak: the beings that live beneath the sea. If we cannot protect that, who are we?"

Speaking to his concern for his children's futures Kalepa added, "I fear that mining ship coming into Pacific waters, raping and pillaging; taking what is not theirs to take and what is ours to protect."

"As Native Hawaiians, protection of our ocean is not a question because the ocean is our source of life," Ahuna declared. "We have global support to protect our oceans from deep sea mining [and prevent it from] destroying what we need to survive. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs affirms that the ocean is our source of life. It is not just a resource to be exploited by corporations for profit."

Despite broad consensus from scientists that DSM should be limited or banned altogether, the International Seabed Authority (ISA), with kuleana for developing policies for seabed mining, has already awarded 16 exploration contracts to companies hungry to profit from the CCZ's polymetallic nodules. Observers compare it to the gold rush fever of the 19th century.

For several years, Kaho'ohalahala has been involved in discussions on biodiversity at the international level, representing Native Hawaiian interests at the United Nations (UN) and, more recently, at the ISA – an arm of the UN. Soft-spoken and humble, Kaho'ohalahala downplays his work in the international arena. He shared that his inspiration comes from the *Kumulipo*.

"This journey has been led by our kūpuna," he said. "The *Kumulipo* says energy that is created in the deepest part of the ocean will come together as *kāne* and *wahine* to create the first creature, and that is the coral polyp.

May Their Songs Fill our Forests Forever

By Jonee Leinā'ala Kaina Peters

'Akikiki are one of the most critically endangered bird species in the entire world. They are particularly vulnerable to avian malaria and, as of July 2023, it was estimated that only five individual 'akikiki remain in the wild. They are found only on Kaua'i in native forests at the highest elevations and they nest in the crowns of 'ōhi'a trees. Photos: Bret Nainoa Mossman

In the upper elevations of old growth native forests resplendent with 'ōhi'a and koa, mist lightly drifts through the under canopy of 'ama'u and other ferns. There, in the cool silence, it is possible to hear the sweet songs of the native Hawaiian forest birds that still inhabit our forests. To be so favored as to catch a glimpse of a tiny, jewel-colored 'apapane, 'i'iwi or 'amakihi is an experience so sublime that an emotional response is inevitable. Our native forests evolved in isolation over millions of years, becoming one of the world's most unique ecosystems and host to a plethora of native species, including an incredibly diverse population of endemic birds found nowhere else on the planet. "Our native birds are the link, the connections between ma uka and ma kai, providing nutrients for the mala and balance to the ecosystems," said Hanalei Watershed Hui Executive Director Maka'ala Ka'aumoana.



'Elepaio are endemic to Hawai'i Island although they are also found on Kaua'i and O'ahu. They are generally considered vulnerable, although the O'ahu population is considered endangered. They live in native forests above 3,600 feet. 'Elepaio are "flycatchers" meaning they eat insects.

Prior to the arrival of humans in Hawai'i, there were at least 113 endemic bird species – waterbirds, seabirds, migratory birds, and forest birds – living across the pae 'āina. Hawaiian honeycreepers, in particular, are a stunning example of adaptive radiation – the evolution of a species from a common ancestor into a wide variety of types – with at least 59 sub-species known to have once existed. Sadly, Hawai'i has the unfortunate distinction of being an epicenter for extinction of its native species, and has even been dubbed the "Extinction Capital of the World." Not all species extinctions in our pae 'āina occurred after Western contact. Hawai'i's virgin ecosystem was so fragile and unique that 48 of the original 113 endemic bird species were extinct prior to the arrival of Europeans in 1778. After Western contact, however, the rate of extinction of our native species greatly accelerated. At least 32 additional species of native Hawaiian birds have become extinct since 1778 and nearly all remaining native bird species are on the Endangered Species Act list, considered either endangered or highly endangered. Only two native forest bird species are described as having "healthy" populations – the 'apapane and Hawai'i Island 'amakihi. These unique birds evolved for millennia adapting specifi-

cally to Hawai'i's equally unique ecosystems. They thrived without any predators, diseases, or assaults on their habitat and, thus, many species quickly succumbed when confronted with rapid, sometimes violent, changes to their environment. Habitat loss via unchecked development and destruction of the 'āina has been the most egregious change, beginning with the denuding of Hawai'i's native forests for sugar plantations and ranching in the 19th century. Westerners also brought in ungulates (cattle, deer, goats) whose grazing further diminished native Hawaiian forests. They also introduced predators (feral cats, mice, Norway and "roof" rats, and mongoose) that prey on native birds and their eggs. In addition, the introduction of invasive plant species has overwhelmed many of our native forests and supplanted the specific trees, flowers and insects that provide food for our native forest birds and upon which they rely for their survival.



'Ākiapōlā'au are considered endangered. They live only on Hawai'i Island in native forest at elevations ranging from 4,875 to 6,500 feet. There are three small populations of 'Ākiapōlā'au on the island, although their original range likely included all forested areas.

The most recent threat to our remaining native forest birds is a direct result of global climate change. As temperatures have warmed, non-native mosquitos are encroaching into higher elevations than before and breaching the last bastions of native forest birds. These mosquitos carry avian malaria and avian pox - diseases that are decimating some of the remaining populations of native forest birds. In October, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced the de-listing of 21 species from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list due to extinction. Of the 21 species that were removed, eight of these species are endemic Hawaiian birds (see sidebar). "Federal protection came too late to reverse these species' decline, and it's a wake-up call on the importance of conserving imperiled species before it's too late," said USFWS Director Martha Williams in a press release. "The extinction of eight native Hawaiian bird species confirms a somber reality that conservationists have feared for some time," said Hawai'i Audubon Society Vice President Rich Downs. "[It] serves as a poignant reminder of the urgency to intensify our efforts to protect the remaining endangered Hawaiian bird species from a similar fate." Several of the native birds declared extinct were known for their unusual features or their colorful feathers. For exam-

ple, the Kaua'i 'ākialoa had an exceptionally long downward curved bill giving them the ability to forage for insects found under tree bark, lichen and tree moss. Their long bills also gave them the ability to drink the nectar from the center of 'ōhā (lobelia flowers). The Kaua'i 'ō'ō was captured for its brilliant yellow feathers then released. Their feathers were used to craft 'ahu 'ula (cloaks), mahiole (helmets), kāhili, and lei hulu. And Kākāwahie were favored for their vermilion-colored feathers, also used in feather work for ali'i. "Many of the species recently declared extinct I only learned about from images and books. Still, I mourn their loss," reflected Hawai'i Island biologist Rae Okawa. "I also think about what Hawai'i would be like if more native species meet the same fate - no more cries of the 'ua'u, no more prehistoric presence of 'iwa overhead, no more flashes of brilliant scarlet from 'i'iwi giving chase in old growth 'ōhi'a forests. To



'Anianiau are the smallest honeycreeper in existence, weighing around 0.35 ozs. They are found only on Kaua'i in native forests at elevations of about 2,000 feet or higher. Although they primarily subsist on nectars, they occasionally eat insects. Their population is considered stable.

have future generations grow up learning about these species only from memories, like I did, would be a disservice to them and further tragedy for the biodiversity of our islands." Our kūpuna were careful managers of our forests and this extended to the way that feathers were collected. Forest birds were not killed for their feathers. The snaring, plucking of feathers, and releasing of the birds was entrusted to the kia manu, or bird catcher. Kia manu spent months in the upland forests, observing the birds and learning their habits. There were several methods for capturing the tiny birds, but most involved the use of sticky sap placed on tree branches near clusters of flowers to ensnare the birds when they alighted to feed. Kia manu would take no more than three to five feathers from each bird, then wipe their feet clean and release them back into the forest. The last kia manu was the Rev. Henry B. Nālimu from Pāpā'aloa on Hawai'i Island who passed away in 1934 at 99-years-old. The loss of our birds includes the loss of traditions and the mo'olelo associated with them. Fortunately, there is some good news. A naturally occurring bacteria, *Wolbachia*, is able to stop mosquito reproduc-

SEE MAY THEIR SONGS FILL OUR FORESTS ON PAGE 18

Auē Auē Auē

These eight native Hawaiian forest birds were declared extinct in October 2023. Although many had not been spotted for decades, conservationists held out hope that small populations might still exist. A species is considered extinct when "there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died."

'Ākepa (Maui)
Listed 1970; Last confirmed sighting 1988
Painting: John Gerrard Keulemans @1900, birdfinding.info

'Ākialoa (Kaua'i)
Listed 1967; Last confirmed sighting 1960s
Painting: Frederick Frohawk 1899, birdfinding.info

Kākāwahie (Moloka'i)
Listed: 1970; Last confirmed sighting: 1963
Painting: John Gerrard Keulemans @1900, Wikipedia

Kāma'o (Kaua'i)
Listed 1970; Last confirmed sighting 1987
Painting: John Gerrard Keulemans @1900, Wikipedia

Nukupu'u (Kaua'i)
Listed 1970; Last confirmed sighting 1899
Painting: John Gerrard Keulemans @1900, Wikipedia

Nukupu'u (Maui)
Listed 1970; Last confirmed sighting 1996
Painting: John Gerrard Keulemans @1900, Wikipedia

'Ō'ō (Kaua'i)
Listed 1967; Last confirmed sighting 1987
Painting: John Gerrard Keulemans @1900, Wikipedia

Po'ouli (Maui)
Listed 1975; Last confirmed sighting 2004
Photo: Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project

MAY THEIR SONGS FILL OUR FORESTS

Continued from page 17

tion. Scientists have developed a technique called Incompatible Insect Technology (IIT). It is a process wherein male mosquitoes are infected with *Wolbachia* and released into the ecosystem to mate with female mosquitos. Because the males are sterile, the insects are prevented from reproducing.

Conservationists believe that IIT is currently our best chance to save our remaining native Hawaiian forest birds from extinction by slowing or preventing the transmittal of these devastating mosquito-borne diseases. Downs notes that the IIT program is a critical step “to prevent further irreversible losses and secure the future of Hawai'i's avian diversity.”

IIT mosquitos have already been released on Maui and Kaua'i, thanks to an emergency exemption issued in April 2023 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the request of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. There are high hopes that these efforts will prevent extinction of the 'akikiki (the Kaua'i honeycreeper pictured on page 16) whose numbers are so low (only five known birds) that they could become extinct within a year.

Scientists and environmentalists are monitoring IIT release areas to collect data and evaluate impacts and cost effectiveness. As further releases are completed, the technique will give the birds and scientists time to regroup, develop breeding facilities, captive care programs and relocation services.

Despite the promise of IIT, a recent glitch has

been obstruction and a lawsuit (*Hawai'i Unites and Tina Lia v. Board of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai'i, and Department of Land and Natural Resources*) by an organization known as “Hawai'i Unites.”

The group is trying to prevent the release of the IIT mosquitos claiming it will harm the environment, people, and native birds. However, scientists on the front lines of the efforts to save Hawai'i's native birds have thoroughly investigated the technique and are confident that the only risk the infected male mosquitos pose is to female mosquitos.

The ESA was enacted in 1973 and is credited with helping to save hundreds of plant and animal species from extinction – in concert with the efforts of private citizens, Indigenous communities, local and state governments, and conservation and environmental organizations.

It is heartbreaking that for so many of our native bird species, protection came too late. However, today we have the tools, knowledge, and ability to save the native birds that remain. Swift action is needed to ensure that our forests will forever echo with the songs of our native birds to delight and inspire future generations.

“When we lose our native and endemic species to extinction, we are not just witnessing the human-driven end to millions of years of evolution. We are watching the very essence and soul of Hawai'i Nei fade away forever,” said Sierra Club Hawai'i Director Wayne Tanaka.

“We must double down on efforts to protect our remaining native species at risk of permanent loss, including by taking radical stands against the drivers of climate destabilization and its impacts. By saving our native plants and wildlife we also save ourselves – physically, spiritually, culturally.” ■



'Amakihi are currently found on Maui, Moloka'i and Hawai'i Island, from sea level to elevations up to 9,500 feet. Like the 'apapane, they have a healthy population of about 850,000 and are considered extremely adaptable. Their presence at lower elevations suggests they are developing a tolerance to avian malaria. - Photos: Bret Nainoa Mossman



'Apapane have the strongest, healthiest population of all remaining honeycreepers with over a million birds. They prefer high elevation native forests (above 4,000 feet) and live primarily on Kaua'i, Maui, O'ahu and Hawai'i Island, although they have been seen on Moloka'i and Lāna'i. 'Apapane seem to have developed a resistance to mosquito-borne diseases.

DEEP SEA MINING

Continued from page 15



Sol Kaho'ohalahala of Lāna'i has emerged as a leader in the fight against deep sea mining at the international level. He spoke passionately at the press conference flanked by Kumu Hina Wong-Kalu, Andre Perez of Ko'ihonua, and OHA Trustee Dan Ahuna. - Photo: Jason Lees

We bear the responsibility to mālama all things that preceed us, and that takes us all the way back to the eldest of our kūpuna which come from the deep sea.

“Had the earth not been created in a place of balance we would not be here today. We should all understand that if we destroy the ocean we destroy our lives. We cannot allow these kinds of practices.

“Decisions and policies are being made over the horizon – yet those decisions are going to impact us directly. As we speak, the ISA is seeking licenses and permits to begin mining the ocean.”

Kaho'ohalahala noted that one of the many consequences of the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom was Hawai'i's removal from the international community of nations, leaving our people's seat at the table of international policymaking vacant. “I want to be a voice for the seat that represents us at the table,” he said.

Oceans cover 71% of the earth's surface. About 80% of the earth's biodiversity and 94% of the world's wildlife are found in its oceans – yet only 5% of the ocean floor has been explored and charted. The deep seas remain largely unknown, with some 2,000 new species being identified each year.

Believing that deep sea mining poses irrevocable harm to the oceans – and by extension, the planet and humanity itself, more than 800 marine scientists from 44 countries have signed a marine expert statement calling for a pause to deep sea mining until “sufficient and robust scientific information has been obtained to make informed decisions as to whether deep sea mining can be authorized without significant damage to the marine environment and, if so, under what conditions.”

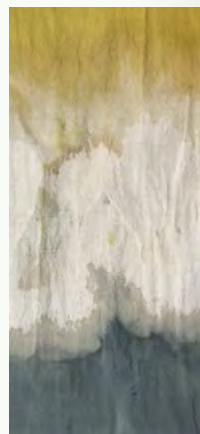
The ISA will be meeting again in March. Kaho'ohalahala is working with a coalition of Indigenous Pacific leaders from dozens of countries in preparation for that meeting – a united voice to speak on behalf of Moananuiākea and her people against DSM.

Referring to the mining companies Wong-Kalu said, “You do not have our permission. You do not have our voice of welcome and aloha to come and take from that which is the fundamental composition of who we are as a people.”

Wong-Kalu continued, “This affects each and every one of us. This does not exclude anyone. Deep sea mining is not something we can allow. This is a call to action. This press conference today calls upon every one of us who live in Hawai'i to be on high alert – not just to what is happening on the sea, but what is happening behind the political and economic doors of power.” ■

Ma‘o Hau Hele – Hawai‘i’s State Flower

By Bobby Camara



Strip of muslin dyed with *H. brackenridgei*. Yellow from flowers cooked in water, while blue-grey resulted from wood ash added to the same dye, causing its pH to change.

Rain-dropped pua. Note the slightly curved staminal column, unlike the straight column seen in most hibiscus. - Photos: B. Camara

An endemic member of the hibiscus family, ma‘o hau hele (*Hibiscus brackenridgei* and *Hibiscus mokuleianus*) – the green traveling hau – only occurs naturally in Hawai‘i Nei. On sprawling shrubs, bright lemon-yellow blooms, up to about 6 inches in diameter, punctuate its surroundings, usually dryish leeward lowlands. Two subspecies survive in the wild, and one, formerly found on Molo-ka‘i, is extinct.

Ma‘o hau hele is endangered, but luckily is easily grown, even

in ma uka rain forests. Those who practice the arts of waio-ho‘olu‘u, dyeing kapa or fabric, have found that flowers of each subspecies produce slightly different shades of blue-green.

Although in 1988, ma‘o hau hele was designated our State Flower, it’s rare to see it amongst city buildings. Perhaps that’s because of its endangered status, along with regulations concerning its propagation and distribution. More common, not endangered, and easily grown endemic white hibiscuses with their red staminal columns are seemingly everywhere! ■



Dark-centered *H. mokuleianus* used to dye kapa. - Photo: L. Raymond

Preserving Culture, Empowering Futures

Kula Kaiapuni dialogue calls for Federal Government funding in Native Hawaiian education

By Elena Farden



In the wake of unprecedented challenges faced by Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities, the Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC) has presented priority recom-

mendations to the U.S. Department of Education in its 2023 annual report, focusing on crucial aspects of education for Native Hawaiian learners in kula kaiapuni communities. These recommendations aim to address the unique challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, historical contexts, and recent catastrophes, offering a pathway to strengthen Native Hawaiian education.

Prioritizing Hawaiian Language-Medium Instruction and Culture-Based Education Programs

The first and foremost recommendation underscores the urgency of prioritizing Hawaiian language-medium instruction and culture-based education programs. With the heightened vulnerability of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities to emerging COVID variants in 2023, stabilizing a learning continuum and preserving cultural practices becomes paramount. The devastating impact of the Aug. 8, 2023, Maui wildfires further highlights the need for targeted efforts to bridge learning gaps and address trauma-informed approaches to student wellbeing.

Recognizing the historical context of population decimation and cultural loss due to American imperialism, the NHEC emphasizes the importance of addressing mistrust and vaccination hesitancy among NHPIs. Culture-based programs, such as the Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area, serve as models for integrating cultural practices with public health initiatives, offering a holistic approach to navigating the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Strengthening Connection to ‘Āina, Culture, and Language

Native Hawaiians’ deep ties to ‘āina, culture, and language have a profound impact on their social and cultural wellbeing. The pandemic has un-

derscored the significance of these connections, as reflected in community consultations. Participants stressed the need for cultural programming, values, learning ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and ‘āina work for success, signaling a shift in perspective brought about by the pandemic.

Exploring Community-Driven Definitions of Student Achievement

The examination of the achievement gap reveals the influence of colonialism and the inadequacy of English-based standardized tests for assessing the capabilities of Native Hawaiian learners. The NHEC recommends a shift from Western achievement gap measurement and standards to community-driven definitions of student achievement. Emphasis is placed on prioritizing kula-specific standards aligned with the unique context, curriculum, and approach of Native Hawaiian education. Community feedback highlights the need for clarity regarding assessment measures and standards, particularly in closing achievement gaps.

Focusing on Implementation and Mastery of Skills

To maximize the impact of Native Hawaiian education, the NHEC advocates prioritizing the initial stages of Hawaiian language-medium instruction and culture-based education. Honing proficiency in these areas before considering broader outcomes ensures a strong foundation for achieving broader educational objectives. This approach aligns with community feedback, emphasizing the importance of effective implementation and mastery of skills.

In conclusion, the priority recommendations presented by the Native Hawaiian Education Council provide a comprehensive framework for addressing the unique challenges faced by Native Hawaiian learners. By focusing on language, culture, community-driven definitions of achievement, and skill mastery, these recommendations pave the way for a resilient and culturally responsive education system that empowers Native Hawaiian students to thrive in the face of adversity.

NHEC’s annual report will be made digitally available via our website at nhec.org in Spring 2024. ■

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

Ho'okipa Hawai'i is Next Month!



By Mālia Sanders

As the anticipation builds, we are thrilled to share that Ho'okipa Hawai'i Weekend is just a month away. The event will take place Feb. 3-4, 2024, at the Royal Hawaiian Center. This eagerly awaited family-friendly event is now beginning to take vibrant shape as we carefully curate our parter and participants.

Dedicated to the profound inclusion of Hawaiian culture and knowledge systems, Ho'okipa Weekend is not merely an event – it's a celebration that weaves the essence of Hawaiian traditions through the talents of cultural practitioners, cultural demonstrations, and a diverse array of Native Hawaiian vendors. Our mission is to invite both the local community and visitors, from ma uka to ma kai, into a deeper understanding and appreciation of Native Hawaiian culture.

Our Kuhikuhi Marketplace is shaping up as we diligently review and curate the incredible Native Hawaiian small business participants. Collaborating with fellow event creators, we are assembling a market that is a shopper's heaven all while supporting our community desires for a circular economy and truly buying local.

Stay tuned as we also host some of Maui's best makers and sellers who will be present all weekend long.

On Saturday, prepare to be dazzled by an extraordinary fashion show featuring the creations of Nake'u Awai Designs. As Hawai'i's first Native Hawaiian fashion designer, Awai's showcase is not just about clothing – it's a visual celebration of our island's unique fashion identity.

From mele and hula to skillful showcases of traditional arts and enriching panel discussions, we will share the incredible talent of the Native Hawaiian community. Stay tuned for more information regarding available Kama'aina Weekend hotel packages that we are also working on in collaboration with 'Alohilani Resort and other hotel partners.

If you're eager for more information on how to become a part of this event, to partner with NaHHA, or if you simply want to know more, please email events@nahha.com or head over to our website www.nahha.com. ■

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



Ho'okipa Weekend includes music, a marketplace featuring Native Hawaiian vendors, and cultural demonstrations by cultural practitioners – such as ku'i 'ai (poi pounding). - Photo: 'O'iwi TV

25 Pastoral Lots Awarded in Kahikinui, Maui



By Diamond Badajos

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) awarded 25 pastoral lots on December 2, as part of the Department's Kuleana Program.

Established in 1999, the Kuleana Program was created through beneficiary consultation and is the department's direct response to fulfilling the community's needs and desire to be stewards of the land.

"It is a challenging program, but we do have people on our waitlist that are committed and will take on that challenge," said Hawaiian Homes Commission Chairperson Kali Watson. "The department will be more actively involved, not only providing financing but assistance on the house construction so it's an exciting time."

At the program's inception, 75 lots were awarded. December's awards are the first in more than two decades.

The Kuleana Program provides an alternative homesteading option for DHHL beneficiaries interested in living

on unimproved Hawaiian Home Lands. Furthermore, the program addresses the department's need to quickly provide homesteads to a growing list of beneficiaries, many of whom lack sufficient funding to acquire a traditional residential lease.

"I'm glad to become a member of that great community [Kahikinui]," said DHHL beneficiary Harold Rodrigues. "Being in a homestead is a hardship but you persevere, as whoever is there now has persevered and built that community up to what it is now."

Located on the leeward side of Haleakalā, Kahikinui encompasses 22,860 acres. The area is zoned for 101 lots ranging in size from 10 to 16 acres.

As part of the Kuleana Program, lessees are required to maintain the roadways, their properties, the surrounding landscape, and historical features.

The department's pastoral leases provide lands for ranching and gives beneficiaries the opportunity to build a home. DHHL awards pastoral lots on Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i, Maui and Molo-ka'i. Pastoral lots vary in size. ■

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



(L-R) Pono Asano (executive assistant to Mayor Richard Bissen), Harold Rodrigues, Keali'i Reichel, Vania Kanamu (Ka 'Ohana o Kahikinui secretary) and Chair Kali Watson (Hawaiian Homes Commission). - Courtesy Photo

Expanding on Our Success

Hiring Homesteaders and Native Hawaiians Across the State



By KipuKai Kualii'i

Thanks to a generous grant from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homeland Association's (SCHHA) Homestead Community Development Corporation (HCDC) is rolling out a statewide Residential Employment Living Improvement (RELI) project designed to provide experiential employment opportunities for nearly 100 Native Hawaiians across the state.

This new project is based on our successful 2020 pilot project that involved 40 participants and deployed over \$300,000 into Native Hawaiian households. We are building on this success to further benefit the lāhui.

Individual participants across the state will be able to select a grassroots community organization they want to work for and commit to up to 120 days of service.

The organization will provide training of the participant in exchange for reimbursement of the individual's pay, fringe benefits, and payroll fees – a financially risk-free opportunity for the organization, and a living wage plus experiential employment opportunity for the participant. RELI gives both parties the chance to “try each other out” before committing long-term.

The RELI project was designed to address out-migration of Native Hawaiians and the need to provide our people with fulfilling careers. Our target group is 18- to 35-year-olds seeking employment aligned with Hawaiian values and community service. We hope to inspire young Hawaiians to reconsider moving away by creating access to fulfilling employment opportunities in our own grassroots community organizations.

Through RELI we are advancing OHA's long-term community econom-

ic stability goal of “Native Hawaiians experiencing rewarding work serving in Native Hawaiian organizations” by creating opportunities for individuals seeking low-risk ways to explore new career paths that directly serve our lāhui.

We are also providing direct, hands-on, front-line experiences without putting participants' existing employment at risk and, in the case of unemployed or underemployed participants, by providing opportunities to explore new and meaningful careers across our pae āina. We are positioned to help participants identify opportunities that may lead to part-time or full-time employment in numerous fields.

RELI participants will have access to informational sessions about major Native Hawaiian organizations such as OHA, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), ali'i trusts, Hawaiian Civic Clubs and Hawaiian Homestead Associations to better understand the work of Native Hawaiian-serving organizations. And, they will have access to personal training sessions on both financial wellbeing and housing finance.

SCHHA is calling on all Homestead Beneficiary Associations across the state to consider this opportunity to support your homestead projects and build capacity in your associations.

Additionally, we're calling on individuals with the skills and time to work with the leadership of your respective homestead associations to formulate workplans. For more information contact us at info@hawaiianhomesteads.org. ■

A longtime advocate for Hawaiian Home Lands trust beneficiaries and lands, KipuKai Kualii'i 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'i 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'i moved home in 2001 and now lives in Anahola, Kaua'i where he serves as the Anahola Hawaiian Homestead Association (AHHA) president.

Take a Break From Your Pilikia



By Jodi Leslie Matsuo, DrPH

Pilikia is a part of everyday life. Problems drive our decisions and general outlook on life. This can be helpful to a degree, as it can cause us to reflect and make choices with thoughtfulness. However, problems can occupy our thoughts to the point of being unhelpful, evidenced by endless worry, anxiety, and stress.

Take a break from your pilikia! This almost sounds too good and too simple to be possible, but it isn't. This does not mean being in denial about your problems or pretending that there is nothing wrong. It means choosing to not be weighed down by them.

This can be done by taking a step back and looking at your situation from a different perspective. With a fresh outlook and time, what used seem insurmountable will seem doable.

With a change in perspective comes a change in mindset. A “mindset” refers to the beliefs, attitudes and thoughts that shape our perceptions and behaviors. It can influence how we view ourselves, the challenges we face, and our responses to various situations. It also impacts our approach to learning, success, and failure.

There are two main types of mindsets: a fixed mindset and a growth mindset.

People with a fixed mindset believe that they are born with a specific amount of talent or intelligence, and that it cannot be changed. They may see effort as fruitless and so avoid challenges.

On the other hand, people with a growth mindset believe their abilities are developed through hard work and dedication. Challenges are viewed as opportunities for growth that can become learning experiences.

For example, if a person believes that

their health is a matter of “fate” they may be unmotivated to make changes – versus a person who believes that their health is within their control and seeks opportunities to learn and to make positive choices.

Creating a mind shift is essential to breaking out of a fixed mode of thinking, a profound change in the way one thinks or views a situation. Our brains are neuroplastic, meaning they can change and form new connections throughout our lives. These neural pathways in our brains effect our thought processes – which, in turn, ultimately effect our decisions and actions in life.

Challenging ourselves with new experiences and skills, and confronting our pilikia head-on, will help form new neural pathways. And the more that new skills are practiced, the stronger these brain connections become.

The first step to creating a mind shift is to embrace challenges.

For example, if you don't like exercising, start by simply walking around your neighborhood or at the park. And view setbacks as learning opportunities – if you slack off on your diet, get right back “on the surfboard” and include healthier foods in your meals.

It's also important to replace fixed mindset language, with positive language. Instead of thinking, “I'll always have diabetes; it's in my genes,” instead ask yourself, “What can I do to reverse my diabetes?”

Surround yourself with growth mindset friends, who encourage personal development and seek to learn and try new things. Every huaka'i (journey) starts with the first step. ■

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



GET REGISTERED TODAY!

For more information please visit
www.oha.org/registry

Empowering Hawaiians, Strengthening Hawai'i



'Oli'oli Hape Nūia



Na Kalani Akana, Ph.D.

Eia kekahi leka o lalo nei i pa'i 'ia ma *Ka Nupepa Ka Oiaio* (28 Dek., 1894) na kekahi kanaka ma ka inoa 'o A. K. Mika, kekahi kupa no Kōloa, Kaua'i. 'O kēia kāne ho'i 'o 'Akoni K. (Kamuela, Samuel) Mika, ke kumu hula i nīnauele a ho'opa'a leo 'ia e Helen Roberts ma ko Mika hale i Keaukaha, Hilo.



Akoni Mika me Mary Kekuwa Ahiena Kenao (Fujii ma hope), ka makuahine o Edith Kanaka'ole (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, Feb 23, 1934) ma Kūlanakauhale 'o Lālanī, Waikīkī. - Courtesy Photo

Ma ka makahiki 1934, ua hō'ea 'o ia i Honolulu no ka ho'opa'a 'ana i ki'i 'oni'oni ma ke Kūlanakauhale 'o Lālanī, kāhi kau-lana ma Waikīkī a koko ke i ka hale pule Katolika 'o Kana 'Aukakina Ma Ke Kai. Ua ho'okumu 'ia 'o Lālanī e George Mossman no ka hō'ike 'ana i mo'omeheu Hawai'i i nā malihini. 'O ka hula kala'au 'o *A ka Lae o Ko'oko'olau* ka hula ā Akoni Mika i hula ai ma ke ki'i 'oni'oni me kekahi mau 'ano hula 'ē a'e. He 68 ona makahiki i kēlā manawa.

Ma kāna leka, ua aloha 'o Mika i nā luna ho'oponopono o *Ka Nupepa Ka Oiaio*. Ho'okahi 'o lāua 'o John E. Bush. Ua kama'aina 'o Akoni Mika iā ia no ka mea ua noho 'o Bush i kia'aina o ka mokupuni 'o Kaua'i mai ka makahiki 1877 a i ka 1880

i ka manawa a Mika e kamali'i ana ma Kōloa. I ka manawa a Bush i noho ai i kuhina no ke Ke'ena Kūloko o ke Aupuni Hawai'i, ua paipai 'o ia iā Kalākaua e kono i nā po'e Pūkīkī e komone'e mai e hana ma nā 'aina mahi kō.

I ka manawa ma hope o ka ho'okāhuli 'ia 'ana o ke aupuni noho ali'i a Lili'uokalani e nā mākaia kipi, ua ho'opa'ahao 'ia 'o Bush ma ke "kākela haole" ma Iwilei me Kalaniana'ole, Nāwahī, me kekahi mau aloha 'aina 'ē a'e. Ma hope o kēlā ua emi a 'ane pau kona 'i'ini me kona makemake i ke kālai'aina.

Eia kā Mika leka me ka ho'okomo nō na'e i ke kahakō me ka 'okina no ko kēia au po'e. Ua mālama 'ia ho'i ka hua ma'aka ma kekahi mau hua 'ōlelo a me ka hua 'ōlelo kahiko 'o 'li'i no ali'i: "Aloha 'Aina o Kōloa. Ke hō'ike aku nei nā maka'āinana o ka 'Āpana o Kōloa, i ko lākou mahalo nui loa iā 'olua e nā alaka'i wiwo'ole o ka Lāhui; no ko 'olua pepehi 'ē 'ana i ka Hanohano i ho'oili mai iā 'olua ma ke 'ano 'epa e nā 'enemi o ke 'Li'i aloha lāhui, a aloha 'aina.

"E hō'ike ana i ke ao ho-lo'oko'a i ko 'olua ho'oikaika nui 'ana e pale a e kū'ē aku i nā hana pono 'ole, e ke'ake'a ana a e kā'ili maoli ana i ke kuleana 'oiā'i'o o ka noho 'li'i a me ka noho maluhia 'ana me ka hau'oli o ka lāhui ma lalo o kona malu.

"A e like me kona hiki mua 'ana mai pēlā nō nā lani e mālama mai ai iā 'olua a nāna nō ho'i e ho'opakele a'e iā 'olua mai nā ho'opōpilikia wale 'ia mai e nā 'enemi o ka malu ulu o lele [Lele].

Me ka hau'oli Karisimaka a me ka 'Oli'oli Hape Nūia mākou a pau e pahola aku nei iā 'olua.

"A.K. Mika, Kōloa Kaua'i, Dec. 22. '94"
Nupepa ka Oiaio, Dec. 28, 1894 ■

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

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

A 76-Year Legacy of Serving Hawaiian Food



By Andrew Rosen

Longevity in the restaurant industry is no easy feat. It requires a deep understanding of customer desires, dedication to quality,

and an unwavering commitment to a brand's values.

For Highway Inn, a family-owned Hawaiian food institution that has been delighting patrons for an amazing 76 years, the formula for success has been deeply rooted in these principles.

We sat down with Monica Toguchi Ryan, the third-generation owner of Highway Inn, to learn about the remarkable journey of this iconic Hawaiian restaurant.

Highway Inn's Origins

Ryan, whose grandparents, Seiichi and Nancy Toguchi, founded Highway Inn, recounts a story about humble beginnings and a strong passion for Hawaiian cuisine.

"Grandpa Toguchi's culinary journey started at age 14 when he worked as a dishwasher at the old City Café. It was there that he not only honed his cooking skills but met my grandmother."

The restaurant's opening in September 1947 on Farrington Highway marked their introduction of Hawaiian food to the dining scene – a rarity at the time.

"Back then, Hawaiian food wasn't something you found in restaurants," Ryan explained. "In addition to Hawaiian favorites, Grandpa Toguchi added American diner-style comfort foods to the menu, and these cherished recipes have remained a staple ever since."

The Secret to Multigenerational Success

Maintaining a family business for three generations is a remarkable achievement. When asked about their secret, Ryan reflects on her family's ethos: "Our grandparents believed in putting their hearts into each of their homemade Hawaiian dishes. I think

the secret is keeping that personal touch and remembering the pride my grandparents had in serving good food to their community."

Despite their expansion to three locations, a thriving catering business, and nationwide food shipping, Highway Inn remains committed to preserving their culinary heritage. Their dedication to maintaining the integrity of their recipes and flavors is a testament to their unwavering pursuit of excellence.

A Heartfelt Commitment to the Community

Their business also invests in the community. "This year, like so many others, we were horrified by the damage caused by the Maui wildfires. We contributed to the relief efforts by donating all the sales from our Bishop Museum Café booth at the Maui Ola concert – a total of \$8,600," she said.

Highway Inn also supports initiatives related to cultural and academic education, sustainability, food security, and the wellbeing of young adults.

Looking to the Future

In October, Highway Inn began opening earlier. Now you can start your day with haupia pancakes or enjoy a loco moco anytime! They also offer pupu and drink specials from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays. And if you have 'ohana on the continent who are homesick for local food, they ship food to all 50 states.

Highway Inn's remarkable journey is a testament to their commitment to quality, tradition and community. A shining example of how a positive brand experience can lead to enduring success in the ever-changing landscape of the restaurant industry. ■

For more information about the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, email 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.

E NHLC...

I missed some mortgage payments for my DHHL homestead and got a letter saying my lease might be canceled. Can DHHL cancel my lease? Is there anything I can do to prevent losing my homestead?



By Henderson Huihui, NHLC Staff Attorney

If you miss mortgage payments, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands ("DHHL") can seek to cancel your lease. To save the lease, you will need to make those payments or work out a plan with your bank and DHHL to get the account into good standing. If you have experienced hardship preventing you from making the payments, contact your bank to explain and ask whether they can agree to a payment plan that meets your financial means at this time or for a forbearance allowing you more time to make payments. Financial counseling, as well as mortgage assistance programs, may be helpful as well.

While you make your best efforts to address the mortgage payments, you should also promptly attend to any notices from DHHL regarding the cancellation process, participate in the process, and obtain legal representation to help.

If DHHL seeks to cancel a lease, DHHL must follow a process laid out by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act ("HHCA") and DHHL's administrative rules. Lessees must be provided with notice of the process, and they can participate in that process too. By participating, lessees can put forward all legal arguments they have for saving the lease, and during that time, lessees may be able to successfully resolve the issue, settle with DHHL, and avoid lease cancellation.

Before any formal proceedings have begun, DHHL should inform lessees that they believe the lease has been violated, the nature of the violation, and how to respond. This initial notice may have a deadline to fix the violation and avoid lease cancellation. If the violation is not fixed by the deadline, DHHL will ask the Hawaiian Homes Commission ("Commission") to hold a contested case hearing ("CCH") process to cancel the lease. If the Commission approves the request, a hearing will be scheduled, usually presided over by a hearing officer. The location will be on the lessee's island, and it could be held remotely.

Importantly, DHHL must provide the lessee with a Notice of Hearing at least 15 days before the

hearing date. Notice of the hearing must be sent to the lessee by certified mail. The notice must list the purpose, date, time, and place of the hearing. If proper notice is not timely provided, this is an important legal issue that lessees should consult with an attorney about.

When the hearing occurs, DHHL, then the lessee, can submit evidence to the hearing officer regarding the issues DHHL puts forward as reasons for lease cancellation. This process can be hours or require multiple days depending on the complexity of issues and the amount of evidence provided. Lessees can represent themselves, but obtaining legal representation is a good idea to best navigate the process, make the strongest legal arguments, and when possible, negotiate a successful settlement.

After the hearing, if a hearing officer was appointed, a recommended decision will be given to the Commission to review, and the Commission will hold a final hearing on whether to adopt the hearing officer's recommended decision. When the Commission makes its final decision, they must provide it to the lessee in writing. The decision is usually sent by mail.

Lessees have 30 days after the Commission mails the decision (not when the lessee receives the decision) to appeal the decision. If you have grounds for an appeal and appeal in a timely manner, this can offer another chance for a favorable decision and more time to seek a successful settlement with DHHL. If you miss the appeal deadline, however, there might not be a legal pathway to continue objecting to the cancellation.

Ultimately, when a lease is at risk due to non-payment of a mortgage, keeping the lease will require a financial solution. But rightly, there is a legal process before a lease can be canceled, and that process helps ensure that the lessee's rights are respected. While working on your financial plan, participate in the legal process and get legal help to fight for your lease. ■

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

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

He Kalakupua i ka Pō

By Lisa Kapono Mason



'Alalā are some of the most intelligent birds in the world and use tools, like carefully selected sticks, to solve complex food puzzles. - Photos: Ann Tanimoto Johnson

'Alalā (*Corvus hawaiiensis*), the Hawaiian crow, embodies immense cultural and biological significance in Hawai'i. Not only are 'alalā revered as 'aumakua, but to some they are also associated with mystical practices.

Their glossy black plumage and haunting calls have led to their association with the mysterious and enigmatic aspects of the night. The name also refers to a unique chanting style that resonates with a powerful and loud voice, reflecting the bird's distinctive vocal abilities.

Biologically, the 'alalā is a critically endangered species with just under 120 individuals currently in human care. Habitat loss, invasive spe-

cies, and disease have driven it to the brink of extinction. However, conservationists are working diligently to reverse this trend.

The much-anticipated 2024 release of a new cohort of 'alalā on Maui represents a ray of hope for this remarkable species. By preserving native forests and addressing the various challenges they face, we can work toward ensuring the survival of both the bird, and its cultural legacy, for future generations. ■

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



A pair of 'alalā co-sitting in an 'ōhi'a tree.

**Waimea Valley
Kama'aina
FREE Admission
Thursdays
from 12:00 3:00 p.m.**

*January 4, 11, 18, & 25
Waimea, O'ahu*

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

38th Annual Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational

*December 14 - March 12, 2024,
Waimea, O'ahu*

Tribute to the legendary Eddie Aikau at Waimea Bay. The contest will run if wave face heights consistently reach 40-feet during the waiting period.
www.TheEddieAikau.com

Ko Olina Artfest

January 3, 10, 17 & 24, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Kapolei, O'ahu

Enjoy Hawaiian music and displays by local artisans for purchase throughout the duration of the event. At Ko Olina beach lagoon #3. www.facebook.com/HAAHawaii

Da Hui Backdoor Shootout

*January 4 - 16, Times TBD,
Hale'iwa, O'ahu*

Enjoy bodyboarding, longboarding, stand-up paddleboarding and shortboard action and watch pro surfers try to capture the day's best waves at 'Ehukai Beach Park - all in honor of Duke Kahanamoku. www.dahui.com

He Nāwahī Hoi Ko Hawai'i

January 13, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Honolulu, O'ahu

A lecture by Dr. Ron Williams, Jr., about one of Hawai'i's most important historical figures, renowned patriot Joseph Nāwahī, at the Hawai'i State Library (478 S. King St.) first floor reading room. www.librarieshawaii.org/events

Royal Hawaiian Band Performances

January 5, 12, 19 & 26, Noon - 1:00 p.m., Honolulu, O'ahu

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

Premiere of Island Life Live

January 8, 4:00 p.m., Broadcast on KITV4, KIKU and streaming

Join radio and TV personalities Davey D., Lina Girl and Mele Apana for a new show called *Island Life Live*.

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade

January 15, 2024, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m., Honolulu, O'ahu

Start at Ala Moana Beach Park, through Waikiki on Kalākaua Ave., ending at Kapi'olani Park. www.mlk-hawaii.com

Go Farm Open House

January 12, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., Hilo, Hawai'i

Are you interested in the Go-Farm program and wonder if this is a good fit for you? Take a short tour of the site, talk story with farm coaches, and learn more about the program. www.gofarmhawaii.org

Ho'ūlu Lahaina Unity Gathering

January 20, 8:00 a.m., Lahaina, Maui

Lele Aloha is inviting the Lahaina community to a unity gathering. A Unity Walk will begin at the bypass above Keawe Street and conclude at Launiupoko Beach with a family-friendly program and lunch. Register at www.lelealoha.org.

Lā 'Ohana Day

January 21, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Waimea, O'ahu

The third Sunday of the month is Family Day at Waimea Valley with 50% off general admission for kama'aina and military families. Learn Hawaiian history, culture, explore the botanical gardens, and swim under the waterfall. www.waimeavalley.net ■

Kalima Lawsuit Settlement Distributions

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

Settlement checks have now been mailed to approximately 1,300 living Class Members.

Checks for amounts of \$25,000 or more will require the signature of someone 18-years-old or older. If you receive your mail at a P.O. Box, please contact your P.O. Box manager to determine if special arrangements are necessary to provide the signature.

A small number of checks have been returned as undeliverable. If you are a Class Member and have not received your check, please contact the Claims Administrator using the contact information below.

If you are a Class Member or possible heir of a deceased Class Member and your address has changed recently, please update it by contacting the Claims Administrator or using the www.kalima-lawsuit.com website to fill out an updated Information Form.

In the next few weeks, implementation of the "Probate Plan" for Deceased Class Members will begin. Probate Special Master Emily Kawashima and Probate Special Counsel Scott Suzuki will be seeking Probate Court approval to direct payments to those entitled to the settlement funds of Deceased Class Members. This process is expected to take about two years to complete. Estates of Deceased Class Members with the most accurate and complete information about possible heirs will be processed first. Those with incomplete information will take longer.

A notice about the Probate Plan was mailed out by the Claims Administrator on Dec. 4, 2023, and contains detailed information about how the Probate Plan will work. Relatives of Deceased Class Members who have not already done so should submit a Deceased Class Member Information Form and Family Information Form. Both can be found at the Kalima website www.kalima-lawsuit.com. It is critical that these forms be completed and submitted to the Claims Administrator to facilitate prompt distributions.

Family members can find more information about how Deceased Class Members' claims will be handled on www.kalima-lawsuit.com.

Please contact the Claims Administrator at info@kalima-lawsuit.com or at 1-808-650-5551 or 1-833-639-1308 (Toll-Free) if you have questions. If you are only available at limited times, please include that information in your message. Mahalo! ■



'Onipa'a Peace March 2024

January 17, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Honolulu, O'ahu

Observing 131 years since the Illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893.

March from Mauna'ala Royal Mausoleum to 'Iolani Palace. Entertainment, speeches and educational booths. Bring your water flask. www.kalahuihawaii.net/onipaa



NOW HIRING

Cultural, Retail, Conservation, and Botanical Positions Available

Become Part of Our 'Ohana!

Waimea Valley is excited to welcome full-time team members who can help us share and preserve the vibrant and living Hawaiian culture with professionalism and aloha. There are multiple open positions available, and we offer excellent benefits. We are an equal opportunity employer and encourage you to apply.



Apply Now or Learn More at
waimeavalley.net/jobs

OHA Honors Ke Ali'i Pauahi



Each year, on December 19, the staff and students of Kamehameha Schools (KS) celebrate the birthday of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the schools' founder. Celebrations are held at all KS campuses and at Mauna 'Ala, the Royal Mausoleum in Honolulu where ho'okupu are offered at her tomb. Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) leaders joined KS leaders and other dignitaries at Mauna 'Ala to honor the Hawaiian princess whose generosity has changed the lives of tens of thousands of 'Ōiwi and their 'ohana. Representing OHA and presenting a ho'okupu at this year's Founder's Day celebration at Mauna 'Ala were (l-r): Trustees Brickwood Galuteria, Keli'i Akina, Luana Alapa, CEO Stacy Ferreira, and Trustee Keoni Souza. Trustees Alapa, Akina, Galuteria and Souza are all Kamehameha alumni. - Photo: Jason Lees

Defueling at Red Hill Almost Complete

U.S. Army INDOPACOM Brig. Gen. Lance A. Okamura of the Joint Task Force-Red Hill reported that the first phase of gravity defueling – draining the jet fuel storage tanks at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (Kapūkakī) down to the 7-foot level – was completed on November 17.

The next phase of gravity defueling – removing the remaining fuel from the tanks (called flowable tank bottoms) began on December 5 and was completed on December 7. The final phase of gravity defueling, “unpacking” (removing the fuel from the pipelines) began on December 12 and was finished by December 15.

With gravity defueling complete, Okamura, who is also Native Hawaiian, said that 99.9% of the fuel at Kapūkakī has been removed.

There is still residual fuel that cannot be drained via gravity because it has pooled in low point drains, bends or sags in the pipe-

lines. Based on detailed surveys and engineering analysis the Army estimates that 64,000 gallons of fuel still remains.

Work to clear the rest of the fuel resumes after the holidays. During the planned pause for the holidays, Okamura said that all risk mitigation controls implemented to prevent additional leaks remained in place during the holiday break, including active monitoring of the entire facility 24/7 – roving security and fire watch personnel as well as camera systems.

Gravity defueling of Kapūkakī was completed 30 days ahead of schedule.

CRI Pursues Navy Accountability in Public Meetings

As part of the enforcement action against the U.S. Navy after the 2021 jet fuel leak at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility polluted the island's primary aquifer and poisoned some 93,000 people, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required the Navy to meet reg-

ularly with a Community Representation Initiative (CRI). The members of the CRI were elected this past September and began meeting in October with officials from the Joint Task Force on Defueling, the Navy, Defense Logistics Agency, and the EPA.

At their December 12 meeting at Office of Hawaiian Affairs' Lili'u Hall in Honolulu, the exchange grew heated as CRI members and the public took Navy officials to task over continuing reports of health problems connected to the Navy waterlines, and the difficulty in securing information about the pollutants in the water supply.

In addition to jet fuel, the aquifer may be contaminated with other highly toxic chemicals added to the fuel, such as EDB (ethylene dibromide), and PFAs (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). PFAs are referred to as “forever chemicals” because they do not break down in the environment or in our bodies. According to CRI representatives, PFAs discovered in the aquifer in November had a chemical composition different from

the PFAs-concentrates spilled at Red Hill in 2019 and 2022.

CRI meetings are open to the public. To encourage participation, meetings are in the evening, include food and a play area for keiki. For more info go to: <https://redhillcri.my.canva.site/>.

Hawai'i DOH Secures \$75M for Clean Water

The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) partnered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to secure up to \$75 million for use by the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS). A potential use for this funding is remediation of BWS' Hālawā Shaft.

After the November 2021 jet fuel spill at the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, BWS closed the Hālawā Shaft out of an abundance of caution. If testing shows water from the Hālawā

Shaft is unsafe, the funds can be used for a treatment system that will enable BWS to bring the Hālawā Shaft back into service.

“The BWS' decision to raise water rates by about 50% may create a hardship for many residents. It's important for the BWS to take advantage of available federal funding to reduce the costs it passes on to O'ahu residents,” said Gov. Josh Green.

“These funds provide an opportunity to increase the supply of safe drinking water in the near term and potentially avoid the need to construct a new replacement well,” said State Health Director Dr. Kenneth Fink. Similar treatment systems have already been installed in Mililani and at the 'Ewa Shaft treatment facilities.

DOH identified potential funding through the emerging

SEE NEWS BRIEFS ON PAGE 26

ASUH Hosts Panel Discussion on the 1993 Apology Resolution



On November 19, in honor of Lā Kū'oko'a, Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Hawai'i Island Trustee Mililani Trask joined other distinguished panelists in a discussion on the Apology Resolution, signed by then-President Bill Clinton in 1993. The panel discussion was hosted by the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) at UH Mānoa. Pictured here (l-r): Moderator and ASUH President Kainoa Azama, Kahu Kaleo Patterson, The Nation of Hawai'i Vice President Brandon Maka'awa'awa, Honolulu City Councilwoman Esther Kia'aina, Trustee Mililani Trask, Event Coordinator ASUH Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee Chair Kainalu James-Forre and Vice Chair Mariko Quinn. - Photo: Kahelelani Keawekāne

NEWS BRIEFS

Continued from page 25

contaminants provision in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). A project is eligible for this funding if it addresses any contaminant that does not currently have a set federal minimum contaminant level (MCL) and appears on any of the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List (CCL).

Surfer Jones Wong Wins the 2023 Pipe Masters

‘Ōiwi Surfer Moanalani Jones Wong took the win for the women’s competition at the 2023 Vans Pipe Masters on December 12. She is now a two-time Pipe Master. Dubbed the “Queen of the Pipeline” by *Surfer* magazine, Jones Wong’s performance in the competition was described as “unstoppable.”

Pipeline specialist Nathan Fletcher was quoted by *Surfer* magazine saying that Jones Wong “took it to Pipeline like no other female took it to Pipeline. What we saw in the water has never been done.”

In an Instagram post Jones Wong said, “I woke up think-



2023 Pipe Masters women’s champion Moana Jones Wong and men’s second place winner Makana Pang. Jones Wong’s bronze trophy (foreground) was created by artist Solomon Enos. - Photo: Courtesy of Moana Jones Wong via Instagram

ing I didn’t even have a chance to make the finals. All I wanted was to catch a couple waves at my favorite place in the world. She gave me more than a couple waves. She gave me a Pipe Masters title. Pipeline, I never wanna stop dancing with you.”

The Pipe Masters is one of the world’s most prestigious surf contests. Waves at the Banzai Pipeline (off ‘Ehukai Beach in Pūpūkea on O’ahu’s north shore) are some of the most challenging in the world.

‘Ōiwi Olympic gold medalist Carissa Moore took third place in the women’s competition. Hawai’i surfer John John Florence took the men’s trophy.

Artist Enos Tapped to Create Pipe Masters’ Trophies

Renowned ‘Ōiwi artist Solomon Enos was commissioned to create the trophies for the 2023 Vans Pipe Masters surf competition (see related story).

Enos sculpted his design for the trophies from recycled materials in his studio, then wrapped them in layers of epoxy clay, then chiseled and carved the trophy into its final form before sending it to Vans’ headquarters in California where the trophies were cast in bronze.

In an Instagram post, Enos explains the design and its inspi-

ration: “This ki’i is an expression of Nāmakaokaha’i, an Akua Wahine of the ocean, on her quest to challenge her sister and rival, Pele, an Akua Wahine we associate with volcanoes. Where and when their forces meet, chilly seawater and molten rock clash in a timeless battle.

“With this trophy I am meditating on the form that the ocean takes, instigated by shorelines, heaving up and tumbling over a body of water made literal in this iteration.”

Enos grew up near Mākaha Beach on O’ahu and drew from his personal experiences in the ocean. He said that the trophies’ cyclical motif is a slight nod to a shark’s anatomy “with an echo of gills and a dorsal fin on her back,” referring to the Pele clan’s ability to take shark forms.

“It is an honor that I am able to be a conduit for this narrative as those ancient and ancestral forces push and pull and tug upon me, expressed in the timelessness I aspire to capture in everything I make,” he said.

Empowering Kānaka-Owned Businesses

Purple Mai’a’s Mālama Design Studio opened applications for its next cohort on Dec. 4, 2023, and will be accepting applications through Feb. 1, 2024. This innovative nine-month incubator aims to equip Native Hawaiian-owned businesses with tools and strategies to expand their presence across the pae ‘āina and into new markets, addressing critical issues of inequality.

Their team of Kānaka creators will provide essential services in graphic design, website support, branding, and social media management while training our participants in the skills they need to build strong, sustainable businesses.

Mālama Design Studio assists both startups and established industry leaders focusing on critical sectors of the economy including food security, land stewardship, health and wellness, renewable energy, housing solutions, and biocultural

restoration. The ultimate goal is to cultivate a coalition of Kānaka organizations committed to achieving a circular, regenerative economy based on aloha ‘āina, self determination and sovereignty they describe as “Eahou.”

Interested entrepreneurs are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to join Mālama Design Studios and be part of this transformative movement. The kick off will be March 1, 2024.

Mālama Design Studio was created by the Purple Mai’a Foundation in partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Winteh Park New OCS Director



Winteh Park - Courtesy Photo

Native Hawaiian attorney and legislative veteran Winteh Park was confirmed as the new director of the Office of Council Services (OCS) with

a unanimous vote from the Honolulu City Council on December 6. OCS consults with the council to research and draft city legislation and provide legal representation.

Park began his career in private practice, later moving into government work at the State Office of Information Practices as a staff attorney and over the years has held a variety of roles including serving as special counsel for the Senate, legal counsel for Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, and Senate Majority Attorney. In 2019, he became interim director of the Senate Majority Research Office.

“Mr. Park has served the people of Hawai’i through his expertise at the Senate level, which in combination with his private-sector legal and professional background, make him a terrific choice to fulfill the office’s mission to support the council and its committees in developing policies and laws that improve the lives of our residents,” said

Ho’omaika’i OHA Service Award Recipients!



The Office of Hawaiian Affairs’ all-staff gathering on December 5 included a special Service Awards Ceremony for staff celebrating 5-, 10- and 20-year milestones at OHA. Pictured (l-r) are Trustee Aide Nathan Takeuchi (20 years), Communications Director Alice Silbanuz standing in for Beneficiary Services Agent Gayla Haliniak-Lloyd (10 years), Loan Officer Lareina Meinecke (10 years), IT Manager Tiger Li (10 years), Lead Compliance Specialist Kamakana Ferreira (10 years), Trustee Aide Claudine Calpito (10 years), Operations Support Supervisor Holly Yamachika (5 years), Operations Support Coordinator and Assistant Denielle Meyer (5 years), Financial Analyst Grace Chen (5 years), Systems Engineer and Administrator Kevin Chak (5 years), OHA Trustee Carmen “Hulu” Lindsey, and OHA CEO Stacy Ferreira. - Photo: Jason Lees

NEWS BRIEFS

Continued from page 26

Honolulu City Council Chair Tommy Waters.

Park graduated from Kamehameha Schools Kapālama. He received his bachelor's degree from Pitzer College, and his law degree from UH Mānoa's William S. Richardson School of Law.

Shanlyn Park Appointed Federal Judge



Shanlyn Park -
Courtesy Photo

In a bipartisan vote on November 30, the U.S. Senate confirmed Judge Shanlyn Park to serve as a federal judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawai'i. Park is the first Native Hawaiian woman to serve as a federal judge.

She was nominated for the position by President Joe Biden upon the recommendations of Sen. Mazie Hirono, Sen. Brian Schatz, and the merit-based Federal Judicial Selection Commission.

Prior to her confirmation,

Park worked for 20 years as a senior litigator for the Office of the Federal Public Defender representing indigent clients in Hawai'i charged with federal offenses, and since 2021 has served as a state court judge on O'ahu's First Circuit Court.

"Inclusion of Native Hawaiians in the courts that preside over matters in Hawai'i is critically important to advancing trust in the judicial system and the rule of law," said Makalika Naholowa'a, Native Hawaiian Legal Corp executive director and president of the National Native American Bar Association.

The federal judiciary sorely lacks for Indigenous representation. Out of more than 870 federal judgeships, only seven judges are Native American, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian.

Park attended Sacred Hearts Academy and earned her law degree from UH Mānoa's William S. Richardson School of Law.

Teves Appointed to Tribal Advisory Committee

Glenn Teves, a Moloka'i-based county extension agent for UH Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Services



Glenn Teves -
Photo: UH Mānoa

(CTAHR), was appointed in December to serve on a new Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) by U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

Authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, the TAC will provide advice and guidance to the Secretary of Agriculture on Native equities in USDA programs and policies and develop an annual report to Congress.

"Mr. Teves has decades of experience practicing and promoting Native Hawaiian agriculture as a farmer, county extension agent, and community advocate," said Chairman Schatz. "The expertise he brings to the Tribal Advisory Committee will help guide USDA's work to support Native-led agriculture across the country, including subsistence farming and related cultural practices."

A graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama and UH Mānoa with a degree in horticulture technology, Teves has been on staff at CTAHR on Moloka'i for over 40 years.

Teves and his wife, Jane, own and operate Puakala Farms, a sustainable farm on Hawaiian Home Lands in Ho'olehua, Moloka'i.

Quirk Recognized for Dedication to Students



Jennifer Quirk -
Photo: UH Mānoa

Jennifer Māhealani Ah Sing Quirk, director of the Graduate Professional Access (GPA) program of UH Mānoa's Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity, was awarded the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Region VI Mid-Level Student Affairs Professional Award in November.

A Christmas Wreath Workshop in Hilo



To kickoff the holidays, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) hosted a Christmas Wreath Workshop in partnership with the Mokuapāpapa Discovery Center in Hilo on December 16. Kumu Na'auao Vivas led the workshop, and besides teaching technique, he shared how important it was to be thoughtful about the wreath's mo'olelo and the kaona of the materials being used. Participants brought materials from their 'āina to use in their wreaths. It was a wonderful time to build pilina and forge new friendships. At the end of the day, each participant had a beautiful one-of-a-kind wreath to take home. Pictured (l-r) are Vivas, OHA Communications Director Alice Silbanuz, and OHA Beneficiary Services Agent (Hilo) 'Ilima Kela. - Courtesy Photo

In addition to guiding and supervising the GPA program, Quirk assists students to pursue and complete graduate degrees, designs/facilitates graduate school exploration and preparation workshops, and mentors students who wish to present their research at academic conferences.

She also co-authored a federally funded Native Hawaiian Education Program grant worth more than \$2 million, and is the co-principal investigator and

a program mentor for the Hilinehu Educational Leadership Advancement initiative, a partnership between GPA and the College of Education.

A graduate of UH Mānoa, Quirk previously worked for UH's Native Hawaiian Student Services (NHSS) where she designed and implemented a summer bridge program for Hawaiian community college students transitioning to UH Mānoa that helped to increase acceptance and retention rates. ■

Home Sweet Home



For several years the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has followed Pua Akiyoshi's journey to home ownership. While on the DHHL wait list, Akiyoshi took a financial literacy course funded by OHA and when she was finally awarded a homestead in Waimānalo, she signed up with OHA grantee Honolulu Habitat for Humanity (HHH) to help build her house. Construction began about seven months ago and in December she was able to move into her new home. At her December 7 house blessing, Akiyoshi (seated center wearing lei) is surrounded by 'ohana, friends and HHH staff - including CEO TJ Joseph (kneeling next to Akiyoshi). - Photo: Teresa Terrell

Happy Hilo Holidays



OHA Hilo-based staff celebrated the holidays with their own wreath-making workshop followed by a make-your-own-poke-bowl luncheon! Pictured (l-r) are Strategy Management Analyst Charene Haliniak, Legacy Land Agent Kalena Blakemore, and Public Policy Advocate Kealoha Pisciotto. - Photo: 'Ilima Kela



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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.

Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey

Chair | Trustee, Maui

Tel: 808.594.1858
Fax: 808.594.1864

Email: TrusteeHuluLindsey@oha.org

Mililani B. Trask

Vice Chair | Trustee, Hawai'i

Tel: 808.594.1855

Email: TrusteeTrask@oha.org

Dan Ahuna

Trustee, Kaua'i and Ni'ihau

Tel: 808.594.1751

Email: TrusteeAhuna@oha.org

Kaleihikina Akaka

Trustee, O'ahu

Tel: 808.594.1854

Fax: 808.594.1864

Email: TrusteeAkaka@oha.org

Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.

Trustee, At-Large

Tel: 808.594.1859

Email: TrusteeAkina@oha.org

Luana Alapa

Trustee, Moloka'i and Lāna'i

Tel: 808.594.1874

Email: TrusteeAlapa@oha.org

Brickwood Galuteria

Trustee, At-Large

Tel: 808.594.1860

Email: TrusteeGaluteria@oha.org

Keoni Souza

Trustee, At-Large

Tel: 808.594.1857

Email: TrusteeSouza@oha.org

John D. Waihe'e IV

Trustee, At-Large

Tel: 808.594.1876

Email: TrusteeWaihee@oha.org

The Ah Sing Brothers are an Impactful Presence for Hawai'i in Japan

Maui is always on our minds – and I have been reminded that, though we have faced so many challenges, we are not alone. Specifically, I have been reminded that support comes in many different forms and places.

I proudly dedicate this column to brothers Kahikina and Kalani Ah Sing, who continue to garner support for Maui relief beyond our shores.



Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey

CHAIR
Trustee, Maui

hula who were raised in Kona, made a special trip from Japan to O'ahu to serve as the Japanese-language hosts for the broadcast.

With over 20 years of experience working in Japan as kumu hula, producers and entertainers, the brothers have become mainstays in the Japanese hula community. There are an estimated two million Japanese hula dancers, making the brothers' ability to engage with this audience especially impactful for building awareness and support for Maui.

Even from across the ocean, the brothers' support of Maui has not stopped. In early December, they produced "Maui Ola featuring Christmas with Nāpua," a multi-city tour throughout Japan featuring Maui natives, Kumu Hula Nāpua Silva (my daughter), her hālau, and her family.

I had the privilege of being a part of this tour which has since left an impression on my heart. The benefit concert also featured Japan-based hālau, a very poignant reminder that support for Maui continues within the hearts, hands, feet and smiles of those who love our hula in Japan.

Though language barriers may sometimes mask the emotional connection many Japanese have to Hawai'i in general, I was reminded that hula has kept millions of Japanese connected to Hawai'i, and specifically, to Maui. And in that regard, I am so grateful for the work that the Ah Sing brothers continue to do in Japan, not only as kumu hula, but as advocates for Hawai'i and our people.

In late December, "Maui Ola featuring Christmas with Nāpua" was made available to international broadcast audiences on mele.com and, locally, on the Japanese-language TV station, KIKU. I look forward to more great work from the Ah Sing brothers and their strong and impactful presence in Japan for Hawai'i. ■



Trustee Hulu Lindsey (center, wearing black) joined her daughter, Kumu Hula Nāpua Silva's hālau on a Japan tour, "Maui Ola featuring Christmas with Nāpua" in early December. - Courtesy Photo

Twelve days after the West Maui wildfires, the nonprofit organization Kāhuli Leo Le'a; producers, Zachary Lum, Ted Jung, Keli'i Grace, and Ke'ala Lucero; and Hawai'i's creative and media community came together to produce "Maui Ola," a telethon and benefit concert that was, perhaps, the largest simulcast ever to come out of Hawai'i.

The goal was simple: amplify our collective call to support Maui in this dire time of need. The Maui Ola broadcast brought in over \$1 million within the first 24 hours of its airing. Beyond this, many other benefit concerts and broadcasts have continued to raise money and awareness to support our families affected by the devastation.

With the help of many Japan-based producers of hula concerts and events, the Maui Ola broadcast also reached countless viewers in Japan. The Ah Sing brothers, both of whom are kumu

I Mua Kākou Āpau i kēia Makahiki Hou o 2024!

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! As we move forward to this

new year, I continue to advocate for our beneficiaries at the county, state, and federal levels of government as your chair of the OHA Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment. In the upcoming open session of the Hawai'i State Legislature, with an ongoing focus on the Native Hawaiian Crown and Government Lands, also known as the "ceded lands" of the Public Land Trust. Additionally, OHA looks to move forward with the commercial development of our Hakuone property at Kaka'ako Makai with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and bulkhead repairs.

The OHA Board of Trustees approved in December, the OHA 2024 Legislative Package. The package includes a bill for OHA to become the 11th member of the Board of Agriculture (BOA) so that Native Hawaiians will have a greater representation on the BOA as Native Hawaiians were the first agriculture producers in Hawai'i, along with OHA's interest in agriculture such as the 511 acres of agricultural lands near Kūkaniloko. This provides OHA a seat at the table to speak on behalf of our beneficiaries on one of the largest economic sectors in Hawai'i. One of our top concerns is the past transfer of the Native Hawaiian Crown and Government Lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture and the effect to our income and proceeds from the "ceded" land trust.

The package also includes three resolutions:

- OHA to develop a report on the scope of what being culturally appropriate means across the Education, Healthcare, Housing and Economic Development sectors in Hawai'i.



Kaleihikina Akaka

Trustee,
O'ahu

- Urge the State of Hawai'i and Counties to develop rural resiliency strategies.

- Urge State commitment to 'ohana experiencing developmental disabilities as Native Hawaiians are over-represented among those experiencing Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD).

The approach that our team is taking for the 2024 Legislative Session is introducing seed legislation that OHA can nurture and grow into systemic change for the betterment of conditions for Native Hawaiians. Along with empowering beneficiaries to advocate and strengthen collaboration for the support of Native Hawaiians in government, while continuing our efforts with our Hakuone and Native Hawaiian Crown and Government Lands (PLT).

Mahalo in advance for your kōkua, support and testimony! Let's come together with open minds and aloha. Collectively, we can better our people's wellbeing through our foundations of 'ohana, mo'omeheu (culture) and 'āina (our lands and waters). I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous new year!

E ho'opōmaika'i mai iā kākou āpau i kēia makahiki hou! ■



Board Chair Lindsey, Board Vice Chair Trask, and Beneficiary Advocacy & Empowerment Committee Chair Akaka passionately champion OHA's mission and initiatives. - Courtesy Photos



Trustees Alapa, Trask, Akaka and 'ohana with Board Chair Lindsey visiting The Wharf in Washington D.C. to see the potential of OHA's Hakuone property at Kaka'ako Makai.

Trustees Working Together: From One Year to the Next!

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! As 2024 begins, join me in reflecting upon some exciting accomplishments by OHA trustees in 2023.

While there is a rich diversity of perspectives and styles on the board of trustees, 2023 was a year in which we worked together to achieve significant outcomes for Native Hawaiians. I was proud to work with my fellow trustees on projects for the Hawaiian people which are dear to my heart.

Last year, OHA's trustees reinforced our commitment to education, housing and further protection of the Native Hawaiian Trust Fund. OHA also pursued efforts that seek to enforce the State of Hawai'i's constitutional obligations related to the Public Land Trust. These initiatives contributed to the wellbeing and advancement of OHA beneficiaries and all residents of Hawai'i.

Dozens of nonprofit organizations throughout Hawai'i received over \$8 million through OHA's grants program in 2023. \$6 million was allocated to support Hawaiian-focused public charter schools on the islands of Hawai'i and Kaua'i. \$1.5 million was approved to help develop a housing database that connects eligible Native Hawaiians to occupancy-ready housing. OHA trustees also issued grants to connect beneficiaries to apprenticeship programs which provide job-readiness training. The board also authorized funding to support Hawaiian arts and events.

When wildfires broke out on the island of Maui and destroyed the town of Lahaina, OHA's trustees sprang into action. It was my privilege to join fellow trustees in volunteer service, such as collecting goods and food items to aid survivors.

OHA was happy to allow other organizations to use our warehouse space in Kaka'ako as a staging ground for the collection and transport of supplies to Maui. Understanding the great task ahead, the board committed \$5 million for the recovery efforts in Lahaina. And we also committed ourselves to long-term collaboration with relevant community groups



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

Trustee,
At-Large

and state and federal agencies.

Trustees also worked together to further protect trust assets that we steward for the Hawaiian people. OHA's administration was directed to adopt policies that promote greater transparency and accountability. OHA implemented recommendations from the State Auditor to improve OHA's internal processes. The board approved forwarding the findings of the Plante Moran forensic report to government authorities as an effort to deal with past "fraud,

waste, and abuse" and prevent it from occurring in the future.

During the 2023 legislative session, OHA sought to grow its financial resources by lobbying the legislature to lift the residential restrictions and raise the height limits at OHA's properties at Kaka'ako Makai, now known as Hakuone. This effort will increase the affordable housing supply in Honolulu and generate substantial revenue for the trust. OHA also joined the Public Land Trust working group with other state agencies, which seeks to produce an accurate inventory of the PLT and show OHA's exact pro rata share of the PLT income and proceeds.

Finally, but very significantly, in 2023 the OHA trustees successfully conducted a rigorous search process for recruiting an outstanding new CEO. Ka Pouhana Stacey Ferreira will bring a high level of leadership and experience as she manages the organization and implements the directives of the board.

Looking back on what OHA trustees accomplished in 2023 gives us confidence that we are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of 2024.

Going into the new year, it is essential that we continue connecting Hawaiians to affordable housing, quality education, and job-readiness programs. At the same time, OHA must further protect and build the Hawaiian trust by exercising accountability and pursuing revenue generating projects. E Hana Kākou! Let's work together to make even greater progress in 2024 for Hawaiians and all residents of Hawai'i. ■

Songs of Legacy: Weaving the Threads of Hawaiian Heritage

Hawaiian music, mele, and hula resonate within me, intertwining memories and cultural heritage. Growing up under the guidance of my kupunahine, Tūtū Mona Ka'apana Medeiros from Moloka'i, I discovered that these art forms are not just entertainment but a sacred vessel for our mo'olelo, a profound "passing of the torch" of generational wisdom.

In Tūtū's home, we spent hours learning the 'ukulele, guitar, piano, and bass – each note carrying on the stories of our kūpuna. This intimate connection with the cultural practices ingrained in oli and mele solidified my dedication and discipline to master our mo'olelo, a commitment I carry forward to preserve their teachings for the generations to come.

In this journey, one individual emerged as a guiding light: the esteemed traditional Hawaiian artist, Kawai Cockett. During the early stages of my musical career, I was privileged to perform alongside Uncle Kawai. His one-of-a-kind 'ukulele strums and beautiful tenor voice left an indelible mark. Childhood memories of watching his trio at my mom's hula performances under nā Kumu Hula Alicia Smith and Puanani Alama at the Kapi'olani Bandstand were my inspirations.

The song *Leo Kama'āina* holds a special place in this narrative. Crafted by my dear friend and mentor, Kumu Hula Keawe Lopes, its lyrics pay tribute to a day filled with warmth and hospitality during a visit to Kawai Cockett's home.

Upon Uncle Kawai's passing, Keawe asked me to compose the music and perform it at his funeral, honoring his memory and the profound impact on my mu-



**Keoni
Souza**

Trustee,
At-Large

sical journey. These pieces, or threads, of my musical journey, the moments shared with Tūtū, the influence of remarkable artists like Uncle Kawai, and the contemporary musicians who inspire me, all weave together to create a rich collection of experiences, offering valuable lessons I'm eager to pass on to future generations.

Through music, I discovered not only who I am but also the profound impact I can have on others. Composing the music

for *Leo Kama'āina* and performing it at Uncle Kawai's funeral was a transformative experience that showcased the power of music to honor, connect, and preserve memories.

This connection to my identity through music has fueled my commitment to preserving our cultural heritage and sharing its lessons with future generations. It's not just about playing notes; it's about embracing who I am, where I come from, and where I hope to guide others on this journey.

I've noticed younger generations, frequently captivated by social media's allure, missing the priceless cultural wisdom held by kūpuna. I feel lucky to have received guidance that nurtured discipline and instilled a deep sense of responsibility. This discipline not only shaped me as a student and athlete but, most importantly, as a person.

Recognizing our kuleana was a driving force in my decision to run for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. It is our duty to make pivotal decisions for the lāhui, decisions benefiting future generations of Native Hawaiians. I'm immensely grateful for the privilege of connecting with the voices of our Native people through the medium of mele. ■



Serve the lāhui
with a career at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

For complete job listings and to apply visit:
www.oha.org/jobs

The Public is Invited to Attend Hawai'i Ku'u Home Aloha 2024

By the Native Hawaiian Place of Learning Office

The UH Mānoa Native Hawaiian Place of Learning (NHPoL) Advancement Office will be hosting "Hawai'i Ku'u Home Aloha 2024 Summit," a free, three-day event Jan. 16-18, 2024.

Hawai'i Ku'u Home Aloha (HKHA) is NHPoL's annual invitation to gather and build pilina with one another, our 'āina, and the places we call home, particularly during the events surrounding January 17, a day we hold in remembrance.

The summit will be hosted on the UH Mānoa campus and include a series of workshops, presentations, and engagement opportunities open to all community members. Light food and refreshments will be provided.



Native Hawaiian Student Services' Community Engagement Coordinator Allyson Franco offers a ho'okupu at Queen Lili'uokalani's altar on the UH Mānoa campus during last year's summit. - Courtesy photo

Each day of the summit will focus on a different generational perspective of interacting with 'āina past, present, and future.

On day one, a historical walk-through of some Hawai'i communities will interweave past historical legacies of our changing landscapes. Day two will focus on the present, inviting participants to be grounded in ceremony and deeply present with one another and 'āina. The final day of the summit will point us to the dreams for the future generations of our beloved home.

Summit presenters include Dean of Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge Dr. Jon Osorio, Campus Arboretum Curator Nōweo Kai, artist and playwright Sean Dunnington, Kumu Hula Kekuhi Keali'ikanaka'oleohailani and social change agent Dr. Gail Christopher.

Keali'ikanaka'oleohailani and Christopher will present the summit's keynote address on the evening of January 18 at Kennedy Theatre entitled: "For Our Grandchildren: Healing. Restoring. Imagining."

Christopher is an award-winning social change agent with expertise in the social determinants of health and wellbeing in related public policies. Her work is monumental to Truth, Racial Healing, & Transformation (TRHT) efforts across the U.S. continent.

Keali'ikanaka'oleohailani is an educator, creator and owner of Lonoa Honua. She is a renowned community figure with a gift for cultivating relationships and rediscovering ecological connections and relations from this Hawai'i to the Hawai'i beyond the horizon.

With 'āina at the center of its intentions, the NHPoL Advancement Office welcomes all interested individuals to attend – no specific background or experience is required. ■

To register for Hawai'i Ku'u Home Aloha go to: www.surveymonkey.com/r/HKHA2024. To review the HKHA 2024 resource guide and schedule go to: <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/nhpoh/hawaii-kuu-home-aloha/>. For additional inquiries, please email: nhpoh@hawaii.edu

CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: WAIKĪKĪ AQUARIUM

Pacific Consulting Services, Inc., on behalf of the University of Hawai'i is conducting a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) for a proposed project to upgrade the water intake system at the Waikīkī Aquarium located at 2777 Kalākaua Avenue in Waikīkī Ahupua'a, Honolulu (Kona) District, O'ahu (TMK: (1) 3-1-031:006). The proposed project is intended to upgrade the Waikīkī Aquarium's outdated intake water system infrastructure to prevent future failures that threaten the life and wellbeing of the animals. The CIA team is seeking to engage with cultural practitioners and other interested parties with knowledge of the area around the Aquarium who can advance our understanding of historic properties, as well as cultural, traditional, and customary practices. The CIA is being compiled in accordance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) 343, which provides regulatory oversight for environmental reviews, and will be included in the Draft Environmental Assessment for the project. If you would like to provide information and share your mana'o, please email us at info@pcsihawaii.com.

CONSULTATION REQUEST: KAHILINA'I PLACE AND 'AIEA HEIGHTS DRIVE

Notice to interested parties is hereby given that the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH), on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), invites you to participate in the consultation process under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 for the Kahilina'i Place and 'Aiea Heights Drive Water System Improvements project (TMKs: [1] 9-9-023:999, 024:999, 025:999, 035:999, 036:999, and 070:999 [Kahilina'i Place, 'Aiea Heights Drive, Ahehe Street, Kanaloa Street, and Hakina Street]).

The project consists of the installation of 4,325 feet of waterline on Kahilina'i Place, 'Aiea Heights Drive, Ahehe Street, and Hakina Street in 'Aiea, 'Ewa District, O'ahu. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is 4.37 acres.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(f), DOH seeks to engage with cultural practitioners and other individuals who can provide information concerning cultural, historical, or natural resources that may be present within the APE for the purpose of understanding traditional cultural properties, cultural practices, and customary practices. The information gathered will be used for decision-making purposes.

ing purposes.

If interested in sharing your mana'o regarding traditional cultural properties, cultural practices, and customary practices within the APE, please email PCSI at info@pcsihawaii.com; write us at Kahilina'i WSI, c/o Pacific Consulting Services, Inc., 1130 North Nimitz Hwy, Suite C-300, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817; or by visiting www.pcsi-hawaii.com/aiea-wsi-106. We would appreciate a written or verbal response within 30 days of this notices posting. We look forward to hearing from you.

CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY PROJECT

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) is conducting a cultural impact assessment (CIA) in support of the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Design and Construction's proposed Rehabilitation of Streets, Unit 73C Kamehameha Highway project. This project includes the rehabilitation of Kamehameha Highway from north of He'eia Stream to Kahekili Highway, within the ahupua'a of He'eia and Kahalu'u, in the moku of Ko'olaupoko. The proposed project will involve asphalt pavement resurfacing, shoreline protection measures, erosion protection measures, guardrail work and a proposed realignment of an approximately 3,000 linear foot section of Kamehameha Hwy inland in the location of the currently undeveloped He'eia Kea Valley Nature Park.

As part of this study, SWCA is attempting to identify and consult with individuals 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 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

We appreciate any information you would be willing to share. Please contact us at Wainani.Traub@swca.com or by phone at (808) 646-6309. ■



LIST OF OFFICES

HONOLULU

560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Ste. 200,
Honolulu, HI 96817
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

Kūlana 'Ōiwi, P.O. Box 1717
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
Phone: 808.560.3611
Fax: 808.560.3968

KAUAI / NI'HAU

4405 Kukui Grove St., Ste. 103
Līhu'e, HI 96766-1601
Phone: 808.241.3390
Fax: 808.241.3508

MAUI

737 Lower Main St., Ste. B2
Kahului, HI 96793-1400
Phone: 808.873.3364
Fax: 808.873.3361

WASHINGTON, D.C.

504 C Street, NE
Washington D.C., 20002
Phone: 202.506.7238
Fax: 202-629-4446

www.oha.org/offices

Classified ads only \$12.50 - Type or clearly write your ad of no more than 175 characters (including spaces and punctuation) and mail, along with a check for \$12.50, to: *Ka Wai Ola Classifieds*, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817. Make check payable to OHA. (We cannot accept credit cards.) Ads and payment must be received by the 15th for the next month's edition of *Ka Wai Ola*. Send your information by mail, or e-mail kwo@oha.org with the subject "Makeke/Classified." OHA reserves the right to refuse any advertisement, for any reason, at our discretion.

BEST HAWAII BUSINESS DIRECTORY. Featuring Made-in-Hawaii products, Native Hawaiian businesses, etc. FREE listings for small businesses. www.besthawaiibusinessdirectory.com

GOT MEDICARE? With Medicare you have options. We compare those options for you! No cost! No obligations! Call Kamaka Jingao (808) 286-0022. HI Lic #433187.

HOMES WITH ALOHA- Kula Maui 43, 168 sq. ft. lot with a 2, 816 sq. ft. unfinished home. Ocean views, wraparound lanai. Cash. \$490,000 This is a leasehold property - Charmaine I. Quilit Poki (Realtor) (808) 295-4474. RB-15998 Keller Williams Honolulu RB-21303.

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

NEED HELP FINDING A HOUSING SOLUTION HERE IN HAWAII? As a Native Hawaiian realtor, I am dedicated to helping the Hawaiian people own real estate here in Hawaii. Whether its owning for the first time or buying an investment property, I am here to help. Jordan Aina RS-85780 (808) 276-0880 - Locations Hawaii, LLC RB-17095.

THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING A HOME? CALL THE EXPERT. Call Charmaine I. Quilit Poki (R) 295- 4474 RB-15998. Keller Williams Honolulu RB-21303. To view current listings, go to my website HomeswithAloha.com. Call, Text or email Charmaine@HomeswithAloha.com to make an appointment to learn more about homeownership. Mahalo nui! Specialize in Fee Simple & Homestead Properties for over 30 years. ■

FAMILY REUNIONS

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

SEARCH

KAHANAI-POMAIKAI - Reunion slated for March 2024. Still working on date & location. Suggestions are welcomed. Contact Walter Kahanaoi 808-330-2188 or Jeanne Kahanaoi 808-354-7365.

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'ikuaaina, 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

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, contact Alisha by text or phone at (808) 658-5658 or email ohanawoolsey@gmail.com. ■

Serving Local Families For 37 Years

Hawaiian Home Land Sales, List of Qualified Buyers,
FREE Home Evaluations



HomeswithAloha

Your Kamaaina Real Estate Professional

CHARMAINE QUILIT POKI

REALTOR, ABR, CRS, CDPE, GRI, SRES

Contact me today for all of
your real estate needs!

C | 808.295.4474

W | HomesWithAloha.com

E | Charmaine.QuilitPoki@kw.com



kw KELLERWILLIAMS
HONOLULU RB-21303

1347 Kapulani Blvd. #500 | Honolulu, HI 96814
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

E Ō Mai, e Kuleana Land Holders!

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

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





Get your **FREE**
subscription to **Ka Wai Ola**
Go to **kawaiola.news** to sign up

FREE

Please check one: ☐ New subscriber ☐ Change of address

Email:

Name (First, Last)

Address

City

State

Zip

Fill out form online at **kawaiola.news/subscribe** or

Clip this coupon, fill in and mail to: **Ka Wai Ola, 560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96817**

OFFICE of HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. Nimitz Highway, Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Give Your Life a Fresh New Start!

Whether you need a personal loan or business loan, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs can help you realize your dreams! For nearly 35 years, OHA has provided Native Hawaiians with low-interest loans for education, home improvements, debt consolidation, and their businesses.

Let us help you and your 'ohana!

Kalaniumi 'Ohana

Umi's Store | Waimea, Kaua'i

Kanani Miner

Hina Hawai'i | Pearlridge, O'ahu



Malama Education

Help with tuition and other fees for preschool, K-12, trade school, and undergraduate and post-graduate college.

Loan amounts:

\$2,500 - \$20,000

**5% - 6%
TO APR**



Mālama Home Improvement

Expand your home or make repairs.
Loans over \$50,000 require non-real estate collateral.

Loan amounts:

\$2,500 - \$100,000

**5% - 6%
TO APR**



Mālama Debt Consolidation

Consolidate and pay off existing debts.
Loans over \$20,000 require non-real estate collateral.

Loan amounts:

\$2,500 - \$20,000

**5% - 6%
TO APR**



Mālama Business

Purchase equipment or inventory, or obtain working capital.
Loans over \$50,000 require non-real estate collateral.

Loan amounts:

\$2,500 - \$149,999

**4%
APR**



Hua Kanu Business

Whether it's to purchase equipment or inventory, or you need a loan for working capital.

Loan amounts:

\$150,000 - \$1,000,000

**4%
APR**



For eligibility requirements
visit our website or contact us.

loans.oha.org | 808.594.1888

*Interest rates may be subject to change.

Apply for an OHA Hawaiian Registry Card at: **www.oha.org/registry**