



Ka Wai Ola

E S F R THE LAHUI

ka

Apelila (April) 2024 | Vol. 41, No. 04

Hawai'i Prepares to Host the Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture

OHA Announces \$1.5 Million Sponsorship on Behalf of the Lāhui

PAGES 14-15



Voyaging canoes and other wa'a from the Pacific come together for a morning Waka Ceremony at the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture in 2012 in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Photo: Nicasello Photography



Empowering Hawaiians,
Strengthening Hawai'i



Preserving Our Legacy: OHA and Community Partners Work Together to Steward Hawai'i's Legacy Lands

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Get involved

Visit our website at www.oha.org to learn more about our community partnerships and how we steward these lands for future generations.

Together, we're not just preserving history; we're building a sustainable future rooted in our culture.

FestPAC Hawai‘i 2024 offers a platform to advance the priorities and concerns of the Pacific Islands

Aloha mai kākou,

The 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FestPAC) being hosted in Hawai‘i June 6-16, symbolizes a significant cultural and geopolitical milestone, especially with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) playing a pivotal leadership role. The festival, known as FestPAC, is set against the backdrop of a critical juncture in Pacific Island affairs, with pressing issues like climate change, Indigenous rights, and sustainable economies at the forefront of regional dialogue.

In late February, a Traditional Leaders Talanoa in Fiji laid the groundwork for a unified Pacific approach to these challenges. This historic meeting, featuring OHA Chair Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey alongside leaders from Samoa, Tonga, Aotearoa (New Zealand), and Fiji, crafted a shared agenda to amplify the Pacific voice for the global stage. Our collaborative efforts are poised to leverage FestPAC Hawai‘i 2024 as a platform to showcase and advance Pacific Islands' priorities and concerns.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs stands at the core of this transformative endeavor. As an advocate for Native Hawaiian rights, OHA's involvement in FestPAC Hawai‘i 2024 is both a responsibility and an opportunity. By engaging with over 3,000 delegates from more than 20 Pacific Island nations, OHA will share Hawai‘i's rich cultural heritage embodied in our lōina (customs), ‘ōlelo (language), and ho‘okipa (hospitality) — while simultaneously fostering regional solidarity. FestPAC is not merely a cultural exhibition; it is a strategic confluence for discussing and addressing the existential threats facing the Pacific. Climate change, for instance, poses a disproportionate risk to our island nations, making our collective voice crucial in international environmental discourse.

The festival provides a unique venue for our Pacific nations to share our experiences, advocate for meaningful action, and shape global policies. Moreover, FestPAC under-

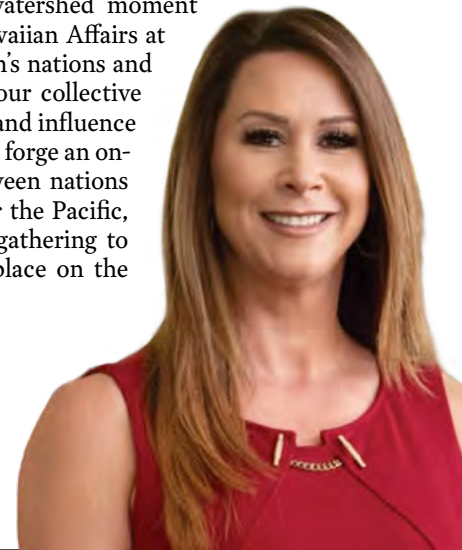
scores the importance of Indigenous rights. In a world where such rights are often sidelined, this event offers a stage for Pacific Islanders to assert our identity, share our stories, and advocate for inherent rights and self-determination. The economic aspect is equally significant. Sustainable development is vital for the Pacific's future, and the festival will catalyze discussions on harnessing traditional knowledge and modern innovation to create resilient economies. This is particularly relevant as the Pacific Islands navigate the complexities of globalization and seek pathways to prosperity that do not compromise our environmental or cultural integrity.

FestPAC Hawai‘i 2024 represents a watershed moment for Pacific Islands, with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs at the helm in Hawai‘i. By uniting the region's nations and peoples, the festival promises to elevate our collective concerns, advocate for Indigenous rights, and influence global policy. It is a historic opportunity to forge an ongoing collaboration and partnership between nations for a brighter, more sustainable future for the Pacific, making the most of this unprecedented gathering to raise our voices and assert our rightful place on the world stage. ■

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira

Ka Pouhana | Chief Executive Officer



Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira

Ka Pouhana
Chief Executive Officer

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OHA to Launch Kanaaho Grant For Lahaina And Kula Residents Affected By Wildfires

By Alice Malepeai Silbanuz

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has announced the upcoming launch of the OHA Kanaaho Grant, providing critical support to homeowners and renters in the wildfire impact zones of Lahaina and Kula. This grant aims to assist those who have been adversely affected by the Aug. 8, 2023, Maui wildfires, offering much-needed relief during these challenging times. In Hawaiian, kanaaho translates to a feeling of relief after a struggle.

A one-time \$9,000 grant will be awarded to eligible homeowners who experienced hardship; a one-time \$4,000 grant will be awarded to eligible renters who experienced hardship. Grant funds are intended to improve the economic stability of impacted Native Hawaiians, empowering each beneficiary to determine their own greatest need and help meet that need in the face of disaster. The application period opens on April 10, 2024, at the OHA Maui Office and online at www.oha.org/kanaahogrant.

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

OHA's Kanaaho Grants will be distributed to one head of household per affected residence who meets all the eligibility criteria:

1. Applicant must be Native Hawaiian. A government issued ID is required and one of the following: an OHA Hawaiian Registry Program card, a birth certificate that states "Hawaiian," a Kamehameha Schools Ho'oulu letter and a Department of Hawaiian Home Lands lease or waitlist verification.
2. Applicant experienced hardship due to disaster. This may be self-reported on the application form.
3. Applicant is the head of household for a primary residence (owned or rental) that is located in the impacted disaster district zones as determined by county officials. The residence must be the principal residence, where the family/individual lived prior to the disaster. Proof of Residency may include a 2022 Tax Return, bank statement, car registration, County of Maui letter, FEMA Proof of Damage, HIEMA letter, or inclusion in the Maui Wildfire Damage Log, voter registration, or a utility bill.
4. Applicant must provide proof of ownership or renter status for a primary residence that is located in the impacted disaster district zones as deter-

mined by county officials. Documents accepted will include a house deed, mortgage statement, rental agreement or rental receipt with street address.

5. For payment purposes, the applicant must submit a signed W-9 form. The applicant will not be taxed. A W-9 form may be downloaded from www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf.

Wildfire survivors who resided in the wildfire impact zones are advised to collect their documentation to streamline their application process.

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

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

The OHA Maui Office will have modified work hours to accommodate beneficiaries who would like kōkua with submitting their application.

- **On April 8 & 9**, the OHA Maui Office will be closed for staff training.
- **On Wed., April 10 through Fri., April 12**, the OHA Maui Office will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **On Sat., April 12**, OHA Maui Office will be open to accept applications 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm.
- **On Mon., April 15 to Thurs., April 18**, the OHA Maui Office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm.
- **On Fri., April 19**, the OHA Maui Office will be closed for paperwork processing.

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



KANAAHO GRANT FOR LAHAINA & KULA

OHA's Kanaaho Grants will be distributed to **ONE (1)** head of household per affected residence who meets all of the eligibility criteria below:

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

Apply today at

www.oha.org/kanaahogrant/

Waiakeakua Forest Restoration Project

By Kelli Soileau

The Living Life Source Foundation was awarded an 'Ahahui Grant from OHA for its Waiakeakua Reforestation project to continue the work to restore native koa and 'ōhi'a, which once grew tall in Mānoa Valley.

A community planting day, last December, brought together over 50 volunteers to clear overgrown vegetation and plant about 200 native plants. Large pots of koa, and alahe'e, were carried to the planting site along a muddy trail with a small stream running through the path. Shoes were held captive in the deep wet soil while volunteers transported large and small pots to their destination. Most people took off their mud caked shoes and preferred to grip the 'āina with their toes.

The stream flowing alongside and through the planting site is called Waiakeakua and means water of the gods. The wai, fresh water, from this stream was historically reserved for high chiefs. According to a mo'olelo (story) Kāne and Kanaloa were traveling about O'ahu and Kāne, who is associated with wai (and drinking 'awa with Kanaloa) opened a stream of water in Mānoa with his walking stick.

The restoration of the Waiakeakua Forest began over 10 years ago when Uncle Bruce Keaulani and Auntie Kehau Lum began to steward a section of the land in the Mānoa watershed. They planted 'ulu (breadfruit), kalo, 'ōhi'a 'ai (mountain apple) and other food and medicinal plants to establish sustainable food resources for the community. In addition they planted koa, 'ōhi'a lehua, kukui, loulu and other trees that can be used for future native reforestation

efforts.

The vast number of albizia trees in Mānoa make it challenging to reestablish a native forest. Introduced to Hawai'i in 1917, albizia (*Falcata moluccana*) was used to reforest areas across the state.

Matthew Lynch, the director of the UH Mānoa Sustainability department, approached Uncle Bruce in 2021 with an idea to remove some albizia trees in the area and use the lumber for a house building project. Together with the Albizia Project they removed 15 large albizia trees, allowing sunlight and space to grow more resources.

Uncle Bruce shared at the end of the community planting day that he hopes one day koa will be harvested for a canoe from the planting being done now. He hopes future generations will see native koa trees thriving once again in Mānoa Valley and for the forest to be resilient in the face of climate change.

"We are deeply grateful to OHA for its support of this initiative through the 'Ahahui Event Grants program," expressed Yuko Barretto, a dedicated and administrative volunteer for the reforestation project.

To support the establishment and growth of the native plants visit www.waiakeakuaforest.com for more info. Work days are on the second Sunday each month.

OHA Grants

Grant funding is distributed through community nonprofit organizations and is not awarded directly to individuals.

For more information on OHA's Grants program visit www.oha.org/grants. ■

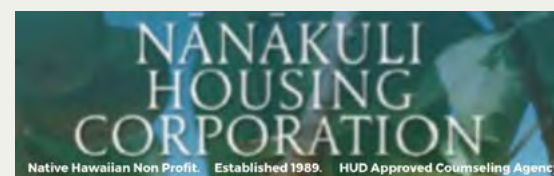


A volunteer places a plant in the ground, while other potted native plants eagerly await their turn to be planted.



Volunteers listen as a Waiakeakua group leader gives direction and answers questions before getting their hands in the mud. - Photos: Kelli Soileau

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Office of Hawaiian Affairs Fills Four Key Executive Positions

By Ed Kalama

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs today announced the recent appointments of four leaders who will serve as directors on its executive leadership team.

Each of the new directors – two who are new to the organization and two who are being promoted from within – bring experience and expertise in their respective fields along with a shared dedication to the mission of bettering the lives of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Filling key employee vacancies has been a priority set by OHA Ka Pouhana/CEO Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira.

“These appointments increase the capacity of our agency to achieve our strategic goals in alignment with our Mana i Maui Ola Strategic Plan,” Ferreira said. “These four talented professionals are leaders with a proven record of success and I am honored to stand beside them as we continue to grow our OHA ‘ohana and increase the capability of our organization.”

“We are very pleased to see these critical staff positions being filled with such outstanding professionals who have dedicated their careers to serving our lāhui. This is a testament to the efficiency that our new CEO has brought to our organization, and it is a reaffirmation that OHA is moving forward in the right direction,” said OHA Board Chair Carmen “Hulu” Lindsey.

The new executives include:

Director of ‘Ōiwi Wellbeing and ‘Āina Momona Kū’ikeokalani “Kū’ike” Kamakea-‘Ōhelo who will be responsible for supporting the planning and execution of OHA’s wellbeing efforts. He will advance policies, programs and practices that reinforce Hawaiian wellbeing by strengthening ‘Ōiwi (cultural Identity), Ea (self-governance), ‘Āina Momona (healthy lands and people), Pilina (relationships), Waiwai (shared wealth), and Ke Akua Mana (spirituality).

Kamakea-‘Ōhelo most recently served as a research specialist for the Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems at Arizona State University. His work focused on Indigenous food systems, traditional knowledge and sustainable agricultural practices. He is a former project manager for Partners in Development, a current member of the State of Hawai‘i Land Use Commission and pres-



Kū’ikeokalani Kamakea-‘Ōhelo, director of Ōiwi Wellbeing and ‘Āina Momona. - Courtesy Photo



Corey Nakamoto, director of Human Resources. - Photo: Jason Lees



Carla Hostetter, director of Research and Evaluation. - Courtesy Photo



Ryan H. Lee, director of Endowment. - Photo: Jason Lees

ident of the Board of Directors for Cho Global Natural Farming Hawai‘i.

Director of Human Resources Corey Nakamoto will be responsible for managing OHA’s recruitment efforts, workforce development, and retention of its high-performing workforce. He will also be responsible for the development and maintenance of systems and solutions that address organizational workforce issues and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Nakamoto has 27 years of human resource experience and most recently served as a personnel specialist with the state Department of Education’s Office of Talent

Management, Investigations Section. He is a former lead investigator for the University of Hawai‘i Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office, and he has worked for other Native Hawaiian serving organizations such as Kamehameha Schools and the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.

Director of Research and Evaluation Division Carla Hostetter will be responsible for overseeing research and evaluation activities relating primarily to OHA’s strategic plan focus areas of Hawaiian educational pathways, health outcomes, quality housing and economic stability. She will also lead the agency’s research and data sharing collaborations to better understand the conditions and wellbeing of Hawaiian communities and to inform data-driven policy decisions.

Hostetter has served the Hawaiian community for over 20 years through research, evaluation, and strategy work. Since 2020, she had served OHA as the director of the Office of Strategy Management. She is also a former manager and analyst within OHA’s Research Division and a former director of Research and Evaluation for Keiki O Ka ‘Āina Family Learning Centers.

Director of Endowment Ryan H. Lee will function as the chief investment officer. Lee will be responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating investment related policies and strategies for OHA’s Native Hawaiian Trust Fund (NHTF). He will work closely with other chief executives at OHA to facilitate resources, as needed, to implement the Board of Trustees’ statutory and fiduciary duties regarding the NHTF.

Lee brings over two decades of experience as a finance and investment professional. Prior to his selection, he served OHA as treasury director and interim investment manager. He is a former investment director with Kamehameha Schools, where he was instrumental in shaping the institution’s investment program. His contributions ranged from designing investment policies to developing strategic asset allocation targets, executing global multi-asset class investment strategies, and conducting due diligence on institutional investment managers for the organization’s global diversified portfolio.

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

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

Faces of the Diaspora Series: A Ke'anae Girl "Left Hawai'i for Good"

By Megan Ulu-Lani Boyanton



Three generations, author Megan Ulu-Lani Boyanton, her tūtū Daisy Akuna Goodall and her makuahine Heidi Ulu-Lani Goodall Boyanton. - Courtesy Photo

In her living room in Port Orchard, Wash., Daisy Ann Young-Kiu Akuna Goodall, 83, still strums the strings of the 'ukulele she first learned to play as a teenager in Hawai'i. "I learned it by ear – and watching," said Goodall, a native of Ke'anae in rural Maui.

Today, drivers pass by the small coastal community when they traverse the Hana Highway. But in Goodall's birth year of 1941, before the Road to Hana was even paved, Ke'anae was predominantly made up of kalo farmers, including the Akunas. "I grew up in the country," Goodall said.

One of 15 siblings, she was raised in a Catholic household. Instead of learning hula, Goodall tried out 'Ori Tahiti, or Tahitian dance. With Kanaka 'Ōiwi lineage on both sides of her 'ohana, she remembers her Tūtū Wahine occasionally speaking 'ōlelo Hawai'i. However, with the Hawaiian language banned since 1896, keiki like her learned English.

"That was in the '40s," Goodall said. "We didn't know how to use pidgin English – how to say it, pronounce it."

Her family planted kalo, which they'd either sell for spending money or pound into poi for their own meals. Goodall primarily ate i'a (fish), with kālua pig saved for celebrations. The process of roasting the pork is "a lot of work," she laughed. Goodall also picked 'ulu (breadfruit) from trees with her makua kāne, Alexander Ah Sing Akuna, and her brothers, calling cooked breadfruit a "delicious" treat.

Back then, she didn't know that she'd eventually pass the name Ululani onto her youngest daughter, then her eldest granddaughter, inspired by those memories and childhood acquaintances with the same name.

Goodall resided in Ke'anae until the age of 13 when she left to attend junior high school in Honolulu. At 15 years old, she returned to finish her education at Maui High School. Afterward, Goodall was on the hunt for odd jobs, leading her back to O'ahu, which offered more opportunities. She found employment at the Dole Plantation, working seasonally in the pineapple fields alongside her sister, Mary.

At that time, 20-year-old Goodall met her future husband, David Eugene Goodall – a Navy man and inside machinist from Seattle who was stationed at Pearl Harbor. They crossed paths on the way to the laundromat and wed one year later at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wailuku, Maui. Their first daughter, Tammy Lynn, was born in Honolulu's Tripler Army Medical Center in 1964, followed by David Eugene in 1966.

A military spouse for 18 years, Goodall called it "a rewarding experience for me." Although she never dreamed of exploring beyond the islands, her husband's

two decades in the service eventually took her to the continent.

In 1966, Goodall – then 25 years old – moved to California with her growing family. "It was a new experience for me," albeit an enjoyable one, she said. Later that year, her son, Marvin Edward, was born in Long Beach. In 1969, she welcomed Heidi Ululani, her youngest child of four, in San Diego.

Two years later, her clan resettled in O'ahu. "It was nice to go back to Hawai'i," Goodall said. At that point, "I've seen the mainland," she added.

However, they'd only remain on the islands for a little longer. "In 1975, we left Hawai'i for good," Goodall said. They spent the next few years in California, then, after Goodall's spouse retired, they decided that his home state of Washington would count as their final destination.

At that point, Goodall also considered Hawai'i an unaffordable option. In 1979, after considering several homes, they chose a two-story house surrounded by forest in the city of Port Orchard where they'd live for the next 44 years. "This was the only house that was big enough for us," Goodall said.

Washington now hosts one of the largest Hawaiian diasporic communities on the continent, with about 1% of its population identifying as Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone, according to

the U.S. Census Bureau. But back then, Goodall counted as one of the area's only Hawaiians.

When locals found out about her islander roots, they'd respond, "Golly, really? What are you doing here?" Goodall said.

As her spouse worked jobs like making tuna-boat parts in Ballard, Goodall, a homemaker, oversaw the children once school let out. Their dinners almost always included rice – a mealtime nod to their Hawaiian culture.

Now, her keiki are grown, and she's become a kūpuna herself – a grandmother of five and a great-grandmother of one. Goodall hasn't returned to the islands since 1992, and, at her age, can't foresee herself stepping foot on the 'āina again. Instead, she prefers to leave those travels to her progeny.

Still, 2,630 miles northeast of Ke'anae, echoes of the aloha spirit resound in the corners of Goodall's home: a bottle of island gardenia-scented perfume, a half-shell holding plumeria earrings, a deck of Hanafuda playing cards tucked away until the next family gathering – belongings of a Hawaiian girl turned American woman in the diaspora.

Author's note: Daisy Goodall is the maternal grandmother of *Ka Wai Ola* writer Megan Ulu-Lani Boyanton. ■

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Nainoa Christian of Kapili Bookkeeping discusses OHA's business loan products with OHA Loan Processor Robert Crowell. - Photo: Jason Lees



DBEDT Director James Kunane Tokioka addresses the crowd at the "Made in Hawai'i Presents: Your Future in E-Commerce" conference. - Photo: DBEDT



Shopify's Brand Marketing Director Chris Schmicker and Coco Moon Hawai'i founder and Maui native Amber Thibaut discuss strategies for implementing advanced marketing tactics and retaining customers effectively. - Photo: Jason Lees

Cultivating Economic Development

OHA partners with the DBEDT to bring e-commerce knowledge to Native Hawaiian business owners

By Ed Kalama

It was billed as the e-commerce event of the year. Representatives from 76 Native Hawaiian-owned businesses were among the 250 attendees who gathered in February at the Ala Moana Hotel for the first-ever "Made in Hawai'i Presents: Your Future in E-Commerce" conference presented by the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT).

During a variety of sessions and panels, industry leaders shared tips and insights on how Hawai'i entrepreneurs can succeed in the e-commerce world, with expert guidance offered to businesses of all sizes and experience.

"This conference provided invaluable guidance to local manufacturers and retailers seeking to expand their reach beyond our shores in the digital marketplace," said James Tokioka, DBEDT director. "Mahalo to our partners Amazon and Shopify for their support in empowering our local businesses to thrive globally."

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs waived fees and offered free registration to 76 Native Hawaiian-owned businesses that signed up for the conference.

"One of our key strategies at OHA is to cultivate eco-

nomics development in our community. We want to help increase the number of Native Hawaiian-owned businesses and we want to help establish new markets for Native Hawaiian products," said OHA CEO/Ka Pouhana Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira.

"These beneficiary business owners were able to learn more about e-commerce straight from speakers representing companies like Amazon and Spotify, and it doesn't get any better than that. I am so thankful to DBEDT Director Tokioka for partnering with us in putting on this conference and I look forward to future collaborations between DBEDT and OHA."

Conference goers discussed the gamut of e-commerce issues including working with a third-party platform, setting up an online store, product selection, basic and advanced marketing strategies, retaining customers, and even the use of artificial intelligence in digital marketing.

The list of speakers and panelists included heavyweights like Bobby Co, Amazon Marketplace seller growth team leader, Shopify's Brand Marketing Director Chris Schmicker, Coco Moon Hawai'i founder Amber Thibaut, Inoa.ai founder Ellen Ng, Hibiscus Interactive founder Ted Saihara and Big Island Coffee Roasters co-founder Kelleigh Stewart.

Kailee Freitas is the owner of Mahina Made, a local lifestyle brand that has become known for its lei t-shirts. She operates primarily online and is looking into open-

SEE E-COMMERCE ON PAGE 9



Bobby Co, Amazon Marketplace Seller Growth Team Leader, addresses the crowd of over 250 local business owners hoping to expand their e-commerce capabilities. OHA offered to cover the registration fees for 76 Native Hawaiian business owners at the all-day E-Commerce Conference. - Photo: DBEDT

E-COMMERCE

Continued from page 8

ing a brick and mortar retail store as well.

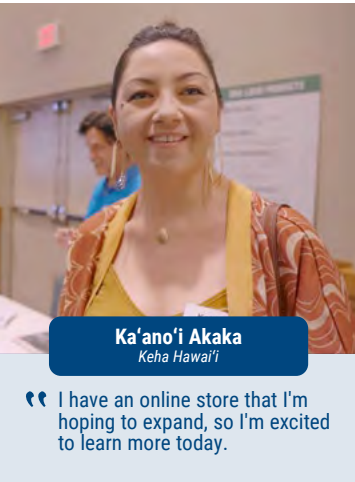
“As a business owner, I’m always looking for opportunities where we can learn to scale and grow - here locally and then reaching customers beyond Hawai’i as well. It’s a pleasure and an honor to be a Native Hawaiian business here in Hawai’i, and to have the support of organizations like OHA that allow us to grow and expand,” Freitas said.

Leomana Turalde is a young entrepreneur and the owner of Palelā Hawai’i. He sells “Hawai’i’s Official Sunblock” which is good for both the ocean and the body. He said he was particularly attracted to an e-commerce conference.

“One of the main reasons I wanted to come was because I sell mostly online. I grew up like most of the Hawaiians in my community in Keaukaha not having computers. So for me to understand how to sell on Etsy, on Shopify, on Amazon, it’s a huge information boom for my life and my family. I’m very thankful for this opportunity to come and learn how to sell online,” Turalde said.

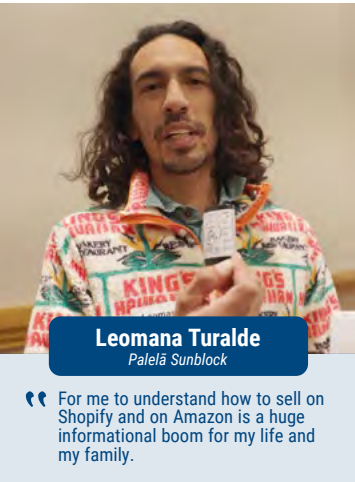
“I know there were many many Native Hawaiian small businesses and aspiring small businesses here, and it was chicken skin to hear Native Hawaiian speakers out in the lobby talking and conversing with each other,” Tokioka said.

“I know we’re going to continue partnerships like this. We’ve met with (OHA CEO) Stacy (Ferreira) to talk about networks and outreach from DBEDT with OHA because its a part of their mission to help Native Hawaiian businesses thrive. This is just one of the many events we hope to have with OHA.” ■



Ka'ano'i Akaka
Keha Hawai'i

“ I have an online store that I'm hoping to expand, so I'm excited to learn more today.



Leomana Turalde
Palelā Sunblock

“ For me to understand how to sell on Shopify and on Amazon is a huge informational boom for my life and my family.



Kailee Freitas
Mahina Made

“ Mahalo nui to OHA for sponsoring us to attend this event. It's a pleasure and an honor to be a Native Hawaiian business here in Hawai'i.



Maui Iokepa-Guerrero
Hua Ulu 'Āina

“ I kēia manawa, ke 'ulu nei mākou me ka 'ike, e kau i nā ki'i o nā mea kanu Hawai'i, nā mea Hawai'i, a pela aku. A pela pū me nā kaleka.



Kara Gibler
Moku Swim Academy

“ As we expand and grow, we are looking at e-commerce to meet our customers' needs & maybe even expand to other islands.



Ty Tynan
'Ohana First Home Care

“ I have a Native Hawaiian technology company and we're figuring out the best route to grow utilizing e-commerce.

OHA Seeks Nonprofit to Administer \$1.66 Million Emergency Financial Assistance Program



By Alice Malepeai Silbanuz

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has announced the availability of a new grant solicitation for a nonprofit organization to administer its emergency financial assistance program, the Pohala Mai - ‘Ohana Experiencing Financial Hardship Grant.

A grant budget of \$1.66 million is available from OHA to fund the emergency financial assistance program for Native Hawaiians. This increases the OHA grant funding available to support Native Hawaiians from \$6.87 million released in February to a total of \$8.35 million for grant solicitations.

The grant is intended to assist Native Hawaiians statewide to address unexpected crises, such as loss of income, loss of employment by layoff, debilitating illness or injury, or other unanticipated circumstances. The grant will provide qualified individuals and families with emergency funding to stabilize their situation. The grant will also provide financial literacy counseling, case management services and referrals to other service providers to help Native Hawaiians get on a path to long-term economic stability.

“The Pohala Mai Grant presents a vital opportunity for nonprofit organizations dedicated to supporting Native Hawaiian communities to make a tangible difference in the lives of those experiencing financial hardship,” OHA Chair Carmen “Hulu” Lindsey said. “Choosing the right nonprofit partner for OHA’s emergency financial assis-

tance program is not just a decision; it’s a commitment to our community. In their hands, we entrust hope, compassion, and the transformative power of support.”

The deadline for interested nonprofit organizations to submit their letter of interest and grant application is Friday, April 12, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. HST. Applications will be evaluated based on the project proposal, organizational capacity, experience, budget and budget justification.

For more information about the Pohala Mai - ‘Ohana Experiencing Financial Hardship Grant and application instructions, please visit the Office of Hawaiian Affairs website at www.oha.org/grants. ■



The Office of Hawaiian Affairs will be offering a host of cultural and advocacy activities during the week of the 61st Merrie Monarch Hula Festival. - Photo: Denielle Meyer



Nalu Andrade of Nā Maka Kahiko demonstrates how to carve intricate designs at a hands-on 'Ohe Kapala Workshop. - Photo: Denielle Meyer

OHA to Celebrate King Kalākaua's Legacy and Advocacy at the 61st Merrie Monarch Hula Festival

Nā Hanana o OHA cultural workshops, panel discussions and a parade float are planned

By Alice Malepeai Silbanuz

During the week of the 61st Merrie Monarch Hula Festival, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will present Nā Hanana o OHA, a community engagement series honoring the enduring legacy of King Kalākaua and his advocacy for the restoration of traditional Hawaiian knowledge and practices. From April 3 - 6, 2024, OHA will host cultural workshops, panel discussions and a parade float to celebrate mauka to makai connections, honor 'ike kūpuna and the resilience of Native Hawaiian culture.

"Under King Kalākaua's reign, many vital aspects of Hawaiian culture, including hula, were outlawed and deemed illegal. His courageous advocacy efforts played a pivotal role in restoring these cherished traditions, paving the way for the preservation of 'ike kūpuna and other traditional knowledge and practices," OHA Chair Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey said. "Today, OHA continues to champion Native Hawaiian Indigenous knowledge, cultural restoration, and community-based involvement as essential pillars of cultural sustainability."

OHA's interactive workshop series will delve into various aspects of Hawaiian culture, from hula and storytelling, to weav-

ing, and carving. All hands-on workshops will be led by Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Hosted at the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center, located on the Hilo bayfront at 76 Kamehameha Ave. from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Pre-registration is required at www.oha.org/merriemonarch2024.

- Story Telling with Kumu Hula Manaiakalani Kalua, Wed., 4/3
- Ulana Lauhala Workshop with 'Aha Puhala O Puna, Thurs., 4/4
- 'Ohe Kapala with Nalu Andrade of Nā Maka Kahiko, Fri., 4/5



Hawai'i Island Public Policy advocates Shane Akoni Nelson and Kealoha Pisciotta are among the three moderators for the discussion panels. - Courtesy Photos

OHA's advocacy supports the continued existence of cultural resource management and practices at local, state, federal and international levels. OHA's empowerment panel discussions will explore 'āina momona and self-determination, Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK), and the critical importance of kai moana. Panels will be hosted at the Nani Mau Gardens, at 421 Makalika St. in Hilo,

SEE MERRIE MONARCH ON PAGE 11



61st Merrie Monarch Hula Festival Schedule

Celebrate hula, the heartbeat of the Hawaiian people, at a week long festival hosted in Hilo. Tickets are not required for the **Hō'ike** on April 3 at the Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium, but a donation for Maui is encouraged. OHA is proud to support the Merrie Monarch Festival, and provide widespread access to nightly TV broadcasts on K5, as well as livestreams presented in English and for the first time in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i on **HawaiiNewsNow.com** and **MerrieMonarch.com**

Tune in!

- **Miss Aloha Hula** on April 4 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Hula Kahiko** on April 5 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Hula 'Auana and Awards** on April 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Learn more at
MerrieMonarch.com

MERRIE MONARCH

Continued from page 10

and moderated by OHA Hawai'i Island-based Public Policy advocates Shane Akoni Nelson, Kealoha Pisciotta, and Kamaile Puluole-Mitchell.

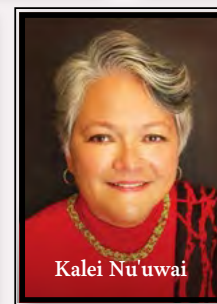
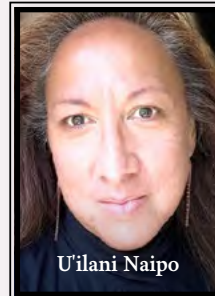
- Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK), Wed., 4/3, 10:00 a.m. - Noon with U'ilani Naipo of the Miloli'i Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) and OHA Legacy Land Management Specialist Kalena Blakemore
- 'Āina Momona & Self-determination, Wed., 4/3, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. with Kawika Lewis of 'Āina University and Dana Shapiro of the Hawai'i Island 'Ulu Cooperative
- Kai Moana, Thurs, 4/4, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. with Uncle Solomon Kaho'ohalahala, Kalei Nu'uhiwa, and Roxane Keli'ikipikaneokolo-haka

The panel discussions serve as a platform for empowerment, dialogue, and advocacy, and invite all Native Hawaiians/Kānaka Maoli and the community at-large to honor King Kalākaua's legacy and explore ways to uphold 'ike kūpuna for generations to come.

OHA will also participate in the 61st Merrie Monarch parade on Saturday, April 6. Collaborating with Hawaiian focused charter school Kua O Ka Lā, OHA will showcase a float commemorating King Kalākaua's legacy and the enduring Hawaiian culture. At the Ah Fook-Chinen Civic Center, from April 3 - 5, OHA will also share information at its outreach booth and have reusable bags (while supplies last) for all shoppers at the very popular Official Merrie Monarch Craft Fair.


For more information and to register for the Nā Hanana o OHA community engagement events, visit OHA's website: www.oha.org/merriemonarch2024. ■

Discussion Panelists



Casting into the future

KS Kaiāulu brings community together with our larger ‘ohana of partners, whose rich Hawaiian culture, ‘ōlelo and ‘āina focused opportunities can nurture ‘ōiwi leaders — and empower them to use their knowledge, skill and passion to strengthen Hawai‘i, its people and our global community.



Learn about opportunities near you at
ksbe.edu/kaiaulu

Kalima Lawsuit Settlement Update

Settlement paychecks sent to approximately 1,300 Living Class Members

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

Settlement checks must be cashed within 120 days after issuance. In most cases, the checks must be cashed by March 20, 2024. If you have not cashed your check by that date, the check is “stale” and cannot be cashed. A replacement will then have to be issued and there will be further delays. Please contact the Claims Administrator if you have not cashed your check by the stale date.

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. Living Class Members should continue to update their contact information even after you receive your check in case

there is an additional payment after the probate period is completed. Please provide contact information for a representative, as well.

Settlement Payments to Deceased Class Members’ Heirs

The “Probate Plan” for Deceased Class Members has begun. Probate Special Counsel Scott Suzuki has filed and will be filing Petitions in Probate Court to seek approval for payments to those entitled to the settlement funds of Deceased Class Members. Please read the Legal Notices in the *Honolulu Star Advertiser* (which also are available on the kalima-lawsuit.com website under the “Documents” link) for the information on hearing dates and parties involved in each Petition.

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 works. It is also available under the “Documents” link at the kalima-lawsuit.com website. 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. 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 available at limited times, please include that information in your message. Mahalo! ■

2024 ANA Pre-Application Training

Write your application for grants of up to \$1.5 million for Native Languages, cultural perpetuation, and economic development projects. Save your seat today!

April 10-11, 2024
9:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m.
at
UH Maui College

To register, go to:
www.anapacific.org



EDUCATION starts with ‘OHANA



Families who are involved in their keiki’s learning will foster a positive, lifelong, learning journey.

These Hawaiian culture-based early childhood education programs encourage collaboration between mākuā, keiki, and kumu.

Get ready for kindergarten! Give your keiki a head start and enroll your them at a FREE, part-time Family and Child Interactive Learning Program today!



INPEACE.org/Hoala

About 100 students from 10 Hawaiian charter schools visited the Hawai'i State Capitol on Wednesday, March 13 to engage in law and politics. Hawaiian Charter School Legislative Day is supported by the Hawai'i Peoples Fund, Native Voices Rising, and in-kind donations.

The Hawaiian Charter School Legislative Day preceded the 21st annual Ku'i Ka Lono Conference on Hawaiian Education, March 14-15, hosted this year by Ka Waihona O Ka Na'auao Public Charter School in Nānākuli.

The conference features student group presentations to inspire unity and innovation across the network of Hawaiian schools. *It has been funded each year since its inception by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, with administrative support from Kanu O Ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana (KALO).*

Hawaiian Charter Schools Making House in the House and Senate

By Trevor Atkins

Many Hawaiian-focused charter schools students feel right at home on the Hawai'i State Capitol grounds. That's because it has been a common practice to have students attend the opening day of the Legislative session each January. For over 20 years, students have been engaging in marches, rallies, and demonstrations that coincide with the anniversary of the overthrow of Lili'uokalani on January 17.

But few students feel comfortable inside the chambers or behind the tall, wooden doors where lawmakers decide which bills pass or fail during the ensuing four months. Ke Ea Hawai'i is trying to change that.

Ke Ea Hawai'i is an 11-year-old 'aha, a leadership council, composed of one selected student representative from each Hawaiian-focused charter school. The council sets priorities and plans interscholastic events that strengthen ea (independence). This year, one priority is to increase collective knowledge and engagement in governance.

On November 28, the council co-planned a Lā Kū'oko'a summit on Hawaiian Kingdom law and politics at Kanu O Ka 'Āina's campus in Waimea. Over 500 students and staff from nine charter schools learned about how Hawaiian Kingdom law can be applied

within and without the U.S. justice system.

Then on Wednesday, March 13, Ke Ea Hawai'i partnered with former and current law makers to host over 125 students and staff for a second annual Charter School Legislative Day. After opening together with pule, representatives Jeanne Kapela, Amy Perruso and Kirsten Kahaloa gave a warm welcome. The students attended a live committee hearing for Culture, Arts, and Internal Affairs. Coincidentally, the hearing included bills to commemorate Makahiki as well as the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom government on Jan. 17, 1893.

Fifteen students testified in support of commemorating Makahiki, primarily to elevate awareness of its importance in cultivating Hawaiian cultural practices.

Gov. Josh Green gave a brief welcome to students in his office, and members of the Senate and House introduced students by school during the respective chamber floor sessions on financial crossover day for live bills.

But the highlight for many students was hearing from a panel of Kānaka Maoli legislators, office staff, and advocacy specialists who shared mo'olelo about how to make the state government as afe space for Hawaiians.

"This building is really hard, but it also can be really welcoming if you can ground yourself and know what you stand for and why you're here," shared young Rep. Kapela, who believes she

may be the first kanaka maoli wahine to represent her own hometown district in the state legislature.

"My presence, your presence, in this building disrupts the idea of what we think of politicians, what we think of as leaders, but your presence brings the change that we need and want to see."

Participating in the lawmaking process has always been more bitter than sweet for Kānaka Maoli. Many persistently refute U.S. state and federal authority over Hawaiian Kingdom lands and citizens. Thus, some refuse to acknowledge, vote, testify, or participate in hegemonic politics, in accord with all our kūpuna who signed the Kū'e Petitions.

Others follow in the path of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, infiltrating the system and carving out space and time for Kānaka Maoli to exist, to grow, and to assert native rights.

Panelist Keahi Renauld, office manager for Sen. Maile Shimabukuro closed the day with pule and this mana'o: "If you like the system, learn the system. If you don't like the system, learn the system." ■

Trevor Atkins, 39, of 'Ōla'a, is the lead advisor for Ke Ea Hawai'i. He currently teaches high school math at Kanu O Ka 'Āina's Ka 'Ohā program.



Ioane Miller, 11th grade student at Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo Public Charter School, was one of 15 students who testified in favor of Senate Bill 2657, commemorating Makahiki. - Photos: Trevor Atkins



In an unconventional form of testimony, Kumu Kaliko Baker polls the audience to let the Committee on Culture, Arts & Internal Affairs know who in the room supports the Senate Bill to commemorate Makahiki, SB2657.

Hawai'i to Host Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture for the First Time in Its History

By Cedric Duarte



A Mekeo dancer from Papua New Guinea in the first ever Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture held in Suva, Fiji in 1972. - Photo: Nick DeWolf

What could be the most consequential gathering of Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i's history will occur this summer. For the first time since its inception in 1972, Hawai'i will host the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FestPAC), the world's largest celebration of Indigenous Pacific Islanders. Artists, cultural practitioners, scholars, and officials from 28 Pacific Island nations will convene on O'ahu from June 6 to 16, 2024.

FestPAC, usually held every four years, was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture will be held in Hawai'i, marking the first time a U.S. state will host the event.

"The selection of Hawai'i as the host country for the festival is a testament to the island's enduring legacy as a beacon of cultural diversity and inclusivity," said Kalani Ka'anā'anā, chair of the Hawai'i Commission. "It's an opportunity for us to share the aloha spirit with our Pacific Island cousins and reaffirm our commitment to preserving and promoting Indigenous cultures."

Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tahiti, Australia, the Cook Islands, Western Samoa, New Caledonia, Palau, American Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Guam have all hosted FestPAC.

The Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture traces back to 1972 when the South Pacific Commission, now known as the Pacific Community, sought to halt the erosion of traditional customs and practices among Pacific Island communities through ongoing cultural exchange. The hope was to create a space for Pacific Islanders to share their traditional arts, crafts, music, dance, and oral traditions with the world.

FestPAC is a platform for Pacific Islanders to showcase their unique cultural heritage, exchange knowledge and skills, and foster greater understanding and appreciation amongst its diverse communities.

It has also served as a meeting place for conversations at the highest levels of government within the Pacific region. It has brought together Pacific peoples from different countries to discuss their shared challenges of climate change, geopolitical dynamism, environmental sustainability issues, regenerative economic challenges, and other critical issues.

"All of this is founded through this Festival on the platform of Pacific cultural worldview, cultural knowledge, and cultural practice, all through points that continually and directly connect us to our ances-



Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima poses with performers from New Caledonia at the 10th FestPAC in American Samoa in 2008. - Photo: Kihei de Silva

tors,” said Festival Director Aaron Salā. “The Festival of Pacific Arts is more than just a showcase of cultural performances. It’s a living testament to the resilience, creativity, and spirit of the Pacific people. It’s about preserving our traditions, honoring our ancestors, and shaping the future of our communities.”

The theme for FestPAC Hawai‘i 2024 is Ho‘oulu Lāhui: Regenerating Oceania. In ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, Ho‘oulu Lāhui means to grow the nation. The 2024 Festival will highlight several urgent issues facing the Pacific region, including rising sea levels, climate change, sustainability, coral reef death, and widening social inequality.

FestPAC Hawai‘i’s official Opening Ceremony is Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, T.C. Ching Athletics Complex. The opening ceremonies resemble those of the Olympic Games, with a parade of flags of the participating countries but with the added flare of each Pacific Island delegation’s culture on full display with traditional dress, dances, and customs.

A film festival, fashion show, live performances, an Indigenous philosophers conference, and a youth ambassador program are among the more than 50 symposia, workshops, or events scheduled.

One of the highlights of past FestPACs has been the Festival Village & Marketplace, where each nation can display its culture through performances, demonstrations, displays, and heritage arts.

At FestPAC Hawai‘i, the Festival Village & Marketplace will be at the Hawai‘i Convention Center.

Attendees will see authentic cultural practitioners demonstrate all sorts of cultural art forms, from carving to weaving, singing, dancing, kapa/tapa/siapo making, fiber artistry, visual artistry, and more, all under one roof.

Participating delegations include American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Rapa Nui, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawai‘i, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands,

Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, and Taiwan.

In addition to the Hawai‘i Convention Center, other venues across O‘ahu that will host FestPAC Hawai‘i events will include Bishop Museum, Capitol Modern, ‘Iolani Palace, Kawaiaha‘o Church, Kapi‘olani Band Stand, Kualoa Regional Park, Polynesian Cultural Center, Pālama Settlement, Kapolei Regional Park, and the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

FestPAC Hawai‘i 2024 expects to attract 100,000 local and visitor attendees. Each of the 28 nations’ ministers of culture is allowed to bring up to 100 delegates who specialize in cultural practices.

For Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders living in Hawai‘i, this year’s festival will bring forward their homeland’s sights, sounds, tastes, and visuals for all to share.

According to the 2020 Census, 317,497 Native Hawaiians live in the State of Hawai‘i, along with over 30 different groups of Pacific Islanders. The Samoan population is the largest, at 40,871, followed by Marshallese, Tongan, Chamorro, and Chuukese.

For Salā, who is both Samoan and Native Hawaiian, FestPAC Hawai‘i offers a rare moment of cultural exchange and unity.

“FestPAC is the foremost platform for the celebration and perpetuation of Pacific arts and culture. This is a once-in-a-lifetime, unique opportunity for Hawai‘i to showcase our cultural heritage with our broader Pacific ‘ohana, while also fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the Pacific’s collective identity,” Salā said.

At its February meeting, Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) trustees authorized the disbursement of \$1.5 million to assist the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture hosted in Hawai‘i. The funds will help support the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, an Ecumenical Service, a Pacific Traditional Leaders Forum, and other event programming.

“It is important that the Native Hawaiian community be at the forefront in representing these islands, and

OHA is proud to represent the voice of the lāhui at this international celebration,” said OHA Board Chair Carmen “Hulu” Lindsey. “This is an opportunity for Hawai‘i to rekindle our relationship with other Pacific Islanders.”

OHA will bring together traditional leaders from other Pacific Island nations at an unprecedented forum designed to strengthen bonds between the island nations.

“At the end of the day, this Festival is meant to celebrate the people who make up the region and meant to bring these people together in a way that elevates what we have been doing for generations and generations and generations, and reminding ourselves that we aren’t alone in this ocean,” Salā said.

For more information about FestPAC Hawai‘i 2024, including Festival delegations, event programs, and venue information, visit www.festpachawaii.org. ■

Cedric R. Duarte is a Honolulu-based communications professional who specializes in the Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander community. He is currently the Managing Partner of The Kālaïmoku Group, a Native Hawaiian-Owned SBA 8(a) Certified communications and marketing firm.



Ikelau Misech performs a traditional Palauan dance celebrating women at the OHA FestPAC press conference on Mar. 6. - Photo: Jason Lees



OHA Board of Trustees, FestPAC Commissioners, and FestPAC Director Dr. Aaron Salā (far left) with performers representing Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia at the OHA press conference on Mar. 6 announcing OHA’s \$1.5 million sponsorship of FestPAC. - Photo: Jason Lees



Dancers from Rapa Nui (Easter Island) wearing traditional huru huru as they perform at the most recent FestPAC in 2016 in Guam. - Photo: Steve Hardy

The Kona Steel Guitar Festival*April 4-6, Keauhou, Hawai'i*

The Hawaii Institute for Music Enrichment and Learning Experiences (HIMELE), Outrigger Kona Resort and Spa, in association with the Ke Kula Mele Hawai'i School of Hawaiian Music present Kona Steel Guitar Festival FREE to the public. Program schedule online at www.konasteelguitarfestival.com.

Pu'uhonua Makeke*April 13, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Waimānalo, O'ahu*

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

Kama'aina Sunday*April 14, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Honolulu, O'ahu*

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

NAGPRA Regulations Webinar Series: Consultation under NAGPRA*April 19, 7:00 a.m. HST, Notices under NAGPRA*

**Waimea Valley
Kama'aina FREE
Admission
Thursdays
from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
April 7, 11, 18, 25
Waimea, O'ahu**

Every Thursday, before the Hale'iwa Farmers Market begins in Piikake Pavilion, all Hawai'i residents receive

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

Science & Sustainability Festival 2024*April 20, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Honolulu, O'ahu*

Museum scientists, educators, cultural practitioners, and community partners highlight the ongoing work needed to protect biodiversity and build a sustainable

future in Hawai'i. Enjoy keiki activities, exhibition highlights, music and food vendors. \$5 kama'aina and military www.Bishopmuseum.org

Kū I Ka Mana: Fearlessness in Art*April 21, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., Honolulu, O'ahu*

Panel Discussion with Lulani Arquette, Drew Kahu'aina Broderick, Healoha Johnston, and artist Kapulani Landgraf reflecting upon the relevance of resistance, resilience, and courage as pivotal moments to propel and support Kanaka 'Ōiwi art communities and creative scholarship. www.myhoma.org/aua.

Kū I Ka Mana: The Art of Critical Pedagogy and Difficult Knowledge*April 27, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., Honolulu, O'ahu*

Educator workshop with Noelle Kahanu, Halena Kapuni-Reynolds, and Karen Kosasa sharing strategies and activities educators can implement in their classrooms to support important but sometimes difficult conversations. For all educators regardless of grade level and content expertise. www.myhoma.org/aua. ■

FestPAC Promotes Pasefika Mana

By Mālia Sanders

In June 2024, Hawai'i will host the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture, the world's largest celebration of Indigenous Pacific Islanders and a convening of 28 Indigenous Pacific Island communities as a beacon of cultural revival. It is a vibrant and culturally enriching event celebrating the unique traditions, artistry, and diverse cultures of the Pacific.

The roots of FestPAC trace back to discussions of the 1970s when Pacific Island nations, understanding that cultural exchange was a necessary tool in halting the erosion of their traditional practices, created the Festival as a means to strengthen cultural bonds among Pacific Island communities, foster a greater understanding of their individual cultures, and execute activities that preserve and promote Indigenous cultures in the Pacific. The South Pacific Commission (now The Pacific Community - SPC) launched this dynamic showcase of arts and culture in Suva, Fiji, in 1972. The hope was to create a space where Pacific Islanders could gather to share their traditional arts, crafts, music, dance, and oral traditions.

In a world that continues to be more and more accessible, native cultures are affected globally on a multitude of fronts. Western influence and global access can be positive for native communities, but it can also lead to cultural erosion, cultural distortion and commodification. As the world grows smaller and smaller, Indigenous communities become more and more susceptible to global impacts of this contraction and are the first to feel the effects of sea level rise, climate change, environmental exploitation of their traditional lands and resources which can further contribute to the erosion of traditional culture and socio-economic disparity.

As we prepare to convene and host FestPAC June 6 through June 16 in Hawai'i for the very first time, we look forward to creating space in our home to have fruitful discussions on Native Hawaiian cultural empowerment and self-determination.

"In Hawai'i, our resident demographics encompass Indigenous peoples from across the Pacific region," noted Aaron Salā, FestPAC Director. "This festival offers a unique opportunity to not only celebrate and showcase our Hawaiian heritage, but also uplift and honor the traditions of our Pacific Indigenous communities, fostering a deeper appreciation for our collective relationships as Oceanic peoples."

As Native Hawaiians participate in the upcoming FestPAC activities, we assert our inherent right to self-representation and cultural autonomy. Through our presence and participation, Native Hawaiians reaffirm our connection of our ancestral legacy and our ideology of being stewards of our lands, reclaiming our rightful place within the global community of Pacific Indigenous peoples, safeguarding the collective memory of our ancestors, and sharing the best of our culture with our Pacific cousins. NaHHA looks forward to sharing upcoming news on ways we plan to engage in FestPAC and will share more information soon on how the Native Hawaiian community can collaborate and participate with us at the huina, the intersection, of tradition and culture.

For the most up to date information visit www.festpachawaii.org. ■

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

LEI DAY**MAY 1st, WEDNESDAY**

Lei Demonstrations • Vote for Best Lei • Live Music
Lei Garden Walk • Lei Displays • Make Lei

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'Aki i ka Pō Lā'au

By Lisa Kapono Mason



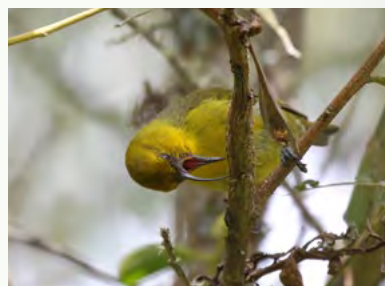
The 'akiapōlā'au, passing through a ray of sunlight, is endemic to Hawai'i Island. - Photo: Ann Tanimoto Johnson

Deep in Hawai'i's upland wet forests, the 'akiapōlā'au (*Hemignathus wilsoni*) flutter amongst sprawling branches of the mighty koa and 'ōhi'a trees. Endemic to Hawai'i Island, this stocky yellow-green honeycreeper wields a bill unlike any other – a heterobill marvel that serves as both chisel and probe. With its large, decurved upper mandible and a stout, woodpecker-like lower mandible, 'akiapōlā'au are Hawai'i's own avian carpenters. Like nā kālāi wa'a (canoe makers), these birds spend many days navigating their forest for the perfect tree.

They forage with precision, tapping into the heart of 'ōhi'a to savor the rich sap, a precious resource in their diet, and meticulously search for insects within the crevices of koa bark. These birds are territorial, guarding their resources throughout the year. Breeding from February to July, their low reproductive potential – and threats like predation,

habitat loss, and disease – further challenge their survival. Today, you can catch glimpses of these endangered birds on the Pu'u 'Ō'ō trail and in the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve on the northeastern slopes of Mauna Loa. ■

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.



The 'akiapōlā'au forages with precision to reveal a delicious treat. - Photo: Bret N. Massman

Nā Kilipaki o Mikolonekia

Na Kalani Akana, Ph.D.



Nota: Eia ka mua o 'ekolu mo'olelo e pili ana i ka po'e o ka Pākīpika e hele ana i Hawai'i no ka Festival of Pacific Arts (FestPAC) ma Iune o kēia makahiki. E ho'ohana 'ia ka hua 'ōlelo Kanaka no nā kanaka 'Ōiwi Hawai'i.

Ua kama'āina kākou i ka pilina nui o ka Polynesian Voyaging Society me Mau Pailug no Satawal, ke kā'e'a'e'a o nā ho'okele wa'a a me ke kilo hōkū. Aia 'o Satawal ma Yap, kekahi moku'āilāna i ke aupuni o Nā Moku'āina Hui Pū 'Ia 'o Mikolonekia (Federated States of Micronesia, FSM). I kēia au, ua ne'ekau i Hawai'i nā po'e he nui no FSM me ka hapanui o lākou mai ka moku'āina o Chuuk. 'A'ole na'e kēia ne'ekau kānaka no FSM ka mua mai Mikolonekia mai.

Ma ka makahiki 1877, ma ka noho ali'i o Kalākaua, ua hō'ea mai 55 mau limahana mai Kilipaki (Kiribati, Gilberts) mai. Mai 1878 ā i ka 1887, ma kahi o 2,000 mau kānaka Kilipaki i hele mai e hana ma nā mahi kō, mahi laiki, a ma nā kīhāpai kope. 'O lākou Kilipaki a pau he mau kānaka i baptizo 'ia e nā mikioneli Kanaka Hawai'i mai nā hale pule Kalawina i kōkua a hana pū me Hailama Binamu II. 'O Bennet Namakeha a me Kapi'olani kekahi o nā mikioneli kaulana i hana ma waena o nā 'ōiwi o Kilipaki. Aia ma kahi o 19 mau Kanaka i hele a noho ma Abaiang ma Kilipaki 'Ākau e like me J.W. Kanoa (1857-1864), Joel Mahoe (1857-1868), D.P. Aumai (1858-1868), a me W.B. Kapu (1863-1868). Ua luku ho'opapau 'ia

ka mikiona mua ma Abaiang e kekahi pū'u-lu koa mai ka moku kua'au 'o Tarawa akā ua kūkulu hou 'ia e kekahi mau Kanaka hou, 'o ia 'o J.D. Ahia (1871-1872), George Lelo (1876-1884), S.K. Maunaloa (1880-1881), Luther Marin (1887-1890), a me David Ka'ai (1892-1895).

Ma ka moku kua'au o Tarawa, kaulana no ke Kaua Honua II, ua kūkulu 'ia ka mikiona e George Haina (E nānā i ke ki'i). 'O Robert Maka (1865-1894) lāua 'o J.W. Kanoa (1865-1886) nā mikioneli no Butaritari (Pūtalitali) a laila mai 'o John Nua (1892-1895) a me Louis Mitchell (1895-1896).

Ma nā moku kua'au o Kilipaki Hema, ua ho'okumu 'ia ka mikiona Kalawina ma Tabiteuea e George Lelema mua o kona hele 'ana e hana ma Abaiang. Na W.B. Kapu (1868-1893) lāua 'o H.B. Nalimu (1872-1882) i ho'omau ma Tabiteuea. 'Oiai ua nui nā kānaka i baptizo 'ia, ua kaua nā Kalikiano hou me nā kānaka o Tabiteuea Hema a lilo ia i mea ho'ohilahila i ka po'e Kalawina.

A ho'i mai nā mikioneli Kanaka i Hawai'i, ua ho'omau 'ia ke kōkua 'ana i nā Kilipaki i hele mai e hana ma ka mahi kō, 'o ia nō 'o Mahoe, Maka, Lono, me Kanoho. Ua ha'alele nā Kilipaki he nui mai ka hana 'ino o ka mahi kō a ua hūnā 'ia e nā Hawai'i. 'O kekahi, ua male lākou i nā kānaka Hawai'i a ua mālama 'ia ka inoa Kilipaki ma waena o lākou ā hiki i kēia lā. 'O ka pale waiū 'apu niu a me ka pā'u hula mau'u malo'o o nā Kilipaki kekahi o nā waiwai i lawe a mālama 'ia e nā Hawai'i. ■

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



Reverend George Haina, his wife Kaluahine, their son and four daughters. - Photo: A. A. Montano, 1878 (HMCS Collection)

Hālau honors Kipu Kai Ranch's Old-time Paniolo Wilfred "Willy" Kuali'i III



By KipuKai Kuali'i

At Merrie Monarch this year, the ladies of Hālau Ka Lei Mokihana o Leinā'ala from Kalāheo, Kaua'i, will perform their 'auana hula

to Mary Kawena Pukui's "*Kipu Kai*" honoring an old-time paniolo who worked for Mr. John "Jack" Waterhouse on Kipu Kai Ranch back in the 50s and 60s. That paniolo is my pure Hawaiian father, Wilfred "Willy" Kuali'i III, who today is 90 years young. We celebrated his 90th with a paniolo-themed pā'ina at Smith's Tropical Paradise where he tore up the dance floor in the same cowboy boots, hat and beautiful peacock feather band that he'll be wearing at the hālau's performance.

Dad was born on Oct. 1, 1933, in Kalaupapa; the only child of Louisa Kaelaeloa of Waimea, Kaua'i, and Wilfred "Li'ilii" Kuali'i of Waipi'o Valley, Hawai'i Island; both patients at Kalaupapa County's leper hospital and colony. At 3-days-old, cleared of leprosy, he was taken by his mother's half-sister Melapa "May" Makanui back to Kaua'i. He had a tough childhood only being able to get to the third grade and having to work really hard in the taro patches and salt pans of Hanapēpē. By the time he was nearing adulthood, he was more than ready to leave that all behind for the life of a paniolo on Kipu Kai Ranch.

In her late teens, Mom (Patricia Ann Carvalho Kuali'i), started going into Kipu Kai Ranch with her father (Ernest "Shiriki" Souza Carvalho), a weekend ranch mechanic, to clean and cook in the main house. It wasn't long before the paniolo and the housekeeper met and fell in love under the watchful eye of their boss, Mr. Waterhouse who, true to the song's descriptor ("kind-hearted"), was so very

kind to them and our new and growing family over the next several years.

Since losing Mom five years ago, we've pushed Dad to choose living; reminding him Mom wanted us to have more time together. As it turns out, he got to watch our baby brother Kawika compete in Merrie Monarch just a few years ago. Both Mom and Dad really loved watching Merrie Monarch; especially the Miss Aloha Hula portion. Mom was a hula dancer herself and I'm sure she must have danced "*Kipu Kai*" for Mr. Waterhouse; maybe even to the singing of Mary Kawena Pukui herself and/or Uncle Bill Kaiwa.



Wilfred "Willy" Kuali'i III - Courtesy Photo

In early January, three of my siblings (Sandra Hoku-lani, Debra Ualani and Kris Kawika), myself and Dad went on a huaka'i to Kipu Kai Ranch with the hālau. None of us had returned there for well over 30 years. We had the most wonderful, magical time filled with tears and smiles. The only thing missing from such a heavenly day was the physical presence of Mom! We are forever grateful to Kumu Leinā'ala Pavao Jar-

din, the First Hawaiian Bank Trustee, the Ranch Caretaker, and the ladies of Hālau Ka Lei Mokihana o Leinā'ala. This means everything to our entire Kuali'i 'Ohana – especially to Dad! ■

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

By Bobby Camara

April is Native Hawaiian Plant Month, celebrating the diversity and bio-cultural value of roughly 1,400 native Hawaiian plant species. This month we are highlighting a few beautiful lā'au Hawai'i with delicate flowers.

Puakala *Argemone glauca*

I kēlā moku puakala, e kū maila lā.

*In the puakala patch, standing yonder
[from the story of Ka'ululā'au, in the legend of 'Ele'io, Ka Nupepa Kuo-
koa, 17 October 1863] - na Noah Gomes*



Puakala, our endemic prickly poppy is a study in extreme contrasts. A blue-grey plant is armored in stiff thorns; an unusual feature for mostly benign endemics. Then add the stunning beauty of most-delicate, almost transparent brilliant white petals, and you have our puakala. - Photo: No'eau Peralto; inset image: Puakala seeds. - Photo: Moloka'i Seed Co.



Tiny seeds are beautifully sculpted, and are held in an elongate, upright, very pokey cup. Yellowish sap might be used to treat pain and toothache, but our poppy does not have opioids typical of others.

While most literature tells us it favors dry leeward regions, No'eau Peralto knows it well at Koholālele, Hāmākua, Island of Hawai'i. "They've [puakala] taught us important lessons about this work, and serve as an indicator of success...when we pull the "weeds" and hold the space with intention, the natives of the place will grow and flourish; sometimes all we need to do is stay out of their way..." ■

Hoahānau 'Ehā Four Cousins

E nu'anu'a nā pua hihi o Hawai'i, i lei mauhili o ka poli.

The creeping flowers of Hawai'i grow thickly, as an entangled lei upon the breast - Noah Gomes

For those who aren't particularly botanically inclined, we'll try Go Outside and Pay Attention (Noho i waho a maliu). Four different plants, lā'au hihi, (plants that entangle, creep and spread) according to Mrs. Pukui mā. They are in the family Convolvulaceae, Morning-glories, and so all are related. None are particularly showy but we aloha them nevertheless. ■



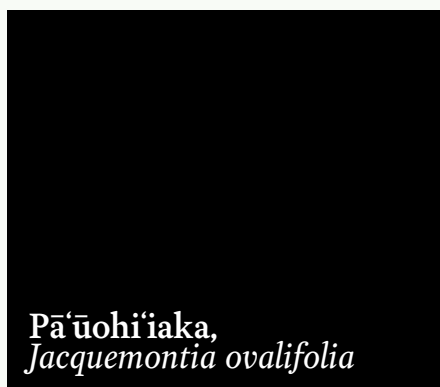
Pōhuehue,
Ipomoea pes-caprae

Pōhuehue is our friend on the sandy beach. Purple flowers, leaves with curved "v" cutouts on their tips, making them look like the hooves of kao (goats). Pōhuehue often hosts tangled masses of yellow-orange kauna'oa, another morning-glory. - Photo: Bobby Camara



'Uala,
Ipomoea batatas

'Uala is also a morning-glory. Very variable, cooked leaves, palula, are spinachy, and its tubers come in a variety of colors, degrees of moistness, shape, and size. Bulging biceps are 'uala too. - Photo: Courtesy NTBG



Pā'ūohi'iaka,
Jacquemontia ovalifolia

Pā'ūohi'iaka, with her delicate pua of pale lavender looks like a mini-twin of pōhuehue, though with furry leaf undersides. "The skirt of Hi'iaka," it's said, grew over and sheltered Hi'iakaikapoliopole after she was left on a beach whilst Pele went surfing. - Photo: Alen Cressler



And then Bonamia, sadly, 'a'ohe inoa Hawai'i (it has no known Hawaiian name). Sturdy, often found in dry lee lowlands, mayhaps because it was preyed upon in friendlier climes. It's critically endangered, but grows vigorously, given a chance. - Photo: David Eickhoff

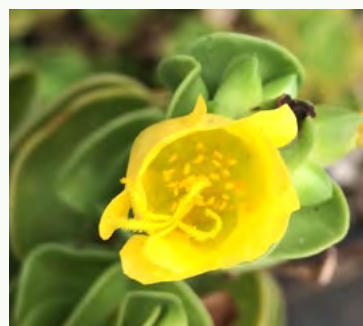
'Ihi *Portulaca molokiniensis* Hobdy

He kini a'a molo ka 'ihi o Molokini.

The 'ihi of Molokini have many intertwined roots - na Noah Gomes



'Ihi can be found in nurseries, and its spectacular, compact architecture is a pleasure to behold. - Photo: Bobby Camara



Pua, up close. - Photo: Bobby Camara



On Maui, next to heavily trafficked highways, and nearly adjacent to a busy port, 'ihi manages. Life on the shore of Kanahā can be pleasant when accompanied by 'aki'aki (the grass), and other "hoaloha."

Endemic to Molokini and Kaho'olawe, 'ihi is a star, on Molokini, struggling amidst the green grassy slope of alien buffelgrass in rainy season. As with many other rare endemic plants of our pae 'āina, we seem to find them at the very edges of their former range(s), barely clinging to life (sound familiar?). But mālama them with aloha, and we're often surprised with the results. What we thought were nearly extinct, given a little water and more favorable climates, are able to spring back to health.

Botanist extraordinaire Bob Hobdy who made Maui his 'āina aloha, found 'ihi on Molokini.

As Forest Starr shares, "Too bad Bob Hobdy is dead, he would gladly recall the story of finding it, thinking it was different than *Portulaca lutea* (which previous botanists to Molokini called it), and then describing the (new) species." ■



On Molokini, after it rains, 'ihi stems fatten, but are near buried by alien buffelgrass. - Photos: Forest Starr

E NHLC...

By Kirsha K.M. Durante, Litigation Director and 'Ōlapa – Hālau I Ka Wēkiu; Devin Kamealoha Forrest, Staff Attorney and Kumu Hula – Hālau Hula 'o Ke'ālalaua'eomakana Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation



Every spring, the week-long Merrie Monarch Festival celebrates King David Kalākaua and his legacy of reinstating the public practice of hula after it had been outlawed in the 1830s. In honor of this year's 61st Merrie Monarch Festival, we are using this month's column to provide general information about the Huamakahikina Declaration on the Integrity, Stewardship, & Protection of Hula.

What is Huamakahikina?

Huamakahikina is a coalition of Kumu Hula from Hawai'i, the continental United States, and various countries around the world and recognizes that Kumu Hula have a unique kuleana to the integrity, stewardship, and protection of hula. All Kumu Hula are welcome to join and collaborate with other members of Huamakahikina in order to advocate on behalf of Kumu Hula and the practice of hula.

What is the Huamakahikina Declaration?

Between August 21-22, 2021, 160 Kumu Hula attended the Kupukalālā Kumu Hula Convention to discuss and ratify what would later be called the Huamakahina Declaration. The core group of Kumu Hula that facilitated the convention were assisted by lawyers and law students who themselves are also practitioners of hula. "This was a monumental and historic undertaking in which cultural practice and tradition were synthesized and considered not only from its foremost practitioners themselves, but from a legal perspective as well," said U'ilani Tanigawa Lum, hula practitioner and assistant professor of law at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law. "The Declaration is a proactive step in addressing the ways in which our cultural practices are protected and operate in the 21st century." The convention employed a practi-

tioner-led process resulting in a Declaration that is not a mere melding of Native Hawaiian tradition with western law, but rather an expression of Native Hawaiian tradition in a language cognizable to Western Law.

The Declaration notes several concerns including: the misrepresentation, cultural misappropriation, exploitation, and abuse of hula; the widespread ignorance and misunderstanding about the practice and performance of hula as a Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practice; the insufficient protection for hula, including the infringement of intellectual property rights to which kumu hula are entitled; the lack of recognition of traditional and cultural expertise of kumu hula; and the lack of access and resources as barriers to engaging in the study and practice of hula. Ultimately, the Declaration issues a call to action to address these concerns and to protect and advance the practice of hula.

Is the Huamakahikina Declaration a law that I can reference?

The Huamakahikina Declaration has not been codified as state or federal law. However, it is a powerful tool that practitioners can use to advocate for the protection of hula, and if used in legal advocacy, it could influence courts when making determinations of fact and law related to hula. Instruments like the Huamakahikina Declaration provide the world with a better understanding of what traditional knowledge is, why it is important, and how one should interact with it appropriately.

For more information, visit: <https://www.huamakahikina.org/>. ■

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

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

Assessing the Economic Impact on Hawai'i's Indigenous Community

By Andrew Rosen



A recent study conducted by

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) and highlighted in *Pacific Business News* sheds light on the economic sentiments of 900 residents across Hawai'i. The findings reveal a sobering reality: despite Hawai'i's picturesque landscapes and vibrant culture, many residents perceive a worsening situation in key areas impacting the state.

PRP Interim Executive Director Joshua Magno expressed surprise at the lack of perceived positive change in significant issues compared to previous surveys conducted in 2019. "From training our young people for jobs of the future, to the availability of affordable housing, to homelessness – across the board our community members reported that for them most of their key issues have gotten worse and, at best, stayed the same," Magno conveyed.

Magno further elucidated that the sentiment of 56% of respondents feeling that Hawai'i is 'headed in the wrong direction' in 2023, as opposed to 45% in 2019, provides context for the

prevailing concerns.

In essence, the report underscores the reality that Hawai'i has become increasingly challenging for its residents.

Understanding the economic landscape is paramount for strategic planning and resource allocation, particularly for organizations focused on Native Hawaiian commerce. While data aggregation efforts, such as those by the Census, provide broader insights, there remains a need for targeted analysis concerning the Native Hawaiian community.

Recognizing this need, the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce (NHCC) is taking proactive steps. NHCC is launching a concise five-question survey aimed at gauging the economy's impact on its members. By collecting data quarterly and publishing results regularly, NHCC aims to provide a comprehensive overview by January 2025.

This initiative will not only offer valuable insights but also pave the way for tailored resources and initiatives to bolster Native Hawaiian commerce. ■

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



Māmaki, An Essential Pharmaceutical



By Jodi Leslie Matsuo,
DrPH

Māmaki is one of the most

well-known endemic plants of Hawai'i. Its increasing popularity can be attributed to a desire for more natural approaches to health with holistic benefits that extend far beyond what conventional medicine can provide. For Native Hawaiians, its use is also a recognition and appreciation that our cultural plants were our medicine.

In ka wā kahiko, the māmaki plant was used in various ways. The bark of the māmaki was used to make kapa for clothing, nets, cordage and paper. The trunk and branches were used to make tools. Its fruit was used to treat constipation. Leaves were made into tea and taken plain or in combination with other herbs, depending on the health condition being treated. Often times, the tea was taken to overcome physical fatigue and exhaustion.

The wisdom of our ancestors supports the use of māmaki tea in lowering blood pressure and blood cholesterol. It is also used for improving mood and lowering anxiety.

Modern research has expanded its medicinal value. Māmaki has been demonstrated to help prevent infections. It is shown effective against certain bacteria, *Staphylococcus aureus* (which causes boils and other skin infections, pneumonia, sepsis, and food poisoning) and *Streptococcus pyogenes* (causes strep throat, impetigo, and rheumatic fever). Māmaki can be considered an anti-fungal, particularly against those types that cause ringworm, athlete's foot, jock itch or nail fungus. It also has anti-viral potential against herpes simplex 1 & 2 and HIV.

Māmaki leaves, dried then made into tea, are potent in lowering in-

flammation. The process of drying or dehydrating the leaves first helps to release anti-inflammatory chemicals for absorption in the body. Lowering inflammation is important, as this also lowers the risk or further progression of heart disease, cancer, stroke, dementia, and diabetes. It also makes it easier to lose weight. For a boost in slowing and preventing dementia, include dried māmaki fruit as well, as it may help to repair brain cells, restore its function, and remove plaques.

The antioxidant potential in māmaki tea is similar to green tea, more than black or oolong tea, and 40 times greater than juiced fruits, including cucumber, lilikoi, lemon, and papaya. This is amazing, considering many of these have been recognized by leading health organizations for their disease-fighting abilities.

Brewing time of māmaki leaves will vary, depending on your personal preference. A general recommendation would be one to two teaspoons of dried māmaki leaves per cup of water for brewing. Once the water starts to boil, turn off the stove and steep the leaves for about 15 minutes before drinking. If you are not planning on drinking the tea immediately, place it in the refrigerator as soon as it cools to prevent nutrient loss. Hot or iced māmaki tea can be combined with fruit slices and other herbs to mix up the flavors.

If adding māmaki to your home-grown pharmacy, propagate plants from cuttings for more successful and quicker growth. ■

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

Halulu Fishpond Access Preserved

Nonprofits Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Waipā Foundation, the County of Kaua'i, and State of Hawai'i announced the purchase of a 1/4-acre of land in the Waipā ahupua'a on Kaua'i's north shore. Known as the Halulu Fishpond Access, the property includes a community path to Waipā's coastal zone along Hanalei Bay and part of the fishpond itself.

TPL facilitated the purchase of the land from Waioli Corporation and its conveyance to the Waipā Foundation, whose ownership of the property will protect it and ensure that the land can continue to feed, inspire, and nurture community resilience.

This acquisition marks TPL's 50th successful project in Hawai'i as the nonprofit celebrates 50 years of serving Hawai'i. TPL has protected over 77,000 acres across Maui, Kaua'i, Hawai'i Island, Moloka'i, and O'ahu, and connected 27,000 community members to outdoor spaces close to their homes.

The county's Public Access, Open Spaces and Natural Resources Preservation Fund contributed \$850,000 and the state's Capital Improvement Program and Legacy Land Conservation Program contributed \$450,000 toward the purchase. The property is now encumbered by a perpetual conservation easement, the first of its kind held by the County of Kaua'i, which restricts the land to cultural, conservation, and agricultural uses.

Waipā Foundation was established 30 years ago by local farmers determined to save space for Hawaiian practices, people and values. They will continue to use the land as a living learning

center to educate the community through hands-on experience.

Honokōhau Bay Lands Permanently Protected



Honokōhau Bay - Photo: Hawai'i Land Trust

Nonprofit Nā Mamo Aloha 'Āina o Honokōhau, in partnership with the County of Maui and nonprofit Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT), has purchased 1,447 acres at Honokōhau Bay in Kā'anapali, Maui, permanently protecting it for cultural enrichment, stewardship, 'āina-based education, and traditional agriculture.

The County of Maui Open Space Program contributed nearly \$750,000 toward the purchase, and community members donated numerous hours of in-kind services. Nonprofit HILT served as project manager.

Long neglected, Honokōhau was once an 'āina momona. Nā Mamo plans to restore it through culture-based education, growing healthy food, and furthering ahupua'a connections. Following the Lahaina wildfires, this acquisition provides the West Maui community a rare space to connect to 'āina, heal, and uplift one another.

"Like our community, this land has been through so much," said Karyn Kane-

koa, Nā Mamo Board of Directors secretary. "As we feed and heal the land, the land will feed and heal us. Mahalo piha to the county and HILT for their guidance and unwavering support. We never dreamed this would ever happen in our lifetime."

"Partnerships with the community of place are integral to HILT's commitment to protect places in perpetuity because it is they who hold a generational kuleana (both privilege and responsibility) to care for that place," said Shae Kama-ka'ala, HILT director of 'Āina Protection.

UH Receives \$2M Award for Indigenous Health

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) has awarded UH Mānoa's Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity (CIIHE) a \$2 million award to address Indigenous health disparities and advance health equity in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities with the potential to receive an additional \$8 million from OMH over the next four years.

The center's five-year initiative emphasizes implementation of innovative and culturally derived frameworks to prevent and improve disparities in chronic diseases such as obesity, hypertension and diabetes, in partnership with Kōkua Kālihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services, a federally qualified health center in Honolulu.

UH's efforts will focus on supporting community-based efforts that increase

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NHPI patients’ exposure to traditional cultural health practices such as lā’au lapa’au, mālama ‘āina, lomilomi, ‘ai pono (healthy eating) and cultural birthing practices that can act as a buffer against chronic diseases and mental health disorders.

“We are excited by the opportunity that this project provides us to continue to directly support our regional cultural practitioners communities in growing the evidence base for understanding traditional cultural practices as effective contemporary health interventions,” said Principal Investigator and CIIHE Director Kamuela Enos.

CIIHE was launched in 2021 with a \$1 million grant from OMH and then received an anonymous gift of \$4.6 million in early 2023. The center was the vision of Enos and UH Office of Strategic Health Initiatives Director and CIIHE Co-Principal Investigator Aimee Malia Grace.

NSF Section 106
Consultation
Meeting Regarding
Saint Joseph at
Kamalo Cemetery,
Moloka‘i

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is conducting consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act related to NSF funding to the University of Hawai‘i for research. The research is in response to a request made by the Saint Damien

Cemetery Committee for identification of unmarked burials at a cemetery located on Moloka‘i, which would allow the committee to place commemorative markers where appropriate, to identify space for future burials, and to update registrar information.

The project is primarily using community-based ethnographic and archival research methods. If additional information is needed, non-invasive forensic and archaeological methods are to be employed, including mapping and temporary turf removal (with same-day restoration to its previous state), to determine whether there is soil discoloration present, indicating the presence of a burial site. There will be no disturbance of human remains. Descendants consulted by the research team in early 2022 did not view these methodologies as likely to result in any adverse effects to the burial sites.

Consulting parties are invited to attend a Section 106 meeting on April 11, 2024, 4-6 p.m. HST, at the OHA Kalana ‘Ōiwi Room (Suite D2), 600 Maunaloa Hwy, Kaunakakai, HI to consider potential effects to historic properties associated with the proposed research activities. To attend virtually, please register in advance. Please contact NSF’s Federal Preservation Officer, Caroline Blanco, at NSF-Tribal-FPO@nsf.gov with any questions. ■



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Bridging Cultures: Traditional Leaders Talanoa Paves the Way for Festival of the Pacific in Hawai‘i

In a historic gathering held in the pristine setting of Fiji, leaders from the governments of Fiji, Aotearoa, Tonga, and Samoa convened for the Traditional Leaders Talanoa. This unique meeting aimed to foster cultural exchange and strengthen ties between these Pacific nations, setting the stage for a grand event - the Festival of the Pacific in Hawai‘i, scheduled for June 2024.

The Traditional Leaders Talanoa, deeply rooted in the rich heritage of the Pacific, provided a platform for open and respectful dialogue. The leaders discussed matters of cultural significance, shared experiences, and laid the groundwork for a collaborative effort to showcase the diverse tapestry of their traditions on an international stage.

The invitation to the Festival of the Pacific in Hawai‘i served as the focal point of the gathering, embodying the spirit of unity and collaboration. The leaders recognized the festival’s potential to celebrate their shared history and heritage while fostering a deeper understanding among nations.

The lush landscapes of Fiji provided an ideal backdrop for this momentous meeting, with discussions spanning from the preservation of traditional languages to the importance of sustainable practices in the face of modern challenges. As waves crashed against the shores, the leaders engaged in a dialogue that transcended borders, echoing the deep cultural ties that bind these Pacific nations.

One of the key outcomes of the Traditional Leaders Talanoa was the unanimous agreement to participate in the Festival of the Pacific in Hawai‘i. The leaders saw this event as an unparalleled opportunity to showcase their unique customs, traditional arts, and cultural expressions on an international stage. The festival, envisioned as a melting pot of Pacific cultures, promises to be a celebration of diversity, resilience, and shared heritage.

The Festival of the Pacific in Hawai‘i, slated for June 2024, aims to be a momentous occasion that transcends geographical boundaries. Leaders from



Carmen
“Hulu”
Lindsey

CHAIR
Trustee, Maui

Fiji, Aotearoa, Tonga, and Samoa recognize the festival as a bridge connecting their nations, fostering mutual understanding, and fostering a sense of shared identity.

The invitation extended during the Traditional Leaders Talanoa was met with enthusiasm and a sense of responsibility. The leaders committed to actively involving their communities in the preparations for the festival, ensuring that the representation is authentic

and comprehensive. The festival is not merely a cultural showcase; it is a testament to the resilience and strength of Pacific communities, emphasizing the importance of preserving traditions in an ever-changing world.

As the sun dipped below the horizon during the Traditional Leaders Talanoa, the commitment to collaboration and unity resonated deeply. The leaders recognized the Festival of the Pacific in Hawai‘i as an opportunity to amplify the voices of their communities and demonstrate the importance of cultural exchange in building a more interconnected world.

The Traditional Leaders Talanoa also underscored the need for continued dialogue and cooperation among Pacific nations. Beyond the festival, the leaders pledged to work together on issues such as climate change, ocean conservation, and sustainable development. The meeting served as a reminder that while each nation has its unique identity, they share common challenges and aspirations that can only be addressed through collective efforts.

In conclusion, the Traditional Leaders Talanoa held in Fiji laid the foundation for a cultural extravaganza that will reverberate across the Pacific and beyond. The Festival of the Pacific in Hawai‘i promises to be a symbol of unity, diversity, and shared heritage, bringing together leaders and communities to celebrate the richness of Pacific cultures. As the world eagerly awaits the festivities in June 2024, the legacy of the Traditional Leaders Talanoa will endure as a testament to the power of dialogue, collaboration, and the enduring spirit of the Pacific. ■

Will Changes in the Leadership at University of Hawai'i Address the Outstanding Cultural Problems on Maunakea and Kumukahi?

Ever since the Overthrow of our Monarchy, Hawaiians have had to fight to protect our "Wahi Pana," Sacred Places. Mauna Kea is a good example. For years, commercial science and the UH Institute of Astronomy have subjected the Mauna to overdevelopment, toxic spills and commercial tourism while failing to accommodate Hawaiian cultural uses including the right to worship. They have consistently violated the law which requires that those who use ceded State lands belonging to the public and native Hawaiians must pay fair market value for their leases. In the case of Mauna Kea, the rent for use of the entire summit for over a dozen science related structures is \$1 a year of which OHA get 20 cents and the Public receives 80 cents!!!!

Commercial science, the University of Hawai'i, the Institute of Astronomy, and the NSF have ripped us off for years. During this time Hawaiians, including 65 Kupuna, have demonstrated, been arrested, charged as criminals and dragged through two years of trial. We were never given the chance to present our story.... our right to worship and mālama the 'āina. In the end, the Judge dismissed the charges because the State Attorney General could not prove its case!! We lost Kupuna during this time, and no resolution was forthcoming.

This year, on January 17, the day our Monarchy was overthrown, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs by and through its legal counsel, Robert Klein, filed a case against the State of Hawai'i over Mauna Kea. I supported this filing because it is OHA's job to protect our peoples' right to worship at our traditional sacred places and it is the States obligation to protect our sacred cultural places.



Mililani B. Trask

VICE CHAIR
Trustee,
Hawai'i Island

Over these many years, UH President David Lassner and Alapaki Nahale-a, Chair of the UH Board of Regents, looked the other way and continued to receive their huge compensation packages. Hawaiians went to jail and the Mauna continued to be degraded and treated as the private property of global researchers working for foreign governments, and their local politicians and powerbroker friends.

Mauna Kea troubles are only a small part of the problems at the UH system which came to light in recent legislative hearings. Given the numerous examples of Nahale-a's ignoring or opposing the concerns of UH students and faculty and his failure to exercise his "oversight responsibilities of accountability" from 2019 to 2023, it is no wonder that the Senate Higher Education Committee did not re-appoint him.

I welcome the new UH BOR members, including Neil Abercrombie. He has been involved in our State & Hawaiian community issues for years. He speaks in a straightforward manner and does not play political games. He tells you his mana'o and is willing to wrangle it out when a disagreement arises. He is not a liar and when he makes a commitment he follows through until he is informed or educated about why he should change his mind. After years of frustrating delays, excuses, Kupuna arrests and trials, I welcome a straight shooter looking for solutions.

Aloha Alapaki, Aloha Neil, We GO FORWARD,

Akua Bless Us All,
Mililani ■

Nā Leo O Ka Lāhui

Aloha 'āina kākou,
Nā leo o ka lāhui – the many voices of our people – represent the differing views and lived experiences that comprise our lāhui. Our differing views and lived experiences can act as our greatest strength when our pilina is rooted in aloha. Whether it be the aloha we have for our 'ohana, the lāhui, or our kūlāiwi, the gift of being Kānaka 'Ōiwi is our prolific capacity to give and receive aloha.

When discussing issues impacting our lāhui, we can ascertain the best interest of our people when nā leo o ka lāhui are uplifted in aloha. Too often, our voices are silenced in an effort to disempower us as Kānaka 'Ōiwi. Yet ka wā mamua - the past - orients us in our present by providing insight into our truth as a people: we are strengthened in our aloha for one another. This encompasses the aloha we have for our kūlāiwa.

Iwi kūpuna and moepū, for example, belong to the 'āina but repeatedly are disinterred in the interest of development. While it's imperative that iwi kūpuna and moepū remain interred, projects like the rebuilding of the Coco Palms hotel remain ongoing even as nā leo o ka lāhui advocate for the preservation of such a sacred site. Our need to be heard distinctly correlates to our need to preserve our 'āina as the rebuilding of the Coco Palms hotel endangers ancient burial grounds containing iwi kūpuna and moepū as well as an ancient wetland system. The egregious harm endured by iwi kūpuna and moepū in addition to the environmental degradation wrought by development is profoundly detrimental. In considering nā leo o ka lāhui, the voices of iwi kūpuna and moepū



Dan Ahuna

Trustee,
Kaua'i and
Ni'ihau

must be heard.

Kāhua O Kāneiolouma, a cultural site with sacred heiau and an ancient Hawaiian village, contains hale sites, fishponds, taro fields, auwai irrigation systems, and a makahiki arena dating back to the mid 1400s. While developers seek to exploit our 'āina for profit, the allocation of resources towards the restoration of cultural sites like Kāhua O Kāneiolouma would align with the voices advocating for the preservation - not the exploitation - of our 'āina.

In considering nā leo o ka lāhui, the voice of cultural sites like Kāhua O Kāneiolouma must be heard.

Mauna a Wākea, the first born mountain son of Papa and Wākea, endures ongoing desecration in the interest of development. We as Kānaka 'Ōiwi know, however, of the sacredness of our Mauna and the importance of rising in aloha as kia'i. In considering nā leo o ka lāhui, the voice of Mauna a Wākea must be heard.

Wai, integral to our physical and spiritual wellbeing, is polluted and often diverted in the interest of tourism. Yet we know that wai defines our place across the pae 'āina, assists us in caring for kalo as our elder brother, and ensures our survival as a people. In considering nā leo o ka lāhui, the voice of wai must be heard.

In a myriad of ways, what's in the best interest of our kūlāiwi - as our mother and as our kupuna - is in our best interest. Our aloha we share for each other is but a mirror of the aloha we share for her. In rooting our pilina in aloha, we connect ourselves back together as one with our kūlāiwi ensuring our success as a people now and to come. ■



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

For more information or assistance
please contact:

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

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

How OHA Benefits All People!

As a Trustee-At-Large for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, my primary responsibility is to ensure that OHA works toward the betterment of the conditions of the Hawaiian people. That's why I am so pleased to see significant improvements and growth in OHA's Grants program which is administered for organizations that serve the Hawaiian population. This is just one of many ways we are fulfilling our constitutional mandate to better the conditions of Kanaka.

But I am also pleased that OHA brings benefits to non-Hawaiians as well. Perhaps the most significant way in which OHA serves all constituents in Hawai'i is through the quality of decisions made by the Board of Trustees. Our decisions impact virtually every area of life on the islands. For example, as the 13th largest landowner in the State, OHA has committed to the development of its 31 acres in Kaka'ako Makai now known as Hakuone. OHA's long-term vision for its parcels has the potential to benefit residents and visitors by providing commercial space, cultural preservation, entertainment, and housing. Similarly, OHA owns valuable real estate in Iwilei, just a short distance from Kaka'ako Makai, which has the potential of significantly renewing the urban center of Honolulu and providing critically needed housing.

Recently, I've had the opportunity to share the relevance of OHA during vis-



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

Trustee,
At-Large

its with diverse community and business groups such as the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i. It was fun to visit these organizations, hear how we share many of the same concerns for Hawai'i, and discuss how we can build a better future together.

I am grateful for the goodwill and warm welcomes provided by these organizations, and I am impressed by their aloha for the Hawaiian people. I am also glad that we were also able to discuss some "tough" issues. For example, one "tough" issue is that the building of the Thirty-Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea could result in significant cultural and environmental impact, but at the same time, it could result in significant economic benefits for Hawaiians and everyone. I was pleased to discover a real spirit of willingness to work together toward a solution.

That spirit of working together is what I find so evident in all the peoples of Hawai'i. We can work together toward the advancement of Hawaiians and all people in everything we do. Yes, we have differences. But while these differences may define us, they shouldn't divide us.

The bottom line is that there's no zero sum game that pits people against each other. What's good for Hawaiians is good for Hawai'i, and what's good for Hawai'i is good for Hawaiians.

E hana kākou! / Let's work together! ■



Chinese Chamber of Commerce with Trustee Akina (Left to right): Executive VP Shengri "Sonny" Zhang, VP Angeline Shiroma, Trustee Akina, President Mike Young, Past President Russell Lau. - Photo: Courtesy

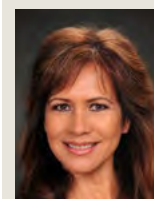
Live and Virtual Grant Workshops Benefit the Community

I'm happy to announce that good changes are happening here at OHA! Finally, live and virtual grant application workshops were held throughout Hawai'i after my numerous requests to our administration since 2021. Our beneficiaries have persisted in keeping me focused on bringing back live workshops and it's been great seeing our kanaka return to Nā Lama Kukui building and at Kulana 'Oiwī. This kind of exciting live energy full of hope and determination to improve our conditions can never be diminished and only serves as fuel for all of us to do better for our lāhui.

The grant application workshops started in Hilo on Feb. 20, 2024, and ended on Molokai, Feb. 27, 2024, and I'm happy to say that the room was full with hopeful potential grantees!

It's important to mention a special Mahalo to our fairly new CEO (Ka Pouhana) Stacy Ferreira whose background and professional experience is already proving to be exactly what OHA needs at this time. Stay in touch everyone as more offerings may be coming later in the year! For more information about grant offerings at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, please go to www.oh.org/grants.

Mark your calendar! The annual Moloka'i island Board of Trustees meeting will be held on May 15-16, 2024, at Lanikeha Community Center in Ho'olehua. As is tradition, the first



**Luana
Alapa**

Trustee,
Moloka'i and
Lāna'i

meeting will be dedicated to community and a light dinner will be served.

For the third year now, our Board of Trustees traveled to Orlando, Fla., to attend an investment forum presented by one of our money managers, Commonfund private equity group, otherwise known as Commonfund. This year our group included new CEO Stacy Ferreira, OHA investment director Ryan Lee and OHA

investment board advisor Vijoy Chattergi. Trustees: Lindsey Souza, Waihee, Akina, Akaka and yours truly. Three days of non stop seminars provided our trustees opportunities to learn a variety of investment strategies in order to help grow our portfolio. One of the highlights of the three day forum was meeting and chatting with Sophia the Robot. I asked her if she could say the word Aloha. A few seconds later (her mechanical brain working its magic) Sophia responds with Aloha! Not only was it music to my ears, I

was simply amazed by the high-technology of our era. I believe this year's forum was probably one of the best ever for me, but also the close bonds formed with my fellow trustees, and CEO Stacy Ferreira who was not only engaging her time with trustees but also insuring we were well briefed on the Commonfund current portfolio for OHA but also provided interpretation of investment terminologies throughout each seminar. She has certainly been a blessing to OHA. Mahalo nui and e aloha kekahi i kekahi. ■



Trustees meet Sophia the Robot at investment forum in Orlando. - Photo: Courtesy

The Enduring Impact of the Merrie Monarch Festival

Promoting Hawaiian culture is a top priority at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, with our steadfast sponsorship of the Merrie Monarch Festival. We believe ongoing support is vital to ensure the preservation and prosperity of our culture through community engagement and events like the Merrie Monarch Festival in Hilo.



Keoni Souza

Trustee,
At-Large

Every year, the Merrie Monarch captivates audiences with its displays of hula, showcasing our rich culture and tradition of Hawaii from a kanaka perspective. But what really goes on behind the scenes to make this event a reality?

The preparations begin months before the actual week of the festival. Organizers work tirelessly to secure venues, coordinate logistics, and select participants. It's a year-round endeavor that requires meticulous planning and attention to detail. All performers work on fundraising to help pay for the costs to compete. It's always fun to attend the big hālau fundraiser events where we gather to enjoy 'ono food, music and of course hula.

As the festival approaches, the excitement builds. Rehearsals intensify as dancers perfect their movements and expressions, striving to honor the legacy of their ancestors through their performances. hālau may practice strict protocols, which may include some form of kapu and cleansing rituals. Their dedication and commitment to their training are noteworthy and appreciated.

On the big day, anticipation fills the air as spectators gather to witness the beauty and grace of the hula. As the performances unfold, each dance tells a story, weaving together history, mythology, and emotion in a mesmerizing display of artistry. For some, like myself, the Merrie Monarch Festival holds even deeper significance. Since my high school days, I've had the joy of being involved in the Merrie Monarch Festival, eagerly contributing my service and talents. I have been fortunate to have been invited to play for

many different hālau for over 20 years of Merrie Monarch. It's been the greatest blessing to perform with my most talented musician friends for my dear Kumu hoaloha. These cherished moments of music, dance, and camaraderie serve as a testament to the enduring spirit of aloha that permeates the Merrie Monarch Festival.

My wife, Mahina, has also competed at Merrie Monarch with her hālau, Ka Lā 'Ōnohi Mai o Ha'eha'e. I vividly

remember her first year and the overwhelming joy we experienced when they placed third in Wahine 'Auna, performing "Ni'ihau." Even more profound than winning an award was the feeling of accomplishment and pride, knowing that Mahina and her hula sisters had graced the greatest hula stage in the world. Mahina was later blessed with the opportunity to compete for the coveted title of Miss Aloha Hula, leaving with the third place prize Ipu Heke. I had the privilege to sing for her as she danced, a cherished memory that we both hold dear. The dedication, pride and passion she poured into her performances reflect the immense honor she felt in running for Miss Aloha Hula - an experience and feeling that words alone cannot fully capture.

In addition, throughout the festival, attendees have the opportunity to participate in workshops, cultural demonstrations, and craft fairs, immersing themselves in the traditions that make Hawai'i unique. The shopping is also a huge draw of the festival, allowing our local businesses to showcase their latest products.

As the festival draws to a close, there's a sense of pride and accomplishment among everyone involved. Months of hard work have culminated in a weekend of unforgettable performances and cherished memories with our lāhui.

The Merrie Monarch Festival may only last a few days, but its impact resonates far beyond its duration. It's a testament to the enduring spirit of Hawai'i and the power of hula to inspire, educate, and unite people from all walks of life. ■

BURIAL NOTICE: KEAL-AKEKUA, SOUTH KONA

All persons having information concerning an unmarked Native Hawaiian burial present within TMK: (3) 8-2-014:043, a 1.13-acre parcel in Kealahukua Ahupua'a, South Kona District, Island of Hawai'i are hereby requested to contact Christian Omerod, Burial Sites Specialist, State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), (808) 933-7650, 40 Po'okela Street, Hilo, HI 96720; or Solomon H. Kailiwiwa III, M.S., P.O. Box 1213, Captain Cook, Hawai'i 96704, (808) 493-8884. Treatment of the burial will occur in accordance with HRS, Chapter 6E. The applicant, The Friends of Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden, proposes to preserve the burial in place in accordance with a plan prepared in consultation with any identified descendants and with the approval of the Hawai'i Island Burial Council. All interested parties should respond within thirty (30) days of this notice and provide information to SHPD adequately demonstrating lineal descent from the Native Hawaiian remains, or cultural descent from ancestors buried in the same ahupua'a. Family names associated with the property ahupua'a identified through historical document research include: Kuakini, Kaonohi, Kaioku, Keaka, Kaaiahuli, Ialua, Papaula, Keohokalole, Hale, Hawea, Keanu, Kamakaliilii, Hiwa, Koko, Laiolii, Kua-laikia, Lono, Kamauli, and Kaikuaana.

HONOAPI'ILANI ROAD

Scientific Consultant Services, Inc. is seeking information about cultural resources and traditional, previously or ongoing, cultural activities within or near the proposed Lower Honoapi'ilani Road Complete Streets Project, Kahana, Mailepai, and 'Alae-

loa Ahupua'a, Lāhainā District, Island of Maui, Hawai'i [TMK: (2) 4-3-010:999 (portion), (2) 4-3-005:999 (portion), (2) 4-3-019:999 (portion), (2) 4-3-015:999 (portion), (2) 4-3-003:999 (portion)]. The project involves a 7,500-foot-long corridor on Lower Honoapi'ilani Road (also called Lower Honoapi'ilani Highway) between Ho'ohui Road and Napiliuhau Street in Lāhainā. Please respond to gloria@scshawaii.com within 30 days.

'ŌULI AHUPUA'A

Kulaiwi Archaeology, LLC is conducting a cultural impact assessment (CIA) for TMK: (3) 6-2-001:074 and 075, located in 'Ōuli Ahupua'a, South Kohala District on the Island of Hawai'i. The landowner currently proposes to develop affordable housing within a 15-acre portion of the parcels. All persons having information on traditional cultural practices and places located within 'Ōuli Ahupua'a and the vicinity of the project parcel are hereby requested to contact Solomon Kailiwiwa, skailiwiwa@kulaiwiarchaeology.com, (808)493-8884, within thirty (30) days of this notice.

KĪHEI, WAIAKOA AHUPUA'A, MAKAWAO DISTRICT

Scientific Consultant Services, Inc. is seeking information about cultural resources and traditional, previously or ongoing, cultural activities within or near the proposed Kaiola Place Sewer and Main Laterals Project in Kīhei, Waiakoa Ahupua'a, Makawao District, Island of Maui, Hawai'i [TMK: (2) 3-9-001:032, 076, 139, 146, 150; (2) 3-9-024:003, 004, 031, 032, 034; (2) 3-9-029:021, 020]. Please respond to gloria@scshawaii.com within 15 days. ■

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!*

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

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

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

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

GET REGISTERED TODAY!

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

Empowering Hawaiians, Strengthening Hawai‘i





Are you ready?

Mega Tsunami Boot Camp

Pu‘uhonua Farms - Kaneohe
April 8 - April 19, 2024

For more information or to register visit:
ArmyOfTheLord5DR.org

Be prepared for HIS return!

- * Deliverance worship with Jesus Boot Camp [Teresa Farnan, Natasha Hinn (Benny Hinn’s daughter) and Maricela Escobedo] will lead us in a 5-day worship, Deliverance and Staying Free.
- * Keynote Speakers - Pastors Ray and Elizabeth Lotter: Revealing our Hidden Dunamis Power.
- * Love & Prophecy - impartation and activation.
- * Tabernacle Experience.
- * Island-wide/Waikiki Outreach - bringing in a Harvest for Christ



LIST OF OFFICES

HONOLULU

560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Ste. 200,
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: 808.594.1888
Fax: 808.594.1865

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

WEST HAWAII (KONA)

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

MOLOKA'I / LĀNA'I

Kūlana 'Ōiwi, P.O. Box 1717
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
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4405 Kukui Grove St., Ste. 103
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Fax: 808.241.3508

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737 Lower Main St., Ste. B2
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Fax: 808.873.3361

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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.

AINA REALTOR - NEED HELP FINDING HOUSING SOLUTION HERE IN HAWAII? - As a Native Hawaiian Realtor, I am dedicated to helping the Hawaiian People own real estate here in Hawai'i. Whether it's 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

AINA REALTOR - My mission as a realtor is to keep Native Hawaiian Families in Hawai'i. Let's work together to find housing solutions and build a better future for our younger generations. Please call me with your ideas and questions and we can figure out a way. Jordan Aina - RS-85780 (808) 276-0880 - Locations Hawaii LLC, RB-17095

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.

LOOKING FOR DHHL PROPERTY ON HAWAII ISLAND - I am searching for a property to purchase on Hawai'i Island within the DHHL. I am interested in residential properties between Kona-Waimea and/or pastoral/ag lots anywhere on island. Please contact me via email at: Noelani.pualoa@gmail.com Mahalo! ■

Ke Ola Mamo Oral Health Dental Program

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Annually approved participation

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E Ō Mai, e Kuleana Land Holders!

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

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

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Umi's Store | Waimea, Kaua'i

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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
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*Interest rates may be subject to change.

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