



Ka Wai Ola

NEWS FOR THE LĀHUI

kawaiola.news

Nowemapa (November) 2024 | Vol. 41, No. 11



Building a Thriving 'Ōiwi Economy



PAGES 18-20

2024 KĀKO'O 'OIHANA 'ŌIWI | Special free ad section supporting Native Hawaiian-owned businesses

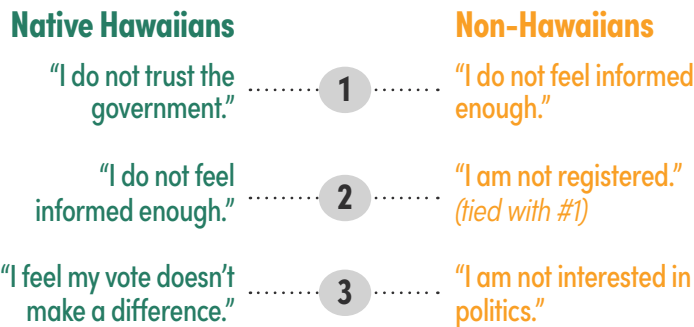
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP AMONG NATIVE HAWAIIANS

Responses from the 2024 'Imi Pono Hawai'i Wellbeing Survey

'Imi Pono
Hawai'i Wellbeing Survey

1 Nearly **90%** of Native Hawaiian respondents plan to vote in the 2024 general election, a rate on par with other Hawai'i Residents.

Among those not planning to vote, reasons differ between **Native Hawaiians** and **Non-Hawaiians**:



3 Native Hawaiians demonstrate leadership in many areas especially among 'ohana, friends, and colleagues.



2 Native Hawaiians lead through community involvement.

Native Hawaiians are active leaders, working to benefit their community through donations, collaboration, and events.

56% donate to benefit the community

52% work with others to achieve a common goal

45% participate in events to address issues

34% provide testimony on key issues

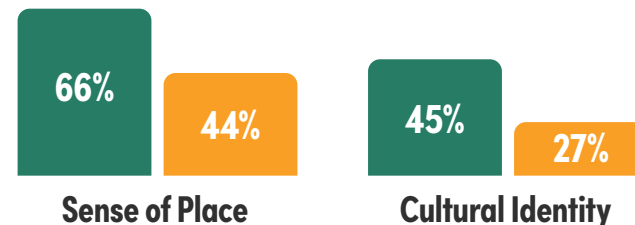
17% organize events

16% meet with local officials

9% serve on government boards

4 Native Hawaiians value cultural connection and community leadership.

A greater percentage of **Native Hawaiians** prioritize a deep cultural commitment to Hawai'i and personal identity as key qualities for community contributors compared to **Non-Hawaiians**.



'Imi Pono is a collaborative statewide survey conducted by Kamehameha Schools, Lili'uokalani Trust, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Papa Ola Lōkahi, The Queen's Health Systems, and contracted with Marzano Research.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.ksbe.edu/imiponosurvey>



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

Introducing the Strategy and Implementation Paia: A New Era for Native Hawaiian Wellbeing

Aloha mai kākou,

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is excited to announce the formation of the Strategy and Implementation (S&I) Paia, a dynamic new team dedicated to turning our ambitious 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, into a living reality. This organizational shift represents a transformative step forward in our commitment to uplifting Native Hawaiian communities through focused action and innovative solutions.

In recognizing the magnitude of the challenges faced by Native Hawaiians, it became clear that our previous organizational structure was insufficient to achieve our goals. Embracing the principle of “form follows function,” we have designed S&I to be a purpose-built entity. This specialized team is crafted to carry out specific strategies and develop new tactics that can effectively address and improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians across the islands.

At the heart of Mana i Maui Ola are four directional areas that serve as the pillars of our mission:

1. Educational Pathways
2. Health Outcomes
3. Quality Housing
4. Economic Stability

S&I is composed of four highly focused teams, each tasked with developing tactics that address one or more of the 26 distinct strategic outcomes outlined in Mana i Maui Ola. These outcomes are not just abstract goals; they are specific and will guide our efforts and resources through 2035.

Understanding that the needs of our communities vary across the state, our tactics are designed to be statewide and/or community-specific. We are committed to crafting solutions that are responsive to the unique circumstances of each community, whether

they require changes at the federal, state, county, or grassroots level.

One of the core philosophies of the S&I Paia is to tackle the root causes of issues rather than just the symptoms. By seeking to understand and address the underlying factors that contribute to disparities, we aim to create transformation that is both systemic and systematic. This approach ensures that our efforts lead to sustainable improvements and long-term benefits for Native Hawaiians.

Despite being a newly formed team, the S&I Paia has hit the ground running. Our dedicated members are already hard at work, developing and refining tactics that will soon be put into action. Their energy, passion, and commitment are driving us forward at an unprecedented pace.

As our tactics are approved and launched, we are eager to share the exciting developments and positive impacts with all of you. Each step forward is a testament to the collaborative effort and shared vision of improving the lives of Native Hawaiians. We believe that through Mana i Maui Ola and the work of the S&I Paia, we are setting the groundwork for Ea – the restoration of self-determination and self-governance.

I invite you to join us on this transformative journey. Stay tuned for updates, success stories, and opportunities to get involved. Together, we can make a profound difference and pave the way for a brighter future for all Native Hawaiian communities. ■

Me ka ha’aha’a,

Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira

Ka Pouhana | Chief Executive Officer



Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira
Chief Executive Officer
Kēhaulani Pu’u
Chief Operating Officer



EDITOR
Puanani Fernandez-Akamine

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Kaleena Patcho

STAFF WRITERS
Ed Kalama
Kelli Meskin Soileau

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Joshua Koh
Jason Lees

CONTRIBUTORS
Kalani Akana, Ph.D.
Megan Ulu-Lani Boyanton
Bobby Camara
Hannah Ka’iulani Coburn
Cedric Duarte
Ku’uwehi Hiraishi
Nathan Hokama
Malia Nobrega-Olivera
Lisa Kaponon Mason
Jodi Leslie Matsuo, DrPH

MEA O LOKO TABLE OF CONTENTS

MO’OLELO NUI | COVER STORY

Ho’omau Market: Building a Thriving ‘Ōiwi Economy

PAGES 18-20

By Kelli Meskin Soileau

‘ŌIWI BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Scooping Up Success

PAGE 13

By Nathan Hokama

Cleaning Up O’ahu and Giving Back

PAGE 14

By Cedric Duarte

One Roof at a Time

PAGE 15

By Hannah Ka’iulani Coburn

A Coalition of Kānaka Businesses

PAGES 16-17

By Ed Kalama

Stewarding a Cooperative Economy

PAGE 21

By Ku’uwehi Hiraishi

Nowemapa (November) 2024 | Vol. 41, No. 11

FEATURED STORIES

Space for the Lāhui in the Halls of Power

PAGE 5

By Ku’uwehi Hiraishi

Faces of the Diaspora: Malia Maunakea

PAGE 6

By Megan Ulu-Lani Boyanton

Ka’ula Island: The Seventh Child

PAGES 22-23

By Puanani Fernandez-Akamine

OHA IN THE COMMUNITY

OHA Appoints Two New Executives

PAGE 4

By Ed Kalama

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

A Gathering of Indigenous Educators

PAGE 7

By Malia Nobrega-Olivera

KĀKO’O ‘ŌIHANA ‘ŌIWI FREE BUSINESS ADS PAGES 8-12

OHA Announces the Appointment of Two New Executives

Elena Farden will serve as Senior Director of Strategy and Implementation; Poni Askew is named Director of Economic and Business Resilience

By Ed Kalama



Senior Director of Strategy and Implementation, Elena Farden.



Director of Economic and Business Resilience, Poni Askew.

- Courtesy Photos

The office of Hawaiian Affairs is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to its executive leadership team.

Elena Farden began her new role as Senior Director of Strategy and Implementation on Oct. 1. She is responsible for leading the organization in setting and implementing the agency's strategic directions under its strategic plan. Those directions guide and focus OHA's work in the areas of education, health, housing and economics.

Farden will lead the newly created Strategy and Implementation team, which includes the Director of Education and Culture-Based Learning; the Director of 'Ōiwi Well-Being and 'Āina Momona; the Director of Housing, Infrastructure, and Sustainability; and the Director of Economic and Business Resilience.

"I am deeply honored and excited to step into this new role with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. My journey in Native Hawaiian education policy and advocacy has always centered around strengthening our communities, empowering our people, and fostering our connection to

our 'āina and culture," Farden said.

"Working together with this newly created team allows us to lean in collaboratively on the critical pillars of education, 'Ōiwi wellbeing, housing, sustainability, and economic resilience. By integrating these vital areas, we will create pathways for a thriving future for our lāhui."

For the last five years, Farden has served as the executive director of the Native Hawaiian Education Council. She is a former education and community manager with Elemental Excelerator, and a former strategic analyst with Kamehameha Schools. Farden carries a master's in business administration and is pursuing her doctorate in education, both from Chaminade University, and earned her BA in telecommunications from Pepperdine University.

As the Director of Economic and Business Resilience,

Poni Askew will be responsible for advancing policies, programs and practices that strengthen and enhance the economic development and financial empowerment of the lāhui, ensuring that Native Hawaiians progress toward a state of economic stability. She began her new role on Sept. 16.

Askew had served since 2022 as the executive director and chief executive officer of the Cultivate Hawai'i Workforce Development Collaborative, a work-based learning collaborative creating access and opportunities for Hawai'i's students to excel in today's workforce. She is the chief executive officer and founder of Hawaiian Vinegar & Spice Company and is a former chief executive officer and founder of Street Grindz.

Askew is an alumna of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where she focused on ōlelo Hawai'i and Hawaiian studies. She has also completed extensive professional development in business and product development and community development.

"I'm honored to join OHA where I can help create opportunities that support the growth and resilience of our Hawaiian communities. I look forward to working together to strengthen Hawai'i's economy in ways that reflect our values and vision for the future," Askew said.

"We are excited to welcome such experienced leaders like Elena and Poni to our executive team," said OHA Ka Puhana/CEO Stacy Kealohalani Ferreira. "Bringing on these dedicated professionals strengthens our capacity to serve our lāhui and we look forward to the positive impact they will have on our organization, particularly in aligning our work toward the goals and objectives of our strategic plan." ■

Do you have asthma?

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

We'd like to develop a culturally tailored asthma mHealth tool for Native Hawaiians

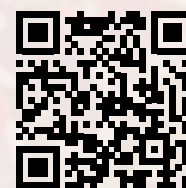
To be eligible to participate:

- Do you self-identify as Native Hawaiian?
- Do you reside in the State of Hawai'i?
- Do you read and speak English?
- Are you 13 years or older?

Looking for parent/caregiver & child pairs

To learn more about the study, please contact:
Donna-Marie Palakiko (dmp@hawaii.edu)

Or scan the QR code to complete a short survey



THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA, DEPARTMENT OF NURSING IS CONDUCTING THIS RESEARCH STUDY

Reclaiming Space for the Lāhui in the Halls of Power

By Ku'uwehi Hiraishi

Former U.S. diplomat and state lawmaker Patrick Pihana Branco is settling into his new home in Washington, D.C., where he will serve as the first Native Hawaiian White House Fellow. The 37-year-old Kailua native is one of 15 leaders from across the country who will spend the next year as senior advisors to either the president, vice president, or any of the Cabinet secretaries.

“My experience has been more at the fingertips of government. Whether it’s being in the U.S. Embassy in Caracas (Venezuela), and you get an order to evacuate the embassy in 48 hours. You don’t question the order, you implement. Or being in your home community and translating community concerns to legislation,” he said. “But I really haven’t been at the federal level making policy for the entire nation.”

The White House Fellows program was established in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson to give emerging leaders first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the federal government. Branco said the selection process was strenuous.

“I had 11 interviews in three days with the Secretary of the Navy, a U.S. Trade representative, the Secretary of the Army, and the Department of Commerce. If you make it to regionals, you have 15 judges, five interview panels,” says Branco. “If you go to nationals, you have 30 judges, 10 interview panels, a written exercise, and they’re watching us the whole time.”

Notable program alumni include former Secretary of State Colin Powell, CNN’s Dr. Sanjay Gupta, and Hawaii’s own Mufi Hannemann.

“There’s been no Native Hawaiian fellow in 60 years,” says Branco, “Hawaii is extremely pivotal, especially when we’re turning to the Pacific, we’re turning to Asia. So, our perspective should be at the table. Not just a local Hawaii perspective, but a Native Hawaiian perspective.”

The Kamehameha Schools Kapālama graduate studied international studies and political science at Hawaii Pacific University and international relations at John Hopkins University.

After graduation he entered the U.S. Foreign Service through the Congressman Charles B. Rangel Graduate Fellowship program, where he was the first fellow from Hawaii and the first Ōiwi selected to the program. Since



Rep. Branco spends time with Kailua residents during a community outreach event in 2020.



Branco engages community members in Islamabad, Pakistan, where he served as vice consul at the U.S. Embassy from 2015 to 2016.

then, four more Native Hawaiians have become fellows and are now U.S. diplomats. Branco spent seven years in U.S. embassies around the world.

“I was in some hostile areas like Colombia during the peace process. Venezuela full embassy evacuation. Pakistan. I would fly into Afghanistan. I worked for the lead negotiator for the U.S.,” he shared.

As a Hawaiian, Branco views his time in the U.S. Foreign Service as a continuation of Hawaii’s rich history of diplomacy.

“We had over 80 embassies worldwide. We were engaged in the family of nations,” says Branco. “I feel like continuing that legacy is really important.”

Branco comes from the next generation of Ōiwi leaders – well-versed in Hawaiian knowledge and secure in

their identity. It’s a privilege he says his great-grandfather, Edward Pihana, never had.

“When I was young, my papa would always tell me about how he was beaten in school for speaking ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and then he would go home and get dirty lick-ins for speaking English,” he said. “And so that’s what I thought about when I was in the legislature.”

Branco returned home in 2020 and was elected to represent his hometown district of Kailua and Kane‘ohe in the Hawaii House of Representatives.

There, he spearheaded the passage of the ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i resolution, which apologized for the 90-year ban on Hawaiian language in island schools. As a lawmaker, he saw the importance of codifying protections for Native Hawaiians.

“How do we institutionalize our language? How do we institutionalize our culture to make sure that we’re never taken out?” Branco said. “That’s where I hope to see our lawmaking go in the future – especially for those of us who are Kānaka elected in office. Institutionalize us, so we can never be taken out of government.”

Branco left his position in the state legislature in 2022 to run for U.S. Congress but lost in the primary to Jill Tokuda. The failed bid only hardened his resolve to run again in the future.

“At the federal level, whatever form of self-determination that our people choose, we need to rectify that. That’s why we have ceded lands issues. That’s why it’s so important to have a Native Hawaiian in the federal delegation who is going to take on these issues and be able to figure out what our people want, what our people need and develop a process.”

For now Branco is concentrating on the White House Fellowship, but who knows, he may seek a higher office in the near future.

“My parents asked me ‘Why you do this kind of thing? Why you push yourself?’ And I just think of my own story. I grew up Kailua, but we’re not from a wealthy family. There were 18 of us at my tutu’s house all sleeping on the floor next to each other. But I could dream big. I was that weirdo always watching Animal Planet and History Channel,” Branco said.

He says his story is no different from other Native Hawaiians across the pae āina.

“I am the son of a high school dropout and teenage mom. That’s why I want to share these types of stories, because I want people to be like ‘I can do that too.’ That’s what’s really important for me.” ■



VOTE
IT'S OUR
KULEANA

NOV
5

General Election Day
November 5, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Ballots must be submitted by 7:00 p.m. to the County Elections Division. Service centers and drop boxes close at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m.

Face of the Diaspora

Connecting to her Culture Through Story Writing

By Megan Ulu-Lani Boyanton

A hapa Hawaiian girl, her tūtū wahine and the fire goddess Pele are the main characters in author Malia Maunakea's *Lei and the Legends* book series. Maunakea writes modern mo'olelo for preteen readers with two books currently in the series: *Lei and the Fire Goddess* and *Lei and the Invisible Island*.

Maunakea, 43, was inspired to put pen to paper when her son was tearing through author Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians book series based on Greek mythology. She realized that literature could be an outlet for him to learn about his Hawaiian culture.

When she couldn't find any books like that for readers in his age group, she decided to write them herself. It also helped Maunakea reconnect with her own Hawaiian identity.

"It was through writing that I slowly got back in touch with what it means to be Hawaiian," she said.

Maunakea currently lives in Boulder, Colo., with her husband, Dave Heinrich, and her children Kiele, 17, and Kaleohano, 15. However, her story begins in Hawai'i.

Her father, Nahua, grew up on the westside of O'ahu. According to the family mo'olelo, their kupuna was rewarded by a king for a good deed with the name "Maunakea" because he was a large man with white hair.

Maunakea's mother, Lynn, is from Buffalo, N.Y., and is of Polish descent.

Maunakea was born on Hawai'i Island where her parents made their home. She spent her early years in Volcano then moved to Hilo when she was in elementary school.

After being accepted at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama in seventh grade she experienced life on O'ahu. As a Kamehameha student, Maunakea joined the marching band and was active in paddling.

Despite being at Kamehameha and having a background in hula, "I had many feelings about not being Hawaiian enough," Maunakea said. "I was having a major identity crisis."

Some of that stemmed from her appearance: while her sister, Kanoë, has their father's Hawaiian features, Maunakea takes after their mother.

The summer after 10th grade, Maunakea attended a summer program at Duke University in North Carolina – "an incredible, eye-opening experience," she said. That cemented her decision to move to the continent.

"I needed to move away to understand what being Hawaiian really meant," she said.

After graduating from high school, she settled in Colorado. She loved the outdoors, blue skies and mountains. "It felt like I finally fit in," Maunakea said.

At the University of Colorado Boulder, she pursued a degree in civil engineering with a minor in business.



Author Malia Maunakea with her first preteen novel, "Lei and the Fire Goddess." - Courtesy photos



Malia Maunakea and her 'ohana: husband Dave Heinrich, daughter Kiele and son Kaleohano.

There, she met other students from Hawai'i. She joined the Hawai'i Club and danced at the lū'au. She craved Hawaiian food and music – and the lāhui.

"Once you move away, you end up missing it quite a bit," Maunakea said.

While working at a land surveying firm, she met her future husband, who is from Nevada. They went salsa dancing on their first date. She brought Dave home to Hawai'i in 2003 and they celebrated New Year's at her late auntie's home.

During her senior year in college, transportation planners from the firm Charlier Associates gave a presentation to students in Maunakea's transportation engineering class. It turns out that the company had several projects in Hawai'i.

After the presentation, Maunakea pitched herself to them as a Hawaiian who would make a good asset to their team. She was hired after her graduation in 2005, and the company sent her to Hawai'i to work on various projects.

That same year, she married Dave.

The newlyweds decided to go on a five-month backpacking trip along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail from April to October 2006. It gave them time to discuss their life plans, including having children. Their daughter was born in 2007, then their son followed in 2009.

Soon afterwards, Maunakea's parents and sister moved to Colorado to be close to them.

When her keiki were young, Maunakea was a stay-at-home mom. Later, she worked part-time as an office manager at a law firm. Eventually, she decided to pursue a real estate license.

All that time, she felt a pull to Hawai'i. "It was always there, and I was just too busy to really listen to it while I was in my hustle mode," Maunakea said.

After ending her real estate career in 2018, she seized upon the idea of writing. Her first project was a nonfiction book, *Backpacking with Children* (2023). The idea of writing preteen fiction about Hawai'i followed.

"Part of that journey was: Okay, but who am I to write these books?" she said.

So, Maunakea decided to learn more about her culture, history and language by enrolling in Windward Community College's Hawaiian studies program. She graduated earlier this year with an associate degree in Hawaiian studies.

Her first work of fiction, *Lei and the Fire Goddess*, was published last year. It's about Anna Leilani Kama'ehu, a Hawaiian girl living in Colorado who visits her grandmother on Hawai'i Island. Leilani doesn't believe the stories her grandmother tells her – until she offends Pele and must face the consequences.

This year, Maunakea published *Lei and the Invisible Island*. In this story, Leilani saves her best friend by traveling to an invisible island and facing off against evil spirits.

Maunakea has read her series at an 'Iolani Palace event and spoken at the Hawai'i Book and Music Festival.

She's currently busy researching for her third book in the series, which will reimagine the story of the shark demigod, Nanaue. She's also working on a historical fiction book for teens and adults.

"As long as they let me keep telling stories, I will keep trying to get our stories told," Maunakea said.

And she plans to return to Hawai'i soon, with the first step complete: purchasing a house in Kāne'ohe. "We're building our little Maunakea village back home," she said. ■

Maunakea's debut novel, "Lei and the Fire Goddess" (2023) is an Amazon Best Book of the Month, a School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, and a Common Sense Media Selection.

A Gathering of Indigenous Educators and Knowledge Holders

By Malia Nobrega-Olivera

From Sept. 26-30, 2024, the Hawaiʻiniuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge welcomed 187 attendees to the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Hamohamo, Waikīkī, on the historic lands of Queen Liliʻuokalani.

This global gathering of Indigenous educators, students, administrators, and knowledge holders celebrated the advancement of indigenous knowledge and the role of indigenous education in uplifting native communities.

Indigenous peoples and participants from across the world – Hawaiʻi, Alaska, Australia, Aotearoa (New Zealand), First Nations Canada, Turtle Island (North America), and Norway – came together for five days of cultural exchanges, discussions, and collaboration. The meeting highlighted the shared vision of fostering Indigenous-led education grounded in native languages, philosophies, and worldviews.



Hawaiʻiniuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge formally receives their WINHEC accreditation. Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Keiki Kawaiaeaʻa, Malia Nobrega-Olivera, Nalani Balutski, Dr. Jonathan Osorio, and Dr. Walter Kahumoku. Representing Hawaiʻiniuiākea were Nobrega-Olivera (director of strategic partnerships and community engagement), Balutski (research & assessment specialist), and Osorio (dean). Kawaiaeaʻa and Kahumoku are the co-chairs of the WINHEC Accreditation Agency. - *Courtesy Photo*

WINHEC: A Global Network for Indigenous Education

WINHEC was founded in 2002 at the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE) in Alberta, Canada. WINHEC's mission is to bring together Indigenous educators, researchers, and policymakers from around the world to promote indigenous knowledge and practices in higher education. Its members include universities, research organizations and government agencies, all committed to advancing the role of indigenous perspectives in academia.

WINHEC is not only a platform for knowledge exchange but also a body that accredits Indigenous-serving institutions. This accreditation validates the quality of

education provided by these institutions, ensuring that indigenous philosophies and cultural practices are at the heart of their operations.

Accreditation: Honoring Indigenous Educational Excellence

One of the key highlights of this year's WINHEC AGM was the accreditation of three significant institutions: Hawaiʻiniuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge (Hawaiʻi), ʻAha Pūnana Leo (Hawaiʻi), and Matawa Education (First Nations in Canada).

WINHEC accreditation is a rigorous process that requires institutions to examine their goals, operations, and achievements in light of their Indigenous communities' worldviews and values.

The accreditation process includes a self-study and evaluation by an external review team. This ensures that institutions meet high standards of educational effectiveness while integrating their community's indigenous knowledge systems. WINHEC accreditation also encourages institutions to continuously improve their programs to better serve their students and communities.

Accreditation by WINHEC serves several important functions. It validates the credibility of an institution and assures the public that the institution is fulfilling its mission. It also provides a framework for continuous improvement, ensuring that schools remain responsive to the evolving needs of their communities. Furthermore, WINHEC's accreditation process is unique in that it centers indigenous philosophies and worldviews, making it a culturally grounded approach to quality assurance.

Strengthening Indigenous Institutions

The accreditation of Hawaiʻiniuiākea, ʻAha Pūnana Leo, and Matawa Education is a significant milestone for these institutions and the communities they serve. It acknowledges their commitment to integrating indigenous languages, culture, and philosophies into their educational offerings. More importantly, it affirms their role in perpetuating indigenous knowledge for future generations.

Accreditation by WINHEC extends beyond educational effectiveness – it ensures that indigenous institutions are rooted in their cultural values. This approach supports the diversity and richness of indigenous worldviews while ensuring that institutions continue to provide high-quality education. As WINHEC-accredited institutions, Hawaiʻiniuiākea and its counterparts will continue to play a vital role in fostering cultural resilience among Indigenous students.

A Global Collaboration for Indigenous Education

The WINHEC AGM in Waikīkī and Mānoa was a celebration of indigenous knowledge and cultural exchange. Attendees participated in workshops, ceremo-



Some 187 Indigenous educators from around the world gathered in September for five days of cultural exchange, discussion, and collaboration.

ies, and discussions on the role of education in preserving indigenous languages and traditions. A key highlight was an immersive cultural experience at Ka Papa Loʻi ʻo Kānewai at UH Mānoa, where participants learned about the history of the ahupuaʻa and Kānewai's water system, engaged in hands-on activities in the loʻi, prepared food in an imu (underground oven), and connected with the land and the community. This event underscored the shared experiences and resilience of Indigenous communities worldwide, emphasizing education's role in sustaining native traditions.

Looking Ahead: Aotearoa to Host the Next WINHEC AGM

As the 2024 WINHEC AGM concluded, it was announced that the next AGM will be hosted in Aotearoa in 2025. This continuation of the global collaboration among Indigenous educators reflects the ongoing commitment to strengthening indigenous education systems worldwide.

The 2024 WINHEC AGM in Hawaiʻi not only strengthened ties among Indigenous communities but also highlighted the critical role of education in preserving and revitalizing indigenous knowledge. As the global indigenous education movement grows, Hawaiʻiniuiākea and its fellow WINHEC-accredited institutions will continue to lead the way in creating culturally grounded, community-centered education systems that empower future generations.

By bringing together educators, students, and leaders from around the world, the WINHEC AGM reaffirmed the importance of indigenous self-determination in education and set the stage for continued collaboration in the years to come. ■

For more information about Hawaiʻiniuiākea go to: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/hshk> or for WINHEC go to: <https://winhec.org/>.

2024 SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

KĀKO‘O ‘ŌI HANA ‘ŌIWI

Supporting Native Hawaiian-owned businesses

Each year OHA gives Native Hawaiian-owned businesses an opportunity to advertise their business in *Ka Wai Ola*. The ads are provided free of cost and help promote Kānaka-owned businesses to our 75,000 print and digital subscribers.

BROWSE | SHOP | SUPPORT

BEAUTY

Aloha Beauty Academy
www.alohabeautyacademy.wixsite.com
IG @lehiwa.ink808

E Ho'oholu
ehoooholu@gmail.com
www.gigisgig.npusashop.com

Iwi Nails
www.iwinails.com
IG @iwi.nails.hi
FB /iwi.nails.hi

Simply Lavish Salon and Spa
www.simplylavishsalonspa.com
IG @simply.lavish

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ChangeMakers Hawai'i
www.changemakershawaii.org
IG @changemakershi

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Hale Nowelo
www.halenowelo.com
IG @halenowelo

INPEACE (online store)
www.inpeacehawaii.square.site

FOOD & DINING

Georgi's Goodies
georgis.goodies@gmail.com
IG @georgis_goodies
FB /georgisgoodieshawaii

Ho'ōla Honey
www.savehealthrive.com
IG @ho.olahoney
FB /ho.olahoney

Tea Chest Hawai'i
www.teachest.com
IG @teachesthawaii
FB /teachesthawaii

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Kāko'o Hawai'i Mental Health Collective
www.hawaiiimentalhealthcollective.com
IG @hawaiiimentalhealthcollective

Open Mato
www.openmato.com
IG @openmato
FB /openmato

Rocky Farms, LLC
rockyfarmshi@gmail.com
IG @RockyFarmsHI
FB /RockyFarmsHI

Serenus Light
www.serenuslight.com
IG @serenuslight
FB /serenuslight

HOME IMPROVEMENT & REPAIR

M.A.N.A. Loa Farms LLC
(808) 345-7305
www.manaloafarmsllc.com
IG m.a.n.a.loa_farms

Paradise Raingutters LLC
(808) 371-8498
marvis2@hawaiiantel.net

Prime Mechanical LLC
(808) 404-4455
IG @primemechanicalhi

Olli Cleaning Service
(808)430-9905
ollicleaningservice@gmail.com

OTHER

Alliance West Insurance, Inc.
www.alliancewestinsurance.com
FB /Alliance-West-Insurance-Inc-100035121168065/?locale=sq_AL

Hawai'i Homes by Tanya
www.hawaiihomesbytanya.com
FB /HawaiiHomesByTanya
IG@tanya_in_hawaii

Isle Vending
IG@islevendingllc

Kanoa Transportation, LLC
(808) 245-2662
www.kanoatransportation.com
IG @kanoatransportation
FB kanoatransportation

Pewa Woodworks
IG @pewawoodworks

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

KanakaNowelo
www.kanakanowelo.com
IG @kanakanowelo

RETAIL

21 Degrees North Designs
www.shop21degreesnorth.com
IG @21degreesnorthdesigns
FB /21degreesnorthdesigns

Hawaiiverse
www.hawaiiverse.com
IG @hawaiiverse

Honi Hala
www.honihala.com
IG @honihala

Island Pupu
islandpupu@gmail.com
www.etsy.com/shop/IslandPupu
IG @island_pupu

Keha Hawai'i
www.kehahawaii.com
IG @kehahawaii
FB /kehahawaii

Kūlua
www.kuluamaui.com
IG @kuluamaui
FB /kuluamaui

Kūmana Activewear
www.kumanaactive.com
IG @kumanaactive

Kumumea
www.kumumea.com
IG @kumumea

Mana Magnetix
www.manamagnetix.com
IG @manamagnetix
FB/ profile.php?id=61562749112626

Napua2's
napua_poire2004@yahoo.com
FB /profile.php?id=100086238385800

Work It Out
www.workitoutkauai.com
IG @workitoutkauai

TECHNOLOGY

Ulu Malu Systems
(808)466-2050
www.ulumalu.systems



2024 SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

SUPPORT NATIVE HAWAIIAN BUSINESSES



Show your support and patronize these businesses



Aloha Beauty Academy

WORKSHOPS

No Experience Necessary

We are located at:
94-801 Farrington Highway
Suite 204
Waipahu, HI, 96797
(808)589-6816

Scholarships Available Payment Plans Available

Lash Extensions Ombré Brows Hyaluron Pen Tiny Tattoo

E HO'OHOLU

Lomilomi with Gigi

Mobile massage Complementary Aromatherapy
60, 90, 120 minutes Izumio Hair Treatment
Affiliate rates available Cupping
Gift certificates Deep Tissue
Events Izumio Treatments

ehooholu@gmail.com 808 333-0413
http://gigisgig-npusashop.com M.L.T. #17580

MAKALI'I

BY *LOVED 'N' STORIES* **iwi nails**

THIS MAKAHIKI SEASON
STYLE & GIFT WITH INTENTION

MO'OLELO INSPIRED:
• NAIL ART KITS
• CUTICLE OIL
• NAIL CARE TOOLS
• GIFTS & MORE!

GET 20% OFF AT IWINAILS.COM
CODE: KAWAIOLA24

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS:
-\$60 SIGNATURE FACIAL - \$60 RETOUCH
-\$60 BRAZILIAN - \$8 OFF OIL SERVICE
-20% OFF ONE SERVICE

RELAX & REJUVENATE

FULL SERVICE SALON & SPA
LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
OFFERING AN ARRAY OF EXCELLENT SERVICES

- NAILS
- HAIR
- WAXING
- LASHES
- MASSAGE
- & MORE!

Leave feeling lavish from head to toe!

SIMPLY LAVISH SALON & SPA

(808) 456-1700 | WWW.SIMPLYLAVISHSALONSPA.COM
SIMPLY.LAVISH 98-1256 KAAHUMANU ST | STE E102 | PEARL CITY, HI 96782

Discover programs tailored to Hawaii's unique culture and economy.

PHILANTHROPOND Ainapreneur ONA HULU KANAKA MOB

Whether you're seeking financial empowerment, entrepreneurial resources, or sustainable solutions, ChangeMakers Hawai'i is here for you.

CHANGE BEGINS HERE.

CHANGEMAKERS COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

changemakershawaii.org

HALE NOWELO

Hawaiian Online Educational Tools

COURSES AND RESOURCES
Learn More

FREE CONTENT

365 Hawaiian WORD OF THE DAY

SCAN

Learning Resources

INPEACE

Aloha 'Ohana Bilingual Book Series
\$ 25 Book Size: 6" x 6"
Six (6) Books in each boxed set

Hawai'i Alphabet Card Set
\$ 25 Includes:
(24) Alphabet Cards (5"x7")
Instruction Card Box

Hawai'i Alphabet Poster Set
\$ 90 Includes:
24 Large Posters (13"x19")
50 Page Resource Guide
Storage Box

Order at inpeacehawaii.square.site

Georgi's Goodies

CAKES & SWEETS
KANE-OHE HI

Banana Bread & Bundt Cakes

Call or text
808-224-8514

georgis.goodies@gmail.com

@georgisgoodieshawaii
@georgis_goodies

HEALING 'OLENA HONEY

with homegrown turmeric, ginger & black pepper
for digestion, immunity & inflammation

Shop www.SaveHealThrive.com

HO'OLA

For Your Comfort, Enjoyment, and Well-being

'OLENA
FOR INFLAMMATION

20 TEA BAGS - NET WT. 1.25OZ (36G)

TEACHEST.COM

KĀKO`O HAWAI`I
Mental Health Collective

**cultural.
connected.
clinical.
mental health.**

HawaiiMentalHealthCollective

OPEN MAT-O

SHARING ALL THINGS MATO

HOT YOGA

Supporting you on your path to becoming your best you

OpenMato808@gmail.com (808) 368-3746 www.OpenMato.com

ROCKY FARMS
Making la'au lapa'au in every home, a reality! @RockyFarmsHI

**Assorted La'au Lapa'au -
Dried Teas, Oils, Salves, Tinctures & More...**

Available at I Mana Ka 'Owi in Windward Mall

Serenus Light

**MEDITATION CENTER & SPIRITUAL SANCTUARY
LOCATED IN MAKAKILO**

OUR SERVICES

DEEP TRANCE LIGHT & SOUND EXPERIENCE	MEDITATIONS	SOUND BATHS	CHAKRA BALANCING	SPECIAL EVENTS & MUCH MORE
--	--------------------	--------------------	-------------------------	---

We also offer customized packages depending upon your needs.

**M.A.N.A.LOA
FARMS LLC**

**ESTIMATES/ QUOTES
808 345-7305**

WWW.MANALOAFARMSLLC.COM

**PARADISE
RAINGUTTERS**

Residential & Commercial Installations
Free Estimates
Island Wide

Marvis Smith, RME
License C-27282
TEL: 808-371-8498
marvis2@hawaiiantel.net

Since 2007

A+ rating

AIR CONDITIONING SERVICES

Residential, Commercial, Office

- ✓ AC Repair
- ✓ AC Replacement
- ✓ AC Maintenance
- ✓ AC Installation

www.primemechanicalhi.com

PRIME MECHANICAL
CT-38525

CONTACT US
(808) 404-4455

**OILI CLEANING SERVICE
LLC**

(808) 430-9905



2024 SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

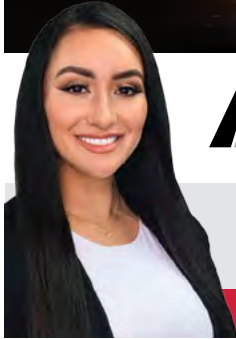
SUPPORT NATIVE HAWAIIAN BUSINESSES



Show your support and patronize these businesses



Improving Lives.
Protecting Dreams.
Transforming Communities.



Alliance
West Insurance Inc.
An Alliance of Companies You Can Trust

Pi'ilani Gisela Kapuaonalani Manuia Benz
6919 Lakewood Dr W, Ste D-1 | Tacoma, WA
877-688-0574 | alliancewestinsurance.com

Auto | Home | Business | Health | Life



Ready To Downsize?

If you are looking to reduce maintenance, lower expenses, free up time for what matters most?

Selling your home may be the first step toward a new chapter!

Prepare for a successful sale and a smooth transition.

Get Your Free Guide
Scan code or Call us Today



Tanya Ahina, REALTOR®
eXp Realty | RS-81960
808-457-0540
www.HawaiiHomesByTanya.com



WHEN YOU NEED CASH



SLE VENDING LLC



@SLEVENDINGLLC

KANOA
TRANSPORTATION
Your Island Navigator

Sedan • SUV • Limousine • Mini Bus
Transfers • Charters • Tours

(866) 245-2662
kanoatransportation.com

He hale Hele-Hawai'i keia

Pewa
WOODWORKS

Custom wood and acrylic creations for your hale and special events

Laser/CNC engraving & cutouts • Design & Building
@pewawoodworks

kanakaNowelo
videography

- Livestreams
- Weddings
- Live Events
- Real Estate
- Film
- Documentary
- Commercial
- Sports

scan

Handcrafted Jewelry
Kawaiian Papale

21°N
Handmade Jewelry

@21degreesnorthdesigns
www.shop21degreesnorth.com

100% LOCAL
PRODUCTS & SERVICES

HAWAIIVERSE.COM

15% OFF WITH CODE: KAWAIOLA15
valid until 11/30/24

Honi Hala
www.honihala.com

Lauhala Woven Products
@honihala



2024 SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

BROWSE | SHOP | SUPPORT



Supporting Native Hawaiian-owned Businesses

Ka Wai Ola is proud to showcase Native Hawaiian-owned businesses and their endeavors to build a strong and vibrant economy.




Island Pūpū
By Kekai

Islandpupu@gmail.com
Etsy Shop: IslandPupu



Scan the code QR code to check out my Etsy Shop




keha
HAWAII

Celebrating 'āina and mo'olelo through contemporary Hawaiian fashion.

KEHAHAWAII.COM
@kehahawaii | facebook.com/kehahawaii

KŪLUA ▲▲

Designed, Cut + Sewn in Maui
kuluamaui.com
@kuluamaui




KŪMANA ACTIVEWEAR
Eco-conscious, sweatshop-free, nohona 'ōiwi

Use code **KAWAIOLA** for 10% off
www.kumanaactive.com

Offer valid once per customer, expires 12/31/2024 11:59PM HST

KUMŪMEA

KUMŪMEA.COM
An accessories brand in Hawai'i. Rooted in Native Hawaiian and Western cultures, KUMŪMEA symbolizes growth and resilience.



SPECIAL OFFER

KALIKIMAKA SPECIAL

GET \$5 OFF ON ANY SET!
USE PROMO CODE: **MANA5**
Don't miss out! Offer ends on December 10, 2024

CUSTOM PHOTO MAGNETS
www.manamagnetix.com



follow us @manamagnetix

Sterling Silver Jewelry for Wahine Paddlers
Pendants, Rings, Earrings, Bracelets



Designed by "Gordon the Jeweler" of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

Available exclusively online at **Napua2's**
www.napua2s.com | napua_poire2004@yahoo.com

Open every day in Old Kapa'a Town

work it out
KAUAI • HAWAII

Brands for swim, sweat, and everyday Kauai living.




SHOP ONLINE

4-1312 Kuhio Hwy Kapa'a, Hawaii'i, 96746

ULU MALU SYSTEMS
A Trusted Local Cyber Security Provider

ARE YOU CONFIDENT IN YOUR COMPANY'S CYBER SECURITY?
100% of our security assessments have revealed critical threats.

GET A FREE SECURITY ASSESSMENT TODAY*
*Valued at \$1,500



Scan here for your free assessment or visit www.ulumalu.systems

Scooping Up Success with Locally Made Ice Cream

By Nathan Hokama

It has been said you can't buy happiness, but you can buy ice cream – and that's basically the same thing. And ice cream entrepreneur Zach Villanueva, owner of Sage Creamery in 'Ewa, is committed to keeping his customers happy with an ever-rotating array of island flavors made with organic and locally sourced ingredients from vendors like Lā'ie Vanilla Company, ChadLou's Coffee Roasters in Kailua, Mānoa Chocolate in Kailua, and Mānoa Honey and Mead in Wahiawā.

Villanueva and his wife, Courtney, started making ice cream in Courtney's mom's garage in March 2020, right at the start of the pandemic.

At the time, Villanueva was working full-time as the manager of the tasting room of Kō Hana Distillers, which makes rum. Initially, making ice cream was only intended to be a "side hustle." However, by August 2020, just a few months into the business, Villanueva went all in and started working full time on his ice cream business.

While many established businesses had to make rapid pandemic-related pivots to survive, being a start-up business, Sage Creamery didn't have any set ways of doing business and Villanueva was able to roll with the pandemic restrictions.

"During the lockdown, we couldn't leave our homes except for business, so we started delivering ice cream directly to customers' homes," he said.

This yielded phenomenal results. "The business grew organically and took on a life of its own," Villanueva said.

Sage Creamery has now been in business for more than four years, and last February they celebrated the grand opening of their first brick-and-mortar store.

Of course, for an ice cream business, having reliable, high-quality freezers is critical.



Villanueva shows OHA loan processor Robert Crowell his new freezers. - Courtesy Photos

So, Villanueva reached out to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and applied for a business loan. He went through the loan process and, once the loan was approved, he was able to purchase four brand new, top-tier freezers for their new shop.

Although the popularity of their ice cream has grown over the years, Sage Creamery continues to make it in small batches

to maintain quality control – about 100 gallons a week to meet the current demand.

Besides the Villanuevas and one full-time employee, their crew consists of 10 part-timers. A typical workday begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 7:00 p.m. six days a week. Initially, they used a commercial kitchen in Iwilei to make their ice cream, but now production takes place at their shop in 'Ewa.



Ice Cream entrepreneur Zach Villanueva of Sage Creamery also sells his extra creamy ice cream by the pint at his shop in 'Ewa. - Courtesy Photo



Zach and Courtney Villanueva.

Located across the highway from UH West O'ahu, students and professors are regular Sage Creamery customers, with faculty members often ordering ice cream for special events.

In addition to serving walk-in customers at the store, Sage Creamery provides weekly orders of ice cream to Diamond Head Market & Grill and to Monkeypod Kitchen.

"Chef Jose (Gonzalez-Maya, executive chef at Monkeypod Kitchen) reached out to us to supply his restaurant and now Sage Creamery ice cream is mentioned by name on their menu," said Villanueva, proudly.

One might describe their journey to success as a... rocky road.

"I bought a \$20 ice cream maker from E-Bay and read cookbooks to learn how to make ice cream," said Villanueva. "It was a lot of trial and error."

"I made my first batch in 2016, and Courtney and I agreed it was the worst ice cream we ever tasted," he laughed.

Today, Sage Creamery is known for its super premium ice creams. One thing that sets their ice cream apart is its a higher fat content, resulting in a creamier texture.

At their shop, customers are greeted with a menu of locally inspired original ice cream flavors. Some of their signature flavors include Lā'ie Snow Cream (made with vanilla beans and sweetened condensed milk); Mango Sticky Rice (a non-dairy coconut and pandan sorbet with mango jam) and Ube Crinkle Cookie (ube ice cream with ube cookie chunks).

There are also special monthly flavors like Peanut Butter and Jelly, Banana Lumpia, Thai Tea Oreo, and Kaua'i Kūlolo.

Stories are important to Villanueva, who fondly remembers listening to his grandmother's stories about growing up on Hawai'i Island. He carries on that storytelling tradition by sharing his own stories about Sage Creamery's ice creams, ingredients and inspiration.

For example, their "Merrie Monarch" ice cream is made with strawberries and Kō Hana Distillers rum, "because King David Kalākaua loved strawberry ice cream and loved to drink," Villanueva explained.

But the most important story Villanueva tells is the story of his late brother, Daniel, for whom Sage Creamery was named.

Daniel, who passed in August 2018, was a seeker, wise beyond his years. His 'ohana referred to him as their "sage" (a profoundly wise person). His life journey led him to the rainforests of the Amazon, where he spent time with an Indigenous healer – a deeply spiritual experience.

Villanueva said that his brother lived a life of discovery, love and wonder, inspiring those he left behind. And thus, Sage Creamery is named for, and honors the memory of, Daniel Villanueva. ■

SAGE
CREAMERY

Visit Sage Creamery at:
91-3575 Kaulualoko Street #3005
in 'Ewa Beach, O'ahu

To see their latest flavors follow them on Instagram:

sagecreamery

KĀKO'O 'OIHANA 'ŌIWI
Support Native Hawaiian-owned Businesses

From Necessity to Success: Cleaning Up O‘ahu and Giving Back

By Cedric Duarte

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, uncertainty gripped the lives of many, including Kana‘i Picanco and Brooks Carillo. Facing job insecurity, the pair turned necessity into opportunity by founding Kana‘i’s Junk Removal in early 2021.

Armed with little more than a single truck and a determination to build something of their own, they grew their business from humble beginnings into a thriving operation with a fleet of trucks, a team of employees, and a mission that goes beyond simply hauling trash.

Their focus? Reducing landfill waste through donations and recycling, all while giving back to their island home of O‘ahu.

“We kind of started it by accident, really,” Picanco said, reflecting on the company’s beginnings.

His father had been working on demolition projects and was paying high fees to rent dumpsters from other companies. Picanco saw an opportunity to keep those costs in-house and suggested they buy their own truck.

The timing of the pandemic unexpectedly fueled growth for Kana‘i’s Junk Removal, as many residents were homebound and took the opportunity to declutter or renovate. As people worked on their homes, they needed efficient junk removal services, and Picanco and Carillo quickly filled that gap.

They saw their operation grow quickly. Initially, it was just the two of them handling everything from customer calls to loading the trucks, but the demand for their services soon outpaced their ability to manage it all themselves.

Today, Kana‘i’s Junk Removal has 11 trucks in its fleet, with plans to add a 12th in the coming months. They employ a team of 17 people across three base yards, all sharing the founders’ commitment to providing top-notch service while caring for the environment.

“Our focus has always been on reducing waste and doing what we can to keep items out of the landfill,” Picanco explained. “We live on an island, so we have to take care; the island isn’t getting any bigger. We’re doing our best to recycle or donate when possible.”

Carillo pointed out that a lot of the things they pick up are still in good condition. “A lot of furniture that may be gently used doesn’t need just to be thrown away. If somebody else can use it, we prefer to donate it instead of sending it to the dump.” The company partners with organizations like Helping Hands Hawai‘i to ensure usable furniture and household goods go to those in need rather than being discarded.

Kana‘i’s Junk Removal has also made a name for itself through its involvement in local environmental initiatives. The company regularly participates in beach cleanups and tire removals and hopes to add community dumpster days in the future.

“It would be a good service for people if they have things they want to dispose of but can’t take care of it themselves because they can’t access a truck or live in a



Kana‘i Picanco and Brooks Carillo founded Kana‘i’s Junk Removal during the pandemic with a single truck. Today, they have 11 trucks in their fleet and employ 17 people across three baseyards. - Courtesy Photo

condo. We’d like to be able to help,” Carillo said. “It’s not just about hauling junk; it’s about taking care of people and the environment.”

According to Carillo, one of the keys to their success is the team they’ve built. “Our goal is to build an environment where people enjoy working at a super family-oriented place,” she said. “We try to find people who match our core values and want to put the customer and the community first.”

This focus on service drives the company and is probably why Kana‘i’s Junk Removal has earned a loyal following across O‘ahu.

Despite the less-than-glamorous nature of the job, Picanco shared how deeply rewarding the work can be for his team. “Our guys feel good about helping people,” he explained. “It’s not the most glamorous job – picking up rubbish – but when you look at the big picture, it’s about more than just throwing things away. We’re taking care of people, especially those who physically can’t do it themselves.”

Picanco recounted how some clients have even been moved to tears, expressing their deep gratitude after the team has cleared out their spaces.

“Sometimes people come to us afterward, crying, thanking us for taking something off their plate that they couldn’t do on their own,” he said. “In those moments, you realize it’s not just about junk – it’s about really helping these people out. That’s the kind of team we look to hire – people who genuinely want to help others.”

This culture of care resonates with their customers and attracts like-minded individuals to join the team. “By helping others, the company wins because more people see the kind of work we do and want to be part of it,” Picanco added.

With success on O‘ahu, the company’s sights are set on continued growth and possible expansion to neighbor islands.

For Picanco and Carillo, running Kana‘i’s Junk Removal isn’t just about making a living, it’s about making a difference.

Focusing on sustainability, supporting local communities, and giving back proves that even a business born out of necessity can grow into something that impacts the community. ■

KANA'I'S
JUNK REMOVAL

Schedule a service or request a quote,
go to: www.kanaisjunkremoval.com
call: 808-736-0863

Follow them on social media:

 [kanaisjunkremoval](https://www.instagram.com/kanaisjunkremoval)

 [/kanaisjunkremoval](https://www.facebook.com/kanaisjunkremoval)

KĀKO‘O ‘OIHANA ‘ŌIWI
Support Native Hawaiian-owned Businesses

Changing an Industry One Roof at a Time

By Hannah Ka'iulani Coburn

Kaua'i born and raised sisters, Lana Simmons and Alia Galvez are breaking barriers as Native Hawaiian wāhine stepping into the traditionally male-dominated industry of roofing.

Simmons and Galvez are the proud owners of Kaua'i Island Roofing LLC, serving communities across the island of Kaua'i. Their introduction to roofing began around 10 years ago, when the sisters found themselves at a place in life where they were able to take on something new and separate from their role as wives and mothers.

"I had a friend who was the office manager of a roofing company based on O'ahu," said Simmons. "They were looking for salespeople and I thought okay, let me try it – and I ended up doing good on the sales side.

"I asked my sister if she would join because I needed a little help, and we did it together as partners through sales. We would end up doing everything from beginning to end for the business, so we eventually decided to start our own business and get our license. That's kind of how this happened."

In 2019, Kaua'i Island Roofing LLC was born.

Initially, the sisters' clients were mainly their family and friends, and their work focused on residential roofs. Today the company has expanded, doing more commercial work.

Their clientele has grown without any formal marketing efforts other than the "coconut wireless" with the testimonies of their clients playing a crucial role in their success.

Simmons and Galvez work side-by-side with their four-member roofing team.

"We do everything from top to bottom. We don't have office staff so, between the two of us, we take on all the tasks," said Galvez. "It works well for us right now and the fact that we get to do this together is a huge plus."

Roofing is typically an industry dominated by men; however, the sisters' passion for their work led them to become entrepreneurs in a field where women are either absent or marginalized.

"I feel like it works to our advantage. We are very thorough, organized and responsive, so I think we have the upper hand," said Galvez. "There are a lot of male roofers and sometimes potential clients will be like, 'you guys can't handle this job,' but we're up to the challenge. We can figure it out and get it done."

Simmons and Galvez incorporate Hawaiian values into their business practices and put the families that they work with first.

"[Our values] drive everything that we do. We are working with people that we are going to see at the grocery store or a family party," said Galvez. "We are going to give our extreme best effort because we have that value at heart and always make sure that we take care of the homeowners to get them a solid roof."

"A lot of our roofs are for local clients, and that was



Lana Simmons (left) and Alia Galvez (right) standing in front of their finished roof at the historical Kaua'i Museum. - Photo: Charlie Valentine

initially our start. We wanted to help all the locals be able to get a new roof, not just the tourists that are moving here and buying houses," added Simmons. "Now we've expanded a bit, and we can take care of both sides."

Watching their mother operate her own business influenced the sisters' ambition to become business owners themselves.

"Our mom has also always been a business owner, and she raised us with the mindset where 'you can do that, you can start that, you can take the risk and go for it,' so she definitely played a role as far as giving us that push to do things," said Simmons.

To date, Kaua'i Island Roofing's biggest and most memorable job was working on the Kaua'i Museum. The

sisters had several partners to help make that project happen.

"We used a very special clay tile that took months to make. As it is a historical building, we dealt with the historical society, getting permits, working with the county and with other Native Hawaiians," said Galvez. "Chucky Boy Chock, the museum director, played a crucial part. He is Hawaiian and he wanted a Hawaiian company to do the work, so it was a special experience."

As for the future of their business, the sisters hope to acquire their own equipment and company trucks and would love to see their roofing team grow large enough to take on multiple jobs at once.

"We are very grateful for where we are today, and we are thankful for all the blessings that got us here," said Galvez. "We look forward to the future and all the exciting things that are going to happen with our business." ■



To learn about services,
go to: www.kauaiislandroofing.com
call: (808)652-1613 or (808)625-2967

Follow them on social media:

 [kauaiislandroofing](https://www.instagram.com/kauaiislandroofing)

 [/kauaiislandroofing](https://www.facebook.com/kauaiislandroofing)

KĀKO'O 'OIHANA 'ŌIWI

Support Native Hawaiian-owned Businesses

Join us in keeping an
attitude of gratitude.

Not only today or this
season, but always.

For your home purchase,
refinance or investment call:

808.823.8050



Mahalo

From the
SecurityNational
Mortgage Ohana.

Developing a Coalition of Kānaka Businesses

With an ultimate goal of strengthening the lāhui, the Mālama Design Studio is mentoring a second cohort of Native Hawaiian-owned businesses

By Ed Kalama

In Hawai'i, small businesses are the lifeblood of the community.

Mālama Design Studio (MDS), a program offered by the Purple Mai'a Foundation, is at the forefront of supporting these businesses. By providing mentorship in visual branding, web development, and marketing strategies, MDS empowers Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs to share their stories authentically while remaining true to their cultural values.

With the support of an economic grant from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, MDS is now helping a second cohort of 10 Kānaka Maoli owned companies thrive in a way that not only benefits their individual success, but also strengthens Hawai'i's economy and cultural legacy. The goal is to develop a pae 'aina wide coalition of Kānaka businesses focused on achieving economic self-sufficiency.

The cohort is now eight months into its nine-month training program which will wrap up in December.

"We're in the final phase of completing digital projects in support of growing each business in the cohort. These range from website redevelopment, to logos, updated packaging and internal digital workflow enhancements," said Keoni DeFranco, managing director of Mālama Studios.

"This cohort has been incredibly inspiring! We're supporting Native Hawaiian founders on five Hawaiian islands, in a range of diverse industries that include traditional Hawaiian practices such as lei-making, kalo farming, lomilomi, mākeke (markets) and 'ai pono. We've been impressed with the growth our founders have exhibited and the pilina built between the cohort. We're all aligned in a shared mission to build more economic sovereignty for Hawai'i to ensure our people are not just surviving but thriving in our homeland."

Ikaika Wright is the owner of Kino Konnections, a company that offers lessons in practical lomi for personal use. Wright recently held his first Lomi 'Ohana community workshop class.

"In many ways, this class was made possible through my participation in the MDS Cohort, which came at a pivotal moment in my business journey," Wright said. "Navigating entrepreneurship has often been a daunting task. At times I've struggled with finding a balance between Western frameworks of business and understandings of mauli ola, aloha 'āina, and lāhui. A constant inner dialogue I have is, 'what does it look like to support our people and 'āina while also taking care of myself, my own

"MDS not only inspired me to dream bigger but also equipped me with essential tools to re-imagine what a kuleana-driven business can truly be."

- IKAIKA WRIGHT



Ikaika Wright of Kino Konnections offers his first Lomi 'Ohana community workshop class.

'ohana, and earning a livelihood through a living cultural practice?"

"MDS not only inspired me to dream bigger but also equipped me with essential tools to re-imagine what a kuleana-driven business can truly be."

As MDS continues to grow, its commitment to fostering a sustainable, community-driven economy remains strong. These businesses, each with their own unique contribution to Hawai'i's community and economy, reflect the diversity and strength of Native Hawaiian entrepreneurship. By supporting these local entrepreneurs, MDS is helping build a future that honors Hawai'i's past while shaping a thriving, culturally aligned economic landscape.



Ikaika Wright, fifth from left, is the owner of Kino Konnections a company that offers lessons in practical lomi for personal use. - Photos: Leimomi Bong

"We believe it is critical to continue building support networks for Native Hawaiian founders who navigate complex challenges shaped by the unique, material conditions of Hawai'i. Native Hawaiians consistently face barriers in accessing startup capital and business loans, despite often having comparable qualifications. These systemic inequities not only limit opportunities for economic growth but also hinder the potential for long-term community resilience," DeFranco said.

"By investing in the skills, knowledge, and capacity of our people, we aim to empower Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs to overcome these obstacles and drive sustainable, values-aligned business ventures that honor our 'Ōiwi culture while fostering economic self-sufficiency. We hope you will keep these local Native Hawaiian companies in mind when you are making your holiday purchases."

To learn more about Mālama Design Studio and the businesses they support, visit purplemaia.org or follow them on social media. Together, they are helping Hawai'i's small businesses flourish while uplifting the lāhui. ■

See complete list of the 2024 Mālama Design Studio Cohort on page 17

MEMBERS OF THE 2023 MĀLAMA DESIGN STUDIO COHORT 1

HUI MĀLAMA I KE ALA 'ŪLILI

Hāmākua, Hawai'i Island

'OHANA PRODUCTIONS

Hilo, Hawai'i Island

KANAKA TO KANAKA

Hilo, Hawai'i Island

POLIPOLI FARMS

Waiehu, Maui

ROOTED

Wailuku, Maui

NA'IKE

Kalamaula, Moloka'i

KĪPUKA LĀNA'I FARMS

Lāna'i

DRIP STUDIO HNL

Honolulu, O'ahu

MOON KINE TINGZ

Kāne'ohe, O'ahu

LEIRA ORGANICS

Wai'anae, O'ahu

HAWAIIAN CHECKERS.COM

Anahola, Kaua'i

MĀLAMA HULĒ'IA

Līhu'e, Kaua'i

2024 MĀLAMA DESIGN STUDIO COHORT 2

HAWAII ISLAND

THE LEI BAR

Sunshine Permito-Kaheaku, founder of The Lei Bar, uses 100% Hawai'i-grown florals and foliage to create custom lei. The business also offers workshops that teach traditional lei-making techniques while fostering a deep connection to Hawaiian culture and 'āina. Often gathering materials herself, Sunshine hopes to perpetuate lei-making as a sacred expression and embodiment of aloha. Always seasonal, The Lei Bar has hosted pop-ups across the pae 'āina from private events to large festivals.

KAUAI

SBH TARO FARMS

Located in Hanalei, Kaua'i, SBH Taro Farms is a third-generation business founded by Sierra Lynn-Stone committed to preserving growing traditions of kalo (taro) cultivation. Their efforts to restore and maintain lo'i systems ensure that future generations stay connected to the land through the practice of aloha 'āina. Their mission is rooted in food sovereignty and perpetuating the cultural significance of kalo for Hawai'i's people.

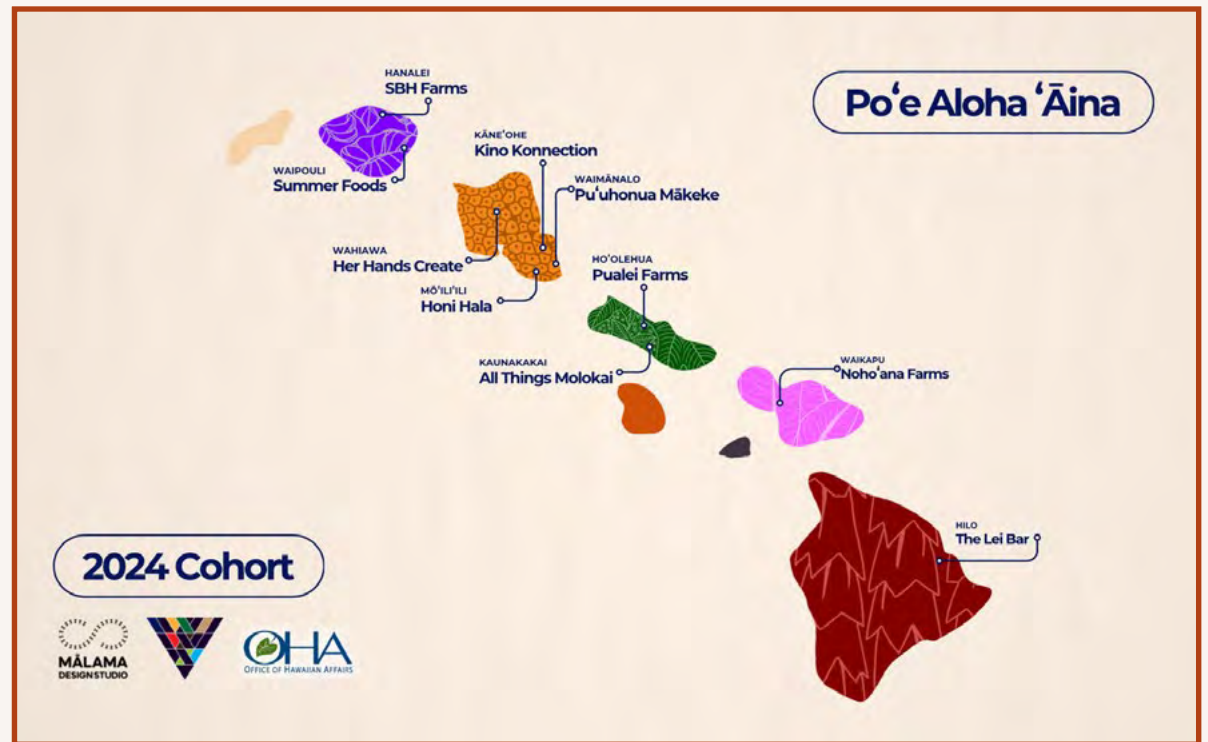
SUMMER FOODS

Based in Waipouli, Kaua'i, Summer Foods is transforming the way people access 'ai pono, in their case, plant-based or healthy meals. Sommer Kauakahi, the founder, makes her grab-and-go meals available in local markets and ensures they are accessible to all by accepting EBT. Her focus on locally sourced, organic ingredients not only promotes better health, but also strengthens the local food system.

MAUI

NOHO'ANA FARM

Located in Waikapū, Maui, Noho'ana Farm has become a leader in community-based agroforestry since its establishment in 2004. Founded by Hōkūao Pellegrino and Alana Ka'ōpūiki-Pellegrino, their mission is to restore lo'i kalo systems and educate the next generation about sustainable, regenerative agriculture. By blending ancestral knowledge with modern farming techniques, Noho'ana Farm has supported families across Maui and continues to provide vital resources, such as poi, to communities in need.



MOLOKA'I

ALL THINGS MOLOKAI

Situated in Kaunakakai, Moloka'i, All Things Molokai serves as a retail hub for local artisans and makers. Through this creative space, founder Wailani Tanaka supports local entrepreneurship and keeps the Moloka'i economy strong by ensuring that locally made products are promoted and sold. Her mission is to highlight and preserve the unique stories of Moloka'i's artisans while fostering a sustainable island economy.

PUALEI FARM

A multi-generational 'ohana farm in Ho'olehua, Moloka'i, Pualei Farm grows fresh produce and empowers others to do the same through backyard farming. During the pandemic, the Gamiao family shared their abundant harvest with their community, strengthening their bond with the land and with each other. Pualei Farm's mission is to promote food security and provide education on 'ai pono practices to create a healthier Moloka'i.

O'AHU

HONI HALA

Pūlama Long, the visionary behind Honi Hala, weaves lau hala (pandanus leaf), and teaches ulana (weaving) to keep the art alive in the household. Honi Hala offers workshops that help individuals reconnect with their ancestral practices while promoting the grassroots community care of hala trees. Pūlama's dedication to education has led to the launch of a hana no'eau school, Ke Kula 'o Po'owai Nui, which launched in summer 2024.

HER HANDS CREATE WAIWAI

Heather Castellano of Her Hands Create Waiwai, based in Waihiwā, O'ahu, focuses on empowering Native Hawaiian women by guiding them to financial harmony. Heather combines personal and business finance with cultural values to help mana wāhine achieve financial stability. Her work extends beyond financial literacy, fostering sustainability and prosperity for future generations by creating wealth that aligns with the values of the lāhui.

KINO KONNECTIONS

Kino Konnections, based on O'ahu, offers workshops on practical lomi techniques, empowering individuals to take care of their own wellbeing and that of their 'ohana. By teaching accessible lomi skills, Ikaika Wright enables people to exercise medical sovereignty without needing years of formal training. The business strengthens the community by helping families reclaim traditional healing practices.

PU'UHONUA MĀKEKE

Founded at the Nation of Hawai'i in Waimānalo, O'ahu, by Lehua Kanahale-Santos, Pu'uhonua Mākeke offers a safe space for Native Hawaiian vendors to sell their products and share their talents. The market embodies self-determination, allowing local artisans and business owners to thrive by maintaining control over their own economic futures. The Mākeke promotes Hawaiian entrepreneurship while creating a space for community connection and cultural exchange.

the Ho'omau Market

Helping to Build a Thriving 'Ōiwi
Economy While Giving Back



By Kelli Meskin Soileau

What was only supposed to be a small, one-time event has grown to an annual event with over 100 vendors. The mission is to not only build a thriving 'Ōiwi economy but also to do it while elevating Hawaiian culture and supporting the community.

Kailee Freitas, owner of Mahina Made, a lifestyle brand, got off the ground by participating at various markets featuring local vendors and small businesses. She enjoyed engaging with customers, talking with other vendors, and the whole event feel.

About five years ago, she was inspired to put together a market featuring businesses who were creating nā mea Hawai'i (Hawaiian products) or intentionally using their businesses to elevate the Hawaiian community.

"I didn't know how to run a market. I'd never run one before and participated in them," Freitas said. "And I was like, let's just do a small one."

Freitas thought it would be fun to hang out with other business owners who shared the same cultural values and network. Held in a community space, the first event was promoted primarily on social media and featured local vendors.

"We filled the parking lot before the event even started. It was insane," Freitas recalled.

Over 3,000 people attended the first Ho'omau Market. Because of the enthusiastic response, Freitas felt compelled to continue the event with another market – and so Ho'omau Market continued to grow.

This month, the largest Ho'omau Market yet – with over 100 vendors, many of which are Native Hawaiian-owned businesses – will be held at the Hawai'i Convention Center in Waikiki.

An 'Ōhana Effort



Ho'omau Market founder Kailee Freitas and husband, Logan, with their keiki Keko'i and Kaha'i - Courtesy photos

pop-up market vendors and a economy, but to giving back to

ot her business g local crafters the networking

cket specifically (aiian products) n culture.

ore, just partic- small market." business owners Waikāiki, their ed just 30 local

was absolutely

cause of the en- effort and plan

0 vendors, 83% d Nov. 9 and 10,



'ula and Ka'elaukea.

"I attended the first few Ho'omau Market events as a customer," said Leilani Sill, owner of apparel business, The Keiki Dept. "The energy and feeling of aloha the minute you enter – it's just incredible! From set-up to the event itself to breakdown, it feels like family. Like a big get-together."

Ho'omau Market is managed by Freitas' family and close friends. Her core team includes her "Aunties of Aloha" and her mother-in-law, who help with ticket sales, greeting customers, and making sure everyone is enjoying themselves.

Her husband, Logan Freitas, helps vendors unload and find their booths, while her friend, Kanoë Tjorvatjoglou-Cup Choy, serves as the market's vivacious emcee, spotlighting the vendors and giving-away items. Her mom is assigned to "keiki duty" and her grandmother just likes to sit, relax, and watch the younger family members run the show.

"We don't have a huge team, and we kind of like it that way, because it helps to keep that family feel for the market," Freitas said.

"Something that Kailee does really well is curating the vendors," said Sills. "Being able to put on an event that showcases all of us and our different products, with so many vendors in one place, has helped a lot of us to succeed."

The curated list of Ho'omau Market business participants is shared in an online directory on the market's webpage. The directory can be searched by island, product or business name, providing year-round access to culturally inspired products.

A Kāko'o Thing

The Ho'omau Market has provided structure for marketing new businesses, shared resources for business courses and tutorials, legal references for help with certificate of insurance needs, and more.

"When I was a new business owner, there's just so much to learn about promoting your business. They really helped with marketing behind the scenes," said Rachel Domingo, owner of Moon Dance Designs jewelry.

Domingo is a full-time teacher and runs her jewelry business on the side. Within the last few years of participating in the market she has established her brand, done partner collaborations with other brands and businesses, learned about Hawaiian culture and the native plants that she now incorporates in her product, and grown her Instagram followers from 20 to almost 7,000.

"Most importantly, in terms of support, a lot of these women are moms. I'm a new mom and I still message a lot of the women that I met from the very first Ho'omau Market. It's like we've built lifelong friendships from [being involved in] the market," Domingo said.

Developing lasting friendships is a common theme expressed by the various business owners about their experiences participating in the Ho'omau Market.

"We come from different backgrounds, but it's really interesting because now some of my closest friends are people I've met through Ho'omau," said Sills.

"In a traditional business model we're all competing for the same customers," Sills reflected. "But I don't see it that way. The way I see it, we're all businesses trying to perpetuate and share our culture. The only way that we're going to continue to move forward is to work together."

Giving Back

From the beginning, giving back was a key element of the Ho'omau Market's foundational values.

"Even though at first we didn't have much money to give back – just a couple hundred dollars – we gave it to Pūnana Leo," Freitas said. "That is



Ho'omau Market comes together each year with help from Freitas' family and close friends. She is pictured here with some of her core team, including her "Aunties of Aloha."

Celebrate the Season at Ho'omau Market

Sat., November 9, 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sun., November 10, 10:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.

Hawai'i Convention Center | Kalākaua Ballrooms

A unique holiday shopping event featuring 100+ local and Native Hawaiian-owned businesses, live local entertainment, a performance by the keiki of 'Aha Pūnana Leo, giveaways, and more. Shop local for your holiday gifts at the annual Ho'omau Market, a mākeke with a mission to perpetuate nā mea Hawai'i.

Admission: \$5.00 at the door, keiki 12 and under are FREE

VIP 'Eke Mākeke: \$50.00 (Exclusive early shopping times, vendor discounts, canvas tote Limited tickets available online)

Kīkīkī Kūpuna (Kūpuna Ticket): \$5.00 (A relaxed, shopping experience Sunday morning 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

Parking: Parking at the Hawai'i Convention Center is \$15 for a full day. Overflow parking is available at Ala Moana Shopping Center.

For a full list of vendors and more details, visit www.hoomaumarket.com

Facebook and Instagram - @hoomaumarket

THE HO'OMAU MARKET

Continued from page 19



Kailee Freitas arranges a display of her popular Mahina Made flower lei t-shirts at last year's Ho'omau Market. - Courtesy photo

something that has been consistent in every event – that we donate to some Hawaiian nonprofit or organization. And that's just on the event side.”

The level of inclusivity and kākō'o extends beyond the market itself. Many of its vendors give a portion of their proceeds back to the community – to Hawaiian language organizations, cultural conservation groups, or the Hawai'i Food Bank, to name a few.

In 2022, The Keiki Dept., which regularly donates 1% of their online sales to support 'Aha Pūnana Leo, created a special limu print to celebrate the “Year of the Limu” and donated it to the Waimānalo Limu Hui.

“When I was younger, and went to the beach there was limu all over the place,” Sills reminisced. “Now, when we go to the beach, we sometimes don't see any.” For her, supporting the hui's work to restore native limu is important.

“Giving back and being a part of the community is super important to me,” she said.

For Native Hawaiians, reclaiming our brand and taking control of the narrative about Hawai'i and our people is important.

As a “brand,” Hawai'i and the Hawaiian people have been exploited for decades. The arts, traditions, language, 'āina, symbols and motifs of our kūpuna have been taken, appropriated, and manipulated for profit by entities with no – or only superficial – connections to our 'āina, culture, history, and values.

By supporting businesses that promote Hawaiian culture and values, and purchasing goods created by Native Hawaiians and by kama'āina who honor and respect our culture, we are helping to keep local families in Hawai'i.

It is an investment in our 'Ōiwi economy that directly supports our lāhui. And it also supports the authentic perpetuation of our culture, language and environment for generations to come. E ho'omau! ■

MahinaMade x YIREH



Mahina Made owner and Ho'omau Market Founder Kailee Freitas, in collaboration with YIREH owner Emily Jaime, launched the opening of their first permanent store at Ward's South Shore Market in Kaka'ako on Oct. 26. Be sure to visit them and support Hawai'i.

KĀKO'O 'ŌIHANA 'ŌIWI

Support Native Hawaiian-owned Businesses



EXPLORE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

WE ARE

THE FUTURE

E KŪLIA I KA NU'U KĀKOU!

With hundreds of opportunities available for Hawaiian haumāna, our college scholarships support you at every stage of your educational journey to reach your full potential and strive for excellence. Seize this opportunity to invest in your future and enrich our lāhui.

APPLICATION WINDOWS

Kamehameha Schools college scholarships
October 1, 2024 - January 15, 2025

Pauahi Foundation college scholarships
October 15 - December 15, 2024

Learn more and apply at ksbe.edu/college



Kamehameha Schools®

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

Stewarding a Cooperative Economy

By Ku'uwehi Hiraishi

Ka Waiwai Collective – a group of Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs who share kuleana and a passion for uplifting the lāhui – is making its Kaua'i debut this fall in Kapa'a.

Starting in November, Ka Waiwai Collective will offer co-working and event space out of the restored Otsuka Furniture building at Kalukalu at 1624. Ka Waiwai will also provide educational and cultural programming, entertainment, and support for local entrepreneurs.

“This is not just a business or passion project – we are leveling up, arm in arm, with people who want healing and transformation for 'āina and their communities, through the vehicle of entrepreneurship, business, and economic development,” says Mahina Paishon-Duarte, president & co-founder of Ka Waiwai Collective.

This is the company's fourth co-working and event space – and the first outside of O'ahu. Every community is different says Paishon-Duarte, and engaging the Kaua'i community to help shape Kalukalu's mission was crucial. Ka Waiwai partnered with neighboring Kaua'i Federal Credit Union to host community listening and learning sessions, and Paishon-Duarte says climate became a recurring theme.

“The Kaua'i community has proven its continued capacity for resilience and recovery in the face of natural disasters,” says Paishon-Duarte, “From Hurricane Iwa to Hurricane Iniki, and then the 2018 flooding on the North Shore. We can all learn from this.”

The group also enlisted the place-based expertise of community leaders like Stacy Sproat of the Waipā Foundation, Hanapēpē salt maker Malia Nobrega-Oliveira, and Alakoko Fishpond steward Peleke Flores. The result was a mission for Kalukalu to steward a cooperative economy that honors community, culture, and climate.

To support this mission, Ka Waiwai plans to host signature events like their popular 'Awa & 'Ai Nights, guest speakers and talk story sessions, live music, and even community-supported agriculture pick-up at its Kalukalu location.

Ka Waiwai Collective locations are more than co-working spaces, they're community. The company has grown since opening its flagship Mō'ili'ili location on the bottom floor of the Varsity Building. Ka Waiwai now also operates a Nu'uaniu location near the hustle and bustle of downtown Honolulu and a Ko'olau location out of the Ko'olau Ballroom in Kāne'ohe. Paishon-Duarte says they currently serve about 120 co-working members, and the clientele runs the gamut from community to corporate.

“We attract companies, organizations, individuals curious about how to apply place-based knowledge and ancestral values into their businesses, their strategic plans, their leadership approaches,” says Paishon-Duarte, “That is the critical missing piece.”

She says Ka Waiwai is a call to action for the lāhui to come together and dream up ideas of exchange and



Ka Waiwai Collective offers both co-working and event space at its four locations, with about 120 co-working members. Pictured here is a concert featuring Robert Cazimero and the musical group, Keauhou, at Ka Waiwai Collective's flagship location in Mō'ili'ili. - Photo: Ka Waiwai Collective

abundance that prioritize the quality of relationships and the balance between people and the 'āina.

Back in 2017, Paishon-Duarte co-founded Ka Waiwai Collective along with Keoni Lee, CEO of Hawai'i Investment Ready, and Jaime Makasobe, co-founder of Native Hawaiian clothing brand Kealopiko. The trio had a hunch that a flexible space for collaboration grounded in ancestral values was worth it.

“More and more we're seeing a demand for a different approach to the problems that we face. The colonial mindset and systems have limited value here. We only need to be authentically ourselves,” says Paishon-Duarte.

Moving forward, Paishon-Duarte says Ka Waiwai plans to invest more time and resources into supporting wāhine entrepreneurs and leaders.

“There aren't enough spaces for wāhine within Hawai'i, in our homes, in our communities, and around the world, to converse about matters that are uniquely relevant to wāhine,” says Paishon-Duarte.

Ka Waiwai plans to expand upon its signature events like Mana Wāhine Mixers and panel discussions on issues like environmental degradation and climate change.

“In my conversations with Indigenous and tribal leaders, there is a resounding call to rematriate (restore balance to) our 'āina, our government, our systems. These patriarchal-based systems have long served the few,” says Paishon-Duarte, “We need to heal these broken systems starting with the 'āina first and us Kānaka second.”

Paishon-Duarte says Ka Waiwai Collective's expansion to Kaua'i is part of a pae 'āina wide push over the next several years. Ka Waiwai Collective will be debut-

ing its Pae 'Āina Co-Work Membership Pass at Kalukalu for members in need of working space on O'ahu and Kaua'i, and possibly other mokupuni soon.

“Over the next five years, we plan to expand Ka Waiwai to spaces across the pae 'āina, wherever community and commerce demand,” says Paishon-Duarte, “But, we only go to places where we're invited.” ■



WAIWAI COLLECTIVE

For more information on using Ka Waiwai collective for co-work or event space, go to: www.waiwaicollective.com
call: 808-892-1813

Follow them on social media:

 [waiwaicollective](#)

 [/waiwaicollective](#)

KĀKO'O 'OIHANA 'ŌIWI

Support Native Hawaiian-owned Businesses

Ka'ula Island: The Seventh Child of Papa and Wākea

By Puanani Fernandez-Akamine

*“Hāiki Ka'ula i ka ho'okē a nā manu.
There isn't room enough on the island of Ka'ula,
for the birds are crowding.”*

About 23 miles west-southwest of Ni'ihau is the small, mostly forgotten island of Ka'ula. There are no beaches on Ka'ula, just steep cliffs, making it a perfect location for seabirds. Some 18 species of endemic Hawaiian seabirds – about 100,000 of them – nest on Ka'ula and raise their young. Because of the sheer number and variety of seabirds who make their home on the island, Ka'ula is designated a seabird sanctuary by the Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Most people are unaware that Kaua'i County includes four islands: Kaua'i, Ni'ihau, Lehua and Ka'ula. Lehua is 284 acres and located less than a mile north of Ni'ihau. Ka'ula is 158 acres and the 10th largest of the major Hawaiian Islands.

He Wahi Kūpuna 'o Ka'ula

Regarding Ka'ula, tradition holds that the shark god Kūhaimoana makes his home there at Kahalauola, a large sea cave on the northwest side of the island. Kūhaimoana is the largest and most celebrated of the shark gods. Second to him in size and power is Kamohoali'i, the older brother of Pele.

It was said that Kūhaimoana was so huge that the channels between the Hawaiian Islands were too small for him to comfortably navigate, and so he preferred to spend his time in the deep ocean off Ka'ula.

With sea cliffs soaring over 500 feet high, and no place to land canoes, there were no permanent human settlements on Ka'ula Island. However, it was a wahi kūpuna known to the people, especially fisherman. There are two stone structures near the island's summit, so it may have also been a place of worship.

In mo'olelo, Ka'ula was the seventh child of Papa and Wākea, the primordial ancestors of our people.

Modern History of Ka'ula

In 1909, via Executive Order 1019, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt set aside nearly all the small volcanic islands and coral atolls in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands as a wildlife sanctuary – what is now the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM). This action was taken to protect the millions of migratory seabirds that depended upon the islands for breeding from Japanese feather poachers that were slaughtering hundreds of thousands of birds in the area.

Excluded from the list of islands afforded sanctuary designation in 1909 were Ka'ula, which is about 150 miles from the southernmost end of PMNM, and Kuaihelani (Midway Atoll) which had been occupied by the Commercial Pacific Cable Company since 1903.

Arguably, both islands should have been included. Perhaps at the time it was deemed unnecessary, since the



Ka'ula Island viewed from the north. Kahalauola, the sea cave said to be the home of the shark god Kūhaimoana, is visible on the right.

- Photo: Xpda, Wikimedia Commons

presence of the cable company at Kuaihelani already served as a deterrent to poachers as did Ka'ula's steep cliffs.

Today, Kuaihelani is included as part of Papahānaumokuākea, but Ka'ula is not.

In 1924, Hawai'i Territorial Gov. Wallace Rider Farrington signed Executive Order 173 setting aside Ka'ula for “public purpose” as a U.S. lighthouse site under the Department of Commerce. However, it was not until 1932 that an automated gas light was installed on the island.

An administrative decision made in Washington, D.C., in 1939 to move the Lighthouse Service of the Department of Commerce under the U.S. Coast Guard, ultimately imperiled Ka'ula as a sanctuary for native seabirds and paved the way for the U.S. military to use Ka'ula Island for target practice. The Coast Guard would retain jurisdiction over Ka'ula through 1965.

U.S. Military Activity at Ka'ula

Military use of Ka'ula began, unofficially, in 1952, when the Coast Guard allowed bombing and strafing of the island by Navy and Marine Corps aircraft. Strafing refers to repeated attacks (e.g., machine-gun fire) from low-flying aircraft.

There are no records indicating that the use of Ka'ula for military training was approved by the Territorial Government, the U.S. Congress or the U.S. President.

Concerned about the senseless killing of seabirds on Ka'ula, during the 1960s Kaua'i residents became increasingly vocal in their opposition of the military's use of the

island. In 1961, the Kaua'i Board of Supervisors officially asked the Navy to stop the bombing, but that request was ignored – as were other subsequent requests.

In 1965, at the urging of her constituents, U.S. Rep. Patsy Mink inquired about the military's use of Ka'ula Island. In response, the Department of the Interior moved towards incorporating Ka'ula into the northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge – but backed off when the Navy responded that Ka'ula was “vital” to the ongoing war effort in Vietnam despite its concurrent use of Kaho'olawe Island for war training.

A few months later, jurisdiction of Ka'ula Island was transferred from the Coast Guard to the U.S. Navy. The Navy has continued to use Ka'ula for target practice through the ensuing decades, although a switch from live-fire to inert (non-explosive) ordnance was made sometime in the 1980s. However, similar to Kaho'olawe, unexploded live ordnance remains on the island.

A Proposal to Increase Military Activities on Ka'ula

In August 2024, the Navy released a draft environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate potential impacts of increasing its training activities in areas currently under the authority of the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) based at Waiapua'a Bay (Barking Sands) on Kaua'i. This includes increasing the use of Ka'ula Island for target practice.

The uptick in U.S. military training in Hawai'i is likely a response to unrest in Asia, namely territorial disputes in the South China Sea and the deterioration of

KA'ULA ISLAND

Continued from page 22

China-Taiwan relations.

The draft EA was met with staunch opposition from both Native Hawaiian and conservation groups.

“When the Navy released the EA proposing to increase the number of bombs dropped on Ka’ula many residents were shocked to learn they were still using the island as target practice,” commented Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i spokesperson Healani Sonoda-Pale.

In a statement issued by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, spokesperson Dr. Davianna Pōmaika‘i McGregor said that the draft EA “does not accurately or adequately assess the impacts that increased military exercises will have on Ka’ula Island, the local environment and marine resources surrounding the island” and that it was deficient in its Cultural Impact Assessment. She called for a full environmental impact study (EIS).

UH Mānoa professor and militarism expert Dr. Kyle Kajihiro agrees. “The Navy’s draft environmental assessment is in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. The sheer magnitude of the proposed increases in training activity should have triggered a full environmental impact statement.”

“Kaho‘olawe and Ka’ula share a similar plight,” notes McGregor. “Both are sacred sites of irreplaceable cultural significance to the Native Hawaiian people that were wrongfully taken by the U.S. military for live-fire use. In fact, it is unclear how the U.S. military could move forward with its illegal use of Ka’ula until the all-important question of ownership of the island is resolved.”

The question of who owns Ka’ula is important. When the island was set aside for a lighthouse in the 1920s, it was already viewed as a wildlife sanctuary. The Navy’s eventual acquisition of Ka’ula in 1965 is questionable. “The EA does not provide documentation of the land title,” Kajihiro notes. “This is a point of contention.”

“If these are in fact state and not federal lands – as DLNR itself has asserted – then the state has constitutional and fiduciary obligations to protect Ka’ula,” said Sierra Club Hawai‘i Director Wayne Tanaka.

Seeking public input on its draft EA, the Navy conducted a meeting on Sept. 17 in Līhu‘e, but reportedly, fewer than 20 people attended. “The Navy’s public notification and participation process has been a failure,” observed Kajihiro. “This was evident in the dismal turnout

at the public meeting.”

The Impact of Increased Military Activity on Ka’ula

In its draft EA, the Navy proposes to limit target practice on Ka’ula to 11 acres on the southern tip of the island and continue its use of inert ordnance.

The 208-page document concludes that increased military activity on Ka’ula and at PMRF “would not result in significant cumulative impacts” on air quality, climate change/greenhouse gases, noise, public health and safety, terrestrial biological resources (i.e., seabirds and other wildlife), or cultural resources.

But Kajihiro says that the Navy has not studied the existing baseline conditions of the natural and cultural resources on Ka’ula. “It has no idea how the environment may have been affected by decades of training so it cannot possibly evaluate the cumulative impacts of its proposed future activities.

“The Navy has not done complete archaeological and cultural resources studies of the island,” he added. “The draft EA ignores Ka’ula’s cultural importance to Kānaka ‘Ōiwi. The entire island must be evaluated as a significant cultural resource.”

McGregor notes that the Council for Environmental Quality’s regulations identify factors that must be considered when measuring the intensity of potential impacts and that “an in-depth assessment of the cumulative effects of 70 years of bombing and target practice” is needed.

“The profound disconnection of Native Hawaiians from lands and waters under U.S. military jurisdiction continues to have lasting negative and generational impacts on the health and wellbeing of the Indigenous people of Hawai‘i Nei,” McGregor added.

Abuse of a Wildlife Sanctuary

Hundreds of thousands of native seabirds nest on Ka’ula annually. Although inert ordnance is used in current and proposed military training on the island, that does not mean there is no impact on the birds.

The use of inert ordnance simply means that the bombs and bullets being fired do not include explosives – however, inorganic materials are still being fired at the island at high speed.

Inert bullets are typically made of plastic or aluminum, while inert bombs may be made from concrete or iron. Bullets travel in excess of 1,000 mph and bombs fall at 200 mph. The resulting impact on the island – and its

inhabitants – is anything but neutral.

Moreover, the noise produced by low-flying helicopters and machine guns is terror-producing for seabirds. Newborn chicks are too young to fly away and escape, while panicked adults can injure or abandon their babies and/or eggs.

“Native wildlife, including endangered seabirds that are known to nest in rubble-strewn areas like the target zone on Ka’ula, will almost certainly be killed or displaced,” said Tanaka.

The last ground-based survey of native wildlife on Ka’ula was in 1998. Since then, there have only been aerial (radar) surveys of the island. Jonee Kaina Peters, executive director of the Conservation Council of Hawai‘i said that a full accounting of seabirds on the island is not possible without land surveys. “Some seabirds are underground burrow nesters. They can’t be seen or counted using radar.”

She adds that other probable casualties of military training at Ka’ula are Hawaiian monk seals and turtles. “Ordnance that lands in the water has the potential to destroy coral and marine wildlife.”

As sea levels rise due to climate change, habitats like Ka’ula, with its towering sea cliffs, are increasingly important. Recent modeling scenarios indicate that anywhere from 5 to 69% of terrestrial habitats in Papa-hānaumokuākea could be lost by the year 2100. Preserving Ka’ula as a habitat for endangered seabirds that will likely be displaced over the next several decades will be critical to their survival.

“Ka’ula Island is a sacred child of Wākea and Papa, home to endangered species, a bird sanctuary and an important fishing ground,” said Sonoda-Pale. “Environmentalists and Kānaka Maoli alike are opposed to the bombing of this island, let alone increasing the number of bombs being dropped.”

“By bombing Ka’ula and the surrounding waters, the Navy will be destroying native wildlife, their ecosystems, and disrespecting Native Hawaiian culture and values,” said Peters. “It is my hope, for future generations, that Ka’ula be returned to the State of Hawai‘i and co-managed by Native Hawaiian and conservation entities.” ■

Over 3,000 comments opposing the Navy’s proposal to increase its use of Ka’ula Island for military training were submitted by the Sept. 30 deadline. A decision regarding whether an EIS is required should be made in early 2025.

Serve the
Lāhui

with a career at
the Office of Hawaiian Affairs


OHA offers competitive compensation and excellent employee benefits, such as:

- 13 paid holidays each year.
- Up to 21 days of vacation and 21 days of sick leave a year.
- Excellent health insurance coverage including Medical, Drug, Vision, and Dental.
- 401k option.
- Free term life insurance and more!

For complete job listings
and to apply visit:

www.oha.org/jobs





FREE ADMISSION FOR KAMA'ĀINA on November 16, King Kalākaua's birthday

WEEKLY: Free kama'āina keiki admission (under age 12) on Wednesdays, and free admission for all kama'āina on Thursdays, 12 PM to close!

WAIMEAVALLEY.NET

Makahiki Festival

Nov. 2, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Waimea, O'ahu

A day of ceremony, celebration, friendly competition, and culture, along with vendors, live music, and hula by local hālau. www.waimeavalley.net

ManaUp Showcase 2024

Nov. 7, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Honolulu, O'ahu

A marketplace featuring new products from Cohort 9 plus 50+ alumni at Bloomingdale's, Level 3, Ala Moana Center. www.ManaUpShowcase.com

Royal Hawaiian Band Performances

Nov. 8, 15, 22 & 29, Noon - 1:00 p.m. | Honolulu, O'ahu

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

Pu'uhonua Mākeke

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

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

Kanaka Culinary Explosion

Nov. 9, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Hilo, Hawai'i Island

This free EA Ecoverstity event at Nani Mau Gardens will introduce the community to creative holiday dishes featuring Hawaiian fusion foods created by professional chefs and cultural practitioners.

Ho'omau Market

Nov. 9, 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Nov. 10, 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Honolulu, O'ahu

Support local businesses across Hawai'i who honor and perpetuate Hawaiian culture through their products and business values. www.hoomaumarket.com

3rd Annual Kāhuli Festival

Nov. 9, 3:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Kapālama, O'ahu

Workshops and talks by conservationists and cultural practitioners; activity booths; snail captive rearing exhibits; local artists exhibits; cultural workshops, and more. www.bishopmuseum.org

Kama'āina Sunday

Nov. 10, 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

Seattle Slack Key Festival

Nov. 10, 1:00 p.m.
Seattle, Washington

Featuring a star-studded line up of musicians including George Kuo, Kawika Kahiapo, Pomai-ka'i and Mālie Lyman and more at Town Hall Seattle. Purchase tickets at: www.slackkeyfest.com/

King Kalākaua's Birthday

Nov. 16, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Waimea, O'ahu

www.waimeavalley.net

Mālama Hulē'ia Volunteer Day

Nov. 16, 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Līhu'e, Kaua'i

Every 3rd Saturday is a community workday at Alakoko fishpond. Sign up to volunteer at www.malamahuleia.org

Ho'ononea: A Vintage Experience at Hānaiakamalama

Nov. 16, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Nu'uuanu, O'ahu

Tour the Queen Emma Summer Palace in lush Nu'uuanu followed by a light picnic lunch. Tickets online at www.daughtersofhawaii.org

Hawai'i Island Steel Guitar Experience

Nov. 21-24
Waimea, Hawai'i Island

Featuring popular Hawaiian steel guitar virtuosos, workshops, Open Stage performances, a vintage steel guitar exhibit, and more. www.hawaiisteelguitarfestival.com

Ho'olaule'a/Makahiki Events

Nov. 23, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Kualoa, O'ahu

Play Makahiki games - 'ulu maika, moa pahe'e, hukihuki, 'ō'ō ihe, and kōnane; enjoy workshops on mālama 'āina, 'ōlelo Hawai'i, mo'omeheu, and sustainability; craft and food vendors. www.hakipuu.org

Waipā Volunteer Saturday

Nov. 23, 9:00 am - 12:00 p.m.
Waipā, Kaua'i

Become a regular volunteer by joining Waipā Foundation's monthly workday, every 4th Saturday of the month. www.waipafoundation.org

32nd Annual Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival – Kaua'i Style

Nov. 24, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Līhu'e, Kaua'i

Featuring artists like Ledward Kaapana, Michael Kaawa, George Kuo, Dwight Kanae, Stephen Inglis, Kamuela Kahoano and more. Tickets only available the day of at the Outrigger Kaua'i Beach Resort & Spa.

Keaukaha**Lonoikamakahiki**

Nov. 30, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Hilo, Hawai'i Island

Lonoikamakahiki Keaukaha Community Celebration at Lehia County Park. Presented by the Keli'i William Ioane Legacy Foundation.

The Gathering of Hula at Waimea

Nov. 3, 10, 16, 20, 23 & 30, 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. | Waimea, O'ahu

Experience mele oli and mele hula performed by six new halau (one on each day). www.waimeavalley.net

**Lā Kū'oko'a Hawaiian Independence Day**

Nov. 28, 1843



Kamehameha III appointed Timoteo Ha'alilio, Rev. William Richards, and Sir George Simpson as emissaries to seek the political recognition of the Hawaiian Kingdom as an independent nation. As a result of their efforts, England, France and the United States of America recognized the independence of Hawai'i and Nov. 28, 1843, was declared Lā Kū'oko'a, the official Independence Day of the Hawaiian Kingdom celebrated annually until 1893.

Welo Ka Hae Hawai'i – Celebrating Lā Kū'oko'a at Bishop Museum

Nov. 27, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Kapālama, O'ahu

Mea 'ai, 'awa, mele, tribute presentations, and conversation to provoke a contemporary understanding of how Hawaiian Independence is lived and perpetuated today. FREE with online registration: www.bishopmuseum.org

Lā Kū'oko'a

Nov. 28 & 29, Noon - 5:00 p.m.
Kaunakakai, Moloka'i

An educational event celebrating and promoting Hawaiian history, Hawaiian language and Hawaiian culture at the Moloka'i Public Library. www.kaainamomona.org

Lā Kū'oko'a at Windward Community College

Nov. 28
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Kāne'ōhe, O'ahu

Enjoy activities like ku'i kalo, weaving lau niu, 'ohe kapala stamps, and kōnane; view the Ko'olau Kū'ē petitions exhibit; plus music, food, and more. www.windward.hawaii.edu

Lā Kū'oko'a Community Celebration

Nov. 28,
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Kamuela, Hawai'i Island

Hosted by Kanu o ka 'Āina – Kauhale, this is an opportunity for the Kohala, Waimea, Hāmākua communities to celebrate Lā Kū'oko'a. www.kanuokaaina.org

Kū'oko'a Kūkanono

Nov. 30, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Kailua, O'ahu

Celebrate Lā Kū'oko'a at Ka'elepulu Elementary School and learn about ku'i kalo, mo'olelo, and ongoing efforts to restore significant cultural sites. www.kauluakalana.org ■

E Nānā i ka Maka o ka ‘Io

By Lisa Kapono Mason



“Ka ‘io nui maka lana au moku,” Pukui 1412. A beautiful dark-morph ‘io perched high atop an ‘ōhi‘a branch surveys the landscape below. - Photo: Ann Tanimoto Johnson

Many of us who grew up in these islands learn of the unique relationships our ‘ohana have with particular animals, as ‘aumakua, guardians, guiding spirits, as carriers of the essence of family members long past.

We are taught to look for these creatures, to be humbled by their presence when they are near, and to watch for the hō‘ailona that follow. We know and feel their significance. Some reasons for these close encounters we can easily explain. Some understandings may come later in life. Our kūpuna knew this too, that to exist in Hawai‘i is to be connected to our more-than-human counterparts in ways that go beyond the physical.

One bird that comes to mind is the enigmatic ‘io (*Buteo solitarius*) or Hawaiian hawk, a mighty raptor that embodies the grace and strength of one worthy of looking up to.

On Hawai‘i Island, in ‘io country, we have many stories of resident ‘io returning to neighborhoods and homes. Perhaps you’ve seen ‘io swooping down to catch an unsuspecting chicken cruising in your backyard, or pairs nesting in surrounding trees rearing their chicks year after year. So, the next time an ‘io visits, take an extra moment to receive the reason for your special visit. ■

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.

Nonprofit Leads Fire Mitigation Efforts on Hawaiian Homelands

By Diamond Badajos



Dozens of high school students and volunteers removed over 30 abandoned cars from a parcel of Hawaiian homelands in Anahola last month as part of a community effort

to reduce the risk of wildfires in the area.

The workday marks the one-year anniversary of a wildfire that threatened nearby neighborhoods when fast-moving flames prompted the precautionary evacuations of area homes. Investigators classified the 12-acre blaze as arson. Sixty-eight abandoned vehicles were scorched that day.

The initiative, dubbed “Heavy Impact” by local nonprofit and event organizer ‘Āina Alliance, provided students with the opportunity to engage with heavy machinery and gain insight from skilled operators while participating in the removal of junked cars.

“The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands values its partnership with ‘Āina Alliance and its steadfast commitment to safeguarding our trust lands and the surrounding communities from wildfires,” said DHHL Director Kali Watson. “Organizations like ‘Āina Alliance are the backbone of our communities and the actions demonstrated today will have lasting impacts on the future of Anahola.”

Jeremie Makepa, an Anahola homesteader and Kaua‘i County fire captain, leads ‘Āina Alliance’s efforts as its board president.

“This is our first venture into getting kids involved with the heavy equipment work needed to do fire mitigation and flammable fuel removal,”

Makepa said. “In essence, we’ve been left a gift to where this generation will start cleaning up the area, and that will develop their love and passion for community and wildfire prevention.”

In February 2022, the Hawaiian Homes Commission approved a right-of-entry permit to the nonprofit. The permit encourages the stewardship, maintenance and management of approximately 432 acres of Hawaiian homelands along the Anahola coastline on Kaua‘i’s eastern end.

Prior to the issuance of a permit, the area was prone to illegal dumping and other criminal activity. More than 300 abandoned vehicles are scattered throughout the land parcel and more than 100 fires have been reported in recent years.

“It’s about preservation and there’s nothing better than having our own children caring for the ‘āina,” Hawaiian Homes Kaua‘i Commissioner Dennis Neves said. “We’re here today because we understand how important it is to take care of our own ‘āina all while getting our ‘ōpio to surround our community with their love and skills to help us move forward.”

The event was conducted in conjunction with North Shore Give Week, a series of charitable events hosted by North Shore Give, the dba for the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Kaua‘i North Shore Community Foundation. The foundation works to improve the lives of residents from Anahola to Hā‘ena through collaborative solutions for community challenges. ■

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



Volunteers clear dozens of abandoned cars along a firebreak in Anahola - Courtesy Photo

A Memorial Dedicated to Native Veterans

By Reyn Kaupiko



In 2022, more than 2,000 Native veterans representing tribes from across the continental United States, Alaska Natives and the Native Hawaiian Community witnessed the dedication of the Native Veteran Memorial located at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, D.C.

The memorial was designed by self-taught artist Harvey Phillip Pratt (Cheyenne and Arapahoe), who is a Vietnam veteran. His design was selected from among more than 120 submissions.

Pratt recognized the importance of using concepts relatable to all Native peoples. "I can reach these Tribes through circles and pathways and cardinal points and sacred colors and song," he said.

The memorial, adjacent to the museum's entrance, features a winding stone path adorned by native war songs. At the end of the path, the ground is marked by concentric granite rings with entry points in the four cardinal directions. The inner ring is also a bench, surrounding a pool of water in an intricately carved stone drum. In the middle of the pool, a giant steel circle stands on its edge, with a flaming torch at its base.

"A fire in the big steel circle, which is a hole in the sky where the Creator lives," Pratt said. "And, and we have the Earth and the air. And I thought those are things that we all use, sacred fires, sacred water."



The Native Veteran Memorial in Washington, D.C., was designed by Indigenous artist Harvey Phillip Pratt (Cheyenne and Arapahoe). - Courtesy Photo

Fourteen-foot steel lances stand at each of the cardinal directions with rings where visitors can tie cloths for prayer and healing.

Pratt hopes Native visitors will use these elements in healing and commemoration ceremonies at the memorial.

Years ago, Pratt said many tribes would not let their warriors back into the community after they came back from fighting. They needed help first. This is a practice many Native Tribes have gotten away from.

"The medicine people went out and prayed over them blessed them and cleansed them. Native people were treating PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) a long time ago. They went out and talked to these men and women and put them in a right frame of mind and then they let them into the camp. When I came home from Vietnam, we had the same ceremonies for me."

"Unfortunately, in American society, for the most part Native Americans are pretty invisible," said NMAI Director Cynthia Chavez Lamar (San Felipe Pueblo). "The memorial is one way to represent, to make us visible."

"We've lost lands, we've been disenfranchised in different ways, but at the end of the day, we're gonna fight for this country," she said. "I'm just thankful that the museum is able to do a little part to honor that service and to pay respect to the sacrifice [that was] made."

Pratt says the memorial celebrates warriors who defended their land, their people and their way of life. "This is Indian Country, regardless of who says they own it. It will be Indian Country forever, in my mind.

"And a lot of Indians think the same way. Their blood is spilt all over this land, and we have spilt Native American blood all over this Earth defending this land and we will continue to defend it."

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

SCHHA Retain D.C. Law Firm Jenner & Block

By KipuKai Kualii'i



The Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA) entered a pro bono retainer

with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Jenner & Block to support the rights of native Hawaiians enrolled and eligible under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 (HHCA) around substandard housing challenges.

SCHHA leadership felt it was important that HHCA enrolled members have the benefit of legal counsel and representation, autonomous from the Hawai'i State Attorney General's (AG) Office which, historically, has not done a good job representing the interests of our homesteaders.

We're excited for the legal team at Jenner & Block to work with our homestead leaders, with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), and with the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) to help deliver on the promises of the HHCA, especially in the area of quality home construction.

Jenner & Block includes over 400 attorneys across the globe, with offices in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Chicago and London. Services provided by its Native American law team includes litigation, investigations, and government relations, tribal sovereign immunity, water rights, taxation, sacred site protection, treaties, reservation and tribal trust land status, tribal governance, gaming, lending, as well as international litigation.

SCHHA will be engaged with Special Counsel Krystalyn Kinsel (Navajo) and Special Counsel Craig Williams (Choctaw), as well as Jenner & Block partners, Charles Galbraith (Navajo) and Keith Harper (Cherokee).

These attorneys represent some of the top legal minds in the country, with incredible expertise in Native

American affairs. We are especially grateful to Robin Puanani Danner, our former SCHHA CEO and current TiLeaf Group CEO who first engaged with Galbraith when he was an advisor to President Obama in the White House, supporting our efforts to codify federal regulations on sections of the HHCA, as well as the broader issue of self-determination.

And many of our waitlist beneficiaries and plaintiffs in the Kalima case also know Harper well, for his testimony and support bringing to light the untenable delays to receiving homestead timely lot awards.

Jenner & Block approved pro bono representation and engagement with the SCHHA earlier this year. This relationship will bring our homesteaders the legal analyses of, and access to the law (statutes), that we need to advance our rights and have a powerful voice. Our goal is not litigation, but rather resolution to long-standing challenges.

For years our homesteader and waitlist beneficiaries have been in a disadvantaged legal position with DHHL having the full benefit of the AG. Yes, we may have had an attorney from the AG's office also assigned to represent us – but, what's that saying about "serving two masters"? Did any of our beneficiaries feel they were adequately or fairly represented?

I'm hopeful this engagement with Jenner & Block will change the "David and Goliath" dynamic and bring about solutions for our homestead families in very real situations. I'm also hopeful that Gov. Josh Green and DHHL Director Kali Watson will seize this opportunity to work closer with us. ■

Founded in 1987, the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA) is the oldest and largest governing homestead association registered with the Department of Interior, exercising sovereignty on the trust lands established under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920. For information contact policy@hawaiian-homesteads.org.

Sugar Does Not Cause Diabetes Debunking Myths Around the Disease



By Jodi Leslie Matsuo,
DrPH

Type 2 diabetes is among the most common health concern and widely misunderstood. There is confusion regarding the causes and management of diabetes among both the public and many health professionals alike. This confusion can cause people to get distracted from those things that are truly helpful. Let's talk about five of the most common misconceptions about diabetes and what the research really shows.

Myth #1: Sugar causes diabetes

Sugar is not the direct cause of diabetes. However, consuming too much sugar-sweetened drinks - such as soda and coffee, energy, and fruit-flavored drinks - can lead to increased body fat, a major risk factor for type 2 diabetes. Other foods that have been shown to increase diabetes risk include red and processed meats, as well as processed foods high in saturated or hydrogenated fats.

Myth #2: People with diabetes cannot eat carbs or fruit

Carbohydrates include fruit, starchy vegetables, beans, rice, and oatmeal. They are an essential part of a daily diet, containing fiber, antioxidants, and other nutrients that promote healthy body processes, including immune function, and reducing risk of disease. Unprocessed carbohydrates, such as those mentioned, are excellent choices. Rice or noodles that have been previously cooked, cooled, and reheated is better for blood sugars than eating it the same day. Rather than cutting out carbs, focus on including it as part of a balanced meal that also contains vegetables and healthy proteins and fats.

Myth #3: Only overweight people get diabetes

While being overweight is a risk

factor for Type 2 diabetes, not all people with diabetes are overweight. In fact, many people with Type 2 diabetes are of normal weight or only slightly overweight. This is because certain individuals genetically have a higher percentage of visceral fat (fat around the abdominal organs) that can occur even if they don't appear visibly overweight or have a normal BMI. This can be seen among Asians, including Japanese, Filipino, Korean, and Chinese people. Visceral fat, in particular, is linked to type 2 diabetes. Maintaining a healthy weight is important but it's not the only factor in preventing diabetes.

Myth #4: Only "old" people get diabetes

While it is true that the risk of Type 2 diabetes increases with age, this condition is increasingly being diagnosed in children and teenagers. The rise in obesity seen in younger people and poor eating habits is a major factor behind this shift.

Myth #5: Diabetes is determined by genetics, so lifestyle doesn't matter

While genetics can predispose a person to type 2 diabetes, it does not determine one's fate. Having a family history of diabetes increases your risk, but lifestyle factors such as eating a healthy diet, being active, weight and stress management, good sleep habits, and quitting nicotine products can have a huge impact on whether or not you develop the disease. In fact, research shows that up to 70-90% of Type 2 diabetes cases could be prevented or delayed through lifestyle changes. ■

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

Teaching Kamali'i to Strengthen Their Identities

By Kīpuka Kaua'i, Lili'uokalani Trust

Recently, kamali'i ages 6-9 from Lili'uokalani Trust (Trust) participated in Ulupono, a program designed to enhance their cultural awareness and emotional wellbeing. It was hosted at Kīpuka Kaua'i, one of 15 sites across the pae 'āina where children of the Trust can gather to learn and feel supported.

Throughout the six-week program, these young kamali'i learned cultural protocols and practiced kilo (observation), and hanu and hā breathing. They participated in na'au (mind/heart) activities and wrote in journals to identify their emotions and build awareness of their surroundings.

Through music, art, and writing, the kamali'i discovered avenues for self-expression and healthy ways to navigate their emotions.

Additionally, a reading of the book *The Queen's Mo'olelo: Introduction to the Queen* further deepened the kamali'i's connection to their heritage and birthright, and by the end of the six weeks, each child came away with knowledge of na'au, hale 'ohana (family home), ola kino (health), and 'imi 'ike (seeking knowledge).

We were truly inspired by the transformation of these young kamali'i, the cherished children of our Queen Lili'uokalani.

One participant - a kāne from Anahola - joined the program hesitant to raise his hand to speak or participate in peer discussions. However, by the second week he was volunteering to deliver the opening and closing pule and lead the group's breathing exercises.

The biggest breakthrough was his newfound ability to use "I" when speaking about himself. This eager young kāne was a wonderful example of how children, in a supportive environment, build social-emotional skills and cultural awareness.

The Ulupono program is one of many initiatives employed by Kīpuka Kaua'i to support youth. Recently, middle and high school students from the kīpuka completed a program that acquainted them with the 'āina and Kaua'i's close-knit communities.

The program, called Mohala i ka Wai ka Maka o ka Pua, heightened their understanding of local history, mo'olelo, and the ahupua'a system. One participant said that he finally understood the connection between wai, kānaka, and mālama 'āina.

"This program made me realize who I am, and who I want to be," he said, vowing to continue learning Hawaiian culture and language.

Another participant said it was her first time swimming in a cold pond and participating in the removal of invasive snail eggs. The experiences created positive memories for the teens, who strengthened their pilina with one another.

As coworkers and teammates of Kīpuka Kaua'i, it is our privilege to support these youth, from first grade to college-bound seniors. Through the graciousness of our Queen, who established the Trust in 1909 for Hawaiian children, we will continue to nurture kamali'i as they develop compassion and a strong sense of self. ■

Please visit onipaa.org to learn more about Lili'uokalani Trust.



Kamali'i from LT's Kīpuka Kaua'i help to restore the 'āina. - Courtesy Photo

Ke Au Hulihuli o ka 'Oihana Kālepa



Na Kalani Akana, Ph.D.

I ka hiki 'ana mai a Kapena Kuke mā ma 1778, ua ho'olauna 'o ia i nā Hawai'i i nā mea 'ē a 'oko'a a ka haole e like me ka hao. No ia hao, ua kālepa nā po'e Hawai'i i mea kanu a i holoholona i lako no nā selamoku. Ua waiwai ka hao i ka Hawai'i i ka hana kālai ki'i, ke kālai 'ohe kāpala, kālai kuku kapa, a pēlā aku. A laila, i ka ho'i 'ana 'o Kapena Vanakuwa i Hawai'i, ua ho'ohui 'o ia iā Kamehameha me kekahi mau "makana" – 'o ka pipi 'oe, ka 'alanio one, ka pū palā'ai 'oe a pēlā aku.



Hale Luina ma ke Alanui Alakea. - Courtesy Photo

'O ka mālama 'ana i kēia mau "makana," he lako no ke kālepa 'ana me nā kanaka haole holo moku a 'a'ole no nā 'oiwi no ka mea ua ho'okapu 'ia e Kamehameha. Ma hope o ka hala 'ana o Kamehameha, ua hu'e ke kapu ma luna o nā "makana" maiā Vanakuwa a ho'omaka nō ka 'oihana hānai pipi i māhuhua mai kēlā kenekulia a i kēia kenekulia. Akā, na ia mau "makana" nō i ho'ololi i ka 'imi ola 'ana a ka Hawai'i, 'o ia ho'i, ka 'imi ola i ka 'āina me ke kai, a i ka 'imi ola i ke kālepa me ka ho'okele waiwai no ke kālā.

I ka ho'onui 'ana o ka po'e haole i Ha-

wai'i, ua nui a'e ka make'e i mea'ai e like me ka pua'a. Ma muli o ia make'e, ua kālepa 'ia nā pua'a a kauka'i nā Hawai'i ma ka lawai'a no ka 'imi ola. Eia kekahi, ua ne'e lākou mai uka a i kai. Ne'e ho'i nā Hawai'i kokoke i nā awa malu a palekana no na moku haole e like me Kealakekua, Lahaina, a me Honolulu. Na nā ali'i i alaka'i a manakia i ka 'oihana kālepa i kēlā manawa a ma ka ho'ohui 'ia 'ana o nā mokupuni, koe 'o Kaua'i me Ni'ihau, e Kamehameha, na ka mō'i i ho'onohono i ka hana ho'okele waiwai.

Ma Lahaina, kāhi a Kauikeaouli i noho ai ma kona noho mō'i, ua komo 'o ia i loko o ka hana ho'okele waiwai a ka haole, 'o ia ho'i ke kālepa 'ana me ke kālā. Ua kūkulu a kāko'o 'o ia i ka hale luina (selamoku) ma Lāhaina, 'o Moanui kona inoa, ma ka 'ao'ao hulina alo o nā hale mikiona me ka hale pule ma Waiola. 'A'ole i makemake 'ia ka namunamu a ka mikiona no ka mea 'o ka inu lama kekahi o nā mea i 'i'ini 'ia e nā luina. Ma laila ho'i, ua hele mai nā kupa o Lahaina e kū'ai aku i nā mea kanu mai kā lākou māla mai a me nā mea 'ai mai nā kihāpai me nā pāumu li'ili'i e like me ka hua moa, nā moa, ke kao, a me nā i'a like 'ole. Me ke kālā, ua hiki iā lākou ke kū'ai i palaoa, palena, a me ke kōpa'a, nā mea hou i ka Hawai'i.

Aia kekahi hale luina ma Honolulu na Kamehameha IV i ho'okumu. Aia nō ma ke alanui Alakea (White Road ma muli o ka punakea i ho'opē 'ia no ke alanui) i kēia manawa 'oiai ma Alanui Betela ma mua. Ua kokoke nō i nā hale kū'ai e like me nā 'oihana kanaka 'oiwi ma nā ala 'ololi 'o Lāulau me Pipi! Ma Honolulu ho'i, nui nā kānaka e hana ana ma ka 'oihana ho'opa'a hao, kāpili palela, kamanā, a me nā 'oihana kāko'o i nā moku i kipa iā Honolulu.

Ua 'oko'a nō ka 'imi ola 'ana a ka Hawai'i mai ka wā o Kamehameha akā ua hō'ike 'ia nō ke kaukoe kamaha'o a ka Hawai'i e 'imi i ola. E ola nō, 'eā! ■

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 the English translation go to kawaiola.news

E Nīnau iā NHLC

E NHLC, what is a DHHL RWOTP lease? Is that a homestead lease?

By Henderson Huihui,
NHLC Staff Attorney

I n 2021, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) began offering Hawai'i Island waitlisters and those with an Undivided Interest homestead lease a rent-with-option-to-purchase rental ("RWOTP") agreement. After 15 years of renting a unit, the waitlister can purchase the unit and receive a 99-year homestead lease.

DHHL has plans to expand RWOTP offerings to other areas and islands. For some waitlisters, the RWOTP program may be their best pathway to a homestead award, as they may have had to turn down previous homestead lease offers for a turnkey house because they could not obtain financing.

The RWOTP program may provide those waitlisters with stable, rent-controlled housing and time to financially qualify for home ownership. For these future offerings, beneficiaries need to understand the requirements as well as the pros and cons of the program.

The RWOTP development uses state and federal programs to fund construction of the units.

These funds have certain restrictions on how the units may be rented. During their first year of renting, the waitlisters' combined income cannot exceed 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for their household size. After the first year, the waitlisters must annually re-certify their income with the property manager. Additionally, the unit must meet federal affordability requirements for at least 15 years.

Waitlisters must understand that the RWOTP agreement is not a homestead lease.

Instead, it is an annual rental agreement that is renewed each year. Participants in this rental program stay on the waitlist. During the 15-year rental period, the waitlisters do not accrue any equity in the home, nor does any rent paid go

towards the purchase of the unit.

The process to cancel a RWOTP agreement differs from that of a homestead lease. Instead of being heard before the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the RWOTP agreement goes through the eviction process that regularly applies when landlords seek to evict tenants in District Court. If the rental lease is terminated, the waitlisters are not entitled to any previously paid rent.

It's also important for tenants in RWOTP leases to understand succession. Because a homestead lease has not been awarded, if a tenant dies, their successor must be able to take over the waitlisters' spot on the waitlist, meaning that the successor must meet the 50% blood quantum requirement. Even if the successor can take over the waitlist spot, that does not guarantee that they will be able to take over the RWOTP agreement. To take over the RWOTP agreement, the successor must meet the income eligibility requirements for the RWOTP program.

As with any other rental, tenants in RWOTP housing may have concerns about the quality of property management and whether tenant concerns are adequately addressed.

DHHL is not the project developer, and DHHL does not manage these rentals. Instead, the rentals are developed and managed by private third-party companies. Therefore, waitlisters must manage any concerns or disputes regarding rent increases, responses to requests for maintenance, and wrongful lease termination, with the private property manager. ■

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 nativehawaiianlegal-corp.org.

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.

'Ape'ape

By Bobby Camara

Ma ke kahawai Olenalena, loa ia makou he Apeape
At 'Ōlenalena stream, we found 'Ape'ape



Large circular lau, and a large, many-branched inflorescence (a panicle) holding many tiny pua.
- Photo: Weedmandan



The late, irrepressible, Betsy Harrison Gagne attempts to hide amongst 'ape'ape. - Photo: G. Carr



The February 1924 issue of National Geographic was devoted to the Hawaiian Islands. 'Ape'ape on a steep hillside in awāwa Puohokamoa on Maui, with an intrepid explorer. - Photo: Gilbert Grosvenor

Even if we aren't fluent speakers or capable readers, nūpepa of the 1800s captivate. Browsing, with the help of dictionaries, always seem to yield something of interest, like this snippet from *Ka Nupepe Kuokoa* on Nov. 29, 1862:

"Ma ke kahawai Olenalena, loa ia makou he Apeape, ua like pu me ka Ape ka ulu ana, a o kona lau he nui loa. Eono kapuai ke anawaena o kekahi mau lau. Ua like nae me ka lau o ka ipu Pu, ma ka ulu ana."

At 'Ōlenalena stream, we found 'Ape'ape, which grows like 'Ape, and its leaves are very large. The diameter of some leaves is 6 feet. But they look like the leaves of a squash or pumpkin, in their manner of growth.

-Translated by N. Gomes

At home on steep, very wet mountainslopes, 'ape'ape (*Gunnera petaloidea*) is seen by intrepid few who venture to those locales. Its leaves are peltate: stems attach to the center bottom of circular leaves.

Like mai'a, 'ape'ape is a very large herb, and contains no wood. Perhaps because of where it's found, on remote cliff faces, we don't know that people had uses for it, but its unique size and shape captured imaginations a hundred years ago. It appeared in the February 1924 issue of *National Geographic* (see black and white photo) that was devoted to the Hawaiian Islands.

Go. Go hike. Go. Be outside and pay attention. ■

Aloha i Kekahi i Kekahi Love one another



By Hi'ilani Shibata

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

Born under the mahina 'o Kūlua in the heavens, sheltered by the protection of Maunakea and nurtured by Kauakanilehua – the rain that stirs the lehua blossoms – I was given the name Hi'ilani by my grandmother and grand aunt, reminding me of my kuleana.

Hi'ilani means "held in the arms of heaven," and my grandmother shared that this name was meant to guide me, helping me carry myself with dignity and honor, knowing my ancestors walk with me.

It is my kuleana, my privilege, to be 'Ōiwi Hawai'i, Native Hawaiian, and to share the richness of our culture with the world. My journey has been one of deep gratitude and joy. As an educator and Hawaiian culture consultant, I have the honor of sharing the foundational values of Hawaiian culture with thousands of people – both online and in person – from diverse backgrounds, professions, and regions across the globe.

It is paramount to me that authentic Hawaiian culture is not only preserved and protected, but also nurtured to thrive within our community.

At Ka Mahina Project, I help people understand the Hawaiian lunar calendar and its profound influence on our mental, spiri-

tual, and emotional wellbeing. There are 30 identified moon phases, each with a unique Hawaiian name and purpose, and I am honored to guide others through these values, stories, and philosophies.

As a makuahine (mother), I have been blessed with four keiki who teach me the true meaning of ahonui (patience), lōkahi (unity), and aloha every day. Raised by a Native Hawaiian mother and a Japanese father, I deeply appreciate the unique 'ohana values that bind us to the 'āina (land). The strength of our mo'okū'auhau (genealogy) lives on in them.

As a haku ho'oponopono (facilitator of conflict resolution) and a lomi practitioner, I serve my community with humility. I believe that every person is a healer in their own way, and the health of our lāhui (nation) depends on embracing the unique qualities of each 'ohana. My maternal grandmother passed on her kuleana to me, and from a young age, I understood that I would continue our 'ohana legacy.

Aloha i kekahi i kekahi – share love with everyone, no matter what has transpired.

It is our kuleana as 'Ōiwi Hawai'i. E ola!

Hi'ilani Shibata is the lead cultural trainer for the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA), and a freelance cultural and language consultant. Hi'ilani is also the co-founder and content creator of Ka Mahina Project, where people can engage daily with the Hawaiian lunar phases to find and build cultural, spiritual, emotional and physical connections through learning about the mahina (moon). For more information visit www.kamahinaproject.com/ or email hiilani-shibata@gmail.com.

GET REGISTERED TODAY!



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

Kahahane Named Water Resource Management Head



Ciara Kahahane - Courtesy Photos

Ciara Kahahane was recently appointed the next first deputy of the state Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) by Gov. Josh Green.

Kahahane most recently served in the Complex Litigation Division of the Department of the Attorney General (AG) where she had kuleana to coordinate the comprehensive review and analysis of the Lahaina wildfires. Previously, she worked in the Public Safety, Hawaiian Homelands and Housing Division of the Department of the AG.

Kahahane is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools Maui. She has a bachelor's degree in Hawaiian studies from UH Mānoa, and a law degree from UH Mānoa's William S. Richardson School of Law.

"I'm grateful and excited to be selected as the CWRM first deputy," Kahahane said. "I look forward to learning from the commission's staff as we navigate the complex and challenging issues related to water in Hawai'i. I am committed to supporting CWRM's mission of protecting and enhancing the benefits of Hawai'i's water resources for present and future generations through thoughtful and responsible management."

Kaholokula Inducted into the National Academy of Medicine

Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, Ph.D., professor and department chair of Native Hawaiian Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine

Kūkolu Indigenous Women's Incubator Program



In its ongoing effort to support Native Hawaiian wāhine entrepreneurs Kūkolu recently announced two new cohorts of its Indigenous Women's Incubator (IWI) program. Kūkolu provides the resources, mentorship, and support that entrepreneurs need to grow sustainable businesses, thus fostering economic empowerment and community resilience. In addition to its islandwide Cohort 4, this year, Kūkolu also launched a dedicated Maui Cohort to support the resilience and recovery process on Maui following the wildfires. The programs underscore Kūkolu's commitment to uplifting wāhine and creating waiwai, abundance and prosperity, for their families and communities. Both cohorts represent diverse industries and reflect the strength, creativity, and leadership of Native Hawaiian women entrepreneurs. The top photo of IWI Cohort 4 includes (clockwise from top left): Alyssa Rodrigues, Karlee Brown, Litea Maiava, Pua Pakele & Cabot, Nicole Velasco and Emily States. The bottom photo of IWI Maui Cohort includes (l-r): Miki'ala Pua'a-Freitas, Haili Marie Ancheta, Roselani Aiwohi and Pomaika'i Marmolejos. - Photos: Kūkolu



Joseph Kaholokula

(JABSOM) has been inducted into the National Academy of Medicine (NAM).

Kaholokula is fourth UH faculty member to ever receive this

honor and the first Native Hawaiian.

NAM inductees are selected for their contributions to the advancement of the medical sciences, health care, and public health. It is one of the highest honors for a scientist in the U.S. It not only recognizes the quality and impact of their research, but its ability to influence policy and health care in communities. For medical professionals, induction into NAM has been likened to winning an academy award.

NAM cited Kaholokula for

"pioneering evidence-based interventions using Indigenous cultural values and practices to improve cardiovascular, diabetes, and obesity disparities for thousands of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders."

JABSOM Dean Sam Shomaker said, "Dr. Kaholokula's election is a groundbreaking moment. Through his community-engaged research, culturally grounded interventions, and community-based trials, he has earned community trust and ensured their representation. He

has fought to uncover health disparities in Native Hawaiians and his work will profoundly impact disease prevention in this population for generations to come."

Mahelona Becomes the Third 'Ōiwi Admiral



Ryan Mahelona

Ryan Mahelona has become the third Native Hawaiian to achieve the rank of admiral. Mahelona joins the late Rear Admiral Gordon Paiea Chung-Hoon (promoted to rear admiral in 1959) and Vice Admiral Robert Kalani Kihune (promoted to rear admiral in 1986 and then to vice admiral in 1988).

Throughout his 33-year naval career, Mahelona acquired extensive knowledge of computer network engineering and cybersecurity and currently serves as deputy commander for the Tenth Fleet – the Navy's cyber and space arm responsible for information network operations, cyber operations, space operations and signals intelligence.

Although stationed in Maryland, Mahelona chose to have his promotion ceremony at Pearl Harbor on Oct. 5 before his family and friends. Kihune presented Mahelona with his official promotion award. "I've been waiting years for another Native Hawaiian to become an admiral," Kihune was quoted as saying.

As a leader, Mahelona hopes to make a positive impact. "Leadership is many things; first and foremost, it's about taking care of your people," he said.

Mahelona is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Three 'Ōiwi Honored as "Inno Under 25"



E ho'omaika'i to (l-r) Ryan Lagon, 17, a senior at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama; Jazlen Lucas, 19, a student at Honolulu Community College; and Hokumalie Serna, 22, a recent graduate of UH Mānoa, who have all been named to the Pacific Business News "Inno Under 25" list for 2024. This recognition celebrates Hawai'i's most promising young entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders under the age of 25. This prestigious accolade highlights individuals who have made significant contributions to their fields, demonstrating exceptional creativity, leadership, and impact within the local business community. Honorees are selected through a combination of nominations from peers and community members, as well as editorial recommendations, ensuring a comprehensive and well-rounded selection process. These young trailblazers are being honored to inspire and support the next generation of business leaders in Hawai'i.

- Photos: Pacific Business News

NEWS BRIEFS

Continued from page 30

Apo Appointed to HTA Board of Directors



Todd Apo

Todd Apo has been appointed by Gov. Josh Green to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) board of directors. Apo will serve in the position on an interim basis, pending confirmation by the state Senate. His term for the seat (vacated by Sig Zane) extends through June 30, 2028.

Apo is currently CEO of 'Iole, a nonprofit focused on sustainability and resilience. He has previously served in senior

roles at the Hawai'i Community Foundation and Howard Hughes Holdings Inc. (formerly the Howard Hughes Corp.), where he integrated cultural values into community initiatives. During his tenure as Honolulu City Council chair, he oversaw significant legislative initiatives and budget management, strengthening community relationships and enhancing local governance.

"Todd is an accomplished leader with extensive experience in community development, public affairs and legal practice, making him ideal for the HTA board," said Green. "His diverse skill set and deep understanding of Hawai'i's unique cultural landscape will contribute significantly to advancing HTA's goals."

Apo is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama. He has dual bachelor degrees in computer science and economics from Brown University, and a law degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Crabbe and Ka'ai Appointed to President's Advisory Commission



Dr. Kamana'opono Crabbe



Krystal Ka'ai

Dr. Kamana'opono Crabbe and Krystal Ka'ai were recently appointed by President Joe Biden to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Crabbe is currently the executive counselor for the Asian Pacific Islander Health Forum, a national health policy advocacy organization based out of Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, Calif., and sits on the governing boards of the Hawai'i Executive Collaborative and Asian American Foundation Advisory Council. Previously, he served as research director at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and later as CEO from 2012-2019. He founded the nonprofit organization 'Aha Kāne and is a ho'oponopono practitioner, 'aha 'awa ceremony and protocol expert, and a noted chanter and orator. Crabbe is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama and has a doctorate in clinical psychology from UH Mānoa.

A longtime advocate to advance equity for underserved communities, Ka'ai is currently executive director of the White House Initiative and the Presi-

dent's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders – the first Native Hawaiian appointed to the position. Prior to joining the Biden administration, she was executive director of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. She has also served on the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. Ka'ai is also a graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama and has a bachelor's degree in English and international relations from Lehigh University.

Cockett Named ED of Waioli and Nuhou Corps

The board of trustees of the nonprofit Waioli Corp. and the nonprofit supporting organization Nuhou Corp. selected Ike Cockett as their seventh executive director, effective Sept. 1, according to a statement from the groups.

Cockett was previously the general manager of the Hilton Garden Inn Kaua'i in Wailua. He



Ike Cockett

has also had management positions in the visitor industry on Kaua'i, Maui and O'ahu over the past 35 years.

Waioli Corp. and Nuhou Corp. oversee the management of historic sites on Kaua'i including the Grove Farm Homestead Museum, Waioli Mission House and Mahamoku, three house museums listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Their mission is to preserve Kaua'i's important historic properties, buildings and collections, and share authentic educational experiences through stories about the people who brought life to Kaua'i's rich history and culture.

Cockett is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama and has a bachelor's degree in political science from UH Mānoa. ■

"Business of Pride" Honors Two 'Ōiwi



E ho'omaika'i to (l-r) Kekai Edayan, assistant director of human resources at the Mauna Kea Resort on Hawai'i Island, and Matthew Sagum, director of people operations at CW Associates CPAs in Honolulu, who were both named 2024 Pacific Business News "Business of Pride" honorees. For the past seven years Pacific Business News has been recognizing individuals or organizations that demonstrate significant contributions to promoting inclusivity and diversity within Hawai'i's business community. This recognition celebrates LGBTQ+ leaders, companies, and allies who are successful in their careers, actively involved in their communities, and strong advocates for equality.

- Photos: Pacific Business News



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey

Chair | Trustee, Maui

Tel: 808.594.1858

Email: TrusteeHuluLindsey@oha.org

Mililani B. Trask

Vice Chair | Trustee, Hawai'i

Tel: 808.594.1855

Email: TrusteeTrask@oha.org

Dan Ahuna

Trustee, Kaua'i and Ni'ihau

Tel: 808.594.1751

Email: TrusteeAhuna@oha.org

Kaleihikina Akaka

Trustee, O'ahu

Tel: 808.594.1854

Email: TrusteeAkaka@oha.org

Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.

Trustee, At-Large

Tel: 808.594.1859

Email: TrusteeAkina@oha.org

Luana Alapa

Trustee, Moloka'i and Lāna'i

Tel: 808.594.1874

Email: TrusteeAlapa@oha.org

Brickwood Galuteria

Trustee, At-Large

Tel: 808.594.1860

Email: TrusteeGaluteria@oha.org

Keoni Souza

Trustee, At-Large

Tel: 808.594.1857

Email: TrusteeSouza@oha.org

John D. Waihe'e IV

Trustee, At-Large

Tel: 808.594.1876

Email: TrusteeWaihee@oha.org

The Hawai'i Public Land Trust Working Group

The Hawai'i Public Land Trust Working Group (HPLTWG) was established by the state legislature in 2022 to address issues related to the management and revenue distribution of Hawai'i's public land trust (PLT).

The group's main objective is to find a fair and equitable solution for distributing revenues generated from PLT lands, specifically ensuring that OHA receives its rightful share and address the historical underpayment of PLT revenues to OHA.

Hawai'i's public land trust dates to the 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy, after which crown and government lands were ceded to the United States. These lands – some 1.8 million acres (half of Hawai'i's total land area) – became known as "ceded lands."

When Hawai'i became a state in 1959, these lands were transferred to the State of Hawai'i under a public trust to be used for five purposes: public education, public improvements, agriculture, housing, and the betterment of Native Hawaiians.

Revenue generated from leasing and using these lands has long been a source of controversy. In 1978, OHA was established via an amendment to Hawai'i's constitution. OHA was given kuleana to better conditions for Native Hawaiians and was to receive a portion of PLT revenues to do so. However, disputes over the amount and calculation of these payments have persisted. Many argue that OHA has been underpaid for decades.

Thus, the HPLTWG was formed to address the underpayment of revenues to OHA. The working group (WG) includes state officials, OHA representatives, and Native Hawaiian community members. Its role is to examine the revenue distribution system and recommend solutions for fairer revenue sharing while ensuring the proper management of these public lands.

The group's efforts focus on several key areas:


Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey
CHAIR
Trustee, Maui

1. Revenue Distribution: Determine how to fairly calculate and distribute PLT revenues to OHA. This involves resolving discrepancies in the current system and ensuring that OHA receives an equitable portion of the revenue.

2. Transparency and Accountability: Enhance transparency in managing PLT lands. This includes

improving how revenue from these lands is tracked and reported, ensuring that the state's use of the lands aligns with the purposes outlined in the state constitution.

3. Cultural Preservation and Stewardship: Ensure that PLT assets are managed in a way that respects the cultural and historical significance of these lands for Native Hawaiians – including consideration of traditional rights and customs in decisions about land use and development.

4. Long-Term Solutions: Develop long-term strategies to ensure that PLT lands continue to benefit Native Hawaiians and the broader community. This could involve proposing new legislation or policies to improve PLT oversight and management.

HPLTWG faces several challenges in achieving its goals. One of the most complex tasks is determining what constitutes a fair share of revenues for OHA, as various stakeholders – such as state agencies, developers, and Native Hawaiian communities – are involved, each with competing priorities. Reaching consensus will require careful negotiation.

Creation of the HPLTWG represents a critical step in addressing long-standing issues related to public land management and revenue distribution in Hawai'i. By focusing on fair revenue sharing, transparency, and cultural preservation, the group has the potential to create lasting positive changes for Native Hawaiians and the wider community. However, its success will depend on balancing competing interests and developing sustainable solutions that respect both economic and cultural priorities for Hawai'i's public lands. ■

Championing Working Class Families: Support Hawai'i's Unions

As our island state continues to face economic challenges, one thing remains clear: when our middle working-class families thrive, our communities thrive.

Hawai'i has the highest rate of union membership in the country and our union members are the backbone of our economy. As such, they deserve to live and work with dignity, to be paid fair and livable wages, to work under safe working conditions (including nurse-to-patient ratios), and to be provided with comprehensive medical benefits.

Labor unions bring a collective strength to scattered voices, and this collective voice promotes economic equality and had led to many positive changes for working families in Hawai'i and across the nation, including but not limited to, establishing the 8-hour workday and 40-hour work week, ending child labor, and establishing safe workplaces.

Here in Hawai'i, the rising cost of living has outpaced wages, putting tremendous pressure on working families and creating a diaspora of Native Hawaiians.

International Longshore & Warehouse Union ("ILWU Local 142") President Chris West, a Native Hawaiian who represents nearly 18,000 members and the largest private union in our state, voiced his concerns: "We must stop this outmigration of local families in search of a better way of life. Too many families move, not because they want to, but because they have to. We must fight for wages that keep up with the cost of living. We must convince our people that many corporations doing business in Hawai'i are making a killing and instead of sharing a portion of that with its workers, they buy back their own stocks or line the pockets of their CEO's. Enough is enough!"

The ILWU 142's fight is a fight for our people and I, too, believe that no one working a full-time job should struggle to provide for their family or put a roof over their head. Supporting unions in their fight for fair and


Keoni Souza
Trustee,
At-Large

livable wages for the working class will also have the effect of keeping local families home, including Native Hawaiians who have been forced from their homeland in record numbers.

Unions have long fought for safer workplaces, and accurate nurse-to-patient ratios. Whether it's ensuring proper equipment for long-shore workers or providing better protective measures

for healthcare workers, or accurate nurse-to-patient ratios, a safe working environment is non-negotiable.

Unions are dedicated to not only preserving these hard-won benefits but expanding access to healthcare, supporting policies that protect union-negotiated healthcare plans, and ensuring that families can access the medical care they need without fear of losing coverage due to rising costs or shifting political tides.

Hawai'i's unions play a crucial role in shaping our economy. When unions thrive, our middle-class families thrive, and Hawai'i thrives.

In speaking with union attorney Keani Alapa, law partner at Alapa and Otake LLC, he emphasized the important role that collective bargaining plays in our economy. "Amongst other things, our unions fight for fair wages, and when our middle class earns fair wages, it sparks discretionary spending which benefits other businesses in the state and stimulates the economy," he said.

"To achieve this end, it begins with empowering our labor unions with the tools to assure a meaningful place at the bargaining table, including the legal authority to collectively bargain which is guaranteed under Article XIII, Sections 1 and 2 of the Hawai'i Constitution."

Unions are the heart of Hawai'i's middle and working classes and giving unions our support means supporting the families who make our state what it is. Together, we can build a stronger, more equitable future for Hawai'i's working class – one where every family can live with dignity and flourish. ■

Kalima Lawsuit Settlement Update

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

Settlement Payments to Deceased Class Members' Heirs

Probate Special Master Emily Kawashima and Probate Special Counsel Scott Suzuki are filing Petitions in Probate Court to seek approval for settlement payments to the heirs of Deceased Class Members.

As of Oct. 4, 2024, the Probate Court has heard eleven petitions. These Petitions have collectively requested probate court approval for payments to approximately 250 families.

Whenever a new petition is filed and set for hearing, it is placed on the www.kalima-lawsuit.com website under the "Documents" link. Each petition contains details on hearing dates and the parties involved. This information is also published in the Legal Notices section of the Honolulu Star-Advertiser.

More Information About Probate Process

Additional information about how Deceased Class Members' claims will be handled can be found on our website. The Probate Plan notice that was mailed on Dec. 4, 2023, is available under the website's "Documents" link.

The Probate 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.

The process is complex as some potential heirs of Deceased Class members also have passed and their potential heirs must be identified and notified, where possible. Counsel have requested, and the state has agreed, to use data sources available to the state to assist this search.

Deceased Class Member and Family Information Forms

To expedite distribution of payment to heirs, Deceased Class Mem-

ber and Family Information Forms should be completed by family members. If you have submitted these forms already, you do not need to submit them again unless the information has changed.

Deceased Class Member and Family Information forms for approximately 254 deceased Class Members have not been submitted. Both forms can be found at the Kalima website. Any family member can fill them in online or print and e-mail them to info@kalima-lawsuit.com or mail them to Kalima Claims Administrator P.O. Box 135035 Honolulu, Hawaii 96801.

Payments to deceased class members' heirs cannot be made unless these forms are submitted.

Settlement Payments to Living Class Members

Approximately 1,300 settlement checks have already been mailed. Checks must be cashed within 120 days after issuance.

Checks not cashed within the time frame will be voided and a replacement check will have to be issued. This will cause further delays. Approximately 30 Class Members have not cashed their checks. Contact the Claims Administrator immediately if you have not cashed your check.

A small number of checks have been returned as undeliverable. If you have not received your check, contact the Claims Administrator to update your address.

Living Class Members should continue to update their contact information *in case there is an additional payment after the probate period is completed*. Please continue to update your contact information as needed even after you receive your check.

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

To create a space for our readers to honor their loved ones, Ka Wai Ola will print *Hali'a Aloha - obituaries and mele kanikau (mourning chants)*. Hali'a Aloha appearing in the print version of Ka Wai Ola should be recent (within six months of passing) and should not exceed 250 words in length. All other Hali'a Aloha submitted will be published on kawaiola.news. Hali'a Aloha must be submitted by the 15th of the month for publication the following month. Photos accompanying Hali'a Aloha will only be included in the print version of the newspaper if space permits. However, all photos will be shared on kawaiola.news.

TODD THANE KUULEI RYDER KALAHIKI AUG. 20, 1963 – SEPT. 23, 2024



Kahalu'u, O'ahu – Todd Thane Kuulei Ryder Kalaheiki, 61, of Kahalu'u, O'ahu, passed away on Sept. 23, 2024. He was born on Aug. 20, 1963, in Honolulu, Hawaii. A retired roofer, his passion was music. He was a performer and founding member of the group, Ho'okahi. His unique voice and instrumental talent in Hawaiian and contemporary music touched so many people.

He is survived by his son Todd Thane Kuulei Ryder "TJ" (Spring Maddy) Kalaheiki, Jr., his daughter Terrilyn Moanikealaoka-maile "Moani" Kalaheiki (Richard "Keolu" Kahalewai), and their mother Sherrilyn "Bip" Vega; brothers Kenneth Kalaheiki and Clifford

Seno (Cheryl Aiwohi); sisters Lorie Rodrigues (Randy Duncan), Luci (Patrick) Andrade, Lyn Seno, April (Kenneth) Kong, Crystal (Christopher) Asano; hanai son Richard (Kawaiala) Avelino; hanai daughters Stacy Kapika, Cheri Ann (Harry) Ballesteros, Lily Avelino (Ikaika Waiiau), and their mother, Debra "Tuna" Kapika.

He is also survived by six grandchildren: Kaimana, Melia and Maika Kalaheiki; and Camden, Cayden and Lillian Kalaheiki-Kahalewai.

Todd was preceded in death by his mother, Janice Roselani Like (2001); grandparents Herman Halemano Kalaheiki (1972) and Rose Yuen Kalaheiki (2001); brothers, Edward Kalaheiki (1994), Arthur Kalaheiki (1993), John Kalaheiki (1962), Richard Kalaheiki (1929), Herman "Jr" Kalaheiki (2019); sisters Cecelia Cypher (2004), Dolores Lau (2009), Angeline Yasuda (2015), Irene Thompson (2024) and Sophia Ryder (2006); and hanai son Albert Kapika (1996).

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, at Kahalu'u Key Project (47-200 Waihe'e Road, Kahalu'u). Visitation begins at 10:00 a.m. and service at 11:00 a.m. ■

HO'OHUI 'OHANA FAMILY REUNIONS

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

SEARCH

HAUPU-KUALU - Descendants of Helen Liawahine Haupu and William Nuaola Kualu are planning a family reunion Friday, Aug. 29 - Monday, Sept. 1, 2025 in Kekaha, Kaua'i. For more information and to be added to our mailing list contact Christine Chow (Labanon) at haupukualuohanafamilyreunion@gmail.com with the following details: Name; Phone Number (please include area code); Email Address; and How you are related. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

HOLT - The Holt 'Ohana (descendants of Robert William Holt and Tuwati Robinson and their three sons John Dominis Holt I, James Holt and Owen Holt) is planning a reunion for June 11-20, 2025 on O'ahu. If you are interested in attending the planning

meetings (held via Zoom), or being updated on the details, please email ahulii.holt@gmail.com. Mālama pono!

NAEHU-SAFFERY REUNION - Descendants of Edmund Saffery, wives Kupuna & Waiki Naehu holding reunion meetings. Combined 14 children: Fanny (Kaiaokamalie), Edmund II (Wallace), Henry (Kaanaana), Caroline (Rose), William (Cockett & Makekau), John (Kahaulelio & Nahooikaika), Thomas (Luna), Mary (Palena), Emma (Pogue), Anna (Kealoha & Nahaku) Juliana (Freitas), Charles (Hawele & Kawahii), Helen (Tripp), Emalia Nellie (Ernestberg & Conradt & Kaloa). Interested in helping? tinyurl.com/NSOASite Contact Dayton Labanon, 808-232-9869, dlabanon@gmail.com, Manu Goodhue manu_losch@hotmail.com, 808-551-9386 or Naomi Losch, 808-261-9038. ■

CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: ANA-HOLA AND 'ANINI BEACH, KAUA'I

SWCA Environmental Consultants is preparing Cultural Impact Assessments (CIAs) and Ka Pa'akai Analyses for the proposed Inter-Island Middle Mile submarine fiber optic cable project, designed to bring fast, reliable broadband to rural areas across the Hawaiian Islands. This project will establish ten cable landing sites, including three on Kaua'i, benefitting the communities of Kīlauea, Wailua, Anahola, Kekaha, Waimea, and the Hawaiian Home Lands communities of Anahola, Moloa'a, Waimea, and Kekaha.

The Anahola cable landing site is planned to be located within the Anahola Hawaiian Home Lands at the northeast side of the intersection of Pilipoli Road and Ehukai Road, within the ahupua'a of Anahola in the moku of Ko'olau (TMK) parcel (4) 4-8-003:021. The fiber optic cable (FOC) will be brought ashore via a horizontal directional drilled passage beneath the beach, with a manhole set back from the shoreline serving as the connection point between the submarine and terrestrial FOC.

The 'Anini Beach cable landing site is planned to be located at 'Anini Beach Park, within the ahupua'a of Kalihikai in the moku of Halele'a (TMK) parcel (4) 5-3-005:005. The submarine fiber optic cable (FOC) will be

brought ashore via a horizontal directional drilled passage running beneath the beach, with a manhole set back from the shoreline serving as the connection point between the submarine and terrestrial FOC.

To assist with the CIAs and Ka Pa'akai Analyses, SWCA is seeking community input regarding cultural knowledge of the areas, including past and present land use, place names, cultural traditions, gathering practices, and any concerns the community might have related to cultural practices within or in the vicinity of the project areas. SWCA invites the kōkua and mana'o of individuals with knowledge of the area's cultural resources. Please contact SWCA at hawaii-culturalconsultation@swca.com or (808) 646-6309 for more information or to share insights. Your input will help ensure this project properly considers cultural practices and concerns.

NOTICE OF SECTION 106 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT: MAUNA LOA RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and US National Science Foundation (NSF) propose a renewable energy project at the NOAA Mauna Loa Observatory (MLO), located at 11,200 ft altitude on the north slope of the Mauna Loa Volcano, about 5.8 miles from the crater and

2.3 miles from the boundary of Volcanoes National Park. The proposed project is a collaboration between NOAA and NSF to immediately restore power to the NSF's Mauna Loa Solar Observatory (MLSO) and power the entire site with onsite renewable energy.

NSF proposes to place a temporary 30 kW solar panel array on the ground surface adjacent to the NSF's MLSO building on the site to restore solar observations. After the Mauna Loa Access Road reopens, NOAA proposes to install and incorporate NSF's temporary panels into a 500 kW solar panel array with 300 kW battery backup. This permanent solar array and battery backup system would make the entire MLO facility net-zero and off-grid for energy. These arrays would be built on previously-disturbed land on the NOAA MLO site.

The Area of Potential Effects is within the 8-acre MLO property. The renewable energy systems will be located at the following latitude and longitude coordinates: 19.53573 N, 155.5761722 W. We welcome any information on historical and cultural sites within the project area. Please contact Christine Smith, NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory, (303) 909-0375, 325 Broadway, R/GML1, Boulder, CO 80305, christine.smith@noaa.gov. Please respond within 30 days of this publication.

SEEKING LINEAL DESCENDANTS: KAWAIHAE, HAWAII ISLAND

The Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum is seeking to identify lineal descendants, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and other interested parties for consultation regarding items from the Kawaihae, Honoko'a Cave Complex, also known as Forbes and Mummy caves, located on the island of Hawai'i.

If you believe you are a lineal descendant of individuals associated with these sites, represent a Native Hawaiian Organization, or have cultural or historical knowledge relevant to this area, we invite you to participate in the consultation process. To express your interest in consulting, please contact the Bishop Museum by November 30, 2024, at pulama.lima@bishopmuseum.org or by phone at 808-848-4144.

BURIAL NOTICE: WAIKIKĪ, O'AHU

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES IS HEREBY GIVEN that human skeletal remains were identified by Cultural Surveys Hawai'i, Inc. during additional archaeological inventory survey testing for the Ala Moana Boulevard Tower Project, Hilton Hawaiian Village, Waikikī Ahupua'a, Honolulu (Kona) District, O'ahu, TMKs: (1) 2-6-009:004-006 and portions of 007, 009, and 013.

Per Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 6E-43 and Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 13-300, these remains are previously identified. Based on context, they are over 50 years old and reasonably believed to be Native Hawaiian. They are within Land Grant 3162 to H.A. Widemann (or Widdemann), later to John Ena, in Kālia 'Ili.

Human skeletal remains were previously identified during initial archaeological inventory survey testing in 2022, and notice was published in this newsletter in July 2022.

The project proponents are Park Ala Moana LLC and Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa. The contact person is Ivan Lui-Kwan, Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher, 733 Bishop Street, Suite 1900, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 [Tel: (808) 537-6100].

The project proponents currently envision relocation of these previously disturbed remains to a suitable preserve area; however, a burial treatment decision (preservation in place or relocation) will be made based on consultations, per HAR Section 13-300-33.

All persons having knowledge of the identity or history of these human remains are requested to contact Ms. Regina Hilo, SHPD Burial Sites Specialist, at 601 Kamokila Boulevard, Room 555, Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707 [Tel: (808) 692-8015, Fax: (808) 692-8020, Email: Regina.Hilo@hawaii.gov] within thirty (30) days of this notice. ■

Eō 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





OFFICE LOCATIONS

Office hours for all locations are 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

All Offices are closed on State holidays

HONOLULU

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

EAST HAWAII (HILO)

2100 Kanoelehua Ave.,
Unit 9 & 10
Hilo, HI 96720
Phone: 808.933.3106

WEST HAWAII (KONA)

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

MOLOKA'I / LĀNA'I

(Temporarily closed until
further notice)

Kūlana 'Ōiwi, P.O. Box 1717
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
Phone: 808.553.4640

KAUAI / NI'HAU

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

MAUI

1887 Wili Pa Loop, Ste. 1
Wailuku, HI 96793-1400
Phone: 808.873.3364

Main Phone:

808.594.1835

Email:

info@oha.org

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 of 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 Hawaii. 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 Hawaii. 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

DHHL RESIDENTIAL LEASE – Punchbowl, O'ahu. Must be qualified DHHL beneficiary. See link for information: <http://interested-party.byethost24.com/>.

FINANCE WITH ALOHA First-Time Home Buyer Event, Nov 23rd 10am-12pm! Info/RSVP @ Kui.Meyer@SNMC.com or 808-723-4430 SecurityNational Mortgage Co (Co NMLS#3116-L0 NMLS#314203)

FOR SALE: DHHL LEASEHOLD VILLAGE AT LEIALI'I, LAHAINA, MAUI. 3 bd/2 bth/2 car. Fully furnished with solar, irrigation, rockwall, fence, landscaped yard and panoramic view. \$850,000 or best offer. Email: kkalakaua@yahoo.com.

HAWAIIAN MEMORIAL PARK – 2 plots Garden/Lakeview. Lot-64, Section-B, Sites 1-2. Both for \$10,000. Anyone interested, contact by email – queenofmaui1ecox.net

HOMES WITH ALOHA- Nanakuli Hawaiian Home Lands- Build your dream home on this 7,500 sq. ft. lot. \$200,000. This is a leasehold property -Charmaine I. Quilit Poki (Realtor) (808) 295- 4474. RB-15998 Keller Williams Honolulu RB-21303.

HOMES WITH ALOHA- Hawaiian Home Lands-Molokai/ Kalamaula 3 bedroom, 1 bath home on 42,732 sq. ft. lot. Upper Kalamaula. This is a leasehold property -Charmaine I. Quilit Poki (Realtor) (808) 295-4474. RB-15998 Keller Williams Honolulu RB-21303.

HOMES WITH ALOHA- Paukukalo, Waiehu, Maui -Single level 3 bed/ 1 baths. Renovations throughout the home includes kitchen, bath \$685,000 This is a leasehold property -Charmaine I. Quilit Poki (Realtor) (808) 295-4474. RB-15998 Keller Williams Honolulu RB-21303.

NOW ACCEPTING WAITLIST APPLICATIONS FOR SECTION 8 LOW INCOME HOUSING at Parthenia Townhouses (2 & 3 Bedrooms). Waitlist is open as of October 15, 2024, and accepting applications for the waitlist by following methods: In Person at Parthenia Townhouses office located at – 8722 De Soto Ave. Canoga Park, CA 91304. (818) 709-0735 between the hours of 10am – 3pm, Monday – Friday or by appointment; or online at <https://www.partheniatownhouses.com> Applications can be submitted via the website. Applicants must meet the property and program eligibility criteria.

SEEKING A PROFESSIONAL TO HELP GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE REAL ESTATE PROCESS? Buying, selling or investing call Charmaine I. Quilit Poki (Realtor) 808.295.4474 RB-15598 Homes with Aloha - Keller Williams Honolulu RB-21303

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

Homes with Aloha

580 Farrington Hwy, Ste 537 Kapolei, HI 96707

Serving local families for 35 years

Your Kamaaina Real Estate Professional

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

“Contact me today
for all of
your real estate
needs!”



Charmaine Quilit Poki

REALTOR, ABR, CRS, CDPE, GRI, SRES

808-295-4474

charmaine.quilitpoki@kw.com

www.Homeswithaloha.com

KW KELLER WILLIAMS
HONOLULU

REALTOR - RB-15998

Aloha Kākou!

Are you approaching 65
years of age or older?

Is it time to sign up, review or renew
your "HEALTHCARE" options?

Call or Email today and
let's talk story about:

- Medicare Advanatge Plans
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Dental and Vision Insurance



Nicole-Rene K. Petri
Licensed Insurance Broker

(808) 651-2006

(702) 354-8085

nicole@thebenefitsource1.com



Licensed in Hawaii,
Nevada, Arizona,
Texas, and Florida

Not connected with or endorsed
by the U.S. Government or
the Federal Medicare Program.
This is a solicitation of insurance



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

FREE

Please check one: New subscriber Change of address

Email: _____

Name (First, Last) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Fill out form online at kawaiola.news/subscribe or

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

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



KŪKULU | KA WAIWAI

WAIMEA VALLEY BUSINESS INCUBATOR

BUILDING WEALTH WITH ALOHA

Free entrepreneurship program for Native Hawaiians and kama'āina seeking to start a business rooted in Hawaiian culture



TRAINING

Business foundations, planning, financial workshops (12); plus market opportunities at Waimea Valley events



NETWORKING

Quarterly events (4) featuring expert guest speakers and opportunities to connect with local business owners



1:1 SUPPORT

Individual support sessions on building your business, plus access to co-working space at Waimea Valley

COHORT 3 JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2025

APPLY NOW AT WAIMEAVALLEY.NET/BUSINESS

► PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a Hawai'i resident based on O'ahu
- Committed to launch a business within 6 months
- Commitment to full 9-month program participation (10 hours minimum a week)



► LEARN MORE/CONTACT

Kristien Alquero
Business Incubator Manager
kalquero@waimeavalley.net

The production of this flyer was supported by Grant #90NA8454-01-00 from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF)/Administration for Native Americans (ANA). Its contents are solely the responsibility of Hi'ipaka LLC and do not necessarily represent the official views of ACF/ANA.