Kau‘i and Rocco Keola have been a Resource Family since 1999, providing a loving home for more than 80 foster children over the years. - Photo: Jason Lees
Hello again, it’s me, Liholiho! Let’s learn how to say this pattern: I am the monarch of the nation in the year 1822. This is my royal family of the Hawaiian Kingdom. How about you, can you show the name of the monarch who ruled in each of the years shown below?

**Note:** There are two ways to say this pattern. Whatever you want to emphasize occurs first.

---

**ENGLISH**

I AM THE MONARCH.

** ‘O WAI KE ALI’I**

* X IS THE Y.

** ‘O LELO HAWAI’I**

* X IS THE Y.

> **OR**

* THE Y IS X.

---

**KA HALE O KAMEHAMEHA**

1. ‘O WAI KE ALI’I I KA MAKAHIKI ‘UMIKUMA WALU KANAOKUMALIMA (1865)?

2. ‘O WAI KE ALI’I I KA MAKAHIKI ‘UMIKUMA WALU KANAKUKUMAKOLU (1873)?

3. ‘O WAI KE ALI’I WAHINE I KA MAKAHIKI ‘UMIKUMA WALU IWAKALUA (1820)?

4. ‘O WAI KE ALI’I I KA MAKAHIKI ‘UMIKUMA WALU KANAKOLUKUMAKOLU (1833)?

5. ‘O WAI KE ALI’I I KA MAKAHIKI ‘UMIKUMA WALU KANALIMAKUHAIKU (1857)?

6. ‘O WAI KE ALI’I I KA MAKAHIKI ‘UMIKUMA WALU ‘UMIKUMAHA (1814)?

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**E HO‘I HOU MAI I KĒIA MAHINA A‘E!**

**BE SURE TO VISIT US AGAIN NEXT MONTH FOR A NEW HA'AWINA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I (HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE LESSON)!**
**REDEFINING ‘OHANA**

‘ohana
1. nvs. Family, relative, kin group; related.

**Aloha mai kākou,**

This is the time of year when our hearts turn towards ‘ohana; the anticipation of gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holidays, and of sharing food, music, laughter and love. Here in Hawaiʻi, for many of us, ‘ohana does not just include our blood relations. ‘Ohana often includes our friends, co-workers, and neighbors. These bonds are deep and extend far beyond the limits of our bloodlines.

‘Ohana is central to who we are as Kānaka Maoli. Mālama and caring for one-another, from our keiki to our kūpuna, is part of our identity; it is at the heart of who we are as Hawaiians. In this issue of Ka Wai Ola, we focus on the needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our ‘ohana and community: Native Hawaiian keiki in foster care.

Native Hawaiian children comprise nearly half of the 1,700 keiki in the foster care system in Hawai‘i. Surprisingly, they are twice as likely as war veterans to develop PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), and six times more likely to develop PTSD than the general population. This is nothing short of a crisis. Without kōkua, many of our keiki will be doomed to repeat the cycle of generational poverty; and the natural talents and gifts they possess, and the things they were meant to do and achieve, will remain dormant, unrealized and unfulfilled.

Throughout the pae ‘āina there are incredible organizations and individuals who are redefining ‘ohana and expanding its definition to mālama our keiki. You will meet some of them in this issue.

‘Ohana, mo’omeheu and ‘āina comprise OHA’s strategic foundations. So when there is ‘eha in our ‘ohana, when someone in the family is hurt, what should be our response? In a season that is all about ‘ohana and kahiau, when our hearts become tender and we reflect on our blessings from Ke Akua, what should be our response? There are hundreds of Native Hawaiian keiki in foster care who need the love and kākō’o of our larger and broader community ‘ohana.

When all is said and done, societies are judged by the way they care for their most vulnerable: keiki and kūpuna. Strong ‘ohana makes for strong kaiāulu and a strong lāhui. Let us be the kind of community that steps up to ‘auamo our kuleana to mālama our ‘ohana. E mālama pono kākou a Mele Kalikimaka.

Sylvia Hussey, Ed.D. Ka Pouhana/Chief Executive Officer
Step up and take control of the narrative

A new generation of Hawaiian leaders are rising to the challenges facing our islands and our planet. E Ho‘okanaka features these important new voices.

Koa Hewahewa is a native son of Maui, born and raised in Wailuku. He is a small business owner of Kanu Ka ‘Ike and currently the Director of Forestry at Hōkū Nui Maui LLC. Koa is passionate about watershed protection, education of youth, water rights for Native Hawaiians, and currently serves as the Vice President of Hui o Nā Wai ‘Ehā.

How does culture play into your role as a leader?

“I wouldn’t consider myself a leader. I think the issue is with self-proclaimed leaders. I would consider myself more of a great follower. I had great people that I looked up to that I could follow in their paths and now I’m just trying to do as they did and do what I can to make a positive impact in our community.

“A really huge epiphany happened in my life almost a decade ago. My pops, Ka‘awa Hewahewa, came to me in a dream and he told me, “Eh. No lead. Guide.” Those words shook me to my bones and changed my life. We’ve got to be able to sharpen our own spears now and be ready for the new things that are coming and just stay sharp, do our homework, and do our research. And it is hard because we do have full time kuleana. Jobs. We have ‘ohana. And to really become an aloha ‘āina leader we need to take what little time we have left in the midnight hours and study to be scientists, lawyers, philosophers and professors. Because these are the types of people that are challenging us today. And they get all the book smarts. They get all this fancy palapala to back them up. But what makes their background and knowledge more valuable than ours?”

What does Aloha ‘Āina leadership mean to you?

“Aloha ‘Āina leadership. It’s been watered down a lot recently. And I think to really get the true sense of what aloha ‘āina means is having true gratitude for all of those that fed you, not just with food, but with knowledge. To be an aloha ‘āina leader on the front lines is really difficult in the complex world that we live in...I think it’s shifting and changing.

“I like to say let’s not rely so much on our ancestors, because some of the problems and issues that we face today are things that our ancestors never faced. We have new pests, diseases and predators at the gate. But we must never forget the values and the foundation that they set for us. We’ve got to be able to sharpen our own spears now and be ready for the new things that are coming and just stay sharp, do our homework, and do our research. And it is hard because we do have full time kuleana. Jobs. We have ‘ohana. And to really become an aloha ‘āina leader we need to take what little time we have left in the midnight hours and study to be scientists, lawyers, philosophers and professors. Because these are the types of people that are challenging us today. And they get all the book smarts. They get all this fancy palapala to back them up. But what makes their background and knowledge more valuable than ours?”

What is it that pushes you to work through feelings of discomfort?

“We’ve got to take control of the narrative again. We have so many other people telling us our story. So that’s kind of what pushes me to get out. I never ever said ‘yes’ to interviews or panels and I never wanted to be out there in the front. But I do have a story to tell. I do represent my ‘ohana and my children. They drive me every day. So in times of discomfort I try to think of all those things and make sure that I have a mission. Recently, Uncle Walter Ritte told me that what gets him going is survival and I agree, because we’re in a state of survival over here. And in order to survive, we’ve got to be on the frontline taking control of the narrative, sharing exactly what we’re going through, and sharing the knowledge that’s been passed down to us from our ancestors.”

Koa Hewahewa is a native son of Maui, born and raised in Wailuku. He is a small business owner of Kanu Ka ‘Ike and currently the Director of Forestry at Hōkū Nui Maui LLC. Koa is passionate about watershed protection, education of youth, water rights for Native Hawaiians, and currently serves as the Vice President of Hui o Nā Wai ‘Ehā.

Interview by Alice Silbanuz

Koa with two of his mentors Ke‘eaumoku Kapu and Keali‘i Reichel - Photo: Courtesy

Koa Hewahewa and his ‘ohana on the banks of the Wailuku River in 'Iao Valley, Maui. (L-R) Mama Tiny Hewahewa, Koa, Ka‘heokekau (6), Makali‘ahu (10), and Kahaku holding Kaiwi‘ula (16 months). - Photo: Jason Lees
For generations of mahi‘ai from Wai‘oli, Kaua‘i, kalo farming is a way of life. Each successive generation learns about the flow of the ‘auwai, the right texture and temperature of the soil, the taste of each kalo species, when to harvest, and when to let the land rest. This is the intimate relationship and ‘āina knowledge of their kūpuna that they are passing down.

Kaua‘i farmers grow 80% of Hawai‘i’s kalo that ends up in our homes; and about 30% of that comes directly from Wai‘oli.

“I help my dad. He’s 83 and still goes to the lo‘i everyday,” shared Joanne Kaona. “He learned kalo farming from his father, and his father from his father.” As in many mahi‘ai families from Wai‘oli, Joanne grew up working in the lo‘i with her father, Clarence “Shorty” Kaona.

However, when heavy rain in April 2018 brought torrential flooding to Kaua‘i’s north shore, the Wai‘oli lo‘i kalo system was completely destroyed. The landscape of the river was altered and redirected and landslides and fallen trees prevented most of the water from reaching the farms. In the aftermath, some lo‘i were dried out. Twenty months later, the problems remain.

“Not even half of our patches are planted or being harvested now,” said Kaisen Carrillo. “The silt from the landslides is high in nitrogen, so the kalo doesn’t grow right. You have to restore pH levels by removing the silt, and for that you need big machinery: bulldozers and excavators.”

After the flooding, the community came together to clear the ‘auwai and was successful in restarting a small flow. However, during disaster relief efforts they discovered that much of Wai‘oli’s lo‘i kalo system is on conservation land, presenting a new set of challenges regarding access.

To address the situation, Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at UH Mānoa’s William S. Richardson School of Law, through an environmental law clinic funded through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs’ A‘o Aku A‘o Mai initiative, helped to organize the Wai‘oli Valley Taro Hui, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit was established to preserve kalo farming as a traditional and cultural practice and protect natural resources.

“The Wai‘oli Valley Taro Hui is a collaboration of small farmers who have been farming since time immemorial. They have helped steward the mānōwai, po‘owai, and ‘auwai systems that have fed our community for many many generations,” said D. Kapua‘ala Sproat, Director of Ka Huli Ao and the Environmental Law Clinic.

“Permitting was a complex maze of requirements between county, state, and federal agencies,” shared Sproat. “Ka Huli Ao and OHA partnered with the Hui starting in January 2019, and together we identified the permitting hurdles that would need to be addressed. We also worked with them to establish nonprofit and federal tax exempt status, and then submitted an application to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) for an easement.”

Last May, the BLNR voted unanimously to approve the Hui’s 55-year easement and Right of Entry free of charge. Said Sproat, “we’re really proud of what has happened here. We provided direct benefits for this community, but also a potential model for lāhui a mau loa.”

“It’s important that OHA stays involved,” said Dan Ahuna, OHA Trustee for Kaua‘i. “It’s who we are. We’re part of this land. We’re part of this culture.”

The next step is to repair the ‘auwai. But with the rainy season already upon us, the entire lo‘i kalo system is vulnerable to additional erosion and breaks. Farmers are anxiously waiting for the finalization of legal permits so that the emergency resources can be released for the extensive work which requires equipment and professional help.

Said Wai‘oli farmer Chris Kobayashi, “The ‘auwai is our lifeline for feeding our kalo. If it breaks anymore, we’ll be in worse shape for sure.”
Ka hana a ka mākua, o ka hana no ia a keiki

By Claire Kuʻuleilani Hughes, Dr. Ph.L., R.D.

“What parents do, children will do” (ʻŌlelo Noʻeau #1295)

Our title is an ʻōlelo noʻeau describing a child’s behavior as a reflection of his or her family’s behaviors and practices. Our Hawaiian ancestors knew this phenomenon. Thus, much family time was spent teaching keiki appropriate behaviors, manners and practices. You see, culturally inappropriate behavior, back then, could result in heavy penalties to the child and his family. It also provided for känaka passersby, who needed water from the village’s water supply. Keiki learned these and other kuleana.

In past generations, behavioral norms and supportive cultural practices kept village environments viable, productive and livable. Children learned early to maintain their environment, assuring continued benefits to their family, neighbors and friends. Children were taught about the gods who brought these gifts. Community practices assured their continued availability. Now, sadly, cultural and family practices that were passed on are no longer universally taught and are mostly forgotten. And our environment suffers.

Recent news reported on “ghost fishnets” that ruin Hawaiʻi’s sea life, reefs and fishing grounds. This problem is an example of thoughtless and irresponsible behavior. Other news reported plastic fragments in beach sand and this threat to fish, birds, pets and humans is mostly due to carelessness and thoughtlessness. Tons of debris carelessly cast aside, causing blight and filth in our communities, is mostly an example of thoughtlessness. An area in Kālīhi on Hālona Street comes to mind. The sidewalk there is used to dump mechanical or construction waste. Hālona Street was clean for about six months, however it is once again littered with debris. Obviously, the guilty individuals never had kūpuna or mākua who taught them kuleana and respect. We need grandparents with our ancestors’ skills and tenacity to teach behavior that is pono, and that the kuleana is ours, personally, to maintain.

Growing up, punishments for failing to heed rules of appropriate behavior were rather straightforward. My mother promised more chores, mostly difficult ones, and no participation in fun activities. I also recall hearing, early on, stories that anyone tainting a fresh-water spring, well, or source of drinking water, would pay the highest penalty…being fed to the sharks! Many stories were told of strong adult men who met a helpless old woman…and when they did not help her, they were frightened into near heart attacks as the woman turned into Pele. I can recall a couple of nights on the sleeping porch at our boarding school after lights out, being “scared sleepless” by scary Pele or ghost stories that my classmates told. Adding ghost stories to the promises of extra duties, more hard work at home for misbehaviors - and sharks - helped us adhere to the lessons of our kupuna.

Occasional ill-mannered, misbehaving children can usually be tolerated. However, ill-mannered, misbehaving young adults are more difficult to overlook. Usually, a lack of early parental and family training is to blame. However, littering and polluting public areas with cast-off industrial waste is intolerable and should lead to castigation and penalty. Policing this level of misdeed is very difficult, however, this is the point at which most of us feel the fullest appreciation for, and marvel at, the wisdom and diligence of our ancestors.

Need HELP Paying For Child Care?

Hawaii Early Learning Partnerships for Childcare (HELP) Project

Keiki O Kaʻāina Family Learning Centers’ HELP Project is a childcare subsidy program federally mandated to provide child care services to Native Hawaiian or American Indian youth who currently are not receiving child care services funded by other Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) formula grants. Eligible children must be under the age of 13 and the children’s parent(s)/guardian(s) must either work or attend a job training or educational program or receive protective services.

The Child must:

- Be Hawaiian or American Indian (federally recognized tribe)
- U.S. citizen or legal permanent residents
- 6 weeks through 12 years old and 13 to 18 years old for children with Special Needs who cannot do self-care
- If Hawaiian, reside on the islands of Hawaiʻi, Kauaʻi, Niʻihau or Oʻahu
- If American Indian, reside on any Hawaiian Island
- Have up-to-date immunizations and TB Test clearance

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<th>Family Size</th>
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Contact Lani by email at lani@koka.org or call 808 843-2502 for more information.
OHA names Dr. Sylvia Hussey new Chief Executive Officer

By Sterling Wong

On November 21, 2019, the OHA Board of Trustees appointed Sylvia Hussey, Ed.D., as the agency’s new Ka Pouhana/Chief Executive Officer, who is the Board’s sole employee, responsible for implementing Board policies and directives and leading the agency’s 145 administrative employees. Under the terms of her contract, Dr. Hussey will earn an initial salary of $170,000 for a term of five years commencing on December 1, 2019.

“This is a critical moment in the forty-year history of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs,” said OHA Chair Colette Machado. “The Board and administration have been collaborating on a number of critical projects that will transition OHA into a new chapter of the agency’s mo’olelo. Among these projects are our new strategic plan that will set OHA’s course for the next 15 years, as well as initiatives focused on improving the agency’s fiscal and governance policies. Dr. Hussey’s professionalism, executive experience and collaborative nature are precisely what we need to help lead OHA through this transition.”

Dr. Hussey served as the interim OHA CEO since July 1, 2019, after Dr. Kamana’opono Crabbe’s contract expired, bringing his seven-year tenure as OHA Ka Pouhana/CEO to a close. Dr. Hussey had previously served as OHA’s Ka Pou Nui/Chief Operating Officer. Her selection as CEO was the result of a three-month search led by Kumabe HR, a local executive recruitment firm.

“I am humbled to be granted this opportunity to continue this important work at OHA on behalf of the Lāhui,” said Dr. Hussey. “I look forward to strengthening our ‘ohana, our mo’omeheu (culture) and our ‘āina. These are the foundations of the Native Hawaiian community, and we must make sure that these foundations are front and center in all of our decision-making here at OHA.”

Dr. Hussey brings more than 30 years of experience in education administration, policy development and implementation, finance, operations, and information technology. She served in leadership positions at various institutions throughout the state, most recently as the executive director of the Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC), and previously was with Kamehameha Schools for more than a decade where she was the vice president of administration.

Dr. Hussey is also a certified public accountant (not in public practice) and previously worked as a director at Canand Consulting Group, senior manager at KPMG Consulting, and finance director at the Honolulu Board of Realtors. In 2019, Dr. Hussey was re-appointed by the Board of Education to serve as a commissioner of the State Public Charter School Commission.

Dr. Hussey received a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Brigham Young University, and has a master’s degree in Education Foundations and doctorate of education from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. She is currently a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the American Educational Research Association, the American Evaluation Association, and their state counterparts, among other affiliations.

“I am humbled to join the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and to continue working toward empowering Native Hawaiians,” said Dr. Hussey. “I look forward to working together to inspire positive change and strengthen our families and communities.”

Dr. Hussey was born and raised in Kohala and currently lives in Kāne‘ohe with her husband Brian.
Are you on the hunt for unique gifts this holiday season? The Office of Hawaiian Affairs’ staff share some of their local favorites. All of these businesses have storefronts in neighborhoods across the pae 'aina, and most have online stores too. With online options you can buy something for everyone on your list without leaving your couch.

**Native Intelligence**
www.native-intel.com/
$19.99-$74.95
Native Intelligence on Maui showcases local artisans and creatives who strive to protect and evolve the culture. Start the Makahiki season with this premium snapback inspired by Lono, from the Native Intelligence Akua Hat Series. 1980 Main St #2 Wailuku

**MANAOLA Hawai‘i**
www.manaolahawaii.com
$38+
Earlier this year, MANAOLA Hawai‘i opened its newest retail store on the mauka side of Pearlridge Mall. The new location features one of their newest collections, KINOLAU. Inspired by elements found in nature, the KINOLAU collection takes a refreshing pastel approach to design in everyday pieces, from pouches to totes, and fun outfits to go holoholo. Seen here is the Holokai Beach Tote, shown in the ULANA print in natural grey, retailing for $58. Locations at the Ala Moana and Pearlridge shopping centers.

**TANOA**
tanoa.shop/
$19.95+
The TANOA brand of clothing is a blend of Polynesian design with modern styling. The owners, of Samoan and Native Hawaiian ancestry, celebrate their heritage with prints inspired by the tatau (tattoo), elei (block printing), and the lifestyle of the islands around them. Men’s aloha shirts S-5x, start at $44.95 and boy’s aloha shirts at $19.95. Women’s fashion, sizes S-5x, start at $24.99. TANOA has locations across Polynesia in Aotearoa, Samoa, American Samoa, and on O‘ahu at the ‘Ohana Market Place on Ward Ave., and at Pearlridge Center Mauka.

**Kealopiko**
kealopiko.com/
$10-$120
Moloka‘i’s Kealopiko draws inspiration from native plants and animals, ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, ali‘i, kūpuna, and mo‘olelo in their unique screen print designs. Each item comes with a card to explain the meaning behind the design of that piece. Shown here is the Hinahānaka‘amilama from their Aloha Collection Pouch. Available for $44; carry your items in style with a design based in mo‘olelo. Kealopiko has locations in Hōʻolehua, Moloka‘i and on O‘ahu at the South Shore Market in Kaka‘ako.

**Hawai‘i’s Finest**
www.hifinest.com
$20+
Show your Hawaiian pride with contemporary aloha wear and urban fashion from Hawai‘i’s Finest. With bold designs and sizes for all body-types, there is something for everyone in your ‘ohana. Highlighted here are the men’s HiFi Kicks, a sleek, high-top boot available in black, camel, and olive green for $60. Hawai‘i’s Finest has locations on Moloka‘i and O‘ahu, with their newest store opening last month at Ka Makana Ali‘i in Kapolei.

**Na Mea Hawai‘i**
nameahawaii.com/
$5+
Not just a bookstore, Na Mea Hawai‘i is truly a store for all things Hawaiian. From keiki books, to handmade jewelry, feather lei, aloha wear, games, cultural classes and more, this is a perfect place to find a gift for lovers of Hawaiian culture. Featured here is “Ano Lani: Ano Honua - A Heavenly Nature, An Earthly Nature: A Spiritual Guide to the Hawaiian Lunar Calendar.” This visually stunning book by Kahu Wendell Ka‘lanikapuaenii Silva explores the different phases of the moon and their significance to our kūpuna in native practices and decision-making, available for $12.95. Ward Village, Honolulu.
Crack Seed Store
$5+
Get your fix of sweet and salty snacks by the pound at the Crack Seed Store in the heart of Kaimuki. Enjoy classics like dried lemon peel or rock salt plum. This is the perfect nostalgic gift to remind someone on your list of their “hanabaddah” days.
1156 Koko Head Ave., Honolulu.

Uncle Lani’s Poi Mochi
facebook.com/UncleLanisPoiMochi/
$8 per dozen
Be the life of the family party with a few dozen boxes of Uncle Lani’s famous poi mochi. Served warm and covered in a sweet purple poi drizzle, this local treat is a family favorite. Visit Uncle Lani’s newest location at Ka Makana Ali’i in Kapolei, or visit their Pop-Up on December 21st at OHA’s 3rd Annual Holiday Mākeke.

Hawaiian Force
hawaiianforce.com
Artist Craig Neff and his wife, Luana, create, design and sell bold, T-shirts and aloha shirts. Through their original Hawaiian designs, they hope to share, inform, and educate people about Hawaiian values, culture, thoughts, and often untold history. Shown here is a red men’s aloha shirt in Hawaiian Force’s classic He’e Design, starting at $98.
184 Kamehameha Ave., Hilo.

Kahiau Jerky Poke and Provisions
www.kahiaujerky.com
Dishes starting at $40+
Kahiau jerky offers fresh, shareable food made from locally-sourced ingredients. With an ‘ono menu of fresh poke and a hot food catering menu, this is a go-to spot when you need something to bring to the party. Featured here is the famous and delicious Kahiau Thin and Crispy Beef Jerky. Once the bag opens, it doesn’t last long.
1164 Smith Street, Honolulu.
Sweet Success
Mālama Loan Recipient 808Cheesecake

By Office of Hawaiian Affairs Staff

What started as an oversupply of liliko‘i became kitchen magic. Initially experimenting with everything from milkshakes to pound cake, Robinson Reyes, Jr. and wife, Lori, eventually created a recipe for a liliko‘i mousse cheesecake that would launch a business: 808Cheesecake.

“I knew it was good when my husband, who doesn’t really like cheesecake, nearly fell off his chair when he tasted it,” laughed Lori. “Then I took some to work and my coworkers loved it so much they asked for more and some of them wanted to buy it.”

The Reyes, began to experiment with other flavors ranging from Kona Coffee and Latte, to Key Lime and even Ahi Poke. In 2013 they entered their Kona Coffee cheesecake in the Kona Coffee Dessert Competition and won the People’s Choice silver medal and the Chef’s Choice bronze medal. They went on to win more awards, and as they did, demand for their cheesecake grew.

In mid-2015, they took a leap of faith and started their own cheesecake business. They sold their cheesecake at farmers’ markets and special events. They also dabbled in wholesale, catering, and even supplied a few restaurants.

“We needed financial support when we first started but had a hard time obtaining financing,” explained Robinson. “OHA Mālama Loans believed in us, gave us a chance, and have been with us on our journey. They have been our cheerleaders and supporters along the way.”

“It’s scary to take that first step and quit a stable full-time job to pursue your passion, but we are glad we did,” said Lori. “OHA’s Mālama Loans staff provided the support we needed.”

“With financial support from OHA, we were able to buy the kitchen equipment we needed to meet demand for our products on Hawai‘i Island and grow our business,” added Robinson.

In addition to their kitchen location at Kona Joe’s Coffee Farm, they have also opened a second location near Chicago where their daughter, who studied culinary arts, is both the manager and baker, and a third location in Wisconsin.

“We are delighted to share a little taste of home around the country!” says Lori. “We enjoy watching our customers’ faces. Our passion drives us to continue growing and creating!”

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FOSTER CARE: It’s our kuleana!

Hui Ho‘omalu
Contact: www.pidf.org
(808) 441-1117 or toll-free, (888) 879-8970

Funding for Hui Ho‘omalu is provided by the State of Hawaii Department of Human Services.

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Kāmā‘aina Keiki Days
Every Wednesday for kāmā‘aina/military keiki

Hale‘iwa Farmers’ Market
Thursdays 2 – 6pm at the Pikake Pavilion

Nursery Plant Sale
Every Saturday 8am – 12pm

Lā ‘Ohana Family Days
3rd Sunday every month

All Events: More Details at waimeavalley.net

ON THE NORTH SHORE ACROSS FROM WAIMEA BAY
OPEN DAILY 9 AM – 5 PM / CALL: (808) 638-7766

WAIMEA VALLEY HIPAKA LLC
WHERE HAWAI‘I COMES ALIVE / WAIMEAVALLEY.NET
Billie-Ann Bruce isn’t sure how many foster homes she has lived in. Originally from Puna, Billie was placed into foster care at birth and was in and out of the system her entire childhood.

She “aged out” of the system while still in high school, so Billie enrolled in Imua Kākou, a Salvation Army program which offers assistance for youth transitioning out of foster care. They helped Billie rent a room from a friend so she could finish at Pāhoa High School.

After graduating, Billie moved to Hilo, determined to go to college. “I always knew I wanted to go to college,” said Billie. She had a job and applied for scholarships to cover tuition. Academic success her first year at UH Hilo, Billie is working on degrees in Administration of Justice and Psychology, while concurrently working on a pre-law certificate. She dreams of attending law school at UH Mānoa.

At 17 Billie joined EPIC ‘Ohana’s HI HOPES, a Youth Leadership Board for youth ages 14-26 who are, or have been, in foster care. Through HI HOPES Billie is able to provide a voice of experience for the board and its mission to educate, advocate and collaborate with community partners to help improve outcomes for current and former foster youth. Today Billie is president of East Hawai‘i’s HI HOPES Youth Leadership Board. “I see myself as a bridge. This helps community leaders see foster care from the perspective of young people receiving services to understand what isn’t working.”

Billie-Ann Bruce sees herself becoming a foster parent some day. “I want to give back. Part of my kuleana is to do that too. I’ve been blessed in spite of everything that wasn’t amazing in my life. I had people who helped me. I want to help young people coming up.”

Billie now works for EPIC ‘Ohana as a Youth Partner and has become a peer-certified specialist providing mentoring and support to foster children. This includes working with the Department of Health because many young people in foster care are coping with traumatic experiences. Says Billie, “Youth are more able to open up and connect with people closer to their age who understand what they are going through. They don’t feel judged which allows for honest conversations and the realization that what happened to us wasn’t our fault. It was just a bad situation.”

In terms of her own journey and exceptional resilience Billie says she just always believed that there was a better way to live. “I knew I just needed to take a step back, look at the situation, and proceed in a way that made sense.”

A huge positive influence in Billie’s life when she was in elementary school was her father’s “hānai” dad, who they affectionately called “Uncle Mable.” Uncle Mable was Noboru Kajiyama, an elderly man with no children who took in Billie’s family until he passed away.

Those were wonderful years for Billie. Uncle Mabel loved to spend time with her and even helped Billie learn to read. “Through Uncle Mabel I experienced giving and love,” smiles Billie. “He was the most amazing guy. He let a whole family move in with him so they wouldn’t be homeless. Because of him I am able, in turn, to give that love out.”

Another positive influence in Billie’s life has been foster mom “Julie” who Billie lived with during her last two years of high school until aging out of the foster care system.

Billie is Hawaiian on her mom’s side, but she never knew much about Hawaiian culture. None of her foster parents were Hawaiian. “If Hawaiian families are able to help foster kids keep connected to their culture it could mean everything,” Billie emphasized. “For me that was a missing link.”

Showing wisdom and grace beyond her years, Billie said, “As you get older you gain perspective. You understand that your parents are just humans who needed to survive. Things that seemed cut and dry actually have more substance. It’s forgiveness, but it’s also understanding that people just don’t know. It’s trying to learn from that person. There is always a reason for the actions we choose.”

Billie sees herself becoming a foster parent some day. “I want to give back. Part of my kuleana is to do that too. I’ve been blessed in spite of everything that wasn’t amazing in my life. I had people who helped me. I want to help young people coming up.”

Billie-Ann Bruce with hānai grandpa “Uncle Mabel” (Noboru Kajiyama). - Photos: Courtesy

With a passion for helping others, Billie-Ann Bruce hopes to use her education to give back and inspire change in her community.
Pehea Nā Keiki?

Jan Dill, founder of Partners in Development - Photo: Alice Silbanuz

By Puanani Fernandez-Akamine

The Maasai people of Africa greet one another by saying “and how are the children?” When he first learned this, it struck a resounding chord with Jan Dill, founder of Partners in Development (PID). He was moved by the Maasai’s cultural focus on the well-being of their children, and he thought about what would happen if our people said these words ten times a day; how it would affect our collective thinking. “It would keep the welfare of our children on our windshields,” Dill contends. “As Hawaiians, I think we need to do the same thing. We need to ask ourselves ‘pehea nā keiki?’”

The well-being of our keiki has been Dill’s focus for most of his career. PID runs a number of programs that are keiki and ‘ohana focused, including Hui Ho’omalu, a program dedicated to recruiting, training and supporting Native Hawaiian “Resource Families” (previously called “foster parents”) to mālama our Hawaiian keiki in Hawai‘i’s foster care system. Hawaiians are over-represented in the foster care system. About 47% of Hawai‘i’s foster children are Native Hawaiian. “We’re doubly present in a negative statistic,” declares Dill. “Our children are being taken from their families. We need to do something about it. We need to reaffirm the core of the Hawaiian culture which is family, which is a commitment to community, and a commitment to the success of our children.”

Not Enough Families

Although Hawaiian children comprise almost half of all keiki in foster care, there aren’t enough Hawaiian Resource Families to care for them. Without enough Hawaiian Resource Families, when Hawaiian keiki are removed from their homes by the Department of Human Services (DHS), they are often placed with Resource Families from other communities and cultures. In fact, many of the available Resource Families are military, so Hawaiian keiki may be placed in homes where everything is unfamiliar: language, food, rules, customs and expectations. These traumatized keiki often experience culture shock on top of everything else.

As recently as ten years ago, the lack of Native Hawaiian (or even local) Resource Families, resulted in the eventual adoption of Hawaiian foster children who were in the care of military Resource Families. When these families left Hawai‘i, their adopted Hawaiian children left with them, permanently separated from their birth families, culture and communities.

This rarely happens anymore, and certainly not intentionally. The mindset at DHS is that the system needs to provide things that keep dislocated keiki healthy (connection, culture and values) in preparation for their return to their families and communities.

Reunification is the Goal

Although fostering children sometimes results in adoption, the goal for DHS and for Resource Parents is reunification of the family. In a perfect world, the children’s biological parents will be open to change and while they are getting healthy and strong, their children are being cared for by Resource Families in their home community so the children can be in a familiar environment, remain in their school, and stay in contact with their parents. Sadly, this is not the norm.

Delia Ulima is the Statewide Initiative Manager for the HI HOPES initiative under EPIC ‘Ohana, an agency whose mission is to strengthen ‘ohana and enhance the welfare of children and youth. Ulima echoes the goal of reunification saying, “ideally, the child can return home in 12 to 24 months. But often that does not happen. The statistics are scary.”

Despite the best efforts of DHS, support agencies and Resource Families, reunification is not the outcome for many foster children. “Drugs are involved in so many cases,” said Keola, “and it’s difficult for the parents to become clean and sober. In those cases, reunification is low.”

Complicated family relationships often prevent extended family members from becoming licensed to foster the children either, however child-specific fostering by ‘ohana or a family friend is the best-case scenario for children removed from their homes. Michael and Jessica Hikalea successfully overcame drug addiction and were reunited with their four children with the support of extended family who stepped forward to kōkua.

The Hikaleas both struggled with addiction over a period of years. Their keiki were removed from their home three separate times as they worked to get clean. All three times, members of their extended ‘ohana took on the kuleana to foster their keiki. “We are very blessed and grateful,” said Michael. “Knowing our children were with family was important. It made us feel more secure. When we went through treatment, we were more driven and focused on getting better.” While they count themselves fortunate, they also emphasized the need for Hawaiian children to be with Hawaiian families. “It’s sad when Hawaiian foster children aren’t with Hawaiian families,” added Jessica. “It hits the children harder, emotionally, to be in another culture. It’s not as comfortable for them and can be a step back for everyone.”

A Complex Social Problem

The need for foster care is the result of complex social problems rooted in poverty and substance abuse and fueled by depression and hopelessness. Kau‘i Keola and husband, Rocco, have fostered more than 80 keiki in their 20 years as a Resource Family. She notes that the high percentage of Hawaiian children in the foster care system correlates to the high percentage of Hawaiian adults who are addicted to drugs or incarcerated. “There are children attached to those adults,” points out Keola.

DHS has established proactive programs to help families before situations escalate to the point of removing the children from the home, and according to Dill, they have promoted engagement between the various agencies serving families and foster children. Dill also points out the need for organizations like OHA, Lili‘uokalani Trust and Kamehameha Schools to work together to develop clear and measurable objectives for the health and well-being of our families, and to work alongside DHS and organizations like PID, Catholic Charities and EPIC ‘Ohana to galvanize the Hawaiian community to be very intentional about its care for foster children and the health of the family. “Foster children are the effects of the lack of attention that we’ve paid to family health and education,” says Dill. “We must strengthen our families, or we will always have foster children.”

Dill believes that if Hawaiian organizations come together, we can do better by our people; that we can do things that bring substantive and transformational change. “We need to address the real causes of the issues. We need to make that differentiation and decide to invest in things that make transformational change possible, in issues that are important such as early education, foster care, kūpuna care, employment and housing.”
The Importance of Making a Connection

Keola Limkin Pagud, an MSW candidate at U.H. Mānoa, is a former foster child. “When I was 15 my five siblings and I were removed from our mother’s care and placed into separate foster homes,” shares Pagud. Fortunately, Pagud was placed with a wonderful Resource Caregiver, a Hawaiian man who supported Pagud’s athletic activities and treated him as his own. “He was compassionate and also taught us discipline through daily chores and sticking to curfews,” Pagud recalls. The man he affectionately refers to as “Uncle Brada” allowed him to stay with him after graduating from high school, even though he had “aged out” of the system in February of his senior year.

Billie Ann Bruce spent half of her childhood in the foster care system (see related story). Removed from her family at birth, she does not remember how many Resource Families she was placed with as an infant and toddler. When she was permanently removed from her father’s care at age 14, she was not as lucky as Pagud. She was placed in four homes in two years. The fifth home, with a family friend, was finally a good match, and Bruce remained there with foster mom “Julie” until she “aged out” of the system. Now a junior at U.H. Hilo, Bruce is working on B.A. degrees in Administration of Justice and Psychology. She stays in touch with Julie who is a source of support and encouragement for her.

For many children in the foster care system, being shuffled from home to home is the norm. The biggest factor is fit. There aren’t enough foster parents, so DHS is trying to get the children in wherever they can.”Adds Ulima, “you’re talking supply and demand.”

The fact is that many foster children are traumatized, whether from the problems in their home, their forced removal from their family, their placement in an unfamiliar environment with strangers, or all three.

“The biggest successes are when foster children and parents make a real connection,” says Ulima, “when foster parents hang in there when the child punches the wall or cuts out of school. When the adults in their lives don’t give up on them, and the children have a semblance of normalcy in their lives and are able to do the things that their peers are doing and which help them to thrive, the system can work. But few placements are like that.” Ulima believes the key is establishing real, authentic relationships between foster children and their caregivers, and providing care and attention to the children’s mental health needs. “Children are hurt when they are separated from their family, community and culture. It would be better for Hawaiian children to be placed with Native Hawaiian families they can relate to.”

A Call to Action for the Lāhui

The consistent message from Native Hawaiians involved in the foster care system in any capacity is that there is a dire need for more Hawaiians to be involved as Resource Caregivers and Resource Families. But becoming a Resource Caregiver is not a trivial decision and fostering children can be tough. “Inventory your heart,” advises Dill, “and ask yourself if this is an area where you are able to expend a lot of emotion, a lot of aloha. And if the answer is yes, then stand up and go. We are always looking for Hawaiian families to step into the breach. The larger the pool, the stronger it’s going to be in terms of success. Hawaiians need to really think and pray about this because it’s a spiritual venture. It really is.”

“Our children need help,” says Keola passionately. “They may not be your biological relation, or even someone you know, but there are many Hawaiian children out there who need a place to call home temporarily or permanently. And it’s on us to raise them in our culture, with our food, with our customs, with our beliefs. We need to mālama our lāhui. It has to be our people teaching our children so we can become a stronger nation on our own. It’s our kuleana.”

Jon and Mary Osorio are former Resource Caregivers who eventually adopted the child they were fostering. Says Mary, “any child who has experienced trauma needs somebody to help them through to the other side and to replace those traumatic experiences with loving experiences. There are just too many children out there. Even if we’re afraid we need to do it because they need us, and it builds up the whole community to raise healthy children.”

“You know, we are natural advocates, we really are. Native Hawaiians are natural advocates, especially for things like children,” adds Jon. “So don’t be afraid of this. It will bring out the best in you.”

Pagud’s caregiver, Uncle Brada, had a powerful impact on his life. His strong family and Hawaiian cultural values helped Pagud become interested in learning about Hawaiian history and culture himself, and he is determined to pay it forward someday. “Uncle Brada passed away a few years ago,” shared Pagud. “I hope to foster in the future to honor his legacy.”

“Foster care can be mentally and emotionally draining,” says Bruce, but she quickly notes that it is also a very joyful thing. “Julie would cry with happiness for my successes and awards,” Bruce reminisces. “It can be an amazing, joyful, life-changing experience.” Like Pagud, Bruce plans to foster children herself someday. “I want to give back. One person can change a life. You can be the person to change a child’s whole life if you’re willing to take on that kuleana.”

Ulima has also been a Resource Caregiver. Like the Osorios, her fostering experience resulted in adoption. “It’s my kuleana as a Native Hawaiian,” reflects Ulima. “It’s my kuleana to give back and to serve.” To our lāhui she says, “If you have the heart, a home, and the willingness to be trained, you might be the difference between a Hawaiian child thriving, or becoming another statistic.”

Taking on the kuleana of foster care can seem overwhelming. But if our communities would view it as a “kākou thing” it could be less daunting. Dill shared that on the mainland there is a movement in the Black community called “One Church, One Child.” One family in the church fosters, and the rest of the church community makes a commitment to support them by providing resources and respite. “I’d like to see that in the Hawaiian community,” says Dill. “You know, one child, one canoe club...whatever. Let’s do it.”

Continues Dill, “if we were to embrace the kuleana of caring for our children, foster care as we know it today would be gone. My vision is that Hawaiians will just stand up and say, okay, we are going to fulfill the kuleana that we’ve always had: the care of our children.”

No laila, he nīhau no kākou: Pehea nā keiki? ■

Getting Involved

Getting involved as a Resource Caregiver is simple and the need is great. However, this is an important kuleana and before you begin, please consider the following requirements:

1. The desire and ability to accept a foster child into your home based on the reunification plan made by the state: Foster care is temporary, and a resource home needs to be a safe, nurturing environment for the child while a permanent plan is made. Reunification with the birth family is the goal for every child. The next option is placement with relatives.

2. Space in your home for an additional child: Generally, a child in foster care may not share a room with an adult, but may share a room with other children of the same gender.

3. Income must cover usual household expenses: A household must be able to show that regular household expenses do not exceed monthly household income.

4. Completion of criminal, child abuse and neglect background checks, and a sex offender registry check: All adult household members must be able to show a recent/credible history of safe behavior.

5. Families must be planning to remain in Hawai‘i for at least two years. There may be exceptions to this time frame if you are open to urgent need groups such as large sibling groups (4+) or teens.

Interested in becoming a Resource Caregiver and fostering Native Hawaiian keiki?

Contact Partners in Development online at hui@pidfoundation.org

Or call:
441-1117
(O‘ahu)
888-879-8970
(toll-free for Neighbor Islands)
**Fostering Aloha:**

**A Tale of Two Families**

By Puanani Fernandez-Akamine

**O ka makua ke koʻo o ka hale e paʻa ai**
The parent is the support that holds the household together

Caring for our ʻohana is an important kuleana. Parenting keiki is an investment in the future. It is basic and foundational. Healthy families lead to a healthy lāhui. So when parents cannot mālama their keiki properly, it is important to have a safety net. This is a moʻolelo about two families, the Osorio ʻohana and the Keola ʻohana, who have expanded to embrace keiki not born to them. These parents are connected to these keiki, not by their blood, but by their hearts. Neither the Keolas nor the Osorios planned to become foster parents. When they got involved, the Keolas already had three children, and the Osorios had four—both fairly large families by today’s standards. Here are their stories.

The Osorios talked about fostering but the idea was quickly dismissed by worries about having enough money or room, or how their young children would be affected. But one day Mary Osorio got a call from a friend. A baby girl needed temporary foster care—just three weeks—and could Mary help find a home for that child. As it happens, Mary was leaving her current job with nothing new lined up. The whole family discussed the situation and decided they could care for the baby for three weeks—no problem.

With the goal of reunification, the Osorios were working with DHS and the family to get baby Lehua back to her parents. But drugs were involved and the birth mother soon relinquished her parental rights asking the Osorios to adopt her baby. This surprised them; they never intended to adopt—but after discussing it they agreed. “The longer she was with us, the more difficult it was to even consider separation,” said Jon.

But Lehua’s biological father wanted his mother to raise the baby. Working with the Osorios over the next two years, the father formed a trust bond with Jon and at the final custody hearing, the father relinquished his rights. “It’s important to work with the birth family in a healthy way,” said Mary. “Sometimes it’s hard. Our situation was full of drama, but it was the right thing to do.”

Those two years were full of uncertainty. The Osorios and their birth children had fallen in love with baby Lehua but knew she might not stay. But when Lehua was 2-1/2, the Osorios adopted her. “We had 40 people crammed into the courtroom. Jon had his guitar, we sang the doxology and our pastor did a blessing,” recalls Mary. “It was a community event.”

Community has been key to raising Lehua. Her birth mother used drugs during her pregnancy, and that had consequences. But support from the Osorios’ personal network along with social workers and public health nurses, and resources from public and private agencies, made all the difference.

“The IEP is your best friend in the public schools,” noted Jon. Over the years, the Osorios carefully selected schools, obtained the health services she needed, and poured their love into Lehua, now 16, who is thriving.

“I cannot imagine life without her,” reflects Mary. “I don’t know what she’s going to do with her life, but she will do it with solid security and love from people who believe in her. She’s this wonderful, joyous success story. It was so worth it to take the chance.”

“When Mary first told me about Lehua I didn’t know if I was ready,” recalls Jon. We already had young children, my career was taking off, and I was about to take a sabbatical. And then Mary said, ‘she’s Hawaiian.’”

“You know, it was like taking in family; a part of our family that maybe we’d forgotten that we’re related to. When I see all of my children together, completely one family…the teasing and the affection…you would never know they came from different parents. There’s nothing quite like that,” smiles Jon.

“It feels good to give a Hawaiian child Hawaiian cultural experiences and raise her with Hawaiian values,” Mary adds. “Hawaiian foster children don’t just need us—they need the Hawaiian community. It’s kuleana, absolutely.”

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KaʻOhana Osorio

Jonathan, Lehua and Mary Osorio.

Photos: Courtesy of Alice Silbanuz

In All This Chaos
We Found Safety
One day the Keolas saw an announcement in their church bulletin. Catholic Charities needed foster families to care for pregnant teens. They talked about it, but Kau‘i was teaching full time and president of a non-profit. With three keiki of their own, there just wasn’t time to help. Fast forward two years. Kau‘i was now teaching part-time when the same announcement appeared in the church bulletin. This time the Keolas decided to try. Kau‘i felt confident she could teach these girls how to take care of babies, help them make transition plans for after the baby was born, and then they would move on.

A few years into fostering, one of the pregnant teens they were working with already knew she wanted to give her baby up for adoption. When he was born, the baby boy was placed with the Keolas. It was only supposed to be for a week, but four months later the baby, who they had named Keolanui, was still with them, and so they decided to adopt. With this decision the Keolas began an unexpected journey.

Soon afterwards, the Keolas transferred their licensing from Catholic Charities to DHS, shifting their focus from pregnant teens to newborns. In their first five years of fostering, the Keolas cared for more than 80 babies. Then in 2008 they became foster parents to Ku‘umele. But when she was just six weeks old, her mother could not commit to parenting. So the Keolas decided to adopt Ku‘umele as well.

Shortly after that, another newborn and her brother were placed with the Keolas, but their mother also relinquished her parental rights. So the Keolas adopted them – and their three siblings who were in other foster homes. And when Ku‘umele’s mother had more babies, the Keolas adopted them too. By 2018, the Keolas had adopted 12 children. “It’s all about family for us,” explained Kau‘i. “Not just our own. We want to keep the biological families of our adopted children together.”

The Keolas never imagined they would have 15 children and it has transformed their lives. Their days are a whirl of activity beginning at 5:30 am to get 12 keiki to five different schools. While the children are in school Kau‘i starts the laundry and husband, Rocco (temporarily on leave from his job), handles other chores including cooking dinner. Afternoons are a blur of school pick-ups and extra-curricular activities. When the children get home, there’s sharing and snacks and then 20 minutes of reading before dinner. “People always think its chaos,” laughs Kau‘i. “To me it’s exciting and fun.”

The Keolas eat together and share the day’s highs and lows. Then it’s pu‘le, showers and if all goes according to schedule, everyone is in bed by 8:30.

All 12 of their hänai keiki were drug-positive babies, but the Keolas have availed themselves of all the resources and professional help available to them. “Our goal is to raise independent, responsible, contributing members of society,” said Kau‘i. “We want them to have good lives. They are all blessings. They all have strengths.”

“Fostering has changed our lives in such a positive way,” continued Kau‘i. “We’re having fun. It was never the plan, but I don’t make plans anymore because God has a plan. We’ll stop fostering when God doesn’t send any more children to our door.”

The Keolas firmly believe that it is their kuleana, as Hawaiians, to care for these children. “Our native people need to take care of our own keiki… as a lāhui that is our kuleana,” Kau‘i insists. “We cannot put that kuleana on anyone else. We need to be the ones to do it.”

Living together in their modest three-bedroom home, the Keolas manage to make it work. “We don’t have a lot of things,” Kau‘i reflects. “We don’t have a lot of space. But we have a lot of love. Love is abundant. And that’s what we can share.”
OHA Approves $103,000 in Events Grants

Last month OHA announced the selection of 20 community events that will receive a total of $103,000 from OHA’s ‘Ahahui Grants Program. “OHA is proud to support these organizations hosting events that will promote health, education, culture and land-based activities across the state for our Lāhui and the broader public,” said Sylvia Hussey, OHA Chief Executive Officer.

OHA’s ‘Ahahui Grants Program provides funding to support eligible organizations hosting community events that benefit the Native Hawaiian community and align with OHA’s Strategic Results. The 20 community events represent the ‘Ahahui Grants Program’s second round of awardees for Fiscal Year 2020. These events will occur between Jan. 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020.

For a list of the organizations that received grants in this round, please visit https://www.oha.org/news. For more information on the ‘Ahahui Grants Program, please visit https://www.oha.org/grants.

Hundreds of ‘O’opu Killed in Wailuku River

A Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) project designed to ensure the survival of native fish and shrimp in the Wailuku River killed hundreds, if not thousands, of fish.

Water was diverted from the Wailuku River in late October to install a fish ladder meant to help fish and shrimp travel up a 22-foot vertical wall in the river. The diversion reduced water levels in the river so egregiously that the stream bed at the river mouth was reduced to warm puddles of water. Reduced river flows and rainfall were cited by officials as contributing to a “substantial fish kill” at the river mouth.

Nearby residents put out a call for kōkua to rescue ‘o’opu from the dry stream beds. Volunteers from the community joined DLNR staff with buckets and coolers to gather the struggling fish and move them to streams higher in ‘Iao Valley hoping they would recover.

Four of the five species of ‘o’opu found in Hawaiian streams, are endemic to Hawai‘i. ‘O’opu hī’ukole are considered a “threatened” species, while ‘o’opu nākea and ‘o’opu nōpūlili are considered “species of special concern” by the American Fisheries Society.

Larval Fish Are Eating Our Trash

A new ocean study indicates not only a significant accumulation of microplastics in Hawaiian waters, but that larval fish are eating the debris. Researchers from Hawai‘i Pacific University, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other agencies released the study.

The research centered on waters off the Kona coast of Hawai‘i Island. Larval fish living in this habitat are eating the trash that surrounds them. Surface waters near West Hawai‘i were sampled. Plastic particles outnumbered larval fish seven to one. The researchers found tiny plastic pieces in the stomachs of commercially targeted species, including swordfish and mahimahi.

“The fact that larval fish are surrounded by and ingesting non-nutritious toxin-laden plastics, at their most vulnerable life-history stage, is cause for alarm,” said Jamison Gove, a research oceanographer and co-lead of the study. These disturbing discoveries spotlight the negative impact humans have on the planet.

On November 7th OHA facilitated a panel discussion, E Ola I Ka Wai; Elevating Advocacy to Protect Our Precious Waters, and premiered a new short documentary Ho‘i Ka Wai I Kahi Kūpuna at UH Maui College. As management of Maui’s water resources becomes more urgent, community-based advocacy is critical to ensure proper stewardship. Maui residents have engaged in legal battles to restore stream flow in their communities for 30 years. OHA has been a staunch supporter, advocate, and plaintiff in the ongoing battles in East Maui and Nā Wai ‘Ehā. The event provided an opportunity for the community to share mana‘o on maintaining our constitutionally-protected water rights. Panelists included (L-R) Ke‘eaumoku Kapu, Hōkūloa Pellegrino, Summer Sylva, Ed Wendt, Kao Hewahewa and Keoni Rawlins-Fernandez as the moderator. Photo: Alice Silbaruz

1985 and Ka‘uluokahā‘i Undivided Interest lessees. Twenty-six families prequalified for the selection following an orientation held in September. “Today is a very happy day,” said Hawaiian Homes Commission Chair William J. Aila, Jr. “The vacant lot program allows the opportunity to build what beneficiaries want and to seek resources beyond what the Department has available – contractors and skilled family and friends - to ultimately build what they want and what they can afford.”

DHHL’s vacant lot offer is among a variety of offerings provided to beneficiaries, the product is unique in that it allows a family to select and construct a home that best fits its needs.

The Ka‘uluokahā‘i award is the fourth lot selection since June, and is among 395 planned for 2019. Over 1,300 lots are in the Department’s production pipeline for the next five years.

Final EA Finds No Significant Impact in Honomū Subsistence Agriculture Project

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) issued its final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of “No Significant Impact” for the Department’s Honomū Subsistence Agriculture Homestead Community in South Hilo on Hawai‘i Island.

DHHL’s Honomū project will be the first of its kind on the island and is among expanded options to bring beneficiaries the opportunity to return to the land and promote self-sufficiency through farming.

“Honomū is a pilot project to implement the Department’s new rules for subsistence agricultural lots,” said Hawaiian Homes Commission Chair William J. Aila, Jr. “These lots will allow beneficiaries to live and cultivate their land while producing locally grown food for themselves and their families.”

A bid for the first phase should go out in early 2020. The project’s first phase is anticipated to cost
$2 million and will include the infrastructure development for 16 one-acre subsistence agricultural homestead lots near ‘Akaka Falls.

In 2017, DHHL updated its Administrative Rules allowing for Subsistence Agriculture which provides beneficiaries with more manageable lot sizes and removed the requirements of traditional agricultural lots. The project in total is anticipated to include up to 375 lots to provide beneficiaries subsistence agriculture parcels ranging in size from one to three acres.

The EA can be read in full at the following link: http://oeq2.doh.hawaii.gov/EA_EIS_Library/2019-11-08-HA-FEA-Honomu-Subsistence-Agricultural-Homestead-Community.pdf

Applicants Sought for 2020 Lei Court

The Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking applicants to become part of the prestigious lei court ‘ohana!

Applications are available online at www.honoluluparks.com in the “Lei Day Celebration” section for information on the Lei Court Selection Event and applications contact Samantha Sun at (808) 768-3032. Applications must be received or postmarked by Friday, January 3, 2020.

In accordance with the rotating age groups, applicants must be 31-45 years of age by Saturday, March 7, 2020, to qualify. The theme for the 2020 Lei Day Celebration is Lei ‘Ili, lei of special places.

Applicants will be judged on their lei-making abilities, hula performance, poise, personality, and public speaking in English and Hawaiian. The selection will determine the Lei Queen and King and their princes and princesses to represent the City and County of Honolulu in an honorary capacity during select events throughout the year. Of those events, the Lei Day Celebration is one of the most prominent.

The 93rd Annual Lei Day Celebration will be on Friday, May 1, 2020, at the Kapi’olani Park, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information on the Lei Day Celebration, contact Kauailani Kauahi, Lei Day Celebration Chairperson, at (808) 768-3041.

Tourism Authority Awards Funding to Hawaiian Cultural Programs

The Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) announced in October it is awarding funding to 43 programs in the Hawaiian Islands through its Kūkūlu Ola program for the 2020 calendar year. This is in addition to the 95 programs and events HTA is funding through its Community Enrichment program, and 34 programs through its Aloha ‘Āina program. The money comes from tourism dollars through the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT), which people pay when they stay in legal accommodations throughout the state.

HTA’s Kūkūlu Ola program funds community-based nonprofit organizations which represent cultural practitioners, craftsmen, musicians and artists committed to perpetuating and strengthening a broader understanding and appreciation of the Hawaiian culture.

One of HTA’s goals is to reinvest in the Hawaiian community. “It’s imperative that the tourism industry recognizes the importance of perpetuating the Hawaiian culture. The culture here is what makes the Hawaiian Islands unique and underpins the authenticity of the visitor experience. As we support these practitioners in strengthening and perpetuating cultural practices in their communities, it’s important for tourism to do its part to give back,” said Kalani Ka’anā’ānā, HTA’s Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs.

About This Calendar

In the traditional Hawaiian calendar, the 29.5-day mahina (moon) cycle is divided into three anahulu (10-day periods): ho’onui (growing bigger), beginning on the first visible crescent; poepoe (round or full); and emi (decreasing). The traditional names of the Hawaiian moon months and phases may vary by island and moku (district). This calendar uses the O’ahu moon phases listed in the Hawaiian Almanac by Clarice Taylor.

NĀ MĀKUA INVITATIONAL CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR  
Dec. 6, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Dec. 7, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Presented by Nā Mākua Designs, this fair showcases 90 of Hawai‘i’s best artists and producers featuring one-of-a-kind holiday gifts including designer fashions, jewelry, art, unique crafts and home-made edibles. Includes entertainment, hourly prize drawings and food by Liko Lehua Cafe. Free. Ah Fook-Chinen Civic Auditorium in Hilo. For more info, call Nelson or Kainoa Makua at 808-966-4647 or email puna@namakua.com

MA KA HANA KA ‘IKE WORKSHOP SERIES  
Dec. 7, 8 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Cultural practitioners provide hands-on learning experiences at UH Mānoa. Students will have the opportunity to work with practitioners and kūpuna. Workshops are held in conjunction with 1st Saturdays. Please contact kanewai@hawaii.edu for any inquiries. Honolulu.

ALI‘I SUNDAY - KAMEHAMEHA ‘ELIMA (V)  
Dec. 8, 9 to 10 a.m.

Ali‘i Sundays are among the many long and honored traditions of Kawaiaha‘o Church. Come join us to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha V (Lot Kapuāiwa), who was born on December 11, 1830. Free. Kawaiaha‘o Church, Honolulu.

WAIPĀ KALO FESTIVAL  
Dec. 8, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Waipā Foundation presents a celebration of everything kalo! The 9th Annual Kalo Festival includes live entertainment, hula, kalo-inspired foods, local artisans and craft vendors, keiki face painting and a waterslide, kōnane, poi pounding, educational booths, Biggest Kalo contest, a recipe contest, a country store and more. All are welcome to this family-friendly event. $5 per Adult (18+), $1 per keiki at the gate. 5-5785 Kūhiō Hwy #A, Hanalei, Kaua‘i.

NĀ ULU KAIW‘ULULA NATIVE HAWAIIAN GARDEN TOUR  
Dec. 8, 2 to 3 p.m.

Learn about Hawai‘i’s native plants, and Bishop Museum’s role in recording and preserving the living history of Hawai‘i, on this guided tour of the ethnobotanical garden. Free with Bishop Museum admission. Honolulu.

LIVING CULTURE WORKSHOP KĀHILI PA‘A LIMA (HAND-HELD KĀHILI)  
Dec. 14, 3 to 6 p.m.

Learn to make a kāhili pa‘a lima (hand-held kāhili) in the traditional style. No prior feather-work experience is necessary. Museum admission and workshop materials are included in the $25 registration fee. Bishop Museum Members receive 10% off registration. Space is limited! Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

MAKAHIKI CHALLENGE (9TH ANNUAL)  
Dec. 14, 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Kualoa Ranch hosts the 9th Annual Makahiki Challenge “Get Lepo” (Get Dirty), the state’s first 5K Obstacle Mud Run. This year, Makahiki Challenge is introducing the new Ho‘oikaika Heat that will put challengers through more physically demanding tasks between obstacles (hill climbs, bear crawls). The Makahiki Challenge is open to anyone age 14+ (minors need parent permission) of any fitness level. Participants can enter as individuals or groups. Registration fees range from $84 - $100. Kualoa, O‘ahu. For more info, visit keikimc.com.

ILLUSTRATED TALK: “FIBER MEMORIES” WITH MARQUES HANALEI MARZAN  
Dec. 18, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

East-West Center Arts Program presents “Fiber Memories.” an illustrated talk presented by Bishop Museum Cultural Advisor Marques Hanalei Marzan. Free. East-West Center Gallery, John A. Burns Hall, 1601 East-West Road, Honolulu.
KA WAI OLA CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Kawena Lei Carvalho-Mattos & Kuualohapauole Lau

Ua maka’ala? Have you been paying attention?

Answers for this crossword puzzle can be found through out the pages of this issue of Ka Wai Ola. Please do not include any spaces, special characters, or diacriticals (‘okina and kahakō) in your answers.

ACROSS
4 Hawai‘i Tourism Authority’s program for funding 43 programs in 2020.
8 Place of birth for OHA CEO.
9 Founder of Partners in Development.
11 The lifeline for feeding kalo.
14 Flavor that launched 808Cheesecake.
15 Husband and wife-owned clothing store in Hilo.
17 Kaua‘i farmers grow _____% of the kalo that ends up in our homes.
19 Diagnosable condition for those who experience trauma.
20 Street in Kalii used as a dump for mechanical or construction waste.
22 Purple dessert made by Uncle Lani.
23 Fish species that eat trash off the Kona coast.
24 Northern Kaua‘i kalo farming community.
25 Month in 2018 that brought flooding to Kaua‘i’s northshore.
26 Family featured on the cover.
28 Hawaiian word for thoughtfulness.
29 The moon on December 25th.

DOWN
1 Fish species killed by the hundreds in Wailuku River.
2 DHHL pilot project for subsistence agricultural lots.
3 Island _____ Council.
4 A thin and crispy shareable snack.
5 Hawaiian word for December.
6 President of East Hawai‘i HI HOPES Youth Leadership Board.
7 Recent reports of _____ that are ruining Hawai‘i’s sea life, reefs and fishing grounds.
10 Wailuku retail store that showcases local artisans and creatives who strive to protect and evolve culture.
12 East O‘ahu location for Native Hawaiian pop-up mākeke.
13 Hawaiian word for Christmas.
15 Husband and wife-owned clothing store in Hilo.
18 Native Hawaiian small business owner based in Maui.
21 OHA _____ Loans.
27 Adopted daughter of Jon and Mary Osorio.

NOWEMAPA CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

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Validated parking at Pacific Park Plaza parking structure on Curtis Street

Funded by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and U.S. Defense Logistics Agency.
OHA seeks nominations to the Island Burial Councils

By Office of Hawaiian Affairs Staff

OHA is seeking applicants for nomination to the Island Burial Councils. The deadline to submit applications for immediate nomination is December 16, 2019. OHA will consider late applications on a rolling basis.

OHA is currently focusing on filling critical vacancies on the councils so that they may uphold their important kuleana of protecting iwi and wahi kūpuna. OHA seeks candidates for every regional representative seat who have a passion for historic preservation and are willing to ‘auamo this kuleana.

If you are interested in applying for a nomination to your Island Burial Council, please visit www.oha.org/burialcouncils. If you have any questions, please email kamailem@oha.org.

EMPLOYMENT WITH OHA

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- Administrative Assistant - Public Policy
- Commercial Property Manager
- Compliance Officer
- Digital Media Specialist
- Facilities Manager
- Intake and Referral Specialist
- Procurement Specialist SR-20
- Procurement Specialist SR-24
- Public Policy Advocate III
- Public Policy Advocate IV
- Special Projects Research Analyst

For details about these positions and other positions available, please visit www.oha.org/jobs.

BURIAL NOTICE: ‘O’OMA 2ND AHUPUA’A, NORTH KONA DISTRICT, ISLAND OF HAWAI‘I

All persons having information concerning unmarked burials on TMK: (3) 7-4-007:036 and (3) 7-3-009:007 in ‘O’oma 2nd Ahupua’a, North Kona District, Island of Hawai’i are hereby requested to contact Ms. Lokelani Brandt, ASM Affiliates, Inc. (808) 969-6066, 507A E. Lanikaula St., Hilo, HI 96720, and/or Mr. Kea Calpito, DLNR-SHPD Burial Sites Program (808) 933-7653, 40 Po’okela St., Hilo, HI 96720.

Names historically associated with the general area include: Kahelekahi, Kamehau, Kaakau, Kuluaki, Kinoulu, Kainuku, Broad, Paiwa, and Holokahiaki.

Appropriate treatment of the remains will occur in accordance with HRS, Chapter 6E, respective to this burial site. The landowner intends to preserve the burial in place, following the preparation of a Burial Treatment Plan in consultation with any identified descendants and with the approval of the Hawai’i Island Burial Council. All interested parties should respond within thirty (30) days of this notice and provide information to DLNR-SHPD adequately demonstrating lineal descent from these specific Native Hawaiian remains, or cultural descent from ancestors once residing or buried in the same ahupua’a or moku.

KEALAKEHE AHUPUA’A, NORTH KONA DISTRICT, ISLAND OF HAWAI‘I.

ASM Affiliates is preparing a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) for the proposed Kealakehe Regional Park development on TMK: (3) 7-4-020:007 located in Kealakehe Ahupua’a, North Kona District, Island of Hawai’i. We are seeking consultation with any community members that might have knowledge of traditional cultural uses of the proposed project area; or who are involved in any ongoing cultural practices that may be occurring on or in the general vicinity of the subject properties, which may be impacted by the proposed project. If you have and can share any such information please contact Lokelani Brandt, lbrandt@asmaffiliates.com, phone (808) 969-6066, mailing address ASM Affiliates 507A E. Lanikaula Street, Hilo, HI 96720.

HÔLUALOA

Information requested by Scientific Consultant Services, Inc. of past and ongoing cultural practices on 76.122 acres of land in Hōlualoa 1st Ahupua’a, North Kona District, Island of Hawai’i, TMK: (3) 7-6-021:016, 017, 018 and 019. Please respond within 30 days to Glenn Escott at (808) 938-0968 or at ggescott@yahoo.com.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTRUCTION (DODI) 4710.03: CONSULTATION WITH NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS (UPDATE PLANNED)

The Department of Defense (DoD) is in the beginning stages of updating its consultation policy titled, Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4710.03: Consultation With Native Hawaiian Organizations, by October 2021.

DoD looks forward to hearing ideas from Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) about how the Department can improve this consultation policy and help ensure pre-decisional, meaningful, and respectful consultation with the Native Hawaiian community.

DoD invites all NHOs to submit written comments about the policy. The current DoD policy is available to download at www.denix.osd.mil/na/Hawaii. Please submit comments to DoD_NativeAffairs@keresnm.com by January 31, 2020.

WATER CONSERVATION NOTICE ISSUED FOR KALAPANA

Due to unexpected equipment failure, a water conservation notice is issued for all Department of Water Supply customers in Kalapana until further notice. DWS is currently hauling drinking water to meet customers’ water needs. Updates will be issued as necessary and may be viewed at www.hawaiidws.org.

Water Conservation calls for a voluntary 10% usage by washing only full loads of laundry/dishes, checking faucets/pipes for leaks, reducing showering times and not letting water run when washing hands, etc. Additional ways to conserve water can be found at www.hawaiidws.org.

All Kalapana-area agricultural customers should limit water use for dust control and irrigate only at night or during non-peak hours of 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. The Department of Water Supply thanks affected customers for their patience and understanding. For more information, please call 961-8790.

E KALA MAI

NOVEMBER 2019 ISSUE – On page 3 it states “...the Reverend Richard Williams, a stalwart friend to the kingdom...”. Correction: Reverend William Richards.
OHA Board Actions

The following actions were taken by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees, and are summarized here. For more information on board actions, please see the complete meeting minutes posted online at http://www.oha.org/BOT.

### August 22, 2019

**Motion to move to approve:**
Trustee Kalei Akaka moves to approve Ms. Liane Khim and Mr. Alvin Tanaka, both as Island of O'ahu representatives, on the NHRLF Board of Directors.
Trustee Dan Ahuna seconds the motion.

Motion passes with six AYES and three excused

**Motion to move to approve:**
Trustee Kalei Akaka moves to approve Administration’s recommendations on:
- OHA FED 4: S. 126 / H.R. 558;
- OHA FED 5: S. 1413 / H.R. 3588;
- OHA FED 6: S. 2165 / H.R. 3846;
- OHA FED 7: S. 2191; and
- OHA FED 8: S. 2037; all as SUPPORT, while excluding OHA FED 3: S. 804 / H.R. 1806 from the vote, on the Federal Legislative Matrix dated 08/21/19.
Trustee Dan Ahuna seconds the motion.

Motion passes with six AYES and three excused

**Motion to move to approve:**
Trustee Dan Ahuna moves to approve of a Board of Trustees (BOT) Policy Second Amendment to the Kaka'ako Makai Policy, Section 3.A.2, originally adopted on September 20, 2012, and amended on August 1, 2017, to state: Allocate 20% of gross revenue for grants and 50% of net revenue for OHA Legacy Land Program (net revenue equals gross revenue minus direct operating expenses, excluding Kaka'ako Makai planning and development-related costs) (*The 50% allocation of net revenues to LLP shall terminate at the end of FY 2021*)
Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey seconds the motion.

Motion passes with six AYES and three excused

**Motion to move to approve:**
Trustee Dan Ahuna moves to
1) Approve the selection of the Habitat for Humanity Maui organization to distribute the previously approved $35,000 of emergency disaster relief for Kaua'ula Maui; and
2) Authorize and approve the transfer and use of funds available in OHA’s FY20 Core Operating Budget and needs to be reallocated from Program 2100-CEO, Object Code 57110-Fee for Service to Program 3800-Grants, Object Code 56530-Grants in Aid.
Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey seconds the vote.

Motion passes with seven AYES and two excused

**Motion to move to approve:**
Trustee Dan Ahuna moves to approve Administrations’ recommendations to the Board of Trustees (BOT):
1) Approve the new Fiscal Stabilization Policy, including Withdrawal Guidelines as detailed in Attachment A; and
2) Eliminate the Fiscal Reserve Withdrawal Guidelines contained within the Native Hawaiian Trust Fund Spending Policy as detailed in Attachment B.
Trustee John Waihe'e IV seconds the motion.

Motion passes with eight AYES and one excused

### September 5, 2019

**Motion to move to approve:**
Trustee Dan Ahuna moves to approve of a Board of Trustees (BOT) Policy Second Amendment to the Kaka'ako Makai Policy, Section 3.A.2, originally adopted on September 20, 2012, and amended on August 1, 2017, to state: Allocate 20% of gross revenue for grants and 50% of net revenue for OHA Legacy Land Program (net revenue equals gross revenue minus direct operating expenses, excluding Kaka'ako Makai planning and development-related costs) (*The 50% allocation of net revenues to LLP shall terminate at the end of FY 2021*)
Trustee John Waihe'e IV seconds the motion.

Motion passes with seven AYES and two excused

**Motion to move to approve:**
Trustee Dan Ahuna moves to approve the amendments to the Native Hawaiian Trust Fund Investment Policy Statement as described in Exhibit A.
Trustee John Waihe'e IV seconds the motion.

Motion passes with seven AYES and two excused

**Motion to move to approve:**
Trustee Dan Ahuna moves to approve Administrations’ recommendations to the Board of Trustees (BOT): 1) Approve the new Fiscal Stabilization Policy, including Withdrawal Guidelines as detailed in Attachment A; and 2) Eliminate the Fiscal Reserve Withdrawal Guidelines contained within the Native Hawaiian Trust Fund Spending Policy as detailed in Attachment B.
Trustee John Waihe'e IV seconds the motion.

Motion passes with eight AYES and one excused
Remembering a remarkable Hawaiian and true Kahu Mālama ‘Āina

OHA honored the late Larry Kamakawiwo’ole with a resolution, excerpted below:

WHEREAS, Lawrence “Larry” Kamakawiwo’ole was born in May 1943 in Honolulu, O‘ahu, to William Kamakawiwo’ole, a bus instructor and dispatcher for the Honolulu Rapid Transit Company, and Wonenah Kamakawiwo’ole, a substitute elementary teacher; and

WHEREAS, Larry Kamakawiwo’ole’s voice earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Hawai‘i; master’s degrees from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, and the University of Hawai‘i; and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kamakawiwo’ole had a long and distinguished professional career, serving as the first full-time director of the Ethnic Studies Program at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, a deputy prosecutor for the City and County of Honolulu, and a special deputy attorney general to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kamakawiwo’ole played an indispensable role in the Hawaiian Renaissance, an unprecedented political movement of environmental consciousness and appreciation for native culture and language; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from Berkeley in the 1970s, he employed the community organizing skills he learned in graduate school to protest Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate’s evictions of residents and farmers in Kalama Valley, a seminal land struggle that would help to launch the Hawaiian Renaissance and spark two decades of Hawaiian political activism and cultural renewal; and

WHEREAS, he was a founding organizer and spokesperson for Kōkua Kalama Valley and later Kōkua Hawai‘i, which sought to keep special Hawaiian communities intact and uphold basic human rights in housing for the poor and disenfranchised; and

WHEREAS, he and the other leaders and organizers of Kōkua Hawai‘i broadened the conversation on human rights and housing to include the planned evictions of several other communities in Hawai‘i, such as Ota Camp, Wai‘ahole-Waikane, He‘eia Kea, Waimānalo, Chinatown, Hālawa Housing and “Census Tract 57” in Kalākī; and

WHEREAS, these leaders established a legacy of peaceful protest and civil disobedience that reshaped Hawai‘i’s laws to recognize the rights of the disenfranchised, including Native Hawaiians, immigrants, and the poor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kamakawiwo’ole’s tireless work also helped to lay the foundation for the 1978 Constitutional Convention, the state Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, among other institutions, that continue to uphold his vision of social justice for Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, with the recent passing on October 9, 2019, of Mr. Lawrence “Larry” Kamakawiwo’ole, Hawai‘i has lost a leader and community advocate who helped to shape the future of Hawai‘i and the social fabric of our islands.[]

Resolved clauses have been omitted for length.

OHA presented this resolution to Larry’s family on November 21, 2019, and recognized an extraordinary advocate who dedicated himself to protecting the poor and disenfranchised. The resolution also expresses aloha for leaders of Kōkua Hawai‘i and community organizers for their pivotal work for disenfranchised cultures and communities in Hawai‘i and the Pacific.
Kapu Aloha: A Code of Ethics and Principles

With so much in the news about Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics, here is a brief discussion for thought...

A code of ethics and code of conduct are two separate documents, the first of which addresses and teaches employees how to use those standards in their day-to-day workplace action.

A code of ethics is a business document outlining professional standards expected of all company workers and representatives. Although it often addresses internal conduct, it primarily centers on what is expected of employees when engaged in customer-centric activities. It establishes standards by which business representatives are held accountable.

Every business should have a workable code of ethics to adhere to that helps in the daily life of that business. A code of ethics outlines acceptable behavior expected from employees—whether it is in relationships to each other or in their relationships with others.

A code of ethics should spell out what is expected of employees clearly, so that there is no question as to the organization or business’ reputation. Learn how to create a code of ethics for your workplace.

Advocacy as a Code of Conduct...

Some advocacy groups and coalitions have developed codes of conduct that essentially enact their sustained attack on a corporation or government entity that employ a wide range of tactics trying to force more socially responsible behavior. They are a primary means of mobilizing activists for coordinated warfare against the targeted organization or corporation. The organizers of an advocacy campaign is to pressure by depicting it to its stakeholders as engaging in antisocial behavior to make a profit while presenting themselves as “kū kia‘i” protectors or crusaders for the public interest sometimes cultural, sometimes historical, sometimes traditional.

When activists attack corporations, there is a huge imbalance of power. A large corporation has enormous financial resources, strong influence in government bodies, and frequently a trusted ‘brand’ name. Activists have little financing, slight political influence, and low public recognition.

However, they have one key source of strength: the tendency of the public to perceive an environmental, religious, or indigenous rights group as selfless and out to do something in the interest for ALL, and...to do what is right. Using this perception, activists seize the ethical high ground and engage the corporation with an assault that might be likened to a kind of warfare because the action sometimes stretches or breaks the bonds of civil society.

For example, a few years ago, there were more than 600 demonstrations outside Home Depot outlets. Inside, activists prowled the aisles and put stickers on products made from old-growth wood for over two years. The pressure which escalated over two years, led Home Depot to announce that they would no longer purchase wood that was Not Certified.

The Advocacy group was composed of thinkers who illuminated the social costs of industrialization, expressing their concern with the PEN rather than the Sword of Activism.

They believe in Protection of human rights, cultural and traditional rights, the restraint of corporate power, and the solution of social problems through government action!

As with Kapu Aloha, we ask Ke Akua for guidance as we seize the ethical higher ground!

Mele Kalikimaka and a Hau‘oli Makahiki Hou!!!

A hui hou,
Trustee Leina‘ala
OHA Policy Should Not Discourage Trustees from Speaking Out

On November 12, the editors of the Honolulu Star-Advertiser urged OHA to scrap its “one voice” policy. What the editors are referring to is OHA’s flawed Trustee Code of Conduct policy, in which individual trustees are prohibited from speaking out in disagreement with a position once it is adopted by the Board. If a Trustee were to do so, that Trustee would risk being disciplined by the Board.

Such a policy could have a chilling effect by silencing OHA Trustees who may disagree with the majority, for fear of retaliation or backlash. But, like state legislators, OHA trustees are public officials, elected with the duty to speak up for what they believe is right, even when that means disagreeing with the majority.

In 2016, nearly 164,000 voters elected me to represent them in office. They voted for me because I promised to work hard to reform OHA and to make it more transparent and accountable. I also promised them I would fight for an independent audit of OHA for fraud, waste and abuse.

While I am pleased to report much success in pursuing these goals at OHA, there has been significant opposition to my efforts. For example, I am on record saying that the independent audit for fraud, waste and abuse has taken far too long to complete. Some have apparently felt these or other comments of mine demonstrate “disloyalty” to the Board.

As a result, an OHA committee, formed to investigate complaints made against me under the flawed Trustee Code of Conduct, issued a one-paragraph report on November 7. Not only did the investigative committee meet behind closed doors, but it never provided me an opportunity to address the complaints before making its report public. The report also failed to state what I had said that was supposedly untrue. Instead, the committee publicly reported I had made “misleading and untrue statements with regard to the CLA audit,” without ever having interviewed me or allowed me to present any defense. Then the committee declared the matter “closed.”

As to taking any official action, the committee conceded OHA had “no recourse” to discipline me. In other words, the committee went through a process in which it knows it can take no action against me but used the occasion to publicly accuse me of wrongdoing.

I believe my reputation has been maligned by this unjust, one-sided process, and that may hinder the performance of my public duties. But the bigger issue is that OHA and its beneficiaries have been harmed. At the least, the OHA Board should reject its committee’s accusation that I made misleading and untrue statements and issue a public apology. Beyond that, the board needs to take the advice of journalists and legal experts and scrap its ‘one voice’ policy.

To serve its beneficiaries, OHA must allow Trustees to speak up without fear of reprisal for what they believe is in the best interests of beneficiaries. That is a fiduciary duty far more important than agreeing with the majority on every issue. In a democracy, and, therefore, on our state elected boards, we must allow for the competition of ideas, so that the best ideas rise to the top. Thus, unjust policies must not be used to intimidate government officials such as OHA Trustees.

It’s like the story of the little boy who declared, “The emperor has no clothes!” He was right, and everyone knew it… but they were afraid to speak out.

E Hana Kākou!/ Let’s work together!

Trustee Akina welcomes your comments and feedback at TrusteeAkina@oha.org
Mele Kalikimaka a Hau‘oli Makahiki Hou!

With the hype of the newest items, the signs plastering deals over every store wall, and eager employees with Santa hats who are there to greet you before you walk through the door, it is so easy for material items to be the highlight of the holiday season. I look favorably upon the holiday season, reminiscing about the childhood feeling of innocence and wonder that usually accompanies this time of the year.

I think back to my childhood in Waimea where the Christmas festivities brought our ‘ohana together. My Mama and Papa would prepare an ‘ono holiday lū‘au with no shortage of mouthwatering goods, including raw ‘a‘ama, ‘ake, ‘opipi, limu, poke with ‘inamona, and pālakū. The massive Parker Ranch Christmas tree would be draped with old-fashioned, multi-colored bubble lights with an over-sized gold and silver angel hanging precariously on the top branch of the tree. Every child of every Parker Ranch employee received a gift underneath the sizable tree. I remember anxiously waiting for my name to be called so that I could pick out a brightly wrapped present from underneath the great tree. In the background, I recall ‘ukulele and guitar uniting the family into impromptu kanikapila sessions. To conclude Christmas night, our ‘ohana would go house to house in Waimea serenading with Christmas carols until midnight. Our music would awaken people from their beds and bring them to the door to join us.

I have learned that the Christmas season should be approached with the spirit of giving. The holidays and Christmas are a time about finding something spiritual and wonderful about ourselves, our ‘ohana who fill it and make it special, our ‘āina that continues to provide for kānaka, and our kūpuna, who guide us through both the triumphant and tumultuous times. Christmas is the time of spreading joy. Joy springs from the heart in the act of caring, compassion and kindness, creating a sense of purpose in giving one’s self to others. Joy is enduring and gives us a deep sense of well-being and relationship with others and the world around us.

This holiday season I am looking forward to the giggles heard from my mo’opuna meeting Santa, the extra-tight hugs from ‘ohana, and the warm feeling I get when I look around the room at holiday parties and realize how important my friends and ‘ohana are to me.

I am all for giving and all for blessing someone during this time of the year, but this year I am going to put some extra focus on the laughs, the memories, and the experiences that come out of this time of year. The real secret of the holidays is that the love and joy of the season is about the aloha we choose to share with one another. We can do more than seek the pleasures of comfort and happiness of the gifts we may receive. We can shift our focus to the holidays season from material possessions to meaning. After all, it is a wonderful life when we give and celebrate the joy of Christmas with each other.

Mele Kalikimaka a Hau‘oli Makahiki Hou!

Reflections of 2019

Aloha kākou!

As 2019 comes to a close, we would like to mahalo all those who have assisted OHA in moving forward to accomplish its goals and fulfill its strategic plan. A new strategic plan is upon us. We are excited about what a new day and a new plan can bring to OHA and our people.

We want to mahalo Dr. Kamana‘opono Crabbe and our administration for the work done under his tenure. We have selected a new CEO, Dr. Sylvia Hussey. We are looking forward to all the things to be done through our administration under her tenure.

For Hawai‘i mokupuni, we have challenges that we cannot ignore. Maunakea is one issue. We also have unexploded ordinance issues in certain areas of our mokupuni that hinders development of lots for our beneficiaries on Hawaiian Home Lands. We have water issues from Waimea to Kawaihais and all the way down the coast to Ka‘ū. We continue to work towards alternative energy goals on our island. La‘i ‘Opua 2020 in Kona is moving along and there is hope that different funding mechanisms can be found to continue the work until it is completely realized in its entirety. Maku‘u Farmers are moving forward undeterred in their quest to build their community center. Waimea Nui is still moving. As roadblocks pop up in these projects and many others on Moku o Keawe, we must persist until we “loa’a ka lei o ka lanakila,” until we grasp the lei of victory. We have come a long way, but we have “...miles to go before [we] sleep,” wrote Robert Frost.

Our people are a thankful people. We are appreciative of all the richness life can bring us. Many times, the richness is not valued by “kālā,” but rather by “aloha.” Aloha for one another and for others in our community and beyond. Naysayers may say that our people have not shown aloha as of late due to raised tension regarding different land issues throughout our pae ‘āina. We say our people are expressing aloha for our ‘āina. By sharing kuleana to mālama our ‘āina, all who call Hawai‘i home can participate in ensuring that we have enough resources for all of us into the future.

As proof of this, you can ask recent attendees of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Convention. In Ka‘anapali, Maui, in November, resolutions were debated in committee and on the convention floor. Convention delegates debated issues passionately. They were able to vote civilly and then move forward. This is a great example that shows our people can passionately debate, passionately disagree, passionately vote… and then pā‘ina to bring everyone back to center and holo mua with aloha.

During this Holiday Season, may we all share one with another what we are thankful for and share hope with our neighbors in our community for the future. May we “mālama ke kahi i ke kahi a aloha ke kahi i ke kahi.” “O ke aloha ka ‘i o a’e...” love is the highest of all values. “Aloha” is the present we have to share throughout the world. At a time when our lāhui is rising, “Aloha and Mele Kalikimaka!”

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KALEUA LAND HOLDERS

THE KULEANA LAND TAX ordinances in the City and County of Honolulu, County of Hawaii, County of Kauai and County of Maui allow eligible owners to pay minimal property taxes each year. Applications are due on each county's web site.

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. Send your information by mail, or e-mail kwo@OHA.org.

For more information on the Kuleana Tax Ordinance or for genealogy verification requests, please contact 808.594.1967 or email kuleanasurvey@oha.org.

All personal data, such as names, locations and descriptions of Kuleana Lands will be kept secure and used solely for the purposes of this attempt to perpetuate Kuleana rights and possession.
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