

Westside Stories

"The Pride of the Westside"

A community newspaper by and for residents of the Leeward Coast of O'ahu, Hawai'i
Direct mailed to over 15,400 residences in the areas of Nānākuli, Mā'ili, Wai'anae, Mākaha and Mākua

MAY 2025
Volume 28, Number 5

WIS' Kaziah Chloe Bacor to Represent Hawai'i at DtWT Summit in DC

Submitted by John Wataoka and
Nicole Kurata

With a powerful essay entitled "Why violence?," eighth-grade student Keziah Chloe Bacor from Wai'anae Intermediate School (WIS) has earned the right to represent Hawai'i at the National "Do the Write Thing" (DtWT) Summit in

Washington, D.C. this summer.

Students in Mrs. Nicole Kurata's Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) class at WIS participated in the national writing competition DtWT, which gives students a voice in dealing with the challenges of violence within their homes and/or community and allows them to be agents of change.

The DtWT program, a national initiative, empowers middle school students to become catalysts for positive transformation by delving into the complex origins and far-reaching consequences of youth violence. Through introspective writing, guided by three fundamental questions: What fuels youth violence? How has violence touched your life? What actions can you take to mitigate it? Students are encouraged to critically examine their experiences and envision solutions.

Keziah's selection underscored the profound impact of her reflections on these critical questions. Her essay not only articulated the causes and personal impact of violence, but also offered a compelling vision for change. Mrs.



Mrs. Kurata, Asdyn Lima-Po, 2025 Student Ambassador Keziah Chloe Bacor and Keali'iokekai Hezekia-Demotto-Lum. Photo by HI DOE Communications Branch

Kurata stated, "Keziah is a very intelligent, quiet student and this competition allowed her to express herself in a meaningful way and is so deserving of this award."

As Hawai'i's first student ambassador for this vital program, Keziah will travel to Washington, D.C., in July. There, on a national platform, she will share her insightful perspective and

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MOTHER'S DAY
SUNDAY, MAY 11TH



MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY, MAY 26TH



SCHOOL GRADUATIONS
SEE CALENDAR PAGE 11

Presorted
Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO. 169

Scrappahz Union 96792 Wins Second Place at HIFF

Submitted by Kumu Michelle Pieper

Congratulations to the Scrappahz Union 96792 as they earned second place and took home \$1,150 at the Hawai'i International Film Festival's HIFF 'Ōpio Future Filmmaker's Division.

In today's digital world, the ability to tell your story through video is more than a skill — it's a powerful tool for expression, empowerment and economic opportunity. The youth in the Nānākuli valley are rich in stories of strength, resilience and aloha, but without access to basic media training or equipment, they are left voiceless in a world where storytelling is like currency. While Wai'anae High has Searider Productions, Nānākuli High and Intermediate School (NHIS) currently has no such program or class offerings. That absence places all of the Nānākuli youth at a disadvantage as they transition into higher education or the workforce.

Content creation is one of the fastest-growing fields today, with platforms



Scrappahz Union 96792 11th grade students Khiara Kaleiwahea, Jeremiah Magallones, Kumu Pieper and Keara Kilakalua-Aguiar

like YouTube, TikTok and Instagram creating viable career pathways. But these are only accessible if NHIS students have a foundational understanding of storytelling, editing software, lighting and audio. In addition, there is also a growing demand for Native and Indigenous filmmakers to tell their stories

— from their perspective — with cultural integrity and authenticity. If we don't train our haumāna to take on these roles, others will tell "our" stories for us. It is hoped with this great win, we can showcase what our students can accomplish and begin to build a digital program for NHIS.



From the Publisher

By Steve Olbrich

May 1 is “May Day Is Lei Day in Hawai‘i.” Make sure you make a lei, wear a lei and share a lei! It’s so nice to see that so many schools and organizations have brought back their May Day programs again.

This year’s legislative sessions will end on May 2 with several bills that affect our Westside awaiting the Governor’s signature. Visit www.capitol.hawaii.gov for more information.

The April 2 tragedy which occurred on Farrington Highway reminded us, (as well as the various improvements/utility works that require lane closures), we really need to keep pushing for a true mauka highway that is open 24/7 for all of our entire Westside. Opening the “bypass” roads and possible reopening of Kolekole Pass will help some folks

but we must find a true alternative to Farrington Highway. This will require federal, state, city & county representatives/officials and community members to “roll up their sleeves” and give us the relief we all deserve!

Congratulations to Nānākuli High & Intermediate School and Wai‘anae High School’s Girls Flag Football Teams on their very successful first season! As we were going to press, both teams were number 1 and 2 seeds respectively and headed to state championships. Let’s hope they do well and bring home the big win for our Westside!

Mother’s Day is on May 11. To all you mothers, grandmothers, aunts and older sisters who make a difference in a keiki’s life — mahalo for all you have done and continue to do. Mothers

Women’s Fellowship Night at Wai‘anae United Methodist Church

Meets 6 pm on the first Friday of each month. Gather with other women for an evening of connection, encouragement and faith at Wai‘anae United Methodist Church at 85-671 Farrington Hwy.

Come enjoy a welcoming space for fellowship and friendship. Bring a

friend and be part of a supportive community!

RSVP to Myrra Dunnick at 808-696-2753 phone or text 541-619-3342

For any questions or for more information please email Pastor Olivia Latu at latuolivia@yahoo.com

are incredibly special people, so make sure you send a card, flowers or visit with your mom and treat her to something special!

Believe it or not, graduation season is about to begin for our local high schools. Kamaile Academy PCS will hold their ceremony on May 22 beginning at 6 pm. Wai‘anae High’s graduation ceremony is on May 23 beginning at 6 pm and Nānākuli High & Intermediate School’s ceremony is on May 24 beginning at 5 pm. All ceremonies will be held at their school’s field. The last day of school for the Westside public school students is May 30.

The 2025 Summer Fun Program will be offered on weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. from June 9 through July 25 (not including the holidays on June 11 and July 4). Children must be six years old before August 1, 2025, and not older than 13 years old by July 25, 2025, to take part in the program. To enroll your child, you must register online on May 14 beginning at 5 pm at <https://pros2.hnl.info> For those without access to a computer or internet, please call the Summer Fun Site where you wish to sign-up to coordinate registration.

Memorial Day is on May 26. The annual Shinnyo Lantern Floating Hawaii ceremony will be held the same day at Ala Moana Beach Park starting at 6:30 pm. This year’s ceremony will be dedicated to the late Pope Francis. If you wish to have your loved one re-

Florence Ward Celebrates 104



Florence Ward, a Mākaha Valley Tower resident, member of Women of Wai‘anae, parishioner of Sacred Heart Church and a Wai‘anae AARP member celebrated her 104th birthday on April 13. Happy Birthday Flo! Submitted by Marybeth Ward

membered, and don’t want to fight the crowds that day, you may submit your remembrances to lanternfloatinghawaii.com/remembrances by May 25, and it will be printed and floated on a Collective Remembrance Lantern. The ceremony will be televised on May 26 on KHON2 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm or online on their YouTube channel.

We will be updating our “What’s Up” on the Westside community calendar page. If you want your club, community group or civic organizations listing to remain, please send us an e-mail us at wss@hawaii.rr.com by May 31 or it will be removed. Mahalo.

PROUD MEMBER OF THE WAIANAE COAST ROTARY CLUB



Rego & Nakoa
Attorneys at Law
A Law Corporation



Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 11, 2025

"My mother was my role model before I even knew what that word was." - Lisa Leslie

Memorial Day

Monday, May 26, 2025

WE REMEMBER AND SALUTE THOSE WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE FOR OUR FREEDOM

<p>Workers' Compensation Serving All Islands in Hawai'i</p> <p>Automobile & Personal Injury Automobile & Personal Injury Handling Your Claim against Insurance Companies</p> <p>Family Law We can assist you with Adoptions, Guardianship, and Premarital Agreements. Other Matters will also be considered</p>	<p>Estate Planning Estate Planning Wills, Trusts, Probate and Estate Planning</p> <p>Business Business formations, contracts, litigation & more</p> <p>Real Estate Law We can represent clients in real estate transactions for commercial and residential buy & sell agreements, entity formation, and leasing transactions</p>
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Free Consultation by Telephone

<p>Wai‘anae Office 85-833 Farrington Hwy. Wai‘anae, Hawai‘i 96792 808-696-7061</p>	<p>Honolulu Office (Diamond Head Tower) 500 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 400 Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813 808-545-7061</p>
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Email: lawyers@regonakoalaw.com | Web: regonakoalaw.com
APPOINTMENTS BY TELEPHONE, ZOOM OR IN PERSON

Niele??

Last month’s question was, “I keep hearing about a YMCA facility here in Wai‘anae but have no idea where it is and what type of programs they offer. Can you give me some information about this?”

The Wai‘anae YMCA is located at 86-71 Leihōkū St (behind the sewer treatment plant) and offers programs for all ages keiki to kupuna. You can contact Deborah at 808-295-0693 or visit their

website at ymcahonolulu.org/Waianae-coast-y for a list of their current activities.

This month’s nīele question is, “Are there any swimming/sailing programs being offered on our Westside this summer? I have heard the closest swimming classes are at KROC Center in Kapolei.

If you know the answer or want to ask a nīele question, e-mail us at wss@hawaii.rr.com and we’ll try to feature in an upcoming issue.

Contributors to this Month’s Issue:

Joshua Arant, Devon Bedoya, Kelsey Domingo, Sally Ford, Haysten Jesus, Linda Jury, Denice Keliikoa, Nicole Kurata, Sheryl Lynch, Lisa Meachum, Michelle Pieper, Ian Ross, Marybeth Ward, John Wataoka

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed to their community newspaper and we invite everyone to do the same.

Next issue: June 2025 • Story & Advertising Deadline: May 10, 2025



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Direct mailed to over 15,400 residences in the areas of Nānākuli, Mā‘ili, Wai‘anae, Mākaha and Mākua
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WCCHC Names its First Mobile Dental Clinic “Kukui O Kaniela”



Dr. Dan Fujii (far left) poses with WCCHC Dental Department Staff.

Submitted by Ian Ross

On March 27, the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) held a blessing ceremony to unveil a major milestone — the launch of their very first Mobile Dental Clinic. This initiative reflects years of vision and persistence to expand access to high-quality oral healthcare for our keiki and underserved communities across the West O’ahu region.

In a moving moment during the ceremony, WCCHC honored the legacy of Dr. Dan Fujii, retired Dental Director who built the foundation of their dental department, by naming the Mobile Clinic in his honor: Kukui O Kaniela, or “The Light of Dan.”

The Mobile Dental Clinic is more than just a van — it’s a fully equipped dental facility on wheels, capable of

delivering dental exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, X-rays, and minor restorative services right where they’re needed most. The new mobile unit is made possible through a \$400,000 grant from the Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) Foundation, which partnered with WCCHC to expand access to oral healthcare in underserved areas. The HDS Foundation is a leading dental benefits provider serving Hawai‘i, Guam and Saipan. Starting March 31, the mobile dental clinic expanded existing WCCHC dental outreach and services and will continue visiting every elementary school on the Wai‘anae Coast as well as HCAP Head Start preschools in West O’ahu.

This mobile van joins a growing list of investments in oral health by WCCHC, including the recent expansion of the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Dental Clinic.

Congratulations Class of '25 Graduates!

Have you ever considered a career in Real Estate?

Contact our management
team for more information

Sylvia “Elsie” Foster,
R, C2EX, CRB, CRS,
e-PRO, GRI, SFRI
President, Broker-in-
Charge, & Sales Agent
(808) 864-1970
License # RB-15721



Aileen L. Acosta, R
Vice President &
Principal Broker
(808) 696-0774
License # RB-21553



Shawntae U. Ellis, R
Broker-in-Charge
& Sales Agent
(808) 216-8028
License # RB-23739

FOR SALE:

84-215 Ala Naauao Pl. • 3 Bd/2 Ba \$730,000 (FS) • MLS #202506445



Seller is now offering a \$10,000 CREDIT for buyers to use towards closing costs or lowering their interest rate! Bring your best offer! This 3-bed, 2-bath gem is just a short distance to Mākaha Elementary School, beautiful beaches, and it offers the perfect blend of comfort and efficiency. Enjoy an open-concept kitchen with a spacious island, ideal for entertaining. Stay cool year-round with split a.c. units and tinted windows while saving on energy costs with an efficient photovoltaic system and solar water heater. The recently recoated roof adds extra durability. Step outside to a secure tropical oasis surrounded by lush palm trees, guava, papaya, and dragon fruit. The spacious garage provides ample storage and parking. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to own a slice of paradise!

96792 Proud!



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\$750
towards your
debt

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By participating in the Debt Relief Program, individuals and families will gain knowledge in:

- ✓ Establishing an emergency Fund
- ✓ Creating a spending plan
- ✓ Maximizing income
- ✓ Reducing Debt
- ✓ Building and repairing credit

Who Can Apply?

- Must be a resident of West O‘ahu
- Income must fall within the ALICE Income Range

For more info
(808) 693-7222
hoouluwaiwai@inpeace.org

INPEACE Hō‘oulu Waiwai is supported by the Alice Initiative Cohort through Aloha United Way and Hawaii Community Foundation; USDOE Native Hawaiian Education Act in collaboration with Partners in Development Foundation and Kaiser Foundation.

Save the Date

July 12, 2025
9:30am - 3:30pm

Financial Wellness Conference
For eligible Debt Relief Program
Cohort participants

Also be sure to check
out our
**Summer
Workshops:**

FINANCIAL KAI SERIES
06/04
12:30PM - 2:00PM
Virtual - Zoom

E ‘ŌPŪ ALPI SERIES
06/11, 06/25 5:00PM - 6:30PM
7/8 10:00AM - 11:30AM
Virtual - Zoom

**FINANCIAL GOAL
SETTING**
06/19
4:30PM - 6:00PM
Virtual - Zoom

**PAYING FOR CHILDCARE
AND PRESCHOOL**
07/17
11:00AM-12:30PM
Virtual - Zoom

‘IMI ‘ŌIHANA SERIES
07/23 Virtual - Zoom
07/30 In-Person - Community
Learning Center at Mā‘Ōi
5:00PM - 6:30PM

Register for workshops
at inpeace.org/events



Legislatively Speaking



**Representative
Darius
Kila**

House District 44
Mā'ili, Nānākuli,
Honokai Hale

When the Lights Go Out: What to Do and Why It Matters

If you've ever been stuck in traffic on Farrington Highway during a power outage, you already know how chaotic it gets when traffic lights go dark. In-

tersections become confusing, tempers flare and safety takes a hit. One of the most frequent questions I get is: "Why doesn't anyone come to direct traffic when this happens?"

Here's the answer I've received directly from Honolulu Police Department (HPD) — they dispatch officers based on 911 calls. That means if the public doesn't report an outage, HPD may not be aware of it — or may not prioritize it if there are more urgent calls coming in.

It might feel strange calling 911 for a
Continued on page 6



Rep. Darius Kila at the DHHL Prince Kuhio Rally at the State Capitol on March 25, 2025



**Representative
CHRISTOPHER
Muraoka**

House District 45
Wai'anae, Mākaha
Mākua

Working for the Wai'anae Coast — Representative Muraoka in Action

Our team remains committed to uplifting the Wai'anae Coast through partnerships, problem-solving, and hands-on service. Here's a snapshot of what we've accomplished together:

Emergency Access for Wai'anae

Passed House Resolution 43 (HR43), urging the City and County to build an emergency access road for the Wai'anae Coast. This critical resolution successfully advanced through key House

committees (TRN & PBS).

Infrastructure Improvements

Partnered with Hawaiian Telcom to replace leaning utility poles near Sewers Beach, improving roadway safety for residents and drivers.

Improved Traffic Safety for Keiki

Worked with the City and County to trim trees obstructing the stoplight in front of Wai'anae Intermediate, increasing visibility and making roads safer for students and families.

Homeless Encampment Cleanup

Coordinated with the Department of Transportation to clear the area across from Wai'anae Mall, restoring the space for public use and improving community wellbeing.

Supporting Our Community with Donations

Slippers were donated to U.S. Vets,
Continued on page 6



"Stronger together — Partnering for our community" Tanya Ka'aha'aina, Tessy Kekahuna, Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Rep. Chris Muraoka and Kelli Timoteo

THE WAI'ANAE COAST ROTARY CLUB INVITES YOU TO ENTER THE 2025 "96792 PRIDE" AMATEUR PHOTO CONTEST!



DEADLINE for receiving photos is June 30, 2025.

Winning photos will be featured in the 2026 "96792 Pride" Calendar

For more information, please visit: www.waianae coast rotary.org



Photo: 2025 1st Place Contest Winner "Buffalo Big Board Classic" - Mākaha Beach - by Kathy Berry

CONTEST RULES:

- 1) Photos must be taken from anywhere between Kahe Point to Ka'ena Point - Any place in the 96792 zip code area.
- 2) No more than 3 entries per person.
- 3) Entrants must be amateurs — *no professionals please!*
- 4) Original photos only.
- 5) E-mail us your digital photos in high resolution (*landscape format please*).
- 6) Include in your e-mail: a) your name; b) your address; c) phone number; d) e-mail address; e) title of photo; f) location where photo was taken.

Focus on what is beautiful and unique about the people and places on the Wai'anae Coast! Your photo could be a winner and be one of those featured in the 2026 "96792 Pride" Calendar.

Email photos to: 96792pride@waianae coast rotary.org

Learn Digital Skills at Your Library

JOIN US

Nānākuli Public Library

89-070 Farrington Hwy. Waianae

808-668-5844

SIGN UP

At the library or
online bit.ly/hspiscomputerclass

SCHEDULE

Computer Basics

- Parts of the Computer
- Types of Software
- Key Computer Terms
- Safe Computer Use

May 3, 2025

10:00am-11:30am

Connecting to and Navigating the Internet

- How to Get Online
- Navigate Web Browsers
- Use the Address Bar
- Web Navigation

May 10, 2025

10:00am-11:30am

Connecting with Family and Friends Using Email

- Setup Email Accounts
- Email Navigation (Gmail)
- Write and Send Emails
- Attach Files and Features

May 17, 2025

10:00am-11:30am

Staying Safe Online and Avoiding Scams

- Recognize Online Scams
- Spot Phishing Emails
- Smart Online Practices
- Actions for Suspected Scams

May 31, 2025

10:00am-11:30am



A partnership of Hawaii State Public Library System and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Workforce Development Division. This project is fully funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration in the award amount of \$479,064. Classes taught by Mapunawai, Inc.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity should contact library staff as soon as possible. Advance requests 48 hours or more before the event are encouraged, but not required. All programs are subject to change.

MAY IS WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH

Protecting lives, homes and communities

We are continuously expanding our Wildfire Safety Strategy to help reduce the risk of wildfires. Some of the actions we've taken:

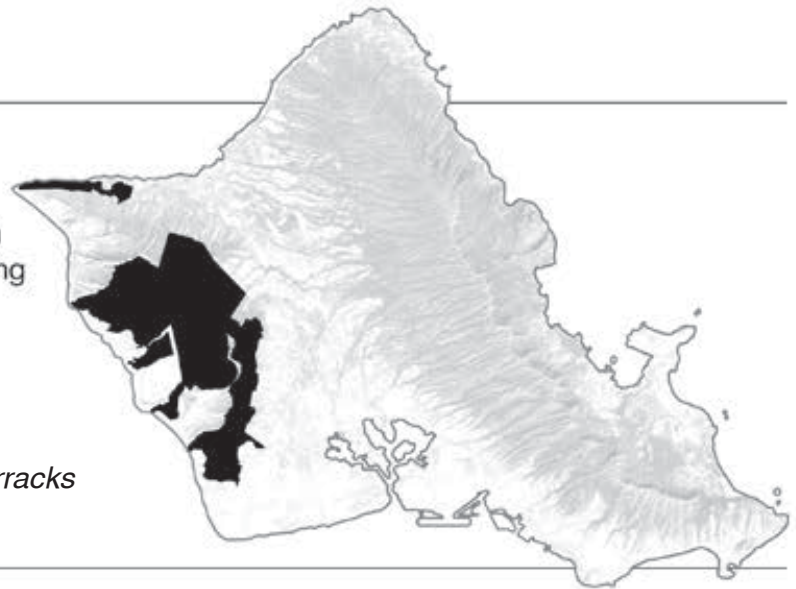
- Replacing and upgrading utility poles and overhead lines
- Utilizing the latest technology to shut power lines off quickly
- Installing high-definition cameras with artificial intelligence and weather stations
- Clearing vegetation around power lines
- Deploying spotters, drones and helicopters to monitor high-risk areas

Sign up for PSPS notifications

A key component of Wildfire Safety is our Public Safety Power Shutoff or PSPS program. PSPS identifies areas of high wildfire risk and can help prevent wildfires by proactively shutting off power.

If you live or work in areas with the following zip codes, contact us to receive PSPS notifications.

96792 Wai'anae / Mākaha / Nānākuli	96707 Kapolei
96791 Waialua	96857 Schofield Barracks
96791 Wahiawa	96759 Kunia



Special Medical Needs

If you depend on life support or medical equipment at home or if you have increased heating or cooling needs due to a medical condition, please contact us as soon as possible to ensure you receive PSPS notifications.

Go to: hawaiianelectric.com/medicalneedsalerts

Or call: 808-548-7311 on O'ahu

Homeowners and Renters

If you're a Homeowner, please update your contact information at: hawaiianelectric.com/myaccount

If you're a Renter, sign up for PSPS notifications here: hawaiianelectric.com/pspсалerts

Mobile App

With our mobile app, you can get important notifications, including PSPS alerts, plus status updates on outages. You can even access your online account. The Hawaiian Electric mobile app is free on Apple® App Store® and Google Play™ store.



Through our ongoing collaborations with first responders, community groups, government agencies and customers, Hawaiian Electric is committed to creating a fire-safe environment for our families and communities.



**Hawaiian
Electric**

Rep. Kila

Continued from page 4

number for life-threatening emergencies. But in this case, 911 is exactly the right number to call. Dispatch can then assign an officer or officers and notify the proper agency to get someone on scene.

Of course, we still have broader issues — HPD is facing staffing shortages, and DOT infrastructure updates take time. But the more we use the process that exists, the stronger our case

becomes for investment and change.

If the lights are out, treat the intersection as a four-way stop. And if no one is responding, make the call. It's not just about keeping traffic moving — it's about keeping our community safe.

I'll keep pushing for better coordination and infrastructure support. But until then, your voice and your call still matter. Feel free to contact our office anytime. You can reach us by phone at (808) 586-9480 or by email at repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov

WIS' DtWT

Continued from front page

contribute to a broader dialogue on addressing and preventing youth violence, carrying the voices and experiences of her community to a national audience. In addition, her essay will be published

"Do The Write Thing" Book of Writings 2025 and entered into the Library of Congress.

In addition, congratulations go out to students Keali'iokekai Hezekiah-De-motto-Lum and Asdyn Lima-Po who were also recognized as Distinguished Finalists.



Mrs. Nicole Kurata's 8th grade AVID class from Wai'anae Intermediate School with Governor Josh Green at Washington Place. Photo by HI DOE Communications Branch

Rep. Muraoka

Continued from page 4

Wai'anae Elementary and Ark of Safety, helping to meet the basic needs of individuals and families.

Helping Wai'anae Elementary Thrive

Supported classroom renovations by donating appliances to enhance the school environment for both students

and staff.

Uluwehi Area Beautification

Assisted with the cleanup of the Uluwehi fence line, promoting neighborhood safety and improving the area's overall appearance.

If you have questions, concerns or want to connect, reach out to our office at 808.586.8460, email repmuraoka@capitol.hawaii.gov, or follow us on Instagram [@repmuraoka](https://www.instagram.com/repmuraoka).







HAPPY HOUR • OPEN DAILY 8AM - 5PM • LIVE SPORTS

Home of the Mauka to Makai NACHOS

A huge plate filled with half kalua pork - your choice of shoyu or ahi poke and a load of toppings!

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TAKE YOUR RECEIPT TO LANTERNS FOR A DISCOUNT!

HOST YOUR PRIVATE EVENTS FOR:

- HOLIDAY PARTIES
- MEETINGS
- WEDDINGS
- GRADUATIONS
- CORPORATE EVENTS

Menu



UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025
5-10 PM
NIGHT MARKET
FOOD, CRAFTS, & MORE
@TASTE OF MAKAHA

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025
10AM-2 PM
BRADDAH BEN AND SOLANGE
BRUNCH BUFFET
CALL (808) 427-8000 FOR RESERVATIONS

RHYTHM OF THE VALLEY VOLUME 5
BOB'S NIGHT
SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025
6:30 - 10 PM
BACK TO THE 90'S
DJS & LIVE DANCE BAND
VISIT LILIKOILOUNGEHI.COM FOR TIX!

MAHALO FROM THE ARK

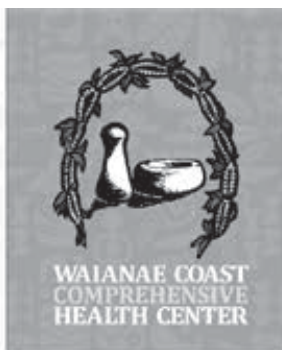
**ARK OF SAFETY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
WANTS TO MAHALO OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS
WHO HELPED MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE**

ARK OF SAFETY
Christian Fellowship
(808)-696-3781



**WE'RE BACK IN THE WAI'ANAE MALL
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 9 AM.**

AOSHAWAII.COM



NEWSLETTER

Ka Leo o ke ALOHA, a me ka Leo o ke OLA. The Voice of ALOHA, and the voice of HEALTH.

SERVING WEST OAHU SINCE 1972 | WAIANAЕ · NANAKULI · KAPOLEI · EWA · WAIPAHU

MAY 2025 | RICHARD BETTINI, PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | DR. STEPHEN BRADLEY, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER | GINGER FUATA, CHAIRPERSON

2025 ANNUAL BOARD ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

At Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center's April Board of Directors' annual meeting, board member election results, appointed positions, and executive committee members were named.

Executive Committee members will serve from May 2025 to April 2026 and newly elected and appointment positions will serve a three year term starting May 2025. To learn more about our board members, visit wcchc.com/boardofdirectors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



GINGER
FUATA

Chairperson



RENEE
REGO

First Vice Chairperson



FLO
PELL

Second Vice Chairperson



BILLIE
HAUGE

Secretary



DAN
GOMES

Treasurer

DIRECTORS



MERRIE
AIPOALANI



GENEVIEVE
"LEI" AKEN



JUDY
BABSON



DESIRE'
DE SOTO



MARIANNE
GLUSHENKO



CHARLES
HEW-LEN



CLIFF
ISARA



KAWIKA
KANE

NEWLY APPOINTED



DENISE
KELIIKOA



DEROI
LAVATAI



KEOLA
LLOYD



TODD
NITTA



ANTHONY
"MAKANA" PARIS



WAYNE
SUEHIRO



CANDY
SUISO

KUPUNA, OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU TO HELP STOP MEASLES—BEFORE IT STARTS

Measles is making a comeback. Right now, outbreaks on the continent are spreading fast—especially in places where not enough people are vaccinated. Measles outbreaks don't just happen randomly; they spread like wildfire in communities that aren't well protected.

And here's the hard truth: Hawai'i is at even greater risk than Texas where the current outbreak started. Texas has a measles vaccination rate of 94.35%—just below the safety threshold of 95% for herd immunity. Hawai'i's rate? **Only 86.4 percent!** It's one of the most infectious diseases we know of. So, when measles spreads, it spreads fast—infecting 15 to 18 unvaccinated people for every single case.

We already have a warning sign. One confirmed measles case in a child who

had recently traveled internationally triggered widespread distress and anxiety. Just one case created ripple effects through every airport, baggage claim, gate, plane, and restaurant the family passed through. Airline staff, TSA agents, baggage handlers, and travelers were all put on alert. Everyone had to double-check their vaccination status.

Sure, most people who get it will survive, but some don't. And many who do are left with lifelong damage—pneumonia, deafness, brain damage, and a weakened immune system that makes them sick for years. A measles outbreak here would disrupt daily life for everyone—especially our keiki. Schools could close. Sports and public gatherings might be canceled again. Families would fear letting their children leave the house.

Hawai'i has already suffered from measles before. In 1848–1849, a measles epidemic killed at least 10,000 Native Hawaiians—**maybe one-fifth** of the entire population. It came alongside whooping cough and influenza, devastating families and accelerating population decline. The epidemic destabilized the Hawaiian Kingdom and marked a turning point in our history. Our ancestors had no vaccine. We do. But if we don't choose to use it, **measles could hurt our people again.**

If you were born before the 1960s, you may remember the fear of measles. But today's parents have never seen it. They may not understand how serious it really is. Tell younger generations why we can't let measles return. Encourage every parent you know to check their child's vaccination records. If their keiki

haven't had both doses of the MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine, now is the time!

By Juanita Nalani Benioni, Traditional Healing Center Administrator

Let's protect each other. Let's protect our keiki. Call WCCHC at (808) 697-3300 to schedule a free or low-cost MMR shot for you or your child today.





MAY 2025 | RICHARD BETTINI, PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | DR. STEPHEN BRADLEY, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER | GINGER FUATA, CHAIRPERSON



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IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY

MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025



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Homeless Outreach Education Worker

Housekeeper II

Landscaper/Groundskeeper III

Medical Assistant

Mental Health Counselor I

Nurse Practitioner/APRN

Optometry Aide

Patient Account Representative III

Patient Transport Driver

Project Site Manager

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Registered Nurse - Service Coordinator

Sr. Radiology Technologist

Telehealth Outstationed Specialist

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Teen Clinics located in our Women's Health Clinics: | wcchc.com/teenclinic

Waianae Main Campus | West Oahu Community Health | Waipahu Family Health Center



Congratulations CLASS OF 2025

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU |



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MAY 2025 | RICHARD BETTINI, PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | DR. STEPHEN BRADLEY, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER | GINGER FUATA, CHAIRPERSON



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**WAIANAE COAST
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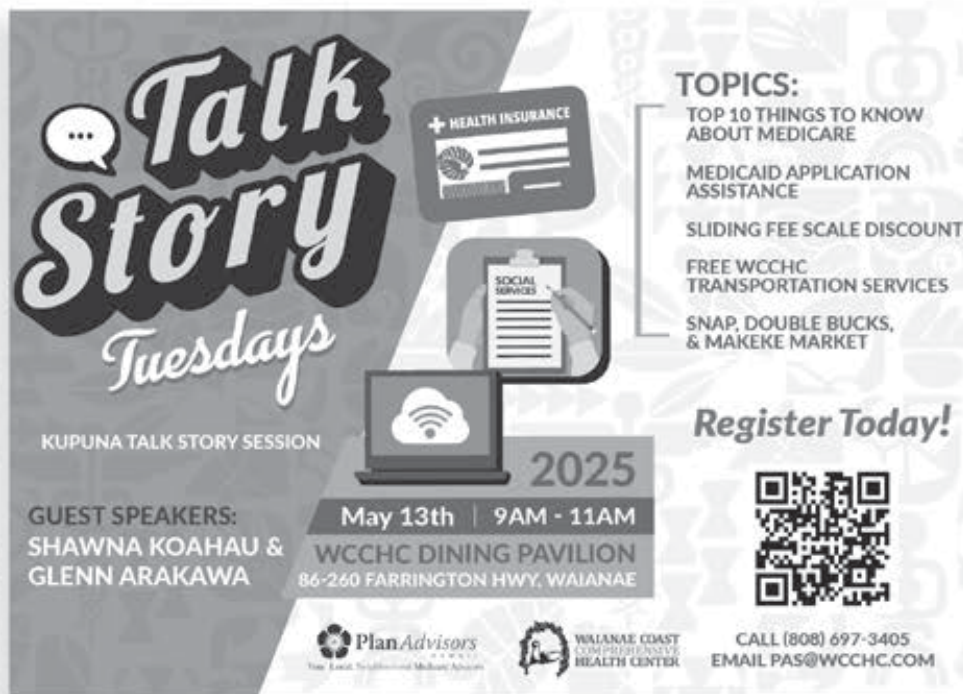
Spring Craft Fair

Bloom into Spring and see what's new at our annual craft fair.
Find treasures, ono food, or a Mother's Day gift!

Friday, May 9, 2025
7:00 AM - 1:30 PM

WCCHC Main Campus - Great Lawn
86-260 Farrington Hwy, Waianae

Free Admission!



Talk Story Tuesdays


KUPUNA TALK STORY SESSION

GUEST SPEAKERS:
SHAWNA KOAHAU &
GLENN ARAKAWA

2025
May 13th | 9AM - 11AM
WCCHC DINING PAVILION
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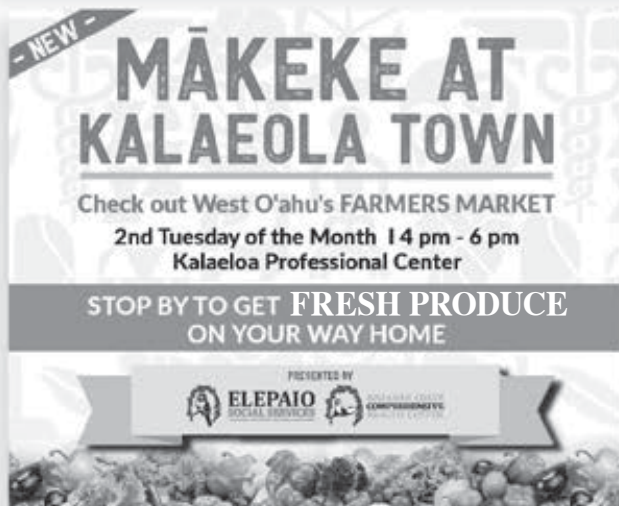
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MĀKEKE AT KALAEOLA TOWN

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2nd Tuesday of the Month | 4 pm - 6 pm
Kalaeloa Professional Center

**STOP BY TO GET FRESH PRODUCE
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FRESH PRODUCE
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**NEXT
MARKET
MAY 13TH**



FREE TRANSPORTATION

TO GET YOU TO AND FROM YOUR APPOINTMENTS!

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

CALL (808) 697-3450 to schedule your ride

COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS WEEKLY EVENTS

KEIKI PANTRY

Located in all Waianae Coast Schools
Contact your school for more information.

KUPUNA PANTRY

Starting at 10:00 AM
*while supplies last



Interested in volunteering at
our keiki & kupuna pantries?
Contact pantries@wcchc.com
or call (808) 697-3709.

Monday

Community Learning Center at Maili

Wednesday

Waianae Elementary School across Pili'au Park

Thursday

Hoa Aina O Makaha

Friday

Liliuokalani Trust in Nanakuli

*EBT / Double Bucks Program
Unlimited doubling of EBT/SNAP
benefits toward the purchase of fresh
local produce, poi, honey and protein.



FARMERS MARKET

Monthly

Mākeke at Kalaeloa Town
2nd Tuesday | 4 PM - 6 PM
Kalaeloa Professional Center
Next Market: May 13th

Weekly

Tuesday | 9 AM - 12 PM
WCCHC Main Campus

Saturday | 8 AM - 12 PM
Waianae Mall

Now accepting



NEW!



Interested in becoming a vendor?
Contact makeke@wcchc.com or call (808) 697-3709

Searider Robotics Shines at Wai‘anae High School

Submitted by Joshua Arant

The “Searider Robotics” club at Wai‘anae High School has enjoyed an exceptionally successful year, highlighting the dedication, engineering excellence and collaborative spirit of its members. The club has earned an impressive collection of awards, including two Tournament Champion awards and two Tournament Finalist recognitions. Their commitment to excellence in design and

construction was further highlighted by a well-deserved “Build Award”, alongside several “Judges Awards” recognizing their ingenuity and teamwork.

Beyond their local achievements, Searider Robotics ventured to the national stage, participating in the CREATE U.S. Open Robotics Tournament held in Council Bluffs, Iowa, this past March. Wai‘anae High School students collaborated and competed alongside

some of the most accomplished Vex Robotic Competition (VRC) teams from across the nation. The experience fostered valuable learning, allowing them to exchange ideas, witness cutting-edge robot designs, and further hone their skills in a high-stakes environment.

The success of Searider Robotics is a testament to the hard work and passion of its student members, as well as the dedicated mentorship of their advisors.

Their achievements not only bring pride to Wai‘anae High School but also highlight the growing importance of STEM education and the exciting possibilities it offers. The future is filled with possibilities for these young engineers and innovators, who are gaining skills in problem-solving, teamwork, and critical thinking through their participation in VRC robotics. The Wai‘anae community can be incredibly proud of the accomplishments of their Wai‘anae High School “Searider Robotics” team.



Searider Robotics Team Hailey Mishima-Donahue, Hayden Wills, Shaydon Tagaloa, Max Roske and Viktoria Sapir at their booth at the Iowa West Field House for CREATE U.S. Open Tournament



Shaydon Tagaloa with Searider Robotics team "Deadnauts" at the CREATE U.S. Open Tournament in Council Bluffs, Iowa



Viktoria Sapir and Hailey Mishima-Donahue with Searider Robotics team "DaKine" at the West Oahu Tournament.



He lālā wau no ku‘u kumu

Students grow and flourish when exceptional kumu support them. Kamehameha Schools kumu nurture our haumāna each day, developing the future ‘ōiwi leaders and changemakers who will contribute to the ea of our lāhui.

Mahalo piha e nā kumu!



Kamehameha Schools®



“What's Up” on the Westside

MAY 2025

Calendar of Events

May 1st
May Day/Lei Day
May 2
4 to 9:30 pm — Hō'ike Ho'olaule'a at Ka Waihona O'Ka'Na'auao
7 pm — Rep. Muraoka's "Talk Story Friday" at Ark of Safety

May 3
8 am to 12 noon — Drive-thru Breadfruit Tree Giveaway at Nānākuli Elementary
11 am — 3rd Annual Searider Football Golf Classic at Mākaha Valley Country Club

Monday, May 5th
CINCO de MAYO

May 9
7 am to 1:30 pm — Spring Craft Fair at WCCHC's Great Lawn
5 to 10 pm — Taste of Mākaha Night Market at Mākaha Valley Country Club

May 10
9:30 am to 1:30 pm — INPEACE STEM Day

H appy Sunday, May 11th
Mother's Day

May 22
6 pm — Kamaile Academy PCS graduation ceremony at Kamaile

May 23
6 pm — Wai'anae High School graduation ceremony at Raymond Torii Field

May 24
5 pm — Nānākuli High & Intermediate School graduation ceremony at Hawk's Field

Memorial Day
MONDAY, MAY 26TH

May 30
Last day of public school

CLUBS, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

AARP Chapter 4936 of Wai'anae
9:30 am on the first Friday of each month at the Wai'anae Community Center (*Satellite City Hall*).
Call Patrick Maher at 808-888-5783

Aerobics (Low Impact)
4 to 5 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Wai'anae District Park.
For more information, contact Flo Pell at 808-696-2776.

Aikido
Daily classes, morning, afternoon and evening for children, teens and adults.
Call 808.202.6171 or 808.695.95200.

B&G Club Hawai'i — Wai'anae Clubhouse
Afterschool programs for youth & teens
Grades 2nd thru 12th. Register at: membership.bgch.com or call (808) 696-2754.

Cancer Support Group
For more information, contact Gail Gomes at 808-696-7978, Flo Pell at 808-696-2776 or Eva Galariada-Rosa at 808-220-2842.

CFJ 'Ohana Food Distribution
8 am (until pau) on the 1st Saturday of each month at "City of Joy" (Nānāikeola St).
For more information, contact Pastor Farley at 808-256-3596.

Kupuna Safe Falling Class
10 am on Saturdays. Call 808-202-6171 or 808-658-9520.

La Kōkua Ka'ala Farm
9 am to 12 noon on the 2nd Saturday of each month to mālama 'āina, lo'i and weeding.
All are welcomed! Call 808.696.4954 or check out website www.kaalafarm.org

Mākaha Bridge Club
11 am on Wednesdays at Lilikoi Lounge (Mākaha Valley Country Club).
10 am on Saturdays at Beach House by 604 (Pīlilaau Army Rec Center). For more information, call Kay Smith at 808-695-7844.

Mākaha Red Hatters
2nd Monday of each month at various restaurants along the Westside. If you would like to join this club, call "Queen" Gerry Ottinger at 808-399-2594.

Mai Jongg (American style)
Tuesdays at 11 am at Beach House by 604 (Army Rest Camp) Call Coco at 808-330-4765 for more information. *Beginners welcomed!*

Mākaha Hawaiian Civic Club
6 pm Bi- Monthly Beginning MAY 2024 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm.
For more information, contact Momi Nelson at 808-736-6201.

Mana Mahi'ai Makeke
10 am to 2 pm on the first Saturday of each month at 87-828 Hakimo Road. Local artisans, ono grinds, live musical entertainment, seed bombing, photography portraits and more.
For more information, visit: hoinanaamehoola.org

Nānākuli-Mā'ili Neighborhood Board #36
7 pm on the third Tuesday of the month at Nānākuli Public Library's meeting room.
Call Neighborhood Commission Office at 808-768-3710 for more information or visit honolulu.gov/nco

R.I.P.P.E.D.
5:30 to 6:30 pm Mondays and Wednesdays at Wai'anae District Park's Multi-Purpose Room.
Fun for all abilities, training for strength, cardio, flexibility, balance, coordination and endurance.

St John the Baptist Church Thrift Shop
Wednesdays from 9am-5pm Stop by for great bargains! To volunteer, please email revjazzybostock@gmail.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #849
6 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at (PARC) Pīlilaau Army Rec. Center (Rest Camp).
Contact Rocky Naeole at 808-265-3419.

Wai'anae Coast Neighborhood Board #24
6:30 pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Wai'anae District Park.
For more information, contact Neighborhood Commission Office at 808-768-3710 or visit honolulu.gov/nco

Waianae Coast Rotary Club
12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at "Beach House by 604"
(PARC) Pīlilaau Army Rec. Center (*Rest Camp*).
For more information, contact: waianae coastrotary.org or Craig Alvarado at craig@bhhs-hawaii.com

Wai'anae Farmer's Market
Mākeke 'Iki 9am to 12 Noon every Tuesday at WCCHC Main Campus.
Mākeke Wai'anae 8 am to 12 noon every Saturday at Wai'anae Mall.
For more information call 808-697-3709.

Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club
6 to 8pm on the 2nd Tuesdays of each month. Come learn about our culture and civic kuleana.
Contact waianae-hawaiian-civic-club.org for more information.

Wai'anae Public Library Book Club
6 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month via ZOOM. Contact 808-697-7868 or email: owncirc@libraries-hawaii.org for links.

Women of Wai'anae
For more information visit womenofwaianae.org or call Karen Young at 808-388-8828.
Focus is on fundraisers for non-traditional college scholarships.

Women's Tahitian Dance
5:30 to 6:30 pm on Wednesdays at Kalania'ole (Nānākuli) Beach Park No experience necessary and all ages welcomed!
Contact 808-491-0674 for more information.



Feliz CINCO DE MAYO

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Sunday, May 11th


BOTH STORES CLOSING 4PM

REMEMBER & HONOR THEM

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 26th

HOLIDAYS OR ANY DAYS...
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Westside Stories

"THE PRIDE OF THE WESTSIDE"
A monthly newspaper serving the communities of Nānākuli, Mā'ili, Wai'anae and Mākaha

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Hau'oli Lā Makuahine



Happy Mother's Day from the Zizzi 'Ohana

Tom's wife, Amy, and her mom, Mele Kawelo Worthington

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LCC Hosts National Career & Technical Education Signing Day



Wai'anae High School students and their advisors who attended the signing day.

Submitted by Devon Bedoya

For the first time, Leeward Community College (LCC) held National Career & Technical Education (CTE) Letter of Intent Signing Day today to honor the fifty students who are entering the CTE field of study in the 2025-2026 school year. It was part of a national movement, with over 100 other leading institutions from across the country holding similar signing ceremonies.

“By signing our incoming students to Letters of Intent, we are acknowledging their commitment to their education and reaffirming the college’s commitment to providing them with the resources, training, and support necessary to get

them job-ready,” said Chancellor Carlos Peñaloza. The incoming students will learn skills in accounting, automotive technology, business, culinary arts, digital media, health information technology, human services, information and computer science, mechatronics, sustainable agriculture, and teacher education.

The majority of the students will be attending the Pu‘uloa Campus in Pearl City, however, there are several students from Wai‘anae High School (WHS) and Nānākuli High School (NHIS) who will be attending the Wai‘anae Moku Education Center. Out of the fifty students who signed letters of intent

that day, there were two students from NHIS — one student in Culinary Arts and one student in Health Information

Technology, and twenty-six students from WHS who signed for seven students in Culinary Arts; four students in Automotive Technology; four students in Digital Media; six students in Management; two students in Information & Computer Science; two students in Health Information Technology and one student in Teacher Education.

The CTE Office oversees business, professional arts and technology programs at LCC, which collectively serves more than 900 students annually and also oversees the non-credit programs in the Office of Workforce Development, which serves over 3,000 students annually, and the Wai‘anae Moku Education Center, which serves over 500 students—a majority of whom are Native Hawaiians.



The Keynote address was given by Mark Perna who spoke about the importance of education in economic development and community growth

WAIANAE PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAY 2025

The Library will be closed for Memorial Day Saturday May 24-Monday May 26

FAMILY STORYTIME

Saturdays @ 10:00 am

May 3, 17, and 31st.

We are hatching some new ideas this month, so check back in May!

TODDLER TIME

Tuesdays @ 9:30 am

May 13, 20, and 27th

Keiki ages 0-3 build their pre-reading skills with music, books, and toy time using the Every Child Ready To Read concepts.

ZOOM BOOK CLUB

3rd Wednesday @ 6:00 pm May 21st

THE WIDE WIDE SEA by Hampton Sides

This group meeting online via Zoom. Contact the library to join.

ASIA PACIFIC DANCE FESTIVAL TALK STORY

Friday May 23 @ 12:00pm

Come meet the APDF 2025 Resident Artists! This talk story will feature demonstrations and discussions from our esteemed artistic directors and their performers.

Summer Reading Challenge JUNE 1—JULY 31

Get ready for Summer Reading Challenge

Put the Beanstack app on your phone and get ready.

<https://librarieshawaii.beanstack.org/reader365>

MAY

AT NĀNĀKULI PUBLIC LIBRARY

KEIKI AFTERNOON STORYTIME

11:30AM

MAY 9 & 23

KEIKI MORNING STORYTIME

9:30AM

MAY 14 & 28

LEGO TIME

2:30PM - 3:30PM

MAY 6

COMPUTER BASICS, INTERNET, EMAIL & ONLINE SAFETY

10AM - 11:30AM

MAY 3, 10, 17 & 31

SMARTPHONE/TABLET/CHROMEBOOK & CLOUD BASICS

12PM - 1:30PM

MAY 17 & 31

PERLER PARTY

2:30PM - 3:30PM

MAY 20 & 21

GENEALOGY NIGHT

5PM - 7PM

MAY 19

'OHANA GAME NIGHT

5PM - 7PM

MAY 19

PROGRAMS 2025

SIGN UP & GET INFO FOR COMPUTER CLASSES HERE:

LIBRARY CLOSED: MAY 24 & 26

For more info visit librarieshawaii.org/events

Valley of Rainbows Hosts Inspiring Kāne Ōpio Leadership Event at Lanikuhonua



Submitted by Denise Keliikoa

On April 8, Valley of Rainbows hosted its highly anticipated Kāne Ōpio Leadership event at the Lanikuhonua Cultural Institute in Ko Olina. Originally scheduled for January 30 but postponed due to inclement weather, the rescheduled event welcomed fifty eighth-grade young men from Waiʻanae and Nānākuli Intermediate Schools for a powerful day of mentorship, cultural grounding, inspiration, and leadership development.

This one-day event was created to empower and equip the next generation of kāne with tools for success, self-awareness and purpose. Students engaged with speakers who shared their life stories, career journeys, and words of wisdom centered on emotional intelligence, making a good first impression, and being proud of one's roots.

The event featured a dynamic group of guest speakers, including: Brian

Keaulana, respected waterman and movie director; Adrian Nakea Silva, President and Founder of Hui Huliau; Nate Corpus, Black Hawk crew with the U.S. Army; Mike Lambert, Director, Department of Law Enforcement; Dr. Kaliko Chang, Clinical Psychologist, Waianae Coast Community Health Center (WCCHC); Dr. Richard Tesoro, DDS, WCCHC; Jesse Piliolo-ha Makasobe-Kealiinohomoku, Food Access Manager, WCCHC; Landen Muasau, Director of Provider Services, WCCHC and Leon Florendo, Counselor, Leeward Community College & University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

"We are incredibly proud of these young men and grateful to the leaders who shared their time and mana'o," said Merrie Aipoalani, President of Valley of Rainbows. "Our mission for this project is to continue to mālama and support our future leaders, creating a better, more resilient community for all."

We acknowledge and thank our sponsors who made this event possible. Atherton Family Foundation, Hawaiian Electric, James and Abigail Campbell Development, First Hawaiian Bank, NFL Pro Bowl Foundation, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center,

Wahine Toa Designs and Westside Stories.

The Kāne Ōpio Leadership event exemplifies the power of community and kuleana — when local leaders come together to invest in the next generation, the entire coast thrives.

WHS Student Union Earns Its First National Award Recognition

Submitted by Linda Jury

For its first time ever, the Waiʻanae High School (WHS) Student Union has received national recognition! WHS Student Union was declared a 2025 National Gold Council of Excellence, the highest level of recognition from the National Association of Student Councils (NASC). The NASC program is supported by its parent organization, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Waiʻanae's Homecoming, Makahiki and Cafeteria Service Project served as key projects that provided evidence of governance, school activities, civic engagement, and community service which correspond with the pillars of NASC. The WHS Student Union consists of class and club councils who provide a sense of belonging for the school. Their goal is to build leaders, connect the school community, instill Searider Pride, and create accessible service opportunities.

Student Union President, Joelle Angelica Evasco, took on the task of doc-



Student Union team welcoming incoming freshmen to Waiʻanae High School.

umenting the evidence needed to show her council was deserving of this award. "This recognition is my way of thanking Student Union," Joelle expresses, "Leaders are meant to serve a community, and my fellow student leaders are a testament to this. I'm glad that they can now get applauded for all the work they do. To my Student Activity Coordinators Kumu Jury and Ms. Uemori, thank you for being my guidance in both school and life. I hope that this award can also be seen as my mahalo to you both as well!"

Kaulele PRESENTS

KA NAʻAUAO O NĀ KŪPUNA

STEM DAY

IN CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION 75TH ANNIVERSARY

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

- Hawaiian Culture and Science Pop-Up Exhibits
- Workshops Featuring Cultural Practitioners
- Community STEM Showcase

Are you a STEM Program interested in participating? Contact Alaka'i Aglipay at alakaia@inpeace.org

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025
9:30AM - 1:30PM

INSTITUTE FOR NATIVE PACIFIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE (INPEACE)

87-2116 Farrington Highway
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For more info:
inpeace.org/events
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The wisdom of the elders is the torch that enlightens the path of the children.

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INPEACE

Aloha, Ann Meacham

Submitted by Lisa Meacham

Please join our family, friends, neighbors and classmates of the Waiʻanae High Class of '59 to bid "Aloha O'e" to our beloved Ann (Annie) Sharon Meacham on May 11 at Nani Kai Beach Park (across from Coral Sands) just before sunset as we lay our beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother to rest.

No food or drinks will be served. You are asked to bring flowers, lei, your stories and remembrances to share with us and of course your chairs as we bid our final aloha to her.



Proudly serving our community with quality and Aloha!

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HAPPY HOUR
Weekdays 2-5 pm

Taste of Māka
on 5/9 at Māka Valley Country Club

HAPPY HOUR • FAMILY DINING • LIVE MUSIC • COCKTAILS

Mother's Day Special Menu

- Lobster Tail, Crab Legs, Prime Rib and your Choice of Two Sides
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Circle of Life Shines in Nānākuli

Reviewed by Haysten Jesus

On April 5, the Nānākuli High and Intermediate School Performing Arts Center (NPAC) showcased the musical, Disney's Lion King Jr, directed by Chloe and Robin Kistu. A nostalgic and heart-warming experience was brought to life with the cast wholeheartedly embodied their characters, bringing the Pride Lands to life in Nānākuli.

As I watched the performance, I was overwhelmed with emotions. I was filled with exhilaration, sadness and nostalgia as the play tells about the journey of Simba, a spirited lion cub who is the heir to the Pride Lands. His childhood is shaken when his evil uncle Scar orchestrates the death of Simba's dad,

Mufasa and manipulates Simba into believing he is responsible. Completely heartbroken, Simba flees the Pride Lands and befriends the duo Timon and Pumbaa. As Simba grows into adulthood, the weight of his past and the terrible state of the Pride Lands under Scar's tyrannical rule begin to call him back and with the support of his childhood friend Nala and the wise baboon Rafiki, Simba confronts his fears and his past and returns to challenge Scar, reclaim the throne, and restore balance to the Circle of Life.

The opening act was amazing! It was probably my favorite part of the show. In the opening scene, everyone sings the song "Circle of Life." Leah Ange-

la Padilla, a NHIS Science teacher said "It's always that opening song that just brings me to tears. I might have shed a little tear, hearing everybody come together and sing and seeing the big props. They killed it."

The props used in the show were mind-blowing and had great detail, character and were a big contribution to the success of the show. The largest props were the elephant and giraffe. Jillian DiPietro, a fifth-grade teacher from Kamaile Academy, was so impressed that he will try to convince his students to join NPAC.

One character that really stood out was young Simba. The actor who played that role was so professional. For such a young actor, he memorized all his lines and stayed focused throughout the whole show. During a certain part of the show, he ran off the stage toward the crowd where he remained in character and gave a dramatic look back before exiting out the back door.

For parents of the NPAC students, a sense of pride and appreciation was felt knowing how hard the students worked over the last three months. "I think they did an amazing job. The choreography was great. They really did a good job



Mufasa teaches young Simba a lesson about the circle of life.

of learning their lines and the costumes were amazing; having it all come together really showed how hard the kids worked," said Tyrissa Barco, NPAC Parent.

This production of The Lion King Jr was nothing short of marvelous! From the vibrant costumes and stunning props that transported the audience to the African savanna, to the incredibly talented young actors who truly embodied these iconic characters. The energy and passion radiating from the stage were infectious. The audience was captivated from the opening "Circle of Life" to the triumphant finale. Indeed, it was a remarkable experience!



A burst of color and energy from "I Just Can't Wait to Be King"

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12:00PM - 1:30PM

Next Level Beginner" Chromebook & Cloud Computing

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- Cloud computing fundamentals
- More email functions and organization

MAY 31, 2025
12:00PM - 1:30PM



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See more Nānākuli Library Events on page 12!



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Wai'anae community gathers for 6th Annual Prince Kūhiō Festival

PVT is proud to have been a sponsor of the Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole Festival on Saturday, March 22 at Kalaniana'ole Beach Park (formerly Nānākuli Beach Park). It was a great afternoon and evening filled with ono food, entertainment, and fireworks.



Celebrating a Prince — Families, hula halau, and The Pastry Princess shared many special moments at this year's Prince Kūhiō Festival.



Nānākuli Elementary School Kūhiō Celebration



E Ola Ka 'Aina — The NES Kūhiō celebration featured mele and hula performed by students.

Nānākuli Elementary School commemorated the life of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole on Friday, March 7, with *E Ola Ka 'Aina* (The Land Lives), a program featuring mele and hula performed by students from the school's preschool through 6th grade classes. PVT was among the supporters of this event, which helps to keep Hawaiian history alive.

NPAC Wraps Up Another Stellar Performance

Over the years, the Nānākuli High and Intermediate School Performing Arts Center has produced more than 100 productions.

The group's recent performance of Disney's *The Lion King Jr.* brought a family favorite to the stage in the NHIS Multi-Purpose Café during the months of March and April. If you've yet to attend an NPAC performance, go to <https://www.facebook.com/npac1991> to learn what's coming next.



The Lion Sleeps Tonight — But a new production is waking up in the wings. Follow NPAC at <https://www.facebook.com/npac1991> to learn what's coming next.

Next stop: VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas



Congratulations to Nānākuli High School Robotics, which qualified to compete in the high school division of the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas, Texas from May 6 to 8.

The 2025 championship, presented by Northrop Grumman Foundation, will be at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center and feature robotics teams from around the world.

The Nānākuli team qualified for the VEX World Championships at the Hawai'i regional championship at Barbers Point, which featured teams from high schools statewide.



Next Stop Dallas — The VEX Robotics 2025 Regional Championship at Barbers Point drew high school teams from all over Hawai'i.



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