

# LĀNA'Ī TODAY

JUNE 2021

## LAPA performers lend talent to animated film



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Cast and filmmakers of the animated film, *Naya: Legend of the Golden Dolphin*, Hulopo'e Bay, Lāna'ī. Front: Elena Riel; Sophia Pascual, actors from the Lāna'ī Academy of Arts (LAPA). Back: Jonathon Kay, director and producer; Corinne Bundschuh, assistant producer. Riel and Pascual landed voiceover roles in the film. (Not pictured: Cameron Chin, LAPA) Photograph by Ron Gingerich



## Palapalai lei

I never knew I loved the palapalai fern (*microlepisia strigosa*) until my friend brought an armful to my office one morning and laid them on the conference table. Long, tapering blades with slender, woody stipes (stalks), the fronds smelled like freshly turned earth, cooled by rain, and then with a deeper inhale, a vegetal green, the green scent of vines, and of plants that grow along a valley stream or under the eaves of a house. It was a scent I'd forgotten I knew. I wanted to keep breathing in its scent to see what memories would come.

'You want to learn how to make a palapalai lei?' my friend asked, her tone casual, as if my answer could be anything but delight, as if what she was offering me wasn't an incredible gift. I couldn't believe my good luck. Who makes anything anymore? Who makes the time?

My friend is like that – kind-hearted and generous, grateful. She seems happiest when she has something to give or share. She was planning to make a lei for someone who was retiring – there would be a small ceremony later that day – and so she thought she might use the time, as she was making the lei, to teach me. The latter part I inferred, and would later seek out the palapalai's history, learning of its significance in the Hawaiian culture as a plant kapu (sacred) to Laka, the goddess of Hula, which adorned the Hula altar and the dancers, and was prized for lei-making ([hawaiiannativeplants.com](http://hawaiiannativeplants.com)). But the intention of my friend's gift was clear as we sat down to sort the abundance of palapalai before us. That she, a gifted lei-maker, would share with me a piece of an ancient Hawaiian tradition reserved for hula dancers was a generosity beyond compare.

She placed the fronds in a pile and snipped the axis with her scissors, handing me the bottom part of the frond to pluck the pinna (leaflet) and lay them in a uniform, orderly stack, the glossy green side facing the lei-maker. She held three fronds gently in her hands, crisscrossing one over the other, her fingers quick and fluent, tugging and tightening without crushing the leaves, instructing me to lay the fronds flat on the table, keeping the tension tight as I weaved, as if I were braiding hair. She interlaced a new frond whenever she came to the end of a stalk, lengthening the lei a frond at a time, and laid pinna, fanning them out artfully in a corona, or individually, cross-wise between fronds, to add fullness.

It took ten minutes of talking story to see my friend's lei was turning out gorgeous, a full-leaf garland of palapalai facing in the same direction, an organic arrangement, the weave invisible, as if the ferns were meant for that form.

I, on the other hand, took the same amount of my time to braid an unholy mess. My lei looked as though I'd worked the palapalai with my eyes closed, crumpling the leaves for good measure. My fingers kept losing their way as I twined, unsure of where the stipe ended and where the new frond began. Braiding seemed such a simple idea, but the leaves ran helter skelter, leaving uneven gaps big enough to poke my elbow through them. 'You can always start over', my friend said, gently, I think sensing my dismay.

And so I untangled the fronds and re-sorted the pinna and started again. My friend reminded me that the point of making a lei is to talk story. Yes, there is the lei to weave, but it is the connection between lei-makers, the time together, that is most valued. The lei is simply a conveyance to that connection, a gift of leaves and flowers from the natural world that creates a set of relationships.

"Gifts from the earth or from each other establish a particular relationship, an obligation of sorts to give, to receive, to reciprocate," writes Robin Wall Kimmerer, a writer and botanist, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. "That is the fundamental nature of gifts: they move, and their value increases with their passage...The more something is shared, the greater its value becomes." It is especially true with handmade gifts. "Whatever we have been given is supposed to be given away again," Kimmerer writes.

In teaching me how to make a palapalai lei, my friend gave me a gift, not just of knowledge, but of gratitude for palapalai. She changed how I viewed it and my relationship to it and the natural world. It isn't just a plant, but one whose leaves I might someday learn to weave well enough to give to someone, a lei that says, see how beautiful this world is, or congratulations, or thank you for taking the time to teach me this gift.



Nelinia Cabiles



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## LAPA kids lend voices in animated movie

By Nelinia Cabiles

**S**tories abound of dolphins saving humans from sharks, or circling drowning sailors to keep them afloat. Whether apocryphal or fictional, these stories reflect our fascination with dolphins. That dolphins are fellow mammals, albeit aquatic, with pectoral fins and flukes, where we have arms and legs, only deepens our affinity for them.

But there is one story of heroic dolphins still untold, a story that young actors from the Lāna‘i Academy of Performing Arts (LAPA), by dint of talent and imaginative power, will tell, as characters in an animated film, joining such cinematic kingfish as Gerard Butler, Megan Fox, James Franco, Whoopi Goldberg, and Kate Winslet, who also have lent their voices.

Cameron Chin, Sophia Pascual, and Elena Riel, landed voiceover roles in *Naya: Legend of the Golden Dolphin*, a film written, produced and directed by Jonathon Kay, about a young dolphin sent on a mission by her father, king of the Golden dolphins, to unite all dolphins and save the oceans. It is a hero’s quest, a battle to preserve home, an odyssey to the oceans of Hawai‘i, the Bahamas, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Mozambique, and the Amazon River of Brazil.

Chin is the voice of Nosy, a unicorn fish; Thomas the Crab; as well as Neptune, a baby orca. Bubbles, also a baby orca, is Pascual’s character, while Riel plays Baby, a spotted dolphin.

The pandemic, pre-vaccinations, forced artists across all disciplines to digital corners on Zoom, and other conferencing apps, which, as creative platforms go, are weak. Performers prefer, of course, in-person rehearsals—not an option during a pandemic.

So, when Matt Glickstein, LAPA’s executive director, who, having started a series of virtual classes in songwriting, improv, and creative writing last year to keep students motivated, met Kay and learned about the casting call, Glickstein went to great lengths to make the auditions happen, at the Blue Ginger Café, then at a classroom on campus, providing recording equipment and dedicating hours of recording time.

“It was a cool opportunity the kids had never been exposed to,” Glickstein says. “I had hoped there would be more roles in the film, because there were some really great auditions.”

“The kids here are exceptional, a joy to work with,” says Kay. “It was really hard having to choose only three.” Corinne Bundschuh, assistant producer, was taken with how “receptive the [Lāna‘i] kids were to feedback and direction”, noting that such reciprocity happens only with seasoned actors, rarely with young kids.

Pascual tries to inhabit a role by visualizing the character: “Bubbles is joyful, like Flounder in *Little Mermaid*.” Chin envisioned his Thomas the Crab as a youthful grandpa with a John Wayne-like drawl. Unlike her fellow actors, Riel feels nervous before a show, but loves acting because “I get to be in the mind of a character different from me.”

Five years in the making, *Naya* is a labor of love for Kay, who credits a trip to Lāna‘i with two children and their parents ten years ago as the film’s source of inspiration. “The five-year-old girl had a pituitary gland problem that was impeding her growth,” he says. A second girl had cerebral palsy. Both, he says, “experienced natural healing...and substantial improvement in mobility,” respectively, from “natural dolphin sonar emissions” after swimming with Spinner dolphins in Hulopo‘e Bay.

A raft of A-list actors have lent their voices to the film, Kay says, because they support the film’s universal message: our planet’s oceans and sea life are in peril and we must do all we can to conserve and protect them. The lesson isn’t lost on Pascual, who wants the trapping of sea animals to stop, nor with Riel, who now wants to become a marine biologist. Their response reflects the transformative alchemy of the arts, whose power stays with us long after we’ve left the cinema: we all are *Naya*, fighting to protect our home.

*Naya* is set to be released in 2023. For more on LAPA, check out [lanaiacademy.org](http://lanaiacademy.org); for *Naya: Legend of the Golden Dolphin*: [jk@dolphinmovie.com](mailto:jk@dolphinmovie.com)

## Launch of #HIGotVaccinated Month

From the Hawai‘i State Department of Health

**T**he State of Hawai‘i and community partners are expanding efforts to get more people vaccinated. #HIGotVaccinated Month will run through June and is aimed at educating and motivating residents who have not yet received their COVID-19 shot.

To sweeten the pot for everyone – including those who have already gotten the vaccine – businesses statewide are offering discounts and a number of prize giveaways throughout the month of June. A list of discounts, entry instructions, and terms and conditions can be found at [www.HIGotVaccinated.com](http://www.HIGotVaccinated.com)

Prize giveaways include one million HawaiianMiles—distributed as ten 100,000 awards—a one-year luxury car lease, a Vacations Hawai‘i Las Vegas travel package, gift certificates to local businesses, and more!

Go to <https://hawaiiicovid19.com/vaccine/> to learn how to participate in #HIGotVaccinated Month.

### Cut to the chase

#### Community

- ▼ The Pineapple Festival is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 4, 2021. Details to follow.
- ▼ Public Health Nursing’s new office: 905 Ilima Street. Monday-Friday: 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Limited public health nursing services; call (808) 565-7114 for a referral. TB Clinic: temporarily closed until further notice. Call Straub or LCHC to make an appointment.

#### Business

- ▼ Coffee Works among the Five Best Coffee Shops in Hawai‘i in 2021 (*Hawai‘i Magazine*, May 2021): New menu coming soon! Tuesday-Saturday: 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday
- ▼ Lāna‘i Culture & Heritage Center’s Lāna‘i Community Stewardship Program begins July 2021.
- ▼ Mānele General Store now open! Monday-Wednesday & Friday: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed weekends.
- ▼ Pūlama Lāna‘i projects: \*Gate erected on the dock at Kahalepalaoa Beach. The dock is NOT SAFE. Please heed the warning and safety signs.

\*Removal of trees on Ninth Street, above Queen. Tree removal was necessary due to the infiltration of roots beneath the road, causing buckling of the asphalt. Severing the roots to make necessary road repairs compromises the integrity of the trees, causing unsafe conditions.

\*Hawai‘i State Deer and Mouflon season has started in the CGMA; weekly hunting Wednesday - Sunday through October 24, 2021. A map can be found at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/recreation/hunting/hunt-lanai/>

#### Lanaiaans

- ▼ Maili Etrata promoted to assistant director of Human Resources at Four Seasons Resort Lāna‘i May 2021
- ▼ Aaron Alcantara caught a 55-pound ulua (Giant Trevally) on May 10, 2021 at Mānele Bay harbor, Lāna‘i. (Sidebar: On April 22, 2001, Albert Borges snagged the biggest ulua on Lāna‘i on record to date: 130 pounds, 8 ounces, at Polihua; [hawaiiifishingnews.com](http://hawaiiifishingnews.com))



Ayla Aki and Aaron Alcantara with their son, Landon, and the 55-lb ulua. Photo courtesy of Ayla Aki

‘Ōlelo No‘eau -

**Ka leo o ka ola** *The voice of life.* Said of any helpful advice or suggestion, or of a kindly invitation to eat (Pukui 156).



## Maui Vet Center to make monthly visits to Lānaʻi

**A**s part of an effort to reach military veterans outside of Maui, the Maui Vet Center will be coming to Lānaʻi every third Friday of the month, starting June 18, to meet with eligible Lānaʻi vets and answer any questions they might have regarding benefits to which they're entitled, and provide information on the Vet Center's counseling services, employment, and education and community resources.

An organization founded by military veterans, and a branch of the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers whose chief goal, says Roger Johnston, United States Army (retired), and director of the Maui Vet Center, is to help vets re-integrate into civilian life.

"We do a non-medical approach when we meet with vets," says Johnston. "It's very low-key. We're combat veterans ourselves, so we want vets to know we're here to help them." Help can take the form of counseling, from individual to group to PTSD to family and couples' and bereavement counseling, and of referrals to community resources and alcohol and drug treatment programs, all part of the Maui Vet Center's readjustment counseling service (RCS).

Albert Loui, U.S. Navy (ret.), veterans outreach program specialist, Maui Vet Center, understands the "challenges that come with managing life during and after the military. We can help vets get up that mountain," he says, referring to the Vet Center's highly-trained counselors and team members who are dedicated to seeing [vets] through those challenges. "Most of us have also served," says Loui, "so we understand common veteran and military experiences."

Sometimes, vets need help in starting a claim, says Loui. "After seeing us, vets will walk away with a better knowledge of the services here, and the benefits they've earned."

The informational meet-up in June will take place from 8 a.m. to noon, Friday, June 18 at Dole Park, with a table and chairs providing the basic set-up. No appointment is required. Johnston says the Maui Vet Center's customer service is rated the highest in the country. He and Loui have been "talking story" for several months with ten or more veterans in Hāna. "Most veterans want to connect. They come to talk story. Over time, they start to open up. They want to know about their benefits. [They might have questions about] disability, education, home loans," Johnston says. "We're here to listen, to find out what they need." For more information on eligibility and the broad range of counseling services the Maui Vet Center offers, contact Albert Loui, (808) 242-8557.

## Lānaʻi Community Stewardship Program

Contributed by Shelly Preza

**T**he Lānaʻi Culture & Heritage Center (Lānaʻi CHC) is proud to announce its Lānaʻi Community Stewardship Program. The project is a part of Kuahiwi a Kai, which includes diverse conservation projects to restore health to the eastern side of the island. The Lānaʻi CHC community program will include stewardship of the Keomoku region of Lānaʻi through hunting of invasive deer and mouflon. Managed by community members who have spent years hunting on this land and open to all residents to participate, this program relies upon local knowledge and skill to take care of Lānaʻi from mauka to makai. For more information on how to participate, please join us at our informational community meeting 5 p.m., Friday, June 18 via Zoom. A link to register can be found on the culture center website, [lanaichc.org](http://lanaichc.org)

We are also pleased to announce the launch of our 2021 E 'Ike Hou iā Lānaʻi summer program. This year, the hybrid program will include virtual modules, workshops and also a few in-person stewardship activities open to Lānaʻi students and their 'ohana. For information on how to sign up, please visit our website. Mahalo!



Waia'ōpae Fishpond, Lānaʻi - Photograph courtesy of Charlie Palumbo

## Lions Club Eyeglass Recycling Program

Contributed by Diane Irons, president, Lanai City Lions Club

**A**n estimated one hundred fifty three million people\* are visually impaired because of uncorrected refractive



errors (far- and near-sightedness). Almost all cases can be corrected and normal vision restored with eyeglasses, contact lenses or refractive surgery.

For children and adults who need eyeglasses, not having a pair of eyeglasses profoundly impacts their education, employment, and quality of life.

The Lions Clubs in Hawaiʻi participate in the world's largest collection of used eyeglasses to help those in need. The glasses are shipped to the nearest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center where trained volunteers sort, clean and determine the prescription strengths of the eyeglasses. Volunteers, then, carefully package the prepared glasses and store them until they are required at eyeglass dispensing missions all over the world.

At the mission site, eye care professionals and trained Lion and Leo volunteers conduct vision screenings and dispense the appropriate recycled glasses to children and adults in need, free of charge.

Glasses that are not suitable for reuse are recycled for scrap, with the earnings benefitting local Lions and Leos projects.

Your efforts count. Thousands of eyeglasses are buried in dresser drawers, desks, and closets at home and work. It's time to dig them out and repurpose those glasses. Old prescription eyeglasses may no longer be useful to you, but to someone who needs them, recycled glasses can mean the chance to work and support a family, read a book or the newspaper, or see a child for the first time.

Please donate your used glasses, including sunglasses and reading glasses, and especially children's glasses, today. Collections boxes are located at the Bank of Hawaii-Lānaʻi branch, Lānaʻi Public & School Library, Lānaʻi Straub Clinic and Lānaʻi Senior Center. Thank you for donating your used eyeglasses. \*World Health Organization (2013)

## Lions Club Scholarship awards

Contributed by Lani Szelag, Lānaʻi City Lions Club Scholarship chairperson

**T**he Lānaʻi City Lions Club awards a \$1,000 scholarship annually to a deserving graduating senior at Lānaʻi High and Elementary School. This year, there are two recipients: Ryllah-Rae Rodrigues and Allyna Teppang. The LCLC wishes them success in their continued education, and thanks all applicants for their scholastic efforts and dedication to serving our community. Congratulations, Allyna, Ryllah-Rae, and the Class of 2021!



Allyna Teppang



Ryllah-Rae Rodrigues

**He poʻi na kai uli, kai koʻo, 'a'ohē hina pūko'a.** *Though the sea be deep and rough, the coral rock remains standing.*  
Said of one who remains calm in the face of difficulty (Pukui 97).

## Southern Airways to bring larger aircraft in Fall 2021

**S**outhern Airways, the parent company of Mokulele Airlines, announced May 6, that it will be adding a Beechcraft 1900 aircraft to its Hawai'i fleet; service will begin in Fall 2021. Initially, service will include two roundtrip flights to Honolulu from Moloka'i and Lāna'i most days of the week. The Beechcraft 1900 is a pressurized, nineteen-passenger, twin-engine turboprop aircraft, designed for regional airline operations. It is powered by the same Pratt & Whitney PT6 engines that are used on Mokulele's Cessna Caravans. Tickets will go on sale this summer, pending Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration approvals.

According to the company press release, boarding and moving about the cabin will be easier in the Beechcraft 1900, benefitting elderly passengers and those with limited mobility. The plane will also be available for specialty charters, for such groups as athletic teams who travel for high school sporting events on neighbor islands.

"Southern Airways and Mokulele have shown great commitment to our communities since the start of the pandemic," said State Representative Lynn Decoite. Ross Higashi, Hawai'i DOT deputy director, echoed the community benefits: "Adding this larger aircraft to its fleet will offer Moloka'i and Lāna'i residents who have special travel needs ease and convenience, and be a welcome alternative to travelers who prefer flying on a larger aircraft."

The Beechcraft 1900 will be operated under the Southern Airways brand to distinguish its flights from the Mokulele Caravans. Mokulele now operates more than one hundred scheduled daily departures between the islands, by far the most of any airline.

"This is a logical next step for our airline as we continue to rebound from the COVID pandemic and continue to show our commitment to the people of Hawai'i," said Stan Little, chairman and chief executive officer of Southern Airways and Mokulele. "It will be a proud day in Mokulele's twenty-seven-year history when this aircraft makes its inaugural flight this Fall."

## LHS graduate lands HRYF scholarship

By Nelinia Cabiles

**F**ifty high school graduates recently were awarded the Hawai'i Rotary Youth Foundation \$5,000 scholarship. Each Rotary Club selects its own scholarship recipient. Mary Claire Manuel of Lāna'i High School is among the 2021 awardees.



Mary Claire Manuel - Photograph courtesy of Mary Claire Manuel

"...All [applicants] were exceptional but Mary Claire really stood out to us," says Greg Sturm, a charter member, Rotary Club of Lāna'i. "She had been through some tough times that only made her stronger. Her academics were excellent and her drive to study architecture and come back to Lāna'i to put her schooling to use was impressive... We were most impressed with, though, was her commitment to community services. After all, the Rotary motto is, *service before self.*"

Manuel structured her personal essay around architecture. "The blueprint: taking dual-enrollment classes. The foundation: having a tough mindset. The main structure is a support network," such as tutoring and volunteering, she says. Being involved in the community and having a strong work ethic are tenets Manuel lives by, citing a quote by Maya Angelou that crystallizes her own ethos: "Nothing will work unless you do." Manuel will attend the University of Arizona-Tucson in the coming fall semester.

## County program aids tenants behind on utility bills

**T**he County of Maui is leveraging millions of federal dollars to help households behind on rent and electric bills. The Maui County Emergency Rental Assistance Program is being administered in partnership with Catholic Charities of Hawai'i.

Hawaiian Electric suspended disconnections for nonpayment and collections activities for over a year to help households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The moratorium, set by the Public Utilities Commission, is scheduled to end on May 31.

What Maui County customers need to know about the emergency rental assistance program:

Renters/landlords may go to <https://mauicounty.gov/MauiRentHelp> or call (808) 873-4673 to learn more about the program

Priority will be given to applicants who meet the following criteria:

Have a household income less than 50 percent of the area median income for Maui County, or have at least one household member who has been unemployed for at least ninety days and is still unemployed at the time of application.

Only one person per household should apply. In addition, landlords may apply on behalf of their tenants, with the tenants' permission. To apply for assistance, households must first complete an online pre-screening form. Once the pre-screening form has been received and reviewed, applicants will be contacted and provided guidance on next steps. Applicants must:

Show financial harm from the pandemic, such as qualifying for unemployment, job loss, reduction in wages, or increase in household expenses; Show at least one household member is at risk of losing his/her housing; Have a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median income for Maui County.

While the end of the moratorium won't trigger immediate disconnections, customers having difficulty paying their bill are urged to submit a payment arrangement request to ensure uninterrupted service. Go to [hawaiianelectric.com/paymentarrangement](http://hawaiianelectric.com/paymentarrangement) to submit a request.

About 13 percent of the residential customers across Hawaiian Electric's five-island service territory who are thirty days overdue on payment are currently on a payment arrangement.

"Our goal is to ensure that every Hawaiian Electric customer stays connected," said Shelee Kimura, Hawaiian Electric's senior vice president of customer service. "To do this, residential and business customers still dealing with the financial toll of the pandemic should contact us so that together we can set up workable monthly installments. We need to hear from you for us to help."

Hawaiian Electric is reaching out to residential and business customers who have fallen the furthest behind. The company is offering residential and smaller commercial customers with a past due balance four-, six- or twelve-month payment arrangement options, and has added an eighteen-month option for residential customers.

To request a payment arrangement, go to [hawaiianelectric.com/paymentarrangement](http://hawaiianelectric.com/paymentarrangement) or submit the request form through the mobile app. By contacting Hawaiian Electric now and signing up for a payment plan, customers can avoid an electric service interruption.

For the latest information on available financial assistance, visit [hawaiianelectric.com/COVID19](http://hawaiianelectric.com/COVID19). For help managing energy costs, Hawai'i Energy is a trusted resource for tips and rebates to help offset the costs of energy-saving equipment and services. Visit [hawaiienergy.com/products-and-services/save-energy-and-money](http://hawaiienergy.com/products-and-services/save-energy-and-money) for more information.

## Charity Walk goes virtual

**T**he Maui County Charity Walk, sidelined by the pandemic last year, will return in 2021. Sponsored by Maui Hotel & Lodging Association to raise money for local charities, the Charity Walk will be virtual, starting August 28 through September 11, 2021, and is moving to a cashless system. Everyone is encouraged to register online, where team donations can be made directly.

"The Lāna'i Art Center is a participant and could be awarded up to \$10,000 for our keiki program," says Katie McQuinn, co-director, LAC. To donate to LAC, visit <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/Lanai/team/LanaiArt>

The minimum required registration fee is \$50 per person; registrants receive an event T-shirt, access to MoveSpring, the interactive event platform, integrated with MobileCause, and a chance to win event prizes. Visit <https://mauihla.org/events/visitor-industry-charity-walk-maui-molokai-lana-i> to download an official registration form.

**He luelue ka 'upena e ku'u ai. The fine-meshed net is the one to let down into the sea. A fine-meshed net misses nothing, big or small. In seeking wealth, the small things are just as important as the big ones (Pukui 85).**



## From the Farm It takes a village or a strong team – meet the Sales dream team of Sensei Ag

A monthly column conceived and authored by the Sensei Ag leadership team.

**B**efore Sensei Farms’ delicious leafy greens, cucumbers, peppers or tomatoes travel from our farm to your store shelves, they make their way “across” the desk of our sales team – the driving force that connects our amazing farmers to our grocery and restaurant partners.

### Randy Frederick, senior vice president of Sales & Business Development

Randy joined in June 2020 with over three decades of sales and business development experience. He began his career in the beverage industry, spending over a decade at MillerCoors, followed by Avalon and Monarch Beverages. Randy transitioned into produce as vice president of National Sales at Freight Farms. Most recently, he was director of Sales & Business Development at Crop One, a vertical farming company based outside the Boston area.

With Randy’s one-year Sensei anniversary quickly approaching, he reflects on what he has enjoyed most. It’s the “exciting prospect of changing the way producing and selling produce has been done for decades by leveraging data to improve the process.”

Throughout his career, Randy has executed many grocery partner contracts, but his favorite contracts have been those signed for Sensei Farms. Foodland, Richard’s Market and Pine Isle “displayed an incredibly warm acceptance of Sensei Farms’ produce and our mission.” Ultimately, to succeed in sales, you must believe in the product you are selling. Randy’s favorite is Sensei Farms’ fresh, local tomatoes. “The bright, fresh taste makes me reminisce about summer.”

### Blair Richards, director of Sales & Business Development, Hawai‘i

Blair is a Sensei veteran. He joined in 2018 prior to the separation between the retreat and the agricultural sides of the company. Blair entered agriculture as a seasonal employee for Charlie’s Produce in Washington. He enjoyed a successful fifteen-year career with Charlie’s, and also had the opportunity to work as a general manager for the Rogge Company, a division of Charlie’s, out of Alaska. Blair relocated to Hawai‘i to become the chief operating officer of D. Otani Produce before joining Sensei.

Similar to Randy, Blair is proud of the Sensei mission. He emphasizes, “just like we grow our food, we too grow as individuals, working together towards our ultimate mission to bring fresh, local produce to all of Hawai‘i.” Blair hopes to help solve global gaps and inconsistencies in nutrition, food safety and food security by “connecting our farms and products to customers through distribution partners and local retailers.”

### Jared Ratto, account manager

Jared joined Sensei this past October and has loved “working and selling a brand that is beneficial to the people buying it.” Originally from California, Jared spent much of his adult life in Hawai‘i. He attended the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, graduating with a degree in business marketing and tropical soil sciences. During college, he worked at a restaurant on Waikikī where he realized how much of the fresh produce was being imported. This experience encouraged him to dedicate his career to ensuring that “there is nutritious and responsibly grown produce coming from inside the state [of Hawai‘i]”.

While there are many things Jared enjoys about his career at Sensei Ag, including the delicious basil grown by the farm, he most values working alongside individuals who are dedicated to ensuring long-term food security. “I hope to be an educator on the positive effects indoor agriculture will have for our planet for generations,” he says.

### Kristina Woo-Ark, account manager

Kristina is the newest member of the sales team. Born and reared on Honolulu, Kristina’s family has deep Hawaiian roots, including ancestors who worked on the Kaua‘i plantations. She notes, “I’m very proud of the values taught by my grandparents: compassion, kindness and a deep sense of ‘ohana.”

Kristina graduated from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and has extensive experience in food sales and management, having previously worked for Mid City Restaurant Supply and the Hawai‘i Coffee Company. Kristina is honored to have the opportunity to collaborate with individuals at Sensei who are dedicated to growing “the best hydroponic produce for our local community and Hawai‘i at large.” While still early in her career, Kristina hopes to engage the Hawai‘i “food service landscape with Sensei’s incredible finished goods to bring increased awareness to locally-grown food.”



Kristina Woo-Ark

## Tasty Takeaway

As Randy’s and Jared’s favorite Sensei Farms produce are tomatoes and basil, there’s no better recipe than our Maple-Brown Sugar BLT:

#### Pancetta:

- 8 ounces pancetta
- 1/4 cup + 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/4 cup maple syrup

#### Basil aioli:

- 3 garlic cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 cup basil, finely chopped
- 1 cup mayonnaise

#### Sandwich:

- 8 slices sourdough
- 2 beefsteak tomatoes
- Salt & pepper
- 1 head butter lettuce
- 1 avocado

*Preheat oven to 375°F. Bake pancetta slices on a lined baking sheet for 18-20 minutes. Meanwhile, combine brown sugar and maple syrup in a medium mixing bowl and whisk thoroughly. In a food processor, or by hand, combine garlic, salt, and lemon juice and let sit for 5-10 minutes. Then add basil and mayonnaise and pulse or stir to combine. Adjust seasoning as needed. When pancetta is almost crispy, brush each slice with maple-brown sugar glaze, and bake 5-8 minutes more. Finally, build your sandwich. Spread 1-2 tablespoons of aioli on toasted sourdough. Top one slice with avocado, lettuce, 2 slices of tomato and 1/4 of your glazed pancetta. Top with your second slice and enjoy!*



**Ka lama ku o ka no‘eau.** *The standing torch of wisdom.* Said in admiration of a wise person (Pukui 155).

**PŪLAMA LĀNA'I**

**&**

**FOUR SEASONS RESORTS LĀNA'I**



**JOB FAIR**

**JUNE 24, 2021**

**9:00AM – 1:00PM**

**DOLE PARK • LĀNA'I CITY**

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<https://pulamalanai.com/#careers>

<https://jobs.fourseasons.com>

**inquiries**

[tsanches@pulamalanai.com](mailto:tsanches@pulamalanai.com)

(808)565-3339

[taryn.smith@fourseasons.com](mailto:taryn.smith@fourseasons.com)

(808)565-2611



# Congratulations, Lānaʻi High School Class of 2021 seniors!



Congratulations on all of your achievements, especially during these challenging times!

Wishing you great success in all that lies ahead of you.



## Congratulations, Lānaʻi High School Class of 2021!

Despite a challenging year, you made it, graduate! Well done. May what you learned about being resilient, determined,



thankful and kind this year serve you well as you reach for your dreams. Go forth and be amazing!

**From the Pine Isle Market family**

Open Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. - 9 a.m. - medical & kūpuna hours  
Monday - Saturday  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m. - General Public  
Closed on Sunday

# PINE ISLE MARKET

**Your neighborhood grocer since 1949**

**Located on Dole Square in the heart of Lānaʻi City 565-6488**



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Congratulations  
to LHS  
Class of 2021  
Graduates!

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16288 Okamoto Realty LLC  
338 Eighth St.  
Lānaʻi City, HI 96763  
808-565-7519 office  
808-559-0200 cell  
[www.HomesonLanai.com](http://www.HomesonLanai.com)



Visit our office, phone, text or email.



Hawaiʻi Deer and Mouflon hunting is now open in the CGMA. To commemorate the season, Mia totes a cooler from Creative Designs Hawaiʻi that keeps beverages and snacks perfectly chilled. For hunting enthusiasts, we stock deer-themed caps, thermoses, T-shirts, blankets, and more! Satisfy your deer fix at

The Local Gentry!



Now Open:  
10 a.m - 5 p.m. Mon - Sat.  
Sun. - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
808-565-9130

Like us on Facebook and watch for us

on Facebook Live!  
**facebook**

Hours subject to change pending any COVID-19-related restrictions



# An important message to our customers

*Hawaiian Electric is here to keep you connected*



## It's time to take action

The moratorium on disconnections for nonpayment ended **May 31, 2021**. If your account is past due, now is the time to choose a payment schedule that meets your needs. Customers on a payment plan are not subject to disconnection. Sign up now for an interest-free payment arrangement. To review options and submit a request, go to [hawaiianelectric.com/paymentarrangement](https://hawaiianelectric.com/paymentarrangement).

## What to expect

If your account is past due and we do not hear from you, we may automatically roll your balance into a 12-month payment plan with your July 2021 bill so you can avoid disconnection. **Your July bill will be larger than normal because it will include the current charges plus the installment amount.** You can opt out of the plan or transition to a more tailored plan to fit your needs at any time by going to [hawaiianelectric.com/COVID19](https://hawaiianelectric.com/COVID19).

## What happens if I can't pay?

If you do not pay the amount due while on a payment plan, it may trigger collection activity and your service may be disconnected. Please contact us right away if you need assistance or to make an adjustment to your arrangement. We're here to help but we can't help if we don't hear from you.

## Is there assistance available?

Yes, if you are experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage you to seek government and nonprofit agency assistance. While Hawaiian Electric does not administer these programs we work with them. See a listing of resources at [hawaiianelectric.com/COVID19](https://hawaiianelectric.com/COVID19).

## Watch out for scams

Scammers will try to scare you into thinking that your power is about to be shut off. Don't be fooled. **Hawaiian Electric NEVER threatens immediate disconnection and NEVER asks for payment with gift cards, Cash App, Bitcoin or prepaid debit cards.** Ignore calls, texts, emails or in-person collectors who say you'll be immediately disconnected if you don't pay.



**Hawaiian  
Electric**



# LĀNAI HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021

Photography by Philo Sowers \* and families of graduates



Sheilah Marie Agcaoili



Giyana Agliam



Mark Key Ambe



Brian Amby ▼ Lahainaluna High School



Trevan Ayonayon



Jeofrey Baltero



Dacyn Bayez-Etrata - \*



Naupaka Borders



Ayan Nicole Bringas - \*



Zhenya David



Cyon Esteban ▼ Kamehameha High School



Mitchell Ganir



Ka'ohulani Hanog



Emily Hera



Amaya Ho'opi'i-Baptista



Maile Laporga

Not pictured: Thor Fleischauer



# LĀNA'I HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021



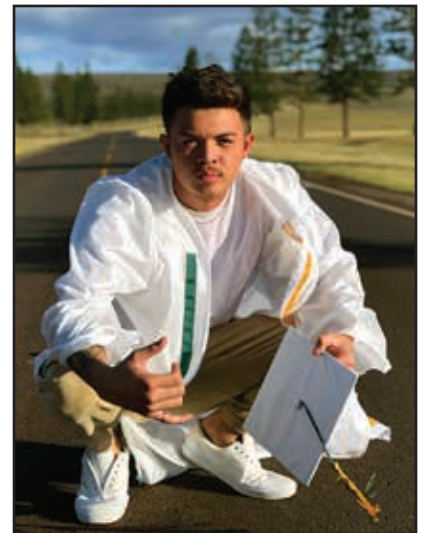
Jacob Lenseigne



Arabela Grace Llamelo



Lovemarie Llamelo - \*



Jonny Lopez-Agliam



Mary Claire Manuel



Rayden Manuel



Brandi-lee Medeiros



Chammieh Mijares



Kainalu Morimoto



Aira Joy Olbinado



George Ornellas, IV  
▼ Kamehameha High School



Kaitlyn Purdy



Michael John Raqueno



Christianjay Rendon



Jace Robinett



Ryllah-Rae Rodrigues

CONTINUED ON PG. 20



# Lāna‘i Community Health Center

## Educate and Vaccinate!

Since the beginning of the year, LCHC’s Vaccination Team have been hard at work, educating and vaccinating the Lāna‘i community. To date, approximately 52% of the community have been fully vaccinated, thereby, reducing the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Furthermore, as of May 12, the Centers for Disease Control has approved the Pfizer COVID vaccine for ages 12 to 15. With Lāna‘i’s limited resources and inability to provide critical care on island, it is even more important that Lāna‘i residents get vaccinated. LCHC offers vaccine clinics on Tuesdays and Thursdays. During your appointment, you will be closely monitored by our vaccination team to ensure no adverse effects occur. To schedule a vaccine appointment or for any questions regarding the covid vaccines, please call Lāna‘i Community Health Center at 808-565-6919.

**Remember, vaccinations are a safe and effective way to keep your ‘Ohana healthy!**



*E Ola Nō  
Lāna‘i  
Life,  
Health  
and  
Well-being  
for Lāna‘i*



SCAN ME

## Vaccine Clinic

**Starting Next week COVID Vaccines will be available at LCHC on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Moderna, J&J, and Pfizer (Ages 12+) will be available.**

**Call us at (808) 565-6919 to schedule your appointment. (All Vaccines are given by appointment only. Minors must be accompanied by their guardian.)**

## In-Person Fitness Classes return!

Due to the pandemic, LCHC’s fitness program took a “mini-vacay” from providing in-person fitness classes. We are excited to announce that after a year of hiatus, LCHC will resume in-person fitness classes! The location for our new classes will be located around the area of the community pool (football field, basketball court, grass areas surrounded the pool) and the schedule is posted on our website at [www.lanaihealth.org](http://www.lanaihealth.org) (events > class schedule) We know that the pandemic has affected us mentally and physically, so we encourage you to get moving and grooving. Exercise is a very important part to living a healthier, more wholesome life. It helps relieve stress, builds up our muscles, helps strengthen our joints and bones, and helps us function in doing our everyday tasks. Join us for Tai Chi, Whole Body Stretch, Yoga, Total Body Conditioning, Zumba, Youth Soccer, Pilates, and more starting this June!



Akiko Strickland, Yoga Instructor



Beth Conroy-Humphrey, Fitness Instructor



Hung Nguyen, Taichi Instructor



Pua Turqueza, Zumba Instructor

### LCHC Career Opportunities

- FRONT DESK REPRESENTATIVE
- FACILITIES HOUSEKEEPER

Send your resume and cover letter to [Cfiguerres@lanaihealth.org](mailto:Cfiguerres@lanaihealth.org) or drop off at Lāna‘i Community Health Center at 333 6th St.

**565-6919 - [www.lanaihealth.org](http://www.lanaihealth.org) - @LanaiHealth**





**DON'T HESITATE, VACCINATE**  
**THIS IS OUR SHOT TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY**

## The fight is not over.

After June 15, if Hawaii's population reaches a fully vaccinated rate of 70%, all travel restrictions will end, including indoor mask mandates. Our rural community, older population, and lack of medical resources make Lāna'i particularly vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19, but our vulnerabilities now present our residents with a huge opportunity to be one of the first communities to move forward. Let's all do our part to help end this pandemic. For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine and resources, visit [mauihealth.org/lanaivaccines](http://mauihealth.org/lanaivaccines).

### WHY GET VACCINATED?



#### IT'S SAFE

The COVID-19 vaccine may be new, but the technology used to create it has been around for over 20 years. Safety studies were done in thousands of patients and now millions have already been vaccinated with very limited side effects.



#### IT'S HIGHLY EFFECTIVE, EVEN AGAINST SOME NEW VARIANTS

The efficacy rate for the three COVID-19 vaccines currently being offered in the United States is between 75–95%. Studies have shown new strains or variants of the COVID-19 virus are even more contagious, but the good news is research has shown the current vaccines are effective against these new variants.



#### IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

Getting vaccinated helps prevent you from getting COVID-19, so you are less likely to spread it to others – especially with our older population and those who are more vulnerable to severe illness. Don't take that chance.



#### SIDE EFFECTS ARE MINIMAL

In large clinical trials, most side effects have been minor and typically only last a few days. And remember, experiencing a mild side effect isn't necessarily all bad, it means the vaccine is working, and your body is building protection against the virus. The COVID-19 vaccine does not include a live COVID virus, therefore it is impossible for the vaccine to give you the virus.



#### GET BACK TO WORK, GET BACK TO LIFE

Less disease in our community means less restrictions - in public spaces, your workplace, gatherings, and travel, which means we can finally see our friends and family again, both here at home and across the world.



#### LĀNA'I COMMUNITY "HERD" IMMUNITY

We live in a rural community and have limited medical resources. The best protection we have is to get vaccinated. The more people that get vaccinated, the faster we can reach herd immunity and end this pandemic.



#### IT'S FREE

Everyone can get the COVID-19 vaccine regardless of your ability to pay or whether you have insurance or not.

Maui Memorial Medical Center  
Maui Memorial Outpatient Clinic  
Kula Hospital and Clinic  
Lāna'i Community Hospital



**Lāna'i  
Community Hospital**  
MAUI HEALTH

[mauihealth.org](http://mauihealth.org) | [#THISISOURSHOT](https://twitter.com/THISISOURSHOT)



**BUSINESS SERVICES FOR LANAI**

**ONE-ON-ONE TECHNICAL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE. HELP WITH:**

- ▼ **Business registration**
- ▼ **Filing GET tax forms**
- ▼ **Business Marketing**
- ▼ **Understanding business financials**
- ▼ **Small Business Loans for Startup or existing Lāna‘i Businesses**

*David Daly Director*  
**808 243-4318**  
 Email: [david.daly@meoinc.org](mailto:david.daly@meoinc.org)



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[marguliesandassociates.com](http://marguliesandassociates.com)

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 Each franchise is independently owned and operated.



**We are looking for people to join our team at Sensei Farms to grow nutritious and delicious food right here on Lāna‘i!**

Throughout 2021 we'll be hiring for roles in a variety of capacities including harvesting, logistics, food safety, and greenhouse operations.

**We are looking for candidates interested in:**

- Growing fresh fruits and vegetables for their friends and neighbors in the community
- Being part of a science-based and forward thinking, transparent environment
- Working with an exciting new team and learning from people with diverse backgrounds

**We are currently looking to fill the following positions:**

- Farm Operations Associate
- R&D Grower
- Sales Operations

**Full-time and part-time positions available!**

Please apply at [sensei.ag/careers](http://sensei.ag/careers) if you're interested in joining the team.

For direct inquiries please contact:  
**Scott Pisani at [scott@sensei.ag](mailto:scott@sensei.ag)**



SENSEIFARMS.COM



# BEWARE OF NEW UTILITY SCAMS!

**Scammers are more aggressive than ever before,  
threatening immediate disconnection  
unless you make payments with prepaid debit cards.**

## **What Hawaiian Electric will NEVER do:**

- ◆ Send a disconnection notice via text
- ◆ Ask for private information via email
- ◆ Go door-to-door collecting past due invoices
- ◆ Threaten immediate disconnection of power

## **Don't be fooled:**



**Some scammers copy your utility's caller ID**  
by using available technology



**Ignore requests for immediate payments**  
via prepaid debit cards, gift cards, Cash App or Bitcoin



**Never provide or confirm your personal information**  
such as Social Security or card numbers

## **REPORT THE SCAM!**

Call Hawaiian Electric at **1-877-871-8461** toll free. Or to report online and for more tips, go to **[hawaiianelectric.com/stopscams](http://hawaiianelectric.com/stopscams)**



**Hawaiian  
Electric**

**UTILITIES UNITED**  
AGAINST SCAMS





Lānaʻi Water Company’s annual Water Quality Report is now available at [Lanaiwatercompany.com](http://Lanaiwatercompany.com) or by calling (808) 565.3664

Lānaʻi Water Company  
Fleet Yard  
949 Ilima Avenue  
P.O. Box 630310  
Lanai City, HI 96763

Office hours: 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

# WE'RE HIRING AT LANAI CAT SANCTUARY

Must live on Lanai. Email your resume to [Joe@LanaiCatSanctuary.org](mailto:Joe@LanaiCatSanctuary.org).

## VETERINARY ASSISTANT

Seeking caring individuals to monitor cats’ health, administer medication, and perform other cat health duties.

No experience needed. \$16 per hour to start. Full time and part time positions available.

## PURR-WORTHY BENEFITS

100% paid medical, dental, and vision insurance. Paid vacation, holidays, sick leave and retirement plans for full time staff.



## CONTACT:

Joe Adarna, Sanctuary Manager  
808-462-1686  
[joe@lanaicatsanctuary.org](mailto:joe@lanaicatsanctuary.org)

[LanaiCatSanctuary.org](http://LanaiCatSanctuary.org)

# SENSEI

Join Sensei Retreats Lānaʻi and be part of a collaborative and hard-working team dedicated to supporting guests on their journey towards wellbeing.

We’re currently hiring for a variety of roles including:

- *Fitness Instructor*
  - On Call
- *Meditation Instructor*
  - On Call
- *Massage Therapist*
  - Full time & On Call
- *Hike Guide*
  - On Call (Monday to Saturday from 6:30am-9:30am and 7:00am-10:00am on Sundays)
- *Spa Assistant*
  - On Call

We’re looking for seasoned and experienced candidates with the passion and skills to create a memorable wellness experience.

Review job descriptions for the above and apply at [www.sensei.com/careers](http://www.sensei.com/careers)  
Direct inquiries contact: Alison Harding at [aharding@sensei.com](mailto:aharding@sensei.com)





**HALE KŪPUNA O LĀNAʻI**  
 HALE MAHAOLU  
 1144 Ilima Avenue

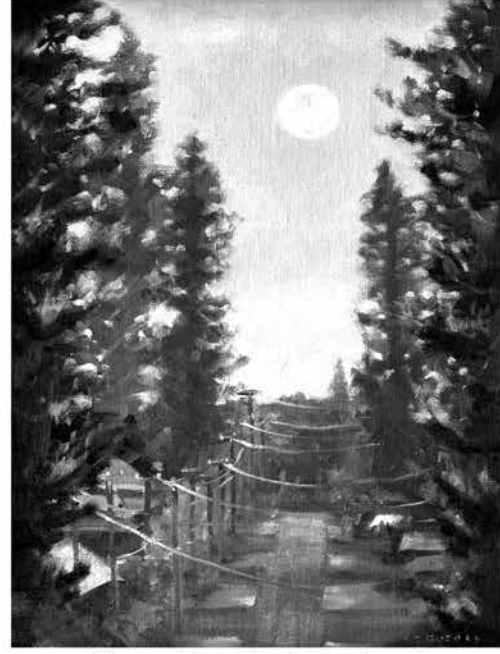


**Minimum Requirements at time of application:**


1. Must be at least 62 years old.
2. RD Income Limits:  
 One person - \$35,900  
 Maximum Two persons - \$41,000  
 Must be capable of achieving an independent living status.

Call office for more information  
**565-6615**

## Mike Carroll Gallery




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[www.MikeCarrollGallery.com](http://www.MikeCarrollGallery.com)



# Customer Appreciation Saturdays!



**More Options from the Airline Dedicated to Lānaʻi**  
**All Saturday flights to/from Lānaʻi in June and July**

only... **\$49** Use Promo Code: **Saturday**

No testing or travel quarantine required  
 beginning 15 days after your final vaccine shot!

**NOW WITH MORE DAILY FLIGHTS!**

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## Lāna'i Hardware & Lumber


### Congratulations, Lāna'i High School's Class of 2021!

Remember that achieving your dreams will take hard work and faith. It starts with belief. Believe that you can, and you will. Be truthful, be punctual, be grateful and kind. The best of luck to you all as you go after your dreams!

From the staff at Lāna'i Hardware & Lumber

**OPEN:**  
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**CLOSED for LUNCH:**  
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Hours subject to change; please call for most current information, **565-9394**.



Andre Yenko; Abby Sandi; Monica & Albert Borges

Centrally located at 1110 Lāna'i Avenue, next to the service station.  
**565-9394**



  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

## CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW AT THE GRILLE!

Make your evening special, and reserve a table at Lāna'i City Bar & Grille. Enjoy new menu items like Kohala Mountain Sunfish, Braised Venison Sliders and vegan options made with locally sourced ingredients from Sensei Farms.

*Reservations*

**563-0936**  
LANAICITYBARANDGRILLE.COM



## Lāna'i City

Bar & Grille

---

**TACO TUESDAYS**  
5-9 PM

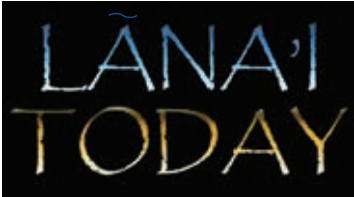
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**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY**  
6-9 PM

---

**TUESDAY-SATURDAY**  
DINE-IN: **5-9 PM**  
ONLINE ORDERING, TAKEOUT,  
DELIVERY: **5-8 PM**





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Lanai, HI 96763

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Boxholder  
Lanai, HI 96763

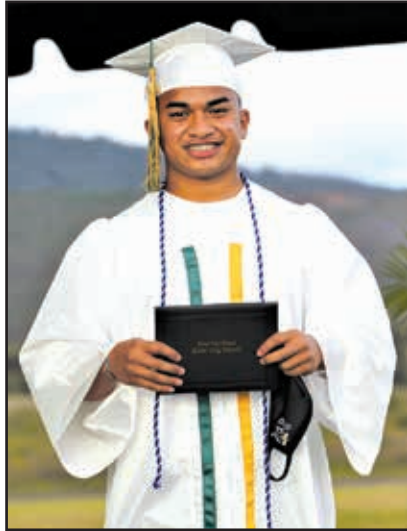
BULK RATE  
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LANAI CITY, HI 96763  
PERMIT NO. 4

# LĀNAʻI HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021

Photography by Philo Sowers \* and families of graduates



Celina-Ann Romero



Jesse Sigrah - \*



Jan Lloyd Simon



Vaiata Kanno Stokes  
▼ Kamehameha High School



Kry'ché Dagdag Suenaga - \*



Jasen Sugiyama - \*



Athalya-Paige Sunio



Allyna Teppang - \*



Jomari Teppang



Joshua Tolentino



Scarlett Van Tyne



Tower Vergara



Shennie May Vicente



Devin Jordan Vidad



This year we faced relentless adversity and uphill battles. Regrettably, we did not get to experience the same quintessential senior year as most graduating classes before us. We all stared at computer screens for months; we didn't get to play sports. Nor did we go through such rites of passage as the prom. However, we were able to bring our class together one last time. Moreover, our parents, the school staff, and our community did everything they could to make this year memorable. In a way, it was more special than in years past. How many other classes went on a senior scavenger hunt or were able to study native fauna? We can also be proud that our class never wavered in our pursuit and collective aspiration to grow together. The lessons, values, and memories we made during our time here are precious. They will last a lifetime.

Let us never forget the grand fights and triumphs that encompassed the thirteen years we all had together. While our paths may diverge, our roots here on Lānaʻi remain constant, regardless of where we may end up. We will look to the future, but we all must remember our shared past.

It'll be fun to see what everyone will do and I think we can all agree we're excited to start our journey and see where our dreams take us. Thank you all for creating such a memorable childhood! Epic table gang!

- Tower Vergara, 2021 class president, Lānaʻi High School