

LĀNA‘I TODAY

FEBRUARY 2024




From Stamps
to Scans
PAGE 12

Turning Pages Together in the Glow of Lāna‘i Library’s Tech Upgrade

Photo by Anthony Kaauamo

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‘ĀINA OLA O HIʻI: Restoration Area Now Hawaiʻi’s Largest Montane Predator Exclusion Area?

contributed by Rachel Sprague

Some Lānaʻi folks have been following the approximately four-year construction of our new 82-acre predator-exclusion area in the mesic forest above Hiʻi bench. This fence was completed in mid-2023 and protects an important nesting concentration of endangered ‘uaʻu (Hawaiian petrel) where the species was once considered to be gone. We provided an update in August about plans for eradication of the rodents inside, using targeted and careful use of rodenticide applied by helicopter inside the fence. Our team and partners successfully conducted the planned aerial applications of diphacinone-50 on October 5th and 10th, 2023. We are pleased to share that as of the end of December 2023, we had not detected a rodent on camera inside the fence since October 13! We will keep monitoring through the ‘uaʻu non-breeding season at burrow and trail locations through the fence. But given that we normally see rats on nearly every ‘uaʻu burrow-monitoring camera outside the predator-fence at least monthly, (with a spike in December after the birds leave for the year) this is a very good sign. Overall, we are confident in saying that at Christmas, there was indeed nothing stirring in Hiʻi, not even a mouse!

This is now the largest predator-exclusion fence in mauka habitat in Hawaiʻi. Predator-exclusion fences have been wildly successful in creating “islands within islands” to bring back life and health for species affected by non-native terrestrial predators in New Zealand and Hawaiʻi. New Zealand has 50+ fences protecting more than 24,000 acres and 12 fences have been built in Hawaiʻi to date. Hawaiʻi’s fences are mostly on coastal peninsulas, other lowland/coastal areas, or small (<10 acre) montane fences focused on social attraction of endangered seabirds. We will now be holding close the healthy land of Hiʻi — ‘āina ola o Hiʻi — as the area becomes a sanctuary for native birds, plants, kāhuli tree snails and more. For example, endangered hala pepe trees, a species only found on Lānaʻi and often targeted by both deer and rats, have already been out planted inside. Monitoring will also continue for target species such as ‘uaʻu to evaluate the response of the birds in the area. We look forward to seeing health come back to this place of refuge for our native plants and wildlife.

Farewell to the Borges' Lānaʻi Hardware

contributed by Robin Kaye



The big white building, next to the gas station, is quiet now. Been so for awhile. Even so, I still find myself getting into my truck for a ride to “the hardware store” to pick up a small PVC fitting or buy a can of spray paint. Then I remember: they’re closed. Forever. My choices are now severely and expensively few: ferry to Maui, cab/uber to Home Depot, or hope that Amazon or eBay allows shipping what I need to 96763.

Ace Hardware, as it was first called, filled a huge gap in Lānaʻi’s day-to-day life. From gutters to rakes, keys to garden hoses, even lawn mowers or toilets — Ace was here. And even when it dropped the Ace and became simply Lānaʻi Hardware, Albert and Monica Borges continued to provide a hardware lifeline for all of us.

I volunteered there a few times to help unload the weekly barge shipments, so I got an inside view of how to run a hardware store. And for one holiday season, my wife Sally and I filled in while the Borges family took a vacation.

We learned that it was not easy for Albert or Monica. Shipping costs were always rising. A pandemic kept people away and threatened everyone’s health. Supply chains were notoriously slow, even more so for an island with a weekly barge delivery often impacted by high seas or strong winds and tides.

But the store remained a cornerstone for Lānaʻi folks. Our houses are, mostly, old; mine was built in 1936. While solid and sturdy, our homes need constant care. Wood rots; windows won’t open; laundry lines fail; leaves need raking; lights burn out. How easy it was to run over to Lānaʻi Hardware and pick up that light bulb, or the electrical wire — or a new rake. And one of the luxuries of their store was the opportunity to ask Albert just how he would do a project.

But it’s closed now. I didn’t see any community farewell to Lānaʻi Hardware, but I say one every time I drive past and see that sliding door locked. Lānaʻi Hardware was a critical source of those thousands of things that keep our homes running, and we miss that.

So let’s say a well-deserved “Thank You” to Albert and Monica, for 25 years of provisioning Lānaʻi.

Lānaʻi Hardware was a critical source of those thousands of things that keep our homes running, and we miss that.

HPM Building Supply Store and Drive-Thru Lumberyard Opening in April 2024

message from Hawaiʻi Planing Mill, Ltd.

Being in business for over a century in Hawaiʻi is a feat few businesses know. That milestone quality shows an unshakable and innovative resiliency. When HPM Building Supply opened its doors as Hawaiʻi Planing Mill, Ltd. in 1921, it started in the humblest of beginnings. Founders Kametaro Fujimoto and Sanzo Kawasaki were two Japanese immigrants who took a chance to operate a small lumber business in Hilo. As local contractors, they had built relationships in the community and wanted to share their expertise while providing more resources for people. Over a century later, Hawaiʻi Planing Mill, Ltd. is now HPM Building Supply, one of Hawaiʻi’s leading providers of building supplies, manufactured building products, hardware stores, home design centers, and more, with 18 locations across Hawaiʻi and Washington state, and its 19th location set to open here on Lānaʻi this April.

The core values and ethics of Kametaro and Sanzo still guide the company’s decisions today. With a heart for the community and a commitment to doing business with integrity and character, HPM constantly strives for excellence and continued growth to serve Hawaiʻi’s evolving building needs.

Listening to customers and knowing their building needs have always been the differentiators of HPM’s customer service. HPM team members go above and beyond in serving customers because of the longstanding company culture that takes care of employees. In 1959, HPM began an employee profit-sharing plan. In 1977, HPM became one of Hawaiʻi’s first companies to establish an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). After a year of employment (and at least 1,000 hours worked), employees become part of HPM’s ESOP — meaning they’re not just employees but owners. Today, HPM’s nearly 570+ owner-employees own 100% of company stock through the ESOP.

HPM’s April opening on the Pineapple Isle is consistent with HPM’s history of providing for the community on other islands in times of need. Since Lānaʻi Hardware and Lumber store shuttered its doors in 2023, there has been a void in our community for DIYers, weekend warriors and building professionals alike. HPM is currently renovating the 5,000-square-foot space into a fresh retail store and convenient drive-thru lumberyard.



HPM plans for the store to carry essential products, including lumber, plywood, hardware, power tools, paint, plumbing and electrical supplies, and other items. Unique to HPM’s Lānaʻi location will be live plants, locally sourced from Pūlama Lānaʻi’s nursery. The store will also carry pet food and supplies and various seasonal products. Lānaʻi customers can also easily custom-order specialty lumber, windows, doors, cabinets, window coverings and manufactured products, like HPM’s Custom Metal Roofing.

“We hope to be not only a place for people to find the hardware and building supplies that they need, but also a resource for people looking to build and live better,” says Jason Fujimoto, HPM chairman and CEO. “We’ve had the opportunity to work with Lānaʻi Builders in the past and look forward to getting to know the community and becoming part of it.”

The opening of HPM will undoubtedly change the way Lānaʻi builds. Having access to resources that were once difficult to obtain will be a welcome change, and HPM has the ability to bring in a wide variety of building supplies to meet our community’s needs.

HPM is looking to hire more team members for the Lānaʻi store, and interested candidates are encouraged to apply at www.hpmhawaii.com/careers.



Dakine... my neighbor Kayla Garcia... pretty good, ah, you?

Taking Different Approaches to Make it Work in the Lāna‘i Adult Softball League

by Anthony Kaauamo

Transitioning from coach to player, Keo Sanches reflects on the interplay of these roles. “Knowing the mechanics of the game, the rules, and what to do in different situations. The stuff that you teach your players. For me as a player now, it’s about incorporating what you coach into action.”

As sheets of rain pour over the baseball diamond, Keo, in the striking white and blue jersey of his team, Strictly Aloha, adjusts his baseball mitt. Amidst the downpour, his team’s pitcher, Israel Zablan, squints, fine-tuning his grip on the slick ball. With a determined underhand throw, he lofts the yellow sphere toward the batter, Morgan Jonas, from team Kold Blooded Soldiers. His bat connects and sends the ball slicing through the rain, leaving a fleeting dry trail behind it.



The mild amongst the wild, Pablo Aguilar of All Nutz.



Fierce on the field but Strictly Aloha — Strictly Aloha pitcher, Israel Zablan.

The Lāna‘i adult softball league, supported by the County of Maui’s Parks & Recreation Lāna‘i District Office, features 12 teams: Home Grown, Water Murky, Dakine, All Nutz, Strictly Aloha, Kold Blooded Soldiers, KSA, Sasi, ACK, Hated By All, Lil Bits, and Islanders. These teams boast custom jerseys, ranging from tribal prints to clean, diverse designs, adding visual vibrancy to the league. Players personalize their jerseys further, choosing to display either their last names or distinctive nicknames.

The game’s rules have been adapted for safety and inclusivity, including a unique running path to home base and score caps per inning, with a mandate for at least two female players on each team. This inclusivity ensures a level playing field, accommodating the league’s diverse age and gender composition. Morgan Divina of Strictly Aloha voiced her support for gender inclusivity in the league. “Why not? It should be fair. There should be at least one female playing on the field.”

Moreover, the league is a unique blend of Lāna‘i locals and off-island contractors from various construction companies working on projects at Kaluako‘i and Hōkūao. Among these contractors is Kauka Kuamo‘o, a scaffolding specialist from BrandSafway, who has been on Lāna‘i for two years, working weekdays and returning to ‘Aiea, O‘ahu, on weekends. He fondly compares Lāna‘i to his memories of ‘Aiea, reminiscing, “This was how ‘Aiea was. Wave to everybody. Never had the highway when I was growing up. Simple.” It’s a sentiment of simplicity and community he finds in Lāna‘i.



In a deep contemplative moment, Strictly Aloha’s Fred “BigMac” Bolo, looks to the field for answers.

His respect for the island community is evident not just in words but also in action. A key figure in the softball league, Kuamo‘o contributes both as a player and a volunteer umpire. His efforts in establishing the modified rules demonstrate his commitment to the needs of diverse players, including the young, the old and female participants. Kuamo‘o’s involvement is a clear example of how the league serves as a platform for both community engagement and positive after-work activities, steering participants away from solitary screen time towards interactive community participation.

“It’s a community thing, just to get involved with the community, especially everybody from here, they work hard all day, and then something to relax about and go out there and just hit some balls, get together with everybody, just communicate with everybody, have a good time,” Kuamo‘o said.

The Finals Tournament, which commenced on January 10, 2024, encountered a challenging start. The first week and a half was marked by persistent rain, turning the field muddy and the grass slick with water. These conditions led to postponed games and added a layer of complexity to the competition. Players like Pablo Aguilar of All Nutz adapted to these demanding circumstances. “It introduces a different kind of challenge, but it remains fun,” he commented, showcasing their resilience.

The tournament culminated on a clear night on January 24 with Strictly Aloha emerging victorious against ACK, a contractor team from Kobayashi, Inc., clinching a 25 to 12 win.

Francisco Cantero of team KSA extended his gratitude to the staff of Maui’s Parks & Recreation Lāna‘i District Office for their support and expressed his hope for continued support from Maui County. “It’s more than a game; it’s a community activity that keeps us engaged and active.”



Not only building houses but building pilina, mahalo e Kauka Kuamo‘o



Pag-ibig?

by Jerico Jaramillo

Pag-ibig. Ano nga ba ang pag-ibig?
Marahil sa iba, ito’y payak lamang.
Isang salitang naglalaman ng
Damdamin minsan tiyak,
Minsan makabukuhanan.

Pag-ibig. Salitang makabuluhan.
Ang ibig sabihin nakabatay sa
pagkakahulugan ng taong
sadyang umiibig at may
damdaming pumipintig.

Pag-ibig. Marahil ito’y
Isang salita para sa ilan.
Ngunit ito’y nangangailan ng
gawa na siyang magbibigay
buhay at halaga.

Pag-ibig. Ito’y maaring
nangahuhulugan sa kalinga’t
aruga na nagmumula sa
Mga magulang para sa kanilang
Mga anak na tinatangi.

Pag-ibig. Marahil ito’y katumbas
sa malasakit ng isa para sa kapwa.
Ito’y bigkis na nagbubuklod sa
pagkakaisa tungo sa matiwasay at
Masaganang pakikisama.

Pag-ibig. Damdamin na ‘sing linaw ng
batis na sumasalamín sa hangad
ng magsing-irog na nagmula sa kaibigan
Pinagtibay ng tiwala at dalisay na loob
Para sa isat-isa.

Pag-ibig. Kalinga sa likas yaman
na nagdudulot ng buhay sa lahat.
Isang pagkilos na pagpapakita ng
Pagpapahalaga at malasakit sa
Mga likha na pamana.

Pag-ibig. Anong hihigit pa kaya?
Sa pangsarili kabutihan at kapakanan.
Na tanging ikaw lang at tunay na makapagbibigay
Pagunawa at pagbibigay halaga
Sa sariling kapakanan, siyang tunay na ligaya.

Pag-ibig. Ano pa man iyan.
Kung itoy tapat at sapat.
Ito ay isang biyaya.
Ito ay kaaya-aya.
Ito ay para sayo at para sa lahat



22 Years Longer Than Originally Planned: Lt. Kim Masse’s Committed Service to Lāna‘i

Lieutenant Kimberly Masse, a dedicated member of the Maui Police Department’s Lāna‘i Patrol District since 2001, began her journey in law enforcement following in her family’s footsteps and a tenure in the U.S. Navy. Her career took root in the Wailuku Patrol District, but it was her transfer to the Lāna‘i Patrol District that defined her path.

Initially intending to only remain for a year on Lāna‘i, Kim’s plans changed six months in when she met the love of her life, Kenneth Kaniho. Choosing to stay, she served as the school resource officer at Lāna‘i High & Elementary School and remained there for eight years before returning to patrol and earning a promotion to sergeant in 2010.

Her promotion to sergeant led her to the Lāhainā Patrol District, but her ties to Lāna‘i remained strong, and she returned in 2011 as the second sergeant. Inspired by Lieutenant (now Captain) Joy Medeiros, Kim moved forward in her career as acting lieutenant after Captain Medeiros returned to Wailuku. She passed the exam for promotion and was advanced to Lieutenant in November 2022.

Kim’s approach to law enforcement on Lāna‘i was shaped by the close-knit nature of the community. She understood the importance of mutual support and empathy in small communities, which influenced her policing style. Her initiatives, including the Kahiau Project, Women’s History Month, the Spring Fair, and the Pride Festival and Parade, were not just programs but bridges connecting the police with the community.

Upon retiring in February, Kim looked back on a career not just defined by her roles, but by the strong relationships and meaningful contributions she made on Lāna‘i.

“I am proud to have served our community, working my way through the ranks, to serve in many different capacities. This community is very special and near and dear to my heart! I have been blessed to have had so many great relationships, and I hope that I was an asset to our community. Kenneth and I are not leaving the island, this is our home! Some of you still call me Officer Kim, which I’ve always endeared, some call me Lieutenant, but after February first, I will just be Kim. Thank you for being part of my life and career, see you around town.”

Others’ words on Lt. Masse’s unfaltering aid...

Kelli Maltezo, who has worked closely with Kim, expressed her admiration for Kim’s unwavering support and dedication to their professional collaboration. Kelli, involved with child and adult protective services, emphasized how Kim has always been her go-to person for assistance and guidance.

“Working alongside Kim has been nothing short of fantastic,” Kelli stated. “Her responsiveness and willingness to support me in various capacities have been a blessing. Even before her promotion to lieutenant, I could always count on her. It’s not just professional collaboration; it’s also a friendship that has developed over time.”

Kelli went on to describe the ease of working with Kim, highlighting her accessibility and dependability. “Kim’s presence has been instrumental, especially for someone like me who also has to work on Maui. Having that kind of connection to law enforcement on Lāna‘i is invaluable. She’s been a reliable partner in our efforts.”

Reflecting on the importance of Kim’s decision to make Lāna‘i her home, Kelli shared, “For our community, having police officers commit to living here is crucial. Historically, officers often rotated in and out, but Kim’s choice to stay and make Lāna‘i her home made a significant difference. It humanizes the police force for our community, and it strengthens the bond between residents and law enforcement.”

Kelli emphasized Kim’s leadership qualities, describing her as community-oriented and praising her for organizing events like the Lāna‘i Family Fun Day and Youth Empowerment Workshops that fostered positive interactions between the police and the community.

Regarding Kim’s retirement, Kelli acknowledged the professional and personal impact it would have. She mentioned their joint role as forensic interviewers for child abuse cases, highlighting the void that Kim’s retirement would create in that important area of their work. However, she expressed excitement for Kim’s new chapter and the well-deserved break from the demanding responsibilities of law enforcement.

Kelli concluded with gratitude and congratulations, thanking Kim for her support, commitment to the Lāna‘i community, and her exceptional service as both a law enforcement officer and a caring individual. She wished Kim all the best in her retirement and looked forward to seeing her transition into a new phase of life.

... generous nature ...

Valerie Janikowski, the program administrator/registered nurse of Lāna‘i Kinā‘ole, where Kim serves as the board president, shared her admiration for Kim’s behind-the-scenes work in various community events. “There are so many community events and

She understood the importance of mutual support and empathy in small communities, which influenced her policing style.

“...but Kim’s choice to stay and make Lāna‘i her home made a significant difference. It humanizes the police force for our community, and it strengthens the bond between residents and law enforcement.”

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programs that she’s behind the scenes of,” Val noted. “Like the Lāna‘i Kinā‘ole annual health fair. She’s done all the paperwork, the permitting, and takes no credit. It’s about the community, not her or the Maui Police Department.”

Val highlighted Kim’s generous nature, especially in projects like the Kahiau Project, an annual initiative that provides holiday gifts to families in need. “She makes sure those kids get a big bag filled with new toys and clothes.”

Describing Kim’s personality, Val said, “Some people may not know it, but she’s really got the kindest heart, very sensitive for being such a strong individual.” She likened Kim to another local figure, Auntie Maggie Massicampo, noting their tough exterior but soft heart.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Val had a lot of interaction with Kim. “She was directly connected with HIEMA and MEMA, acting as the liaison for the medical people,” she explained. “She was the go-to person, the funnel for the latest and greatest information, keeping everyone on the same page.”

Finally, Val expressed her personal admiration for Kim. “She’s my friend, a leader, a survivor and a mentor. She’s retiring, but she’s not going anywhere. This is her home. She sees Lāna‘i as her turf. She’s earned people’s trust and her place here and she’ll stay involved. She just won’t be wearing a badge.”

... and lasting impact on Lāna‘i.

Tessie Morimoto, now the judicial clerk for the Lāna‘i District Court, and formerly the office operations assistant for the MPD Lāna‘i District from 2005 until 2022, shared her insights on working alongside Kim. “Kim developed a lot of projects that benefited the community,” Tessie said. “Like the Kahiau Project, which she developed when she was a school resource officer. It’s something that really speaks to the type of leadership she’s well known for: very youth-oriented, family-oriented, community-oriented.”

“She’s very passionate about service to others,” Tessie said, highlighting Kim’s commitment to initiating programs like Women’s History Month and the Spring Fair, “which were not just programs but bridges connecting the police with the community.”

On Kim’s leadership journey, Tessie pointed out, “Her promotion to sergeant and later to lieutenant was a natural progression of her leadership abilities. She always led by example, inspiring not just her peers but also the community with her proactive approach to problem solving and community engagement.”

Tessie also shared that Kim’s dedication to Lāna‘i was evident from the start. “When I first started, we often had officers rotating in and out of the district. They would do a one-year term of duty on Lāna‘i and then they go back to Maui. She was one of the few people at the time who was willing to make Lāna‘i her permanent home and invest herself in the community,” Tessie continued, “It’s funny because even though she became a lieutenant and hasn’t been a patrol officer or school resource officer for a long time, people still often call her Officer Kim. And I think this is because that’s how far back her history here goes.”

As Kim embarks on her well-deserved retirement, Tessie reflected on the impact Kim has had. “The connection she has built with Lāna‘i is lasting. Her work has laid a strong foundation for how law enforcement and communities can work together. We will deeply miss her presence but are excited for her as she starts this new chapter.”

“She’s very passionate about service to others, which were not just programs but bridges connecting the police with the community.”

Lāna‘i Air, Operated by Western Aircraft, Inc., Expands Service to Public



Lāna‘i Air, operated by Western Aircraft, Inc., serving Four Seasons Resort Lāna‘i guests and offering charter flights since 2017, began offering scheduled flights to the general public on January 3rd, 2024. Operating between Lāna‘i City and Honolulu, flights land at 150 Kaulele Place in Honolulu. For those considering using Lāna‘i Air’s services, here is a general breakdown of what passengers can expect:

Fare, Baggage, and Booking Details:

- Flight Fare: Scheduled flights are priced at \$160 one-way.
- Baggage Policy: Each passenger can check in two bags, with a maximum size of 62 linear inches and a weight limit of 50 lbs. per bag.
- Reservation and Cancellation: Reservations are available on the Lāna‘i Air website at www.lanaiair.com. Cancellations are fully refundable up to 48 hours before travel. Tickets canceled less than 48 hours prior to travel are non-refundable but valid for one year.

Landing Area, Check-In, and Transportation:

- Check-In on Lāna‘i: The Lāna‘i Air check-in podium is near the airport entry gate, next to the old fire station. Future updates on moving to the main terminal ticket counter will be announced.
- Check-In on O‘ahu: Check-in is located at the Lāna‘i Air hangar at 150 Kaulele Place, which is also the arrival location in Honolulu.

- 150 Kaulele Place in Honolulu: This hangar serves as the landing area for Lāna‘i Air flights. It accommodates private vehicle pick-ups and drop-offs. The main parking lot at 100 Kaulele offers a 15-minute grace period for early arrivals before parking fees apply.
- Rideshare and Taxi Services: Services like Uber, Lyft and taxis can be used for convenient pickups and drop-offs at the 150 Kaulele Place address.
- Boarding Accessibility: Passengers using the PC-12 aircraft must be able to ascend and descend stairs independently, as there is no ramp available for boarding.

Aircraft:

- Aircraft Type: Flights use Pilatus PC-12 aircraft, known for luxury and efficiency. Average flight time between Lāna‘i and Honolulu is around 30 minutes.

For more information, visit:

Lāna‘i Air website:



Lāna‘i Air FAQ page:





He Kanikau o Ka ‘Ululā‘au

by Siriala Pō

the rustling of your branches call me
and like the Kō‘ele mists descend, I slide over you

on the tip of your finger
like the pine needle of a tree

you drink me
fog dripped and drenched

like the underground we share
beneath the shade of your trees



Palikaholo

by Susorenai

To my love...
The one who brought me here,
On the steep slopes of a sea cliff awaiting
its next opportunity to free fall pieces
of itself into the silvery blue below.

Tiger stripes layers upon layers
of once flowing molten lava,
wide panoramic views
into a voyagers’ vast highway.

To my love...
The one who brought me there
like a cool breeze comforting me in the sun
that provides scorches of heat
blazing with passion.

Smoothing out the rough edges
of rumbling stone
rolling in the crashing ocean.

To my love...
The one who brings me everywhere
swaying like a silent sound
with each gust freeing
my once confined soul.

Trembling below is an excited ocean
caressing adventurous sails
with vertically accomplished cliffs.
With you the currents
take me everywhere, far beyond imagination.

My love... the one who brought me here, there,
and everywhere else I’d follow.



Kristine, Kali, and Kyrie Lei de Brum; Kali is the son of Karen and Martin de Brum, and brother to Karina and Emma. Kristine is the daughter of Florencia Llamelo and Efren Elan, and sister to Darwin, JV, Spencer and Zion.

Where Echoes Ring: Kalikar and Kristine de Brum’s Return to Lāna‘i

by Anthony Kaauamo

“Where Echoes Ring” shares the stories of Lāna‘ians who, after periods spent away, have returned to the island, as well as those who chose to remain. Each individual’s story is a note in the composition of this community, collectively defining the identity of Lāna‘i.

Kalikar de Brum: *The ending of junior year is when we started to actually talk, but as my senior year began, our conversations grew more frequent. Things really took off around Christmas 2014.*

Interviewer: *Who was crushing on who first, though?*

Kristine Elan de Brum: *He was crushing on me.*

Kalikar de Brum: *We both say that about each other.*

Kristine Elan de Brum: *I think it was mutual, 50/50.*

Kalikar de Brum: *We could go back and forth on this all day.*

Kristine Elan de Brum: *During his senior year, we were in the same weight training class. He’d occasionally come over to show me how to do a workout. Before that, our interactions were pretty limited, maybe just a “Hey” or “Hi” on campus. But in that class, he was more direct, like, “This is how you do it. This is how you do that.” It was pretty clear he liked me.*

Kalikar de Brum: *Well, you’re leaving out the fact that we were having virtual conversations on Instagram and Snapchat. So, I say she was crushing on me because I wasn’t flirty, but I did talk to a few different girls, and she was the only one who would respond to my messages consistently.*

Their relationship, seeded from these initial exchanges and blossoming toward a shared future, was rooted in their distinct experiences growing up on Lāna‘i.

Kali’s childhood on Lāna‘i was marked by summer and winter travels to the East Coast to visit family. Unlike many of his peers who hadn’t traveled far from the island until later in life, Kali experienced both the insular life of Lāna‘i and the broader world beyond it from a young age. This duality fostered a deeper appreciation for his island home, a sentiment not commonly shared by many of his peers who longed to leave permanently.

His experiences away enriched his sense of connection.

Kristine’s experience growing up on Lāna‘i contrasted with Kali’s. With little travel experience in her early years, her eagerness to explore life beyond the island was strong. Her dedication to high school basketball became a vehicle for pursuing opportunities away from Lāna‘i after graduation.

Leaving Lāna‘i

Kali graduated from LHES in 2015 and started his higher education in California at the University of San Diego (USD), pursuing a B.S./B.A. degree in General Engineering, with an emphasis on Embedded Software.

Kristine, a 2016 LHES graduate, ventured far from home to attend Missouri Valley College. Her enthusiasm for making the big move was gradually replaced with unexpected isolation and homesickness. “It was rough, because I left for Missouri without hesitation and didn’t know anyone. I was basically the only islander there, which made me feel pretty lonely,” she said. Being one of the few Asians on campus, she found it difficult to fit in. “I was friends with some basketball girls, but they had their own group, so I was mostly on the side,” she said of the stark difference between her initial expectations and the reality of life so far away.

Kristine found solace in cooking, which became a comforting link to Lāna‘i. In Missouri, she often prepared rice, a staple in her (and, well... most of our) diet. “Somebody found a way to send me rice, so I always had rice,” she said. This simple act was a tangible tie to her cultural identity. Later, after transferring to Everett Community College in Washington, and then moving to San Diego in 2018, her culinary journey continued with Filipino dishes including lauya and adobo, sharing her heritage with roommates. Ironically, it was in these distant places that her cooking not only bridged the gap she had felt toward Lāna‘i but also deepened her appreciation and connection to her Filipino roots.

Returning to Lāna‘i

After graduating from the USD in 2019, Kali began his career at Clarity Design, Inc., where he had interned during college. Specializing in embedded software engineering, he develops code for circuit boards in devices without traditional operating systems. Although his five-year plan initially called for remaining in San Diego, which provided an environment rich with opportunity for career growth, Kali and Kristine’s engagement in 2021 coupled with the opportunity for him to work remotely prompted them to consider moving back to Lāna‘i sooner. “I really missed my family. I was always calling them, asking about Lāna‘i, and realized I wanted to go back home,” Kristine reflected.

The couple returned to the island in 2022, celebrated their marriage, and welcomed their daughter, Kyrie Lei, in September 2023. Settling back into life on Lāna‘i, they discussed the importance of raising their family there. Kali, recalling his high school experiences in larger cities, emphasized the safety and community feel of Lāna‘i. “It was already in my mind that I’d raise my kids here,” he said.

Now back on Lāna‘i, Kali and Kristine are embracing parenthood and the echoes of their past. Kristine, once indifferent to her parents’ advice, now actively seeks their guidance in raising Kyrie Lei. “I want her to have a cultural island Filipino experience.”

Kali, deeply involved in the community, serves on the Hulopo‘e Beach Park Council and coaches wrestling at Lāna‘i High & Elementary School. Despite his best efforts not to, he finds himself repeating his former coach Alan Sanchez’s words, “half, half, turn, turn!” during matches, a refrain he and his teammates used to mock.

The decision to return to Lāna‘i was deeply influenced by their experiences and the strong pull of their community. For Kalikar, working remotely for Clarity Design, Inc. offered a balance between professional growth and contributing to the island he loves. Kristine’s return brought her closer to her family and her roots. Reflecting on this, Kali shares, “I feel like, growing up here, we really gained a lot from what everybody in the community did. Now, it’s our turn to contribute, to be a part of that cycle. This way, when the next generation comes up, they’ll also reap the benefits of what we’ve done, just like we did.”

“I guess before I left, it’s not that I didn’t care, but I just didn’t really have much interest in what my family did. But after leaving, I’ve been wanting to know more about the history, our ancestry and everything,” said Kristine, “I’d call my parents. Like, how do I make this? How do I do this, you know? So, I guess being away just made me want to be more Filipino.”



A Day Trip to Lāna‘i by Kansas City Royals’ Keoni DeRenne

by Anthony Kaauamo

On January 20, 2024, the Lāna‘i Field House, a multipurpose sports facility still in the process of completion, hosted a baseball and softball coaches’ clinic. This event, tailored for coaches from Maui County, was organized by John “Coop” DeRenne, a former University of Hawai‘i Assistant Baseball Coach and Lāna‘i resident, with his wife Eunice DeRenne (Turqueza). The clinic featured Keoni DeRenne, assistant hitting coach for the Kansas City Royals and Coop’s son, as the lead instructor.

“Coming to Lāna‘i and just talking baseball, man, that’s what I love,” Keoni said.

In his capacity with the Royals, Keoni focuses on guiding hitters in their techniques, strategizing game approaches and managing physical training aspects. He is the fourth generation in his family involved in professional baseball, dating back to his great-grandfather Wilbur Cooper, a major league player whose career was primarily with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Over 20 attendees from Lāna‘i, and a few from Maui, gathered for the clinic. Keoni’s focus was on fundamental skills and the importance of understanding player development.

“I was telling them, they have a very important job, because at this cellular level, it’s still part of development. If they can help these kids be fundamental and know how to play the game, that’s crucial,” Keoni said. “The questions the coaches asked me about basic, fundamental things show they’re on the right track. We’re speaking the same language and pushing the needle in the right direction with the kids we have.”

Keoni noted the unique challenges faced by Lāna‘i’s community. “The kids and people here on Lāna‘i don’t have access to a lot of things. The coaches are here because they care about their players and want to learn and give back. The goal was to give them as much as I could in a short amount of time. Walking away with one or two nuggets, it’s a win overall.”



Keoni DeRenne demonstrating 2nd baseman strategies.

Originally set for a three-hour duration, as the clinic progressed, attendees became increasingly engaged, seeking further tips and insights from Keoni. In a fortunate turn of events, Mokulele Airlines delayed, then subsequently canceled Keoni’s afternoon flight back to Honolulu. This allowed the session to extend beyond its original schedule, giving Keoni the opportunity to provide additional in-depth coaching advice.

Local coaches and mentors expressed gratitude for the practical tips and strategies. Judge Dean Del Rosario reflected, “To be a good coach, you’ve got to be a good teacher. Coop and Keoni demonstrate this well.” Jayson Medeiros added, “I learned a lot. It’s about taking what we learn and distributing it to the kids.” Keo Sanches also shared his takeaway, “There’s not one size fits all in coaching. You take different approaches and make them work for you.”

“I learned a lot. It’s about taking what we learn and distributing it to the kids.”

Slang for Non-Slanguary People: “Tea”

by Silveress

Tea - /tē/

Pssttt, spill the tea. And just to be clear, I’m not talking about that morning brew. You see, for my generation, “tea” has another meaning — it’s the inside scoop or the latest gossip on the street. Sometimes shortened to “T,” for “truth,” it’s all about dishing out those scandalous details, whether it’s your own little secret or someone else’s.



Aunty Nat, you asked for some tea?

Example:

- Person 1:** Did you hear? That guy was caught in a tax evasion scandal...
- Person 2:** What? I didn’t know that... spill the tea, girl.

The origins of this term trace back to the well-known African-American drag queen, Lady Chablis through her appearance in the 1994 book “Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil.” The art of “spilling the tea” is rooted in drag and ballroom cultures, serving as a code for trading personal intel and the juiciest of gossips.

So, the next time you hear us talking “tea,” remember, it’s probably not about what’s in your cup.

This segment is part of “Slang for Non-Slanguary People,” a series by Sharmaine “Silveress” Elan exploring Gen-Z slang, making the lingo of today’s youth maybe a little more understandable to all.

Pinelasses Secure MIL DII Championship in Final Seconds

by Anthony Kaauamo

January 26, 2024 – The Lānaʻi Pinelasses secured their second consecutive Maui Interscholastic League (MIL) Division II Championship title in a hard-fought game against the Molokaʻi Farmers.

In the final 15 seconds of the 4th quarter, the Pinelasses were holding a slim 27-26 lead when the Farmers committed their fifth foul, triggering a double bonus situation. Veniza Jackson stepped up for two crucial free-throws. With her team’s narrow lead, and the opportunity to clinch the championship on their home court, Veniza’s shots carried the potential for an undefeated season victory.

As Veniza approached the free-throw line, Coach Christian Yumol noticed her emotions escalating and called a timeout. “I was scared. I felt like I had pressure on me, and I thought I wouldn’t make it,” Veniza said.

Gathering the five players on the court closely, he then beckoned the rest of the team over. In their huddle, with Veniza visibly crying, Coach Chris addressed her directly, “You are going to make both of these free throws. You know why? You’re the best player in our league.”

Teammates and fellow seniors Alexa Pascual and Kamryn Kanno were quick to also offer their support. “I love you,” said Alexa, while Kamryn encouraged with, “You got this.” Veniza, gathering herself at the free-throw line, focused inwardly, repeating, “You got this.”

Before Veniza’s first shot, Alexa quietly chanted to herself, “Please, can she make this in?” four times. After Veniza successfully made her first shot, Alexa hurriedly repeated her mantra four more times just before Veniza took her second shot. Successfully making the second shot, Veniza extended the Pinelasses’ lead to three points and secured their win.

Coaches MaryLou Kaukeano and Christian Yumol, along with assistant coaches Gina Anton and Chant’e Sproat, reflected on the season, emphasizing the team’s perfect 10-0 record and their journey to the championship, overcoming the challenge of integrating new players with the remaining seniors.



Back Row (Standing L-R): Sivanny Seiuli, Lilee Sparks, Kai Cervania, Ananda Richardson, Heavenly Tabucbuc, Katie Kraytchev, Millie Pavsek, Graziella Reece, Kylie Yumol
Front Row (L-R): Mia Majkus, Veniza Jackson, Alexa Pascual, Kamryn Kanno

In the state championships on Oʻahu, the Pinelasses faced tough matches against Hanalani and Hawaiʻi Prep Academy, resulting in two losses. Despite this, Veniza was honored with a selection to participate in the Mufi Hannemann Basketball Jamboree, showcasing the top high school talent from across the state. The Pinelasses, proud of their achievements and recognition of one of their own, look forward to the potential of next year’s team and the new faces that will join their ranks.



Veniza Jackson scored 14 points in the final game against Hana’s Farmers.

Loving Lānaʻi

by Cory Lovejoy

Mists collect in pockets, cling
close to blades of green.
A chill, cajoling flesh.

The sun spills red or gold,
sometimes grey, hidden
behind cloud’s new day.

Petroglyphs etched in stone.
Lay, like a lizard on its heat.
The dry riverbed waiting
for rain leads to the sea.

Witness the echo of creation!
On far sloping hill, amongst
flat rocks & future monuments.

A compass in the sky.
The false promise of salt
on your tongue, or -
kauno’a in your lei kūpe’e.

Whales keep time in the sea,
leaping with wild abandon.
More salt for your taste.

Wiliwili brings the shark’s teeth.
Lei of remembrance engraved on a shoulder.
Sluice of rain between your breast.

Stars quiver in the abyss-
salve of home / scents of place.





written and photographed by Anthony Kaauamo
featuring models Giyana Agliam and Arjen Uminga, with styling by Cory Lovejoy

The Lānaʻi Public and School Library, a staple of island intellect and a bastion of books, is breaking the mold. As part of a statewide initiative, this humble haven of knowledge is ditching the old-school stamp-and-stack method for the shiny, new radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology.

Developed in the 1970s, RFID is a radio wave-based technology originally designed for tracking goods and managing inventory in various sectors, including industrial and retail environments. It operates by using radio waves to communicate between a tag, which stores information about an object, and a reader.

RFID technology will be implemented across a wide range of library materials, such as books, DVDs, CDs and other items. This innovation introduces a self-checkout station, enabling patrons to independently check out their selections by scanning a library card and placing items on an RFID reader. Remarkably, the system can process multiple items simultaneously, capable of scanning up to 14 inches worth of books in a single transaction. This efficiency not only accelerates the checkout process but also enhances the shelving and retrieval of materials, supported by handheld RFID readers for quick identification and location of misshelved items.

To ensure the security of library materials, gates at library exits will alert staff to any items not properly checked out, preventing them from leaving the premises unintentionally.

Addressing concerns related to job security, privacy and health, the library clarifies that the introduction of RFID technology will not lead to job losses but will repurpose staff efforts toward more meaningful interactions. By reallocating staff time from manual checkouts to support and guidance roles, the library aims to enhance digital literacy among its community members, offering hands-on assistance with digital resources and navigating various digital devices.

This innovation introduces a self-checkout station, enabling patrons to independently check out their selections by scanning a library card and placing items on an RFID reader.

The library also guarantees patrons’ privacy with RFID tags, which are used strictly for inventory management, contain no personal data, and do not have the ability to track patrons’ movements. The technology is designed to be safe for individuals with medical devices, such as pacemakers, eliminating health risks.

The transition to RFID required a detailed six-month inventory and tagging process, overseen by Branch Manager Chelsea Trevino and Library Assistant Delarae “Dee” Basques. This period also allowed for the reevaluation and rearrangement of the library’s collection to better accommodate the new system and improve access to materials.

The library notably repositioned its nonfiction collection, particularly separating the young adult nonfiction from the juvenile and adult nonfiction to enhance navigability and ensure age-appropriate content.

Additionally, DVDs, traditionally kept behind the checkout counter and retrieved by staff upon request, have been relocated to the area previously occupied by magazines. This move is a direct result of the RFID system’s capability, allowing patrons direct access to DVDs, thus enhancing the autonomy of the borrowing process. Despite increased accessibility, DVD borrowing has plummeted by 60% in recent years. This decline is primarily attributed to changing viewing habits, driven by the proliferation of online streaming services and advancements in Blu-Ray and 4K disc technologies.

“Choo-Choo,” the library’s DVD return cart, has faced a diminishing role in this waning optical disc borrowing era. Dee, who has a penchant for naming the inanimate objects she frequently interacts with, fondly recalls the far-gone days pulling trusty “Choo-Choo” behind her, its three shelves packed with scores of returned DVDs.

“I use ‘em mostly for books now,” Dee says, a note of echoey nostalgia in her voice. “It goes waaay back, like 20 years.” Originally purchased by former school librarian and teacher, the late Mrs. Lynette Oliva, “Choo-Choo” will remain a steadfast fixture of the library, a symbol of enduring tradition amidst waves of change.

As the Lānaʻi Public and School Library moves forward with RFID technology, it continues its commitment to providing comprehensive access to both physical and digital materials, reinforcing its role as a cornerstone of education and information in the community, for bookworms and knowledge ninjas alike.



Meet “Choo-Choo,” Dee’s constant companion and the library’s dedicated DVD return cart, always ready for your returns.



Find your storybook moment amidst the library aisles.



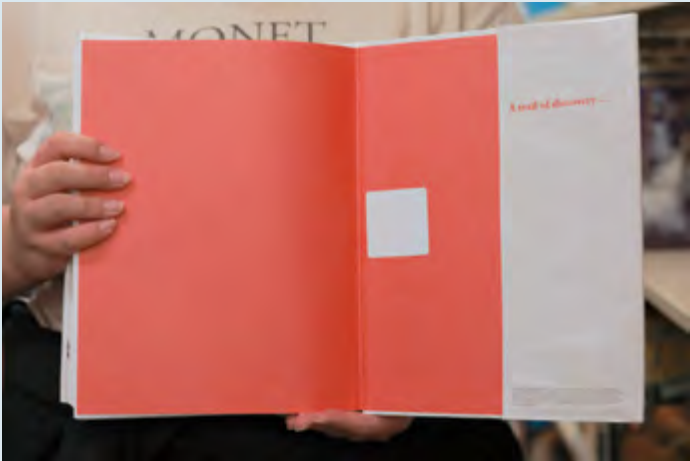
Power at your fingertips. Scan up to 14” of books effortlessly with the RFID scanner.



Scanning books and capturing hearts—self-checkout moments made for two.



The newly installed self-checkout station will empower you with a quick and easy borrowing experience.



Every book, a story waiting to be told, now RFID tagged for a seamless library experience.



Where love and literature meet.



Arm in arm, books in hand: their love story continues beyond the library doors. Begin yours today.



Councilmember Gabe Johnson Held a Lāna‘i Community Talk Story and almost a Streptopelia Chinensis

by Anthony Kaauamo

Lāna‘i Councilmember Gabe Johnson hosted a community talk story at the Lāna‘i Senior Citizen Center on January 31st, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The event, attended by 32 community members, also included Councilmember Johnson’s staff, Legislative Analyst Kate Griffiths and Executive Assistant Roxanne Morita. Key topics included updates on the Lāna‘i Affordable Housing Project, Lāna‘i skate park, youth center, dog park, Expeditions ferry purchase, proposal for a four-way stop sign at 7th and Lāna‘i Avenue, and plans for a County Farmers’ Market space.

The Lāna‘i Affordable Housing Project

The Lāna‘i Affordable Housing Project, developed by Ikaika Ohana, a nonprofit with expertise in affordable housing, is set to include 18 to 26 multifamily units for kupuna and up to 46 single-family homes. The project aims to provide housing affordable to those earning 30% to 60% below the Area Median Income (AMI), focusing on the elderly and lower-income residents. A rent-to-own model, reflecting community preferences highlighted in surveys conducted by CM Johnson three years ago, is being considered to meet local needs. The initiative has gained support from Mayor Bissen’s administration, which will pursue \$10 million in federal funding for essential infrastructure development.

Skate Park Discussion

CM Johnson raised concerns about the Lāna‘i skate park project. The bid for the park came in higher than originally projected, totaling \$2.9 million, which led to hesitation from the Bissen administration. CM Johnson continued to advocate for the park with Parks and Recreation Director Patrick McCall agreeing to bond the required funds. However, this decision would require a vote of passage from the Maui County Council’s Budget, Finance, and Economic Development (BFED) committee chaired by Councilmember Yuki Sugimura. CM Johnson urged Lāna‘i residents to participate in the council meeting on February 5, 2024, to express support for the skate park. At the BFED committee meeting on February 5, 2024, at 9:00 AM, discussions led to a recommendation for the passage of Bills 17 and 18 (2024), securing \$2.9 million in funding for the Lāna‘i Youth Center and Skate Park. The committee emphasized the project’s importance and the community’s strong support, urging prompt action to avoid further delays.

Dog Park Update

Despite significant local support evidenced by an online petition with over 100 signatures, and the council approving the budget of \$400,000, the administration’s decision not to proceed has stalled the Lāna‘i dog park project. CM Johnson emphasized the need for renewed community backing to influence the administration’s decision or suggested reallocating the funds to support the skate park.

Youth Center Update and Community Discussions on Future Use of Old Facility

CM Johnson updated the community on the progress of the new Lāna‘i Youth Center’s construction, highlighting its safety features which include special hurricane-safe windows. CM Johnson shared his hope of utilizing the existing youth center behind the County

Gym for Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) services, with final approval resting with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

During the public discussion, Deborah Dela Cruz highlighted the need for better safety measures for children accessing the new youth center, particularly at night at the dark intersection of Fifth and Fraser. Michele Weinhouse inquired about the possibility of expanding MEO’s use of the old youth center to include a commercial kitchen for local farmers and value-added product companies, while Heather Ruth-Durham suggested establishing an adult daycare facility, a proposal previously made by kūpuna from the Lāna‘i Senior Center.



Four-Way Stop Sign on 7th Street and Lāna‘i Avenue

The Department of Public Works (DPW) approved the installation of three speed tables on Lāna‘i Avenue between 3rd and 7th streets to address speeding concerns. DPW decided not to proceed unless it could combine the effort with another traffic project to save costs. Robbie Sanches, the Highway Division district supervisor for Lāna‘i, mentioned that at the time, there were no other projects available for such a combination. In response, Butch Gima proposed an alternative: a four-way stop at the intersection of Lāna‘i Avenue and 7th Street. He advocated for this solution due to its potential for immediate impact on traffic safety, particularly in light of speeding vehicles and the proximity of neighborhood children. To gauge community preference, a survey was circulated asking residents if they support the installation of a four-way stop, prefer the speed tables, oppose the four-way stop, or need more information before deciding.

The results from the 32 people who responded to the survey indicated mixed responses, with some favoring a four-way stop and others suggesting speed tables as a better alternative. CM Johnson emphasized the importance of community feedback in decision-making, encouraging more residents to participate in the survey for a comprehensive understanding of public opinion.

Diane Preza expressed reservations about the stop sign, concerned that it could add confusion and might not be as effective as speed tables in slowing down traffic.

Proposal for Open Space County Farmers’ Market on Lāna‘i

CM Johnson discussed the initiative to establish a county farmers market at the County Park on Fraser Avenue near the fire station on Lāna‘i. The proposal suggests holding the market once or twice a week, in the evenings or on weekend mornings, catering to the community’s preference and demand.

Continued on page 15.

Continued from page 14.

This initiative, however, is navigating through administrative challenges due to a shift in responsibility from the Department of Parks and Recreation to the newly established County Department of Agriculture. This department is formulating a strategic plan which includes a pilot Lāna‘i farmers’ market within its first-year goals and has appointed a food access coordinator for better organization.

Community discussions have emphasized the need to involve home gardeners and small-scale farmers, highlighting the advantages of a county-managed market for greater inclusivity and control. The Hawai‘i Farmers Union United (HFUU) is set to manage the market, focusing on insurance and logistics, ensuring a structured and community-focused approach to enhancing local food security and the economy.

Expeditions Ferry Purchase Update

A feasibility study, funded by the last budget, is assessing the possibility of the county purchasing the Expeditions ferry, which is up for sale. The proposed model for county ownership is inspired by the county bus system, emphasizing service over profit.

Despite Expeditions’ support for this idea, bureaucratic anxiety within the county over executing the plan poses an obstacle. County ownership could lead to expanded services, including a potential Moloka‘i route, and open federal funding opportunities for improving harbor facilities.

Ongoing efforts to gather support involve discussions with federal and state representatives, aiming to secure a future for the ferry service that aligns with community values and needs.

Streptopelia Chinensis

“Throw a towel over it?!” someone from the attendance shouted.

Calmly, Kathy Carroll responded, “Okay, just gently put something over it, like a towel.”

The bird, now a centerpiece of this small-town action, was perched on the window ledge behind CM Johnson’s table. It had barged into the Lāna‘i Senior Center during the Q&A, repeatedly taking nosedives into the sun illuminated windows.

“He’s on that table,” CM Johnson announced. “Ben’s gonna throw it.”

Ever the man of action, Pastor Ben Sheets of the Lāna‘i Union Church, had risen. With a green sheet in hand, Pastor Ben stalked the bird. But, sensing the Pastor’s approach, the bird in a startled panic attempted another escape through the window.



Though an introduced species, the *Streptopelia chinensis*, or spotted dove, was named ‘ehakō by Hawaiians for its call of “prolonged pain.”

“Oooooooo! Ohhhhh!” the meeting attendees gasped in unison as it hurled itself into the window again.

“Oh, poor thing!” Kathy sympathetically exclaimed.

The *Streptopelia chinensis*, commonly known as the spotted dove, stands as a prominent figure within the introduced avian population of the Hawaiian archipelago. Characterized by its plush, gray plumage and the distinctive black and white spotting on its neck, the spotted dove thrives in both urban and rural settings, a testament to its versatility. Introduced from eastern China to Hawai‘i in the 1800s, this species secured a presence across the major islands by the dawn of the 20th century.

This individual bird, likely drawn by the prospects of foraging from human activity, showcases the natural behaviors and interactions between the local wildlife and the community.

Roxanne, with a flick, darkened the room. “I think it’ll help with the darkness,” she said. “Yeah, it’ll find the light and go out the door.”

The bird dove into the kitchen area, prompting CM Johnson to take matters into his own hands; the bird’s presence was a clear disruption to the ongoing community talk story. With no towel in sight, he opted to use his bare hands. Cautiously but swift footedly, he closed in, reached out his arms and nearly grasped the bird between his hands. But, just as before, the bird sensed imminent capture and took off. CM Johnson’s intervention, though unsuccessful in catching the bird, inadvertently guided it towards the side door, allowing it to escape and restoring order to the meeting.

The crowd erupted, “Yay!”

Kathy, clapping, proclaimed, “And a bird-saver, too!”

Give Lāna‘i a Voice on Maui Nui’s Food and Nutrition Security Plan

contributed by Michele Weinhouse

Everyone eats. Whether it is food that is healthy or junk, grown in the ground or hydroponically, from your back yard or from the grocer, we all need food to survive. Before pre-western contact in the late 1700s, ancient Hawaiians were self-sufficient. Hawai‘i fed its people of about 700,000. Today, with a population of 1.4 million, Hawai‘i imports 85% of its food. On Lāna‘i, that percentage is even higher. Food insecurity is defined as not having access to sufficient food. We, as a community, experience food insecurity every time there is a delay in the barge coming in. During the COVID pandemic, Hawai‘i saw empty shelves in grocery stores and miles of people waiting in cars waiting for food handouts. Why do we import so much food? Bottom line, it’s cheaper. Big agricultural farms can grow more food cheaper than our smaller Hawaiian farms.

Why should all this matter? It matters because times, climates, mindsets, and most importantly, agriculture are changing. Hawai‘i’s monocropping days with sugarcane and pineapple are gone. What has replaced these industries to sustain our communities? On Lāna‘i, will tourism and hydroponics sustain us? COVID taught us that tourism cannot and although Sensei Farms was able to provide lettuce and tomatoes to the state and jobs during the pandemic, we cannot live on lettuce and tomatoes alone. More produce grown locally means higher nutritional foods available because of more time on the vine and less travel time to the consumer. Locally grown food is also more sustainable. Politicians are actively creating legislature and funding agricultural programs. There is a fairly new Maui County Department of Agriculture (MDOA) and the Hawai‘i Farmers Union United (HFUU) has expanded its Farm Apprentice Mentoring to include Moloka‘i and Lāna‘i

applicants. Climate change, sustainability and health all have one common solution: agriculture.

Agriculture on Lāna‘i, as well as health, sustainability and politics, looks so different than on all the other islands in Hawai‘i. Those differences and perspectives need to be expressed to those creating policy, programs and resources. The MDOA has drafted a five-year Strategic Plan to advocate for thriving lands and hands that feed and sustain Maui Nui. Have your voice heard at the upcoming Lāna‘i Talk Story session.

Hawai‘i’s monocropping days with sugarcane and pineapple are gone. What has replaced these industries to sustain our communities?

COMMUNITY TALK STORY SESSIONS
Creating A Food And Nutrition Security Plan For Maui County

Join in person:
Lāna‘i Filipino Club House
Thursday, March 7 from 5:30-8PM
Questions? Call 808-270-8287
Scan QR code to register for the event.

sleepy bilingual wala‘au

by Mr. Wonderful

trilingual if you count everything we say without saying
and hear without hearing
the mana‘o that litters the carpet between our two full
beds
the threads we let fall silent between kāua
a king could’ve done, but then we’d fight over who
sleeps on the floor
and who can say what new ‘ōlelo would sprout in our
waha then
a hā



maka‘ala

by Mr. Wonderful

i’m a take-a-mile kind of kepalō
i’m sticky like honey in the cracks between your fingers.
forget about me just before the ants come to bite.
remember me when the welts rise up red and shiny
like the lae between my horns,
the ones you hung your hammock on when you went to sleep,
rocking back and forth for years above my head.
since you’ve woke, they’ve shed.
i made them into a pair of tongue shaped pendants
that hang around my neck.
you’re welcome to one, if you’d like.
hook it over your ear and take me everywhere you go.



CONGRATULATIONS, ALEXANDER PHELPS! Director of Nursing, Lāna'i Community Hospital

Please join us in congratulating Alex Phelps, BSN, RN on his promotion to Director of Nursing for Lanai Community Hospital! With over 30 years of healthcare experience, Alex's extensive background includes roles in emergency medical care, long-term care, behavioral health, labor and delivery, as well as inpatient psychiatric and chemical dependency care.

Alex will help lead and support Lanai Community Hospital's 10-bed long-term care facility that provides the only long-term care for the island of Lanai, along with urgent and limited rural emergency care services.

We look forward to this new journey with Alex at the helm!



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WIC is a program that provides supplemental nutrition to pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants, and children under five who meet income requirements and have a nutritional risk that could be improved with proper nutrition. Apply now!

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Birth control is not one size fits all. Let us help you find a method that works for you. We also offer pregnancy testing, STI testing, and treatment. Schedule your next appointment with us, either in person or through telehealth.

TOBACCO CESSATION PROGRAM

At LCHC, we are committed to empowering individuals in our community to enhance their well-being by quitting all forms of tobacco. Don't hesitate to contact us today to schedule an appointment with one of our tobacco treatment specialists or learn more about our Tobacco Cessation Program. #EHanuLāna'i (Breathe Lāna'i)

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Make payments, request medication refills, message your care team, and view medical & lab records. Download the Healow App today and enter practice code GEBABA.

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We value your opinion and aim to provide top-notch services that meet your needs. Please complete our surveys using the QR code provided to share your feedback!



Patient Satisfaction Survey



Family Planning Survey



Needs Assessment Survey

AFTER HOURS PROVIDER LINE

In case of non-emergency medical needs after clinic hours, call our after-hours provider line at 808-563-9630.

LCHC OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8AM - 7PM

Friday
8AM - 5PM

Saturday
8AM - 3PM

Sunday
Closed

LCHC'S DENTAL ASSISTANTS GRADUATION:

Please join us in congratulating to our four dental assistants - Cece, Micah, Jenny, and Kaysha (pictured below) who have all graduated from *The Hawaii Dental Assisting Academy (HDAA)*. This Hawaii Dental certified program provided formal training, which included radiology (X-rays), chair-side assisting (four-handed dentistry), and infection control and oral anatomy. The program is typically six months, but our dental assistants completed their training in just two months! Our dental assistants have had on-the-job training, but this formal education in dental assistance has expanded their professional knowledge of dentistry and fine-tuned their skills, allowing them to provide more elevated patient care for our keiki, our kupuna, and everyone in between. So, what's next for them, you ask? Now, They are moving on to take the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam as they have completed all items to become eligible to take the CDA exam. After they pass the exam, they will be nationally certified Dental Assistants!



(Left to Right: Celina R., Micah C., Jennifer M., Kaysha S.)



(LCHC Dental Staff with LCHC's Interim ED, Cindy Figuerres)

LCHC'S 2024 SCHOLARSHIP IS NOW OPEN:

The Lāna'i Community Health Center (LCHC) is an advocate and provider of care for the community of Lāna'i and aims to support its residents who have academic goals in pursuing higher education in health sciences or an administration/finance career in the health service industry. Through this scholarship, LCHC has an opportunity to recognize and support Lāna'i students who are committed to their education. We seek out individuals who have excelled in academics, leadership, extra-curricular activities, and community service. It is the hope that those who receive this scholarship will return to Lāna'i to become positive and influential members of the community in the health service industry. Scholarships of \$1,000 will be awarded to full-time students and \$500 for part-time students. The scholarship must be used towards tuition, books, and other college expenses (receipts will be required). For more details and information on the application process, please visit our website at www.lanaihealth.org and scroll down for our scholarship link.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS AVAILABLE:

Did you know we have COVID-19 vaccines available? If you are 5 years old and older, insured, or an uninsured /underinsured adult, we offer Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. Please call our office to get on the Covid-19 Vaccine Waitlist.

HEALTH MOTIVATION FOR 2024:

A new year means a chance to start fresh. Some people get their hair cut or change their hair. As we enter the 2nd month of 2024, we want to motivate you with a few health tips to help aid change in your health journey. We hope you will be encouraged to make permanent health changes as you take on this new year.

As always, "exercise" rolls off our tongue regarding a "New Year Resolution." People think exercise is the challenging task of doing strenuous aerobic activities or spending hours at the gym lifting weights, but did you know that a simple walking routine is considered exercise? Brisk walking can help improve our overall health. Walking has been proven to help keep joints healthy and promote positive mental and emotional well-being. A commitment to a 1-hour walk a day can boost your physical health. Some ways to get your steps in would be to walk to and from work, walk a pet, or get a walking buddy.

Then, there's all the nutrition information out there. We say, take it one day at a time and choose one change to tackle. For some, a reduction in soda makes a huge difference in how they feel. For others, it might be the reduction in added salt to their food. A good substitute for soy sauce could be liquid aminos or coconut aminos. Whatever small or big change you can make for yourself that will improve your nutrition is an A+ for your overall health. We hope for all our Lanai residents to live long and fulfilled lives. Let's take control of what we can and see the effects of consistency for a healthier you in 2024!



WHO IS LĀNAʻI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (LCA) & WHAT DOES IT DO FOR YOU?

We are the oldest nonprofit organization currently operating on the island of Lānaʻi. We have served our community since 1945, equivalent to the United Way on other islands.

We have been providing support to:

**WE ALSO ORGANIZE AND SPONSOR
COMMUNITY EVENTS SUCH AS:**



Youth sports & activities



Scholarships to high school and college Lānaʻi residents who have achieved a balance of excellence, leadership, and community service



Senior citizen activities

The Pineapple Festival

Our largest event is the annual Pineapple Festival. It started as an offshoot of LCA's kick-off for our annual Fund Drive. The festival is held annually in July with over 2,000 participants and at least 70 booths of food, crafts and exhibits, along with local and outer island entertainment.

Christmas Tree Lighting

LCA started the annual Christmas celebration in Dole Park for the children with a visit and photo with Santa in the 1980s. Today, gift bags are handed out to over 500 children ranging in ages from toddlers to middle school as well as free digital family photos with Santa.

Saturday Marketplace in the Park

In 2023, we started to sponsor Saturday in the Park featuring food vendors & crafts once a month. In 2024, the market is open twice a month and our goal is to attract local artisans as well as provide everyone in the community a venue to sell their new & used items. The perfect event for the community to come together for food, shopping, fun and talk story in Dole Park.

JOIN OUR TEAM



OPEN POSITIONS

Full-Time Guest Experience Assistants
(Honolulu) \$20.55/hr

Full-Time and Casual Ground Service Attendants
(Lānaʻi & Honolulu) \$19.47/hr

BENEFITS

Complimentary travel benefit for employees and qualifying dependents + Richard's Market discount

Up to
\$2,000
sign-on bonus for
full-time employees*

Up to
\$750
sign-on bonus for
casual employees*



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INFORMATION

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Employment and benefits are subject to company conditions and policies, which may be amended by the company at its discretion at any time. *Bonuses are subject to Terms and Conditions.

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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 - \$45,650
Must be capable of achieving an independent living status.

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

You are not alone

Empowering Families, Rebuilding Lives

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, violence, or neglect, we are here to help.

We offer Lanai residents and families the best chance for safe and promising futures to get through difficult times by providing a variety of services, including:

- Comprehensive counseling and support services
- Family strengthening services
- Survivor resources and group support services
- Post permanency services
- Parenting resources and classes
- Community outreach including COVID-19 resources

Everyone deserves a life free from harm. Together, we can break the cycle of abuse and build safe and nurturing homes.

Parents And Children Together
BEHIND THE WALLS WE DON'T WANT YOU TO BE

Lanai Integrated Support Services
730 Lanai Avenue – #112
PHONE
(808) 565-9191
24/7 CRISIS LINE
(808) 563-9972

ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org
@PACTHawaii

Join our
'OHANA!

OPEN POSITIONS

Distribution System Operator Apprentice \$17.31/hour	Landscape Worker I \$16.43/hour
Equipment Operators \$17.50/hour	Landscape Worker III \$19.48/hour
General Maintenance Specialist II \$23.94/hour	Lead Landscape Worker \$20.72/hour
Ground Service Attendants \$19.47/hour	Recreation Center Assistant \$21.18/hour
Housekeeper \$16.08/hour	Storekeeper/Delivery Person \$20.51/hour
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Sunday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Restoring health to our 'āina

Visit lanaichc.org/hunting for
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Ungulate Removal - Dec 2023/Jan 2024

308

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Deer

35

Mouflon



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David Daly Director

808 243-4318

Email: david.daly@meoinc.org



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The Lānaʻi Domestic Violence Taskforce



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The goal of the Lānaʻi Domestic Violence Taskforce (LDVTF) is to provide financial assistance and support for Lānaʻi residents experiencing domestic violence with the emphasis on SAFETY for the victim and their family.

*Scan the QR code for
program information, requirements, and application*




email lanaidvtf@gmail.com for paper application & documents or
applications can also be picked up at the Women Helping Women office, the
PACT office or the Department of Human Services office.
The QR code is not tracked, all info submitted is confidential

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LOVE LĀNA'I CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM



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Enjoy a presentation with our Cultural
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Dave Miller of Observatory Solutions
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March 16, 7, 7:30 and 8 PM
Lāna'i Garden
Complimentary

For reservations - 808 565 2822
or lanai.observatory@fourseasons.com



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Mortgage Delinquency Prevention & Default Resolution or Forbearance Counseling

We assist homeowners through counseling and loan modification applications. HUD-certified housing counselors work on your behalf to find available options that help you manage monthly mortgage payments.

Rental Counseling

Our counselors will provide guidance in each aspect of being a tenant beginning as early as efficiently saving for a deposit and understanding your lease agreement. Topics covered also include managing credit, landlord-tenant communications, settling disputes and understanding your rights as a tenant outlined by the state's handbook, and financial counseling to better manage monthly expenses (including rent) while building consistent savings.

Other Counseling Services

- ❖ **Improving Your Credit Score** – How to read your credit report, improve your credit score, understanding your rights
- ❖ **Saving for Tomorrow** – Steps in creating a "Spending Plan"
- ❖ **Purchasing a home? (\$75 per household)** – Understanding the homebuying process, lender requirements, managing credit, saving for a down payment, and receipt of a HUD-approved Homebuyer Education certificate

Contact Us

P: (808) 242-7027 F: (808) 500-6199
Counseling@HaleMahaolu.org
95 Mahalanī St, Suite 28-2A
Wailuku HI 96793

Counseling is available over the phone, in-person, or through e-meeting services.



Māui United Way



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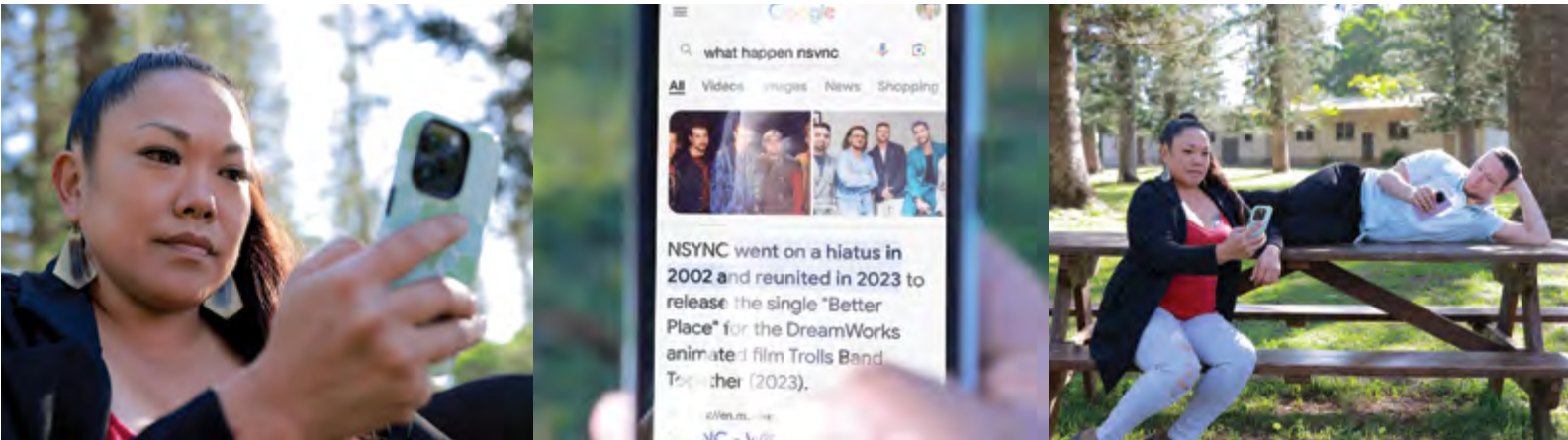


like a passing cloud

written and photographed by Anthony Kaauamo | featuring Garry Mendoza and Amy Atacador



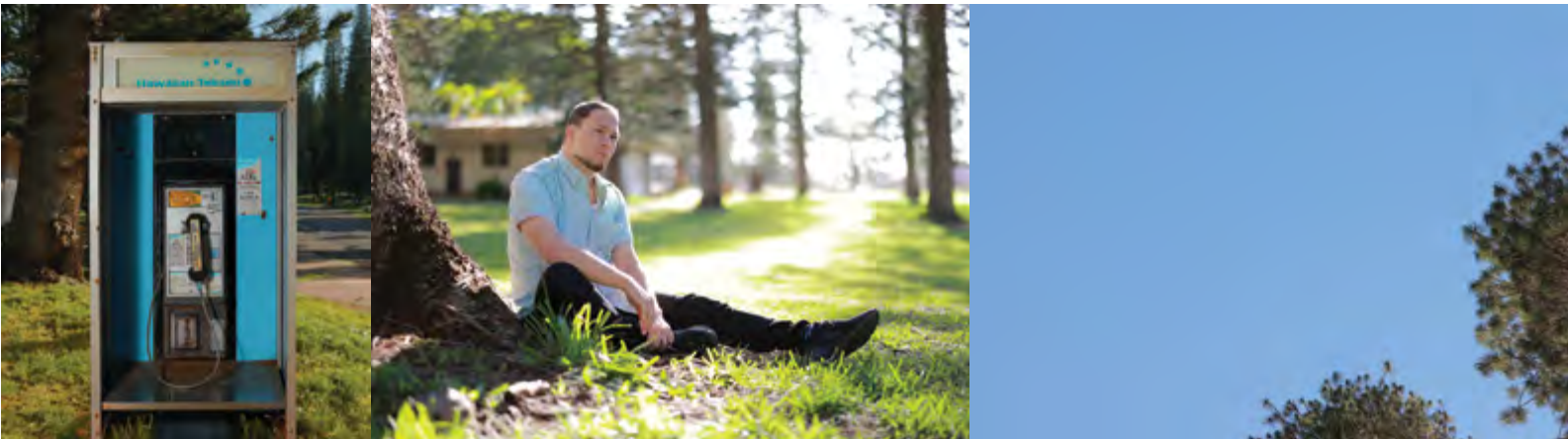
A long time ago, questions floated through our minds like passing clouds, here then gone, leaving us untouched. “Whatever happened to...?” was just a fleeting thought lost to the wind.



Now, with a touch on the rectangular glass, the world unfolds. Each curiosity, a path into the unknown. We dive deep, seeking, finding, losing ourselves in the quest.



Yet, as we tether these clouds to us, we ponder: In our search for answers, what wonders do we overlook? Between the fleeting and the infinite, what do we truly seek?



Does it only echo with the voices of yesterday, standing as a quiet testament to time passed? Contemplating the sky, the roots, and the space between?

