LĀNA'I TODAY



Maui Health recently unveiled its new CT scanner suite at Lāna'i Community Hospital and the Maui Memorial Medical Center Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy outpatient clinic on Maui, making specialized care more convenient for Lāna'i residents.

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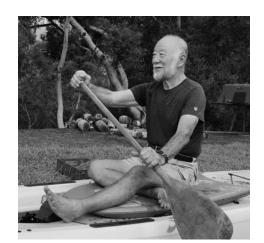
Discovering Hawai'i's rare native species

Contributed by
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Residents enjoy an evening under the stars

he Lāna'i Ocean Theater celebrated its grand opening on December 29, 2022, with an evening concert for Lāna'i residents featuring John Cruz and emceed by Lāna'i-born comedian Rayton Lamay. Singersongwriter John Cruz, a multi Nā Hōkū Hanohano award winner, performed songs ranging from Hawaiian to blues, folk, R&B and more amidst an elaborate lighting set to showcase the musicians.

"What a beautiful evening for the Lāna'i community. John Cruz was the perfect person to perform at the opening to the Lāna'i Ocean Theater," said resident Kerri Glickstein. "He is a world-class musician and singer-songwriter with the heart and spirit of a local. His music is relatable across generations and cultures."

"It was enjoyable and there were nice lights. All the effects were nicely done," added LHES middle schooler Gabriel Trevino.

The venue, situated on Hulopo'e Drive, features views of Hulopo'e Bay and a Tall Tree and the Eye sculpture by Anish Kapoor. "It was an awesome and beautiful venue!" praised resident Elton Atacador. The stage is customizable according to the requirements of performers. The venue can host up to 600 people.

"The grand opening of the Lāna'i Ocean Theater was amazing! John Cruz was the perfect choice for the first musician to play there. He's a great entertainer — on top of having great songs, a great voice, and great musicians accompanying him, he's so engaging with the audience and the crowd was into it! My favorites were "This Fly Going Die," "Island Style," and the last song when the crowd was using their phones as flashlights," said resident Matt Glickstein. "The Lāna'i Ocean Theater is a beautifully designed venue, and I'm excited to experience future events there."

Managed by Pūlama Lānaʻi, the theater will host theatrical and musical performances throughout the year, including up to four events open to the community. The Lānaʻi Academy of Performing Arts will also utilize the space.



Multi Nā Hōkū Hanohano award winner John Cruz performed in front of residents at the inagural Lāna'i Ocean Theater concert on December 29.

Stacey Purdy, whose young son Luke sang on stage with John, was overjoyed.

"Let me tell you Luke will never forget his first concert," she said. "On our drive home he said, 'shucks, I should have invited John Cruz to our house for hot dogs.' Too cute for words. The Purdy family are big supporters of the arts. Having this venue and sharing it with our fellow Lanaians was amazing. What an experience for our youth and the young at heart. Luke has already made it to the big stage, we can't wait to see what he does next."

Billed as "An Evening Under the Stars With John Cruz," the event was enjoyed by music lovers of all ages.

The next concert will take place on February 9 and will feature local favorite Pure Heart.

Spreading holiday cheer and raising funds for Lāna'i Culture & Heritage Center

he Lāna'i Culture & Heritage Center held its first ever holiday festival fundraiser on December 10, 2022, at Dole Park. The event was the culmination of the center's centennial celebrations, which honored 100 years of the plantation community. The fundraiser included delicious food, holiday gifts, keiki activities, hula performances, an art debut and a book launch! Guests enjoyed festive decorations and the musical stylings of Nā Hōkū Hanohano award winners Ei Nei and Del Beazley.



The weather was beautiful for a Saturday evening in the park. Decorated trees, including ornaments, as well as wreaths and garlands, were auctioned off to bidders, and unique Lāna'i holiday gifts were available for purchase. Santa's Forest and the Woolsey 'ohana contributed generously to create a festive holiday display.

Funds raised through the event will allow Lāna'i CHC to continue its important work of preserving and celebrating Lāna'i's rich cultural history and values. The Lāna'i Culture & Heritage



Center seeks to preserve and protect Lāna'i's rich history and culture. The center conducts educational outreach programs and manages the largest archival collection of Lāna'i-focused materials in the world.

Lāna'i CHC is grateful to the community that came out to enjoy the event and to all the volunteers who donated their time to ensure its success. "We are so appreciative to all those who made our holiday fundraiser possible," said Shelly Preza, executive director. "We continue to serve our community and are looking forward to more outreach events in 2023!"

To stay up to date with Lāna'i CHC events and programming, please visit lanaichc.org or follow them on Facebook and Instagram (@lanaichc). Lāna'i CHC continues to raise funding to support its mission — please consider making a donation to this important community nonprofit as they endeavor to perpetuate the island's culture, history and values.

Photography courtesy of Lāna'i Culture & Heritage Center

Bivalent boosters for keiki as young as six months

Hawai'i Department of Health press release

pdated COVID-19 bivalent boosters are now available in all counties for keiki as young as six months of age. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the emergency use authorization for the bivalent boosters by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech to include keiki sized boosters earlier this month.

"The authorization of these updated bivalent vaccines comes at a good time," said State Health Director Dr. Elizabeth Char, FACEP. "Now young children can get the same protection adults have as families gather for the holidays."

"As this virus has changed, and immunity from previous COVID-19 vaccination wanes, the more people who keep up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations, the more benefit there will be for individuals, families and public health by helping prevent severe illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths," said FDA commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D.

Children ages six months through five years who completed the two dose primary series of Moderna vaccines are eligible for a Moderna bivalent booster two months after their final primary series dose.

Children ages six months through four years who received two of the three doses of Pfizer's primary series will receive a Pfizer bivalent vaccine as their third primary dose. Children who completed all three doses of Pfizer's primary series are not yet eligible for a bivalent booster.

'Imi Pono: The Greatest Challenge 2023 focuses on vaping prevention

Maui Economic Opportunity press release

pplications are being accepted for the third 'Imi Pono:
The Greatest Challenge. This year's contest focuses on
the "anti-vape movement" with high and middle
school students creating public awareness campaigns.

There are three categories with middle (grades 6 to 8) and high school (grades 9 to 12) divisions:

- Slogan,
- Poster/Brochure
- Video

Cash and gift card prizes will be awarded to the top entries. Entries will be accepted through March 23.

Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on April 5. Entry forms are available at https://form.jotform.

com/230027817141144. For more information, call MEO Youth Services at (808) 249-2990 or email dane.kaae@meoinc.org.

The contest is the brainchild of Maui County Council Member Alice Lee and featured COVID-19 prevention last year and reimagining Maui County in its inaugural year in 2021. 'Imi Pono means "to search for the right way." The 'Imi Pono challenge is sponsored by MEO's Youth Services in partnership with the Maui Chamber of Commerce.

'Olelo No'eau

I ku ka makemake e hele mai, hele no me ka maloʻeloʻe.

If the wish to come arises, walk firmly.

If you wish to come do not be hesitant, for you are welcome (Pukui 132).

CT scans and advanced wound care are now more convenient for the Lāna'i community

etting on a plane to Oʻahu or beyond for CT scans and advanced wound care is now in the past. Maui Health now provides these services right here in Maui County, on Lānaʻi and Maui. According to Maui Health, it can support thousands of patients per year combined. Adding these needed medical services greatly expands the Lānaʻi community's access to high-quality health care.

CT Scanner

On December 6, 2022, Maui Health added a Philips Incisive CT scanner, donated by Pūlama Lāna'i, to its Lāna'i hospital so residents don't need to leave the island for this service anymore. This muchneeded offering compliments Lāna'i Community Hospital's 24-hour emergency care, acute care, X-ray, laboratory and long-term care

services. While currently, CT scans are only available on an outpatient basis two days a week, in March 2023, the CT scanner will be in full service with a dedicated technician and available 24/7.

Since the soft opening of the new CT scan suite, the diagnostic team has scanned four patients. For the very first of these patients, Lāna'i resident Justin Garcia, it was the first CT scan he'd ever had. He said that the hospital staff helped coach him while in the scanner room and made his experience easy. Garcia



Alisha Gilbert assists first patient.

explained that he found the scanner comfortable and following the clinician's breathing guidance helped him feel relaxed.

Early detection is key to supporting good health. The new CT scanner shows more detail than an X-ray. In fact, this specific scanner provides 128 slices of high-definition images in a single rotation, enabling maximum clarity and resolution.

It is a painless procedure that uses computerized technology and X-rays to create images of a patient's bones, organs and other body tissues. Physicians order this test to check for bone or joint problems, internal injuries, head injuries, strokes, blood clots, heart conditions, tumors or cancer. After the test is completed, a radiologist interprets the images and writes a report to the prescribing physician. The team includes five physicians and has a 24-hour interpretation network comprising more than 100 doctors with subject matter experts.

Easier access to CT scans means fewer sleepless nights for the Lāna'i community. A CT test is crucial to delivering accurate and timely diagnostic information allowing patients to get the right

treatment more quickly and reducing the risk of advanced disease, particularly cancer and heart conditions. This scanner can be used with specialized screening software to identify the risk for certain conditions. It allows for scoring exams that look at coronary arteries for plaque which can flag the risk for future heart attack. It also works with lung cancer software that detects nodules or early-stage cancer. People with risk factors for heart conditions or lung cancer can get screened to understand their health status and work with their physicians to make

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lifestyle changes to reduce their risk.

"I'm proud to offer this advanced technology to a remote community like Lāna'i," said Dennis McKeon, imaging director at Maui Health and Lāna'i Community Hospital. "The reason I chose a career in health care is so that I can make a difference to those who struggle with access to health care. It brings me great joy and satisfaction to serve the Lāna'i community."



Kahu Freitas blesses the new CT scanner machine.

On January 6, the radiology group hosted a free open house and health fair at Lāna'i Community Hospital. The community was invited to see the space, meet hospital leaders, and learn more about mammograms, wound care, heart failure and stroke prevention, and trauma services at the health fair.

Advanced Wound Care and Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) Therapy

Maui Health recently opened Maui Memorial Medical Center Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy outpatient clinic near Maui Memorial Outpatient Clinic on November 16, 2022. The clinic offers comprehensive treatments for patients with non-healing wounds such as diabetic ulcers, arterial/ischemic ulcers, venous ulcers, traumatic injuries, surgical wounds, pressure ulcers, crush injuries, compromised flaps or grafts, and radiation wounds. This advanced wound care clinic is the first on Maui and provides a much-needed service to Maui County residents. For Lāna'i residents, advanced wound care is just a short ferry ride away and eliminates the need to fly to O'ahu every week for care.



Maui Memorial Medical Center Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy Team on Maui.

Patients can get care through a doctor or self-referral. For many patients, receiving this care has been life changing. Some have had open wounds for years which required daily dressing for treatment. And treatment gives patients the freedom to live a better quality of life such as being able to swim in the ocean.

If a wound remains unhealed after traditional and/or clinical treatments, the patient may receive hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) therapy which provides safe and efficient treatment for non-healing wounds. This treatment allows the patient to breathe in 100% oxygen to carry more oxygen to the organs and tissues to promote healing and stimulate white blood cells to fight infection. Since patients require multiple sessions, making this service convenient is paramount.

The wound care clinic has two HBO chambers. These transparent chambers are like being in a pressurized airplane. Most sessions are two hours long and patients can watch movies, Netflix, or listen to music while being attended by a highly trained technician the entire time. Since these chambers contain oxygen, the clinic follows strict precautions including removing any possible flammable objects to ensure the safety of all patients.

"What we provide to the community has changed people's lives," said Jessica Acop, program director, MMMC Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy. "It is amazing to heal our community members and to support our mission and purpose to heal Maui and neighboring communities."

Patients seeking CT scans and wound care and hyperbaric therapies can ask their health care provider for information. Learn more about Maui Health's community hospitals and clinics, including Lāna'i Community Hospital and Maui Memorial Medical Center Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy, at mauihealth.org.

Photography courtesy of Maui Health

Lāna'i residents push for accountability on Maui County affordable housing project

n 1992, Maui County was given 115 acres of land on Lāna'i to develop an affordable housing project. Thirty years later, residents are frustrated at the lack of any tangible results. While the Department of Housing and Human Concerns started developing plans for the project in 2009, the land, which is located on the western edge of Lāna'i City, remains untouched.

The lack of housing options on the island isn't a new issue, but it is one that's become more pressing as the population ages and the number of multigenerational households increase because there is limited to no new supply of available homes for rent or purchase.



Last July, Erin Atacador and a group of likeminded residents decided to take action. They started a community campaign called Our Lāna'i which aims to expedite the development of new housing, amenities and services on the County land.

"Our Lāna'i is really for our community, all of our residents. We decided not to form a traditional board made up of roles such as a chair, accountant, or secretary," said Atacador. "We all come together to do whatever needs to get done. We wear many hats and rely on each other much like we do within our community, which is what makes our community so unique."

The campaign has outlined an action plan for Maui County with construction on the new development happening in as little as four years.

"Lāna'i residents should be able to have the opportunity to own an affordable home," said Diane Preza, one of the members of the campaign. "Many have lived here all their lives and want to continue to do so. Owning a house will help future generations by securing a place for them at home."

The campaign is comprised of a diverse group, from lifelong residents to those who only moved to the island recently. They are united in their desire to see the community grow and thrive.

The campaign team held their first community event on Saturday, November 5, 2022, on the Dole Admin lawn where they shared their vision with other



residents. The event drew about 100 people and featured interactive activities, informational booths, and a variety of food vendors.

Support for the campaign has been slowly growing and a petition has received nearly 400 signatures so far. Members of Our Lāna'i are encouraging others to spread the word and let Maui County officials know that this affordable housing project is urgent and necessary.

"I am a lifelong resident here," stated Atacador. "My parents live here. I have a son as well as my husband's family; we all live here. We want to invest in our community. We don't want to leave Lāna'i."

To learn more about the campaign, visit OurLanai.com.

Photography courtesty of Our Lāna'i

Plants with purpose

Contributed by Katy Deshotels-Moore

rown Flower, *Calotropis gigantea*, is a large shrub that can be easily incorporated into a garden setting when given the right location. It typically will grow to about eight feet high and wide, but will accept pruning to keep it under control in a smaller space. Plant in well-drained soil in a sunny location. Crown Flower can thrive on minimal water, so you can easily incorporate it into a drought-tolerant garden design.



Crown Flower

This attractive plant is in the milkweed family, which serves as a host for the Monarch Butterfly larvae. Following their mating cycle, the butterflies will begin to show up in large numbers around Crown Flower shrubs in order to lay their eggs. Once the eggs hatch, the caterpillars will begin feeding in earnest. Watch for signs of this process when you see the leaves being devoured by these voracious eaters. To preserve the aesthetics of your plant and avoid killing the Monarch larvae, I recommend carefully removing the caterpillars and transferring them to another milkweed plant found locally, the Balloon Flower, or *Gomphocarpus physocarpus*. These conspicuous plants are easily found throughout areas of Lāna'i in open fields or along

roadsides. Taking this extra effort to relocate the larvae goes a long way with helping to preserve our Monarch populations on Lāna'i.

Crown Flower contain toxins within the plant parts, which is why Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on this and other milkweed plants. As the caterpillars feed on the foliage they are ingesting toxins which





Above: Caterpillar, Below: Balloon Flower

make them poisonous to their predators. As the caterpillars develop into butterflies, this "poison" remains in the adult Monarch, providing them protection from birds or other predators that would seek them out as a food source. Take

notice of the Monarch's colorations — black, orange, yellow, and white. These colors signal "poisonous" to their would-be predators — which helps afford them extra protection.

Plant toxins in the Crown Flower bush also protect it from browsing deer. I am often asked what can be planted that the deer won't eat. While Taking this extra effort to relocate the larvae goes a long way with helping to preserve our Monarch populations on Lāna'i.

this question cannot be answered with complete assurance, the Crown Flower will be one of the last plants they will want to ingest. So add this one to your short list of shrubs that will not disappear when hungry deer show up in your yard to browse.

I hope this information encourages you to pause and pay closer attention to the Monarch's habits when you see them flitting around a Crown Flower bush in your or your neighbor's garden.

Happy Gardening, Everyone!

Making every moment count

Gary Onuma's stroke recovery journey

Contributed by Ann Miller

very aspect of Gary Onuma's 74 years — nearly all gratefully lived on Lāna'i — point to the successful recovery he is striving for after a stroke four years ago slowed him for the first time in his incredibly active life.

He has been fishing and hunting since he was 10, moving on to a 30-year career as a professional hunting guide on Lāna'i.



Making firewood for Uncle Ed Franklin's stove. Photography by Ron Gingerich.

"I've done 1,400 guided

hunts and never lost anybody because I could gauge their breathing and push them to the limits," Onuma said. "I never guaranteed a big deer, but if a deer was taken, I guaranteed perfect game care because I could de-bone a deer like a surgeon."

He started swimming competitively in his 30s, training seriously enough to finish a handful of Roughwater Swims (2.4 miles) in less than an hour. It ultimately helped him prepare for those 16-hour hunting days, along with reaching the finish line at "about 10" marathons.

Onuma traces his persistence to both sets of grandparents. They came to Lāna'i from Japan, the first in 1899 to work for Maunalei Sugar Company.

They all "toughed it out," Onuma proudly said. "I am a descendent of that."

None of his vast accomplishments have been tougher than the last four years.

At 60, Onuma began training seriously with a group of much younger folks who became close friends. He set a 10-year goal of high age-group swimming finishes by age 70, which is when he had the stroke.

"I was in top shape," he said, "but my blood vessels were in bad shape, so out of the blue had I had a stroke, thinking I was healthy."

The stroke paralyzed his left side. He now describes the feeling as "if you have marbles and a pair of dice and you put them all in your pocket, then you cannot put your hand in there and know whether you're holding a marble or dice on the left side."

After the stroke, his family — wife Carol is a retired nurse and wonderful advocate — took him from Maui Memorial to Oʻahu's Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, where they spent four months. Onuma told his therapists he was looking for a full recovery and they inspired him to go for it, along with the triathletes who worked out beside him.

"It was really motivating, so I made an incredible recovery, I think," Onuma said.

Recovery began with simple acts such as carrying hot water, squeezing a toothpaste tube and grabbing a door knob with his left hand.

As he progressed physically, Onuma realized he also had to conquer anxieties, such as flying, crossing streets and using public bathrooms.

He took a driving course "because I knew I had to drive if I wanted to fish and hunt."

Those pursuits were precisely what he set as his recovery goal initially. He reluctantly gave up his competitive activities and moved solely toward returning to the hunting and fishing he learned as a child from his Filipino neighbors — folks he still keeps in touch with.

"Post-stroke I had to look at my life and say 'What do I want to do?" Onuma recalled. "I decided for my last few years I was going to hunt and fish again. I'm working toward that, but I'm like a beginner."

He characterizes it as a "mental/physical struggle" because his brain has also been compromised. But each day he finds himself closer to his goals, working in areas as varied as diet, psychology, hypnosis and acupuncture, along with a return to a very different exercise regime.

"I'm learning all over how to hunt with my new mind. And body," he said. "It's an incredible journey."

He talks of repeating small victories such as conquering zippers, shoelaces and belt loops and being patient. As far as hunting, he says he can still de-bone deer and has figured a way to load all his hunting equipment in line with his spine.

"The suspension is perfect, so I can walk regular using two walking sticks," Onuma said. "At my age, a fall could be fatal so I only go when I'm ready. The young guys try to rush me, but it's a process I have to go through at my pace. Everything has to be done perfectly."

Indoors, Onuma devised a workout program anchored by two of his greatest passions: He watches YouTube videos — favorites involve musicals, politics, female vocalists and financial advice — while duplicating his swim stroke using bungee resistance bands connected to a piece of wood on the ceiling.

"I'm addicted to YouTube, so I converted a chair so I could exercise while I'm watching it," he said. "I found that I can do tons of exercise if I do a repetitive motion. I use the bungees so there's no noise."

Lower body exercises include walking, mostly to take care of "functional things" such as cutting wood and carrying it, to prepare himself for hunting.

"I have programs for everything — getting back into the ocean," Onuma said. "We rarely get a chance to harvest our own food nowadays, but we are doing it on Lāna'i. I will go and spear fish and get my own venison."

Onuma admits "it's all difficult," but believes he is "going to have a good life," in part because he lives on Lāna'i, which "probably adds 10 to 20 years to your life because of the slow pace."

He is pushing for it physically and finding his way back to old friends and new financial investments, which have both enhanced his retirement.

He might still be "far behind" where he was physically, but he is now able to aid his recovery by buying laser binoculars and other high-tech equipment that help make up for what he has lost.

"I can't go hunt in the bushes like when I was young," he admitted. "I have to be more stealthy and make every shot count." And every moment.

"I'm into physical development and fiscal development," Onuma says now, "and I've done well on both counts. I'm really proud of what I've done with my body post-stroke.

"I want to inspire people to believe they can be productive well past 70 and ... if I can point kids in the right direction, I'll be so happy."



LHES students get a firsthand look at Hawai'i's judicial system

n December 6, 2022 a group of seven juniors and seniors from Lāna'i High & Elementary School (LHES) heard an oral argument during an actual Hawai'i Supreme Court case as part of the Courts in the Community program. Launched 10 years ago, Courts in the Community is the Hawai'i Supreme Court's education outreach program that gives high school students unique, hands-on experience in how the Hawai'i judicial system works. It's designed to educate students about the judiciary's role in government and its function in resolving disputes in a democratic society. This was the first time in three years that students were able to hear oral arguments in-person.



Immediate past president of the Maui County Bar Association, Leslee Matthews (fifth from right), spent time on Lāna'i prepping students as part of the Courts in the Community program.

Jon Montgomery, a teacher at LHES since 2001 and currently teaching government, modern Hawaiian history and U.S. history, was contacted by Courts in the Community to bring a group of students from Lāna'i to Maui's Lahainalua High School gym for the Supreme Court case. A total of 315 students from across Maui County heard arguments from lawyers in front of the full five-member Hawai'i Supreme Court. Following the oral arguments, students were able to ask questions of both the attorneys and the five Supreme Court justices.

"The Lāna'i students sat through the entire case and were engaged the whole hour which was great," said Mr. Montgomery. "The court case was a land use case which I thought wasn't going to be too exciting, but of course I was wrong. It ended being pretty darn interesting for the students, because it made the complications of law very clear to them."

Prior to the day at Lahainalua, attorneys from the Maui County Bar Association volunteered their time preparing students for the case. Over the course of two visits to Lāna'i, Leslee Matthews, immediate past president of the Maui County Bar Association and managing attorney and founder of Speak Out & Up Law, LLC, discussed the upcoming case with the LHES students and spent some time going over the history of law and the different branches of government. She also held a mock trial to get the students accustomed to what they would see day of.



Mr. Montgomery, Leslee Matthews and LHES students at the Lahainalua High School gym hear oral arguments to a Hawai'i Supreme Court case on December 6, 2022.

"I thank Mr. Montgomery for opening up his classroom," said Matthews. "Every student matters and every student deserves an opportunity to expand their horizons through programs like Courts in the Community. It was great to see the students learn about and prepare for the case and then come alive during the mock trial."

One goal of Courts in the Community is to inspire high school students to pursue a career in law. "The Courts in the community program was awesome!" said Talia Agliam, a senior at LHES. "Personally, I was able to take a look into a small gist of the career path I plan on jumping into. Although I am aware that my plans now may change in the near future, I am currently set on achieving my bachelor's degree at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in Sociology, and continuing my education in a law program on the mainland. I aspire to become a family court judge."

The Hawai'i State Bar Association and the Hawai'i State Bar Foundation provided the attendees at Lahainalua High School with lunch and covered all transportation costs for the LHES students.

Photography courtesy of Jon Montgomery and Leslee Matthews

Health care scholarships available

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i to provide up to \$100,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors pursuing careers in the health care industry.

Kaiser Permanente press release

aiser Permanente's Health Equity Scholars Program aims to develop healthier communities by helping young leaders achieve their dreams of going to college and pursuing a career in the health care field. Graduating Hawai'i high school seniors can apply for a \$2,500 scholarship now through February 8, 2023. Scholarship recipients will be announced in June 2023 with awards distributed at the end of 2023.

Scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who plan to enroll in an accredited, public or not-for-profit, four-year university or community college for the 2023 – 2024 academic school year. Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 weighted scale and demonstrate an interest in pursuing a clinical (physician, pharmacist, practitioner, nurse) or non-clinical (accounting, business administration, finance, human resources, marketing, operations, public policy) career in the health care industry. Preference will be given to students with demonstrated financial need and/or are from underrepresented communities.

To learn more about Kaiser Permanente's Health Equity Scholarship Program and to apply, visit https://kp-healthequity-scholars.hsfts.net/scholarship.

IT'S THE LAW

Designate a sober driver

Contributed by the Maui Police Department - Lāna'i District

s we enter the New Year, the Maui Police
Department wants to remind the community to
drive sober. The consequences are not worth it,
and in our small community, walking is feasible.
Be kind to one another and designate a sober driver before you
start celebrating.



Lāna'i City Lions Club recycle eyeglass program

Throughout the year the Lions Club collects used prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses as part of a unique recycling program. The glasses we collect will be distributed to those in need in developing countries where eye care is often unaffordable and inaccessible

Imagine if you could help a child read, an adult succeed in his job, a senior maintain his or her independence. And provide a community with more opportunities to grow and thrive.

We are in need of all glasses but especially children's glasses. Lāna'i City Lions Club eyeglass collection boxes are located at Straub Clinic, Bank of Hawai'i, Lāna'i Senior Center, and the Lāna'i Public and School Library.

Wallace Au: raised by community

Spending his formative years on Lāna'i, Wallace Au found friendships and values that have lasted a lifetime Contributed by Lesa Griffith

n 1950, Wallace "Butch" Au moved from Oʻahu to Lānaʻi with his family. His parents were part of a partnership that purchased the restaurant at Kaumālapaʻu Harbor. It was an easy transition for the seven-year-old second grader — he had been living in Kailua, which was still a sleepy enclave, just starting to see its first subdivisions.

And though he left Lāna'i five years later to attend Kamehameha Schools back on O'ahu, Au formed lifelong bonds — including with his wife — that have lasted a lifetime.

"Lāna'i was very special," said Au. "It was a plantation; almost everyone on the island worked for Dole. Everyone knew someone that knew who you were. You were raised by the community — and could be corrected by anyone. All of the classmates that I had from the second until the sixth grade are still my friends."

Thanks to the active Lāna'i Alumni Community Association (LACA), former students are able to keep in touch — these days through Zoom. "The LACA for the students is special," said Au. "No other island has only one school for all of the children that attend school."

It was a time when children didn't need an electronic device to have fun and connect with friends. "We were able to do so much more in the outdoors since it surrounded us and we had to make up our own entertainment," said Au. "We were never bored."

Sink or swim

When Au arrived on Lāna'i, he didn't yet know how to swim. But with his parents running the restaurant at the harbor, he was around water constantly. "It was not a good situation," Au said in hindsight. His father asked harbor master Henry Aki (father of current Mānele harbor agent Joelle Aoki) to teach young Butch how to swim.

"I used to watch all the kids that lived at the Harbor Camp swim by Mana wharf, so I kind of knew a little bit," said Au. "Mr. Aki had a real simple method of teaching. All I remember was he told me to come over by him, and he threw me in the water by Mana wharf. I didn't sink and he told me to move my arms and kick my feet, go to the ladder and climb out. I wasn't the only one that was taught to swim this way."

Lāna'i Inn insider

In 1954, Dexter "Blue" Fraser, superintendent for Hawaiian Pineapple Company on Lāna'i, approached Au's parents, Wally and Ethel, about leasing and managing the plantation-owned Lāna'i Inn, today known as Hotel Lāna'i. The couple accepted and moved their four sons—Leslie "Pinky," Butch, Joseph Patrick, and Duane to a house (also owned by the plantation) near the hotel. The Au family ran the establishment until 1968.

Au remembers it as a family affair. "We were slave labor," he laughed, remembering how he and his brothers waited tables, helped with kitchen prep, ran the laundry, cleaned rooms, and did yardwork at the inn. During school breaks, "we worked in the pineapple fields during the day, took a shower, then went to the hotel to set up for dinner," he recalled. "We learned all that kind of stuff at Kamehameha Schools. As a boarder, you were a waiter."

The inn was originally built as housing for Hawaiian Pineapple Company management and visiting associates of plantation owner James Dole. It opened in 1924 as the Dole Club House, according to Pūlama Lāna'i's A Field Guide to Lāna'i's Storied Places, People, Resources, and Historic Events. The Aus were the first people to run the establishment as a public hotel, after the Hawaiian Pineapple Company decided to lease the property to a private interest to offer accommodations for visitors. The modest restaurant offered lunch and was open to the public as well as hotel guests. In addition, for a time Mrs. Au served as the dietician for the nearby hospital, preparing meals for patients.

Reflecting on growing up as part of a plantation economy, Au said, "The plantation lifestyle was pretty good during its time. It provided a living for a lot of people that had limited skills. This was a time that agriculture was king, and everything revolved around it. The investors were the large companies, who were the only ones that could afford to handle an enterprise that large. All of the retail

service businesses would not have been on the island without the people working for the plantation supporting them. I don't think it is too much different now, with Amazon, Microsoft, Apple, Walmart, and all the billionaires who run



Wallace Au at Hulopo'e Beach.

so many different businesses that they control. They can dictate and do almost anything they want to.

Explosive discovery

Lāna'i was a place where kids could roam, exploring their island home through one adventure after another. One day, Au, his brother Leslie, and Harvey Maioho discovered a cave that had been dug under Kaumālapa'u Highway, just before the big tanks at the harbor.

"It's something that not too many people of Lāna'i knew about," said Au. "This cave must have been dug shortly after Pearl Harbor was bombed." The boys saw three boxes stamped with "TNT" and filled with "sawdust and some sticks with loose wires. Being that young we had no idea what it was," said Au. But the trio instinctively knew they were not things to mess around with. Au took one of the loose wires to show his father.

"We did find out later that what I gave to my father was a blasting cap and the boxes were dynamite. They were placed in that cave under the road just in case the Japanese landed on Lāna'i, and the Army could blow it up."

The Lāna'i ties that still bind

When Au graduated from Kamehameha Schools, he went to attend college in Washington State, earning a degree in accounting. He wound up staying, settling in Yakima, where he worked as an auditor

for the IRS for 33 years. But even though his parents left Lāna'i in 1978, he has remained connected to the island.

His wife (and high school sweetheart) Shirley also grew up on Lāna'i — her parents owned what was the Nishimura Brothers Service Station. And though neither have family remaining there, they still own a house on Lāna'i.

"I have spent about one month every year there for at least the past 25 years," said Au. "Our family, and our son Darin and his family spend at least two weeks there during the summer. Our daughter Tami spends time there, too. Thus, the house is used by family between two to three months during the year."

When asked if he credited his Lāna'i upbringing with contributing to his successes in life, Au replied, "I don't know what you would consider to be successes, but growing up on

... growing up on Lāna'i I was taught or learned that when someone needs your help you do what you can — living pono, not expecting anything in return and treating people like you would like to be treated.

Lāna'i, I was taught or learned that when someone needs your help you do what you can — living pono, not expecting anything in return and treating people like you would like to be treated. I saw much of this when I was growing up and I try to keep it up."

Discovering another of Hawai'i's rarest native species on Lāna'i

Contributed by Dr. Rachel Sprague

ne of the very special things about Lāna'i is that while the island has been inhabited by humans for centuries and has had many of its native habitats severely degraded or completely destroyed, we still find surprises when we go looking for native species.

There are just three endangered seabirds that nest in the main Hawaiian Islands — all nocturnal birds that burrow and make their nests underground, making it a real challenge to find — even in the best of circumstances.

While still endangered, the most commonly encountered species of these three is the 'ua'u or Hawaiian petrel. Amazingly, this little island is home to approximately one third of the global population of these pelagic seabirds!

The second species is the 'a'o or Newell's shearwater, which probably used to nest on Lāna'i but we have only detected it via calls a handfull of times over many years.

The third endangered seabird that makes the main Hawaiian Islands home is the 'ake'ake or band-rumped storm-petrel. 'Akē'akē are very small, blackish-brown seabirds with pale wing bars and a narrow white band across its rump. They are the rarest and smallest seabird that breeds in this



'Akē'akē. Photo courtesty eBird.org.

archipelago, as well as one of the most cryptic and understudied. Imagine our surprise when we discovered these birds are our feathery neighbors living here on Lāna'i!

Since 2016, Pūlama Lāna'i's Conservation Department has been looking for 'akē'akē (as well as 'ua'u and 'a'o) on Lāna'i, using acoustic recording devices that can be set to automatically record sounds at night. Our efforts have been supported by partnering with other seabird experts to determine when and where to look, and then by working with data analysis experts to analyze the sound recordings. These data analysts use computers that have been trained through deep neural network machine learning to distinguish the squeakier 'akē' akē calls from those of the 'ua'u, and are able to detect

those faint, squeaky calls out of more than 15,000 hours of recordings!

After two years of lots of 'ua'u sounds but no 'akē'akēe calls, in 2018 our acoustic recorders picked up just six individual calls of 'akē'akē on the windward slopes of Lanaihale. This was an exciting find and renewed



Steep walls of Hauola Canyon, where 'akē'akē are thought to be nesting.

hope that we might find more evidence of 'akē'akē out there!

All the searching did pay off — over the next three years more acoustic recordings and in-person surveys identified 'akē'akē densely calling over Hauola Canyon within the Kuahiwi a Kai: Lāna'i Watershed Restoration Program area on Lāna'i. We were thrilled that we had found such an important species nesting here, but we knew we shouldn't stop there and needed to keep looking in similar mid-elevation canyons across the windward side. And, in fact, we

did find more 'akē'akē in 2022, not only in Hauola but also Maunalei, and several other small canyons across the windward slopes facing the island of Maui! Some of the survey locations for the acoustic recorders were so remote and steep that they could only be reached by a helicopter just barely touching down. These endangered manu are certainly picking some of the most challenging landscapes



Looking toward the ocean over Hauola Canyon in the area where 'akē'akē are likely nesting in the walls of the canyon.

on this island to make their home.



The upper reaches of Maunalei Canyon, where 'akē'akē are likely nesting in the walls of the canyon.

From what we know of the species on other islands, 'akē'akē will nest in burrows or natural cavities, often on remote, high-elevation cliff faces like those found on the Nā Pali Coast or Lehua Islet off Ni'ihau or rugged volcanic terrain such as the slopes of Mauna Loa and possibly Haleakalā.

The very first burrow in Hawai'i was found just recently in 2015 on the U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i's Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA). Since then, only a total of five active burrows had been found all on PTA land. That is, until this past September when a single active burrow was found by a conservation detection dog at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on the slopes of Mauna Loa. (Of note, the known 'akē'akē nesting area on Hawai'i Island was very close to the path of the recent eruption flows, but was not covered by lava as far as we know.)

With only these six known nests, 'akē'akē breeding biology in Hawai'i remains very poorly understood. On Lāna'i, it is a nearcertainty that we have a nesting colony of 'akē'akē given the rate and density of calling that we have discovered. We can only assume that the nests are in cavities on the steep and inaccessible canyon walls.

Given all that, what is our next step for understanding and protecting these special manu on Lāna'i? 'Akē'akē are social, colony-

nesting birds. So, if they hear calls and see decoys in an area with available burrows, they will likely think it is a safe and desirable place to nest themselves. This is a conservation biology technique called "social attraction." We are in the planning stages of identifying a remote site within hearing distance of the suspected 'akē'akē nesting areas where we could construct a small predator-proof fence, build and install artificial burrows, and add speakers powered by solar panels to play 'akē'akē calls. Based on what is known about this species and related seabirds elsewhere, that should be enough to attract some of the younger 'akē'akē to the new site and establish a new breeding population in the protected area.

The Hawaiian population of 'akē'akē is known to be distinct

If we can provide them with a nesting area of increased protection that is also accessible to biologists, we can learn more about this endangered and mysterious species and help inform conservation across the state.

from most other global populations, reinforcing the importance of protecting the population in the Hawaiian Islands. It is exciting and encouraging to learn that even though we did not know it until now, the windward side of Lāna'i has been providing a home for this rare manu. If we can provide them with a nesting area of increased protection that is also accessible to biologists, we can learn more about this endangered and mysterious species and help inform conservation across the state. This exciting discovery is a good reminder to always be maka'ala (alert and watchful) for who knows what will be found next!

Lāna'i senior citizens

Christmas outreach

Contributed by Cindy Sagawa

Since the early 1970s, Lāna'i Baptist Church has served as the nonprofit host for the Lāna'i Senior Citizens Christmas Outreach. Starting with support from Betty Jean Labrenz of Operation Blessing, 700 club on Maui, coordination with Phyllis McOmber at the state of Hawai'i Department of **Human Services, Danni** Komatsu, pastor's wife of Lāna'i Baptist Church, to current coordinator, Cindy Sagawa.

When outside funding ended in 2003, Lāna'i Baptist Church began inviting local businesses, churches and individuals to contribute financial and charitable donations to support this community outreach. The lunch and gift bag delivery was reaching over 250 seniors. During the season of Covid outbreak, the lunch service at the Lāna'i Senior Center ended.

We continue to strive to include any Lāna'i senior who is age 65+. We believe our seniors, no matter their persuasion to any particular holiday, can always use paper towels and toilet paper. Over 100 local volunteers, organizations, churches and businesses participated. With so many donations we were able to gift 350 seniors with useful items.

Lāna'i Baptist Church is grateful for our community friends that join us each year to reach out to our seniors. Thank you for partnering with us to continue this special and unique outreach for almost 50 years. If you know a 65+ senior we missed or would like to receive an outreach gift, please contact us:

LanaiSeniorChristmas@hotmail.com

Lāna'i Baptist Church, P.O. Box 630149, Lāna'i City, HI 96763 (808) 565-9405

Year-round donations are always welcomed. Please note "Lāna'i Senior Christmas" on your gift.



Volunteers Gina Alonzo, Lisa Shin with Nalu, Debbie Wheeler, Sagi Baldwin



Volunteer Greg Strum



Senior Brad



Volunteers Adriel and Agape Baldwin



Senior Hermenegilda Oliva



Senior Rodney Alonzo



Kitty Nohara



Queenie Felipe & Four Seasons Laundry donated towels to the hospital to make clothing covers for meals



Senior Vala Welch



Senior Rick Wheeler



LHES students pre K through grade 5 made cards for senior gift bags



Volunteer Becky Stoabs



Seniors Aimee and Doug Rolefson



Elsie Butay receiving gifts for hospital residents from Cindy Sagawa, Debbie Wheeler, Gina Alonzo, Lānaʻi Baptist Church



Caroline Gold



Volunteers Debbie Wheeler, Judy Cole



Volunters Alonzos, Camille, Keala, Laiku, William, Tiare and Abby



Senior Terry Batte



Coordinator Cindy Sagawa, Lānaʻi Baptist Church



Volunteers Ryan Rodrigues, Talia Agliam – Lānaʻi Teen Miss, Ryllah Rodrigues – Miss Lānaʻi USA



LHES grades pre K through 5 made cards for seniors

Better Business Bureau offers tips to protect yourself from tax scams

Better Business Bureau press release

ax scams are among the most stubborn cons out there. They reappear often, each time with a slightly different spin. Better Business Bureau advises taxpayers to watch out for these four tax scams:

IRS Impersonation Scam

According to the 2022 BBB Online Scams Report, impersonating an authority figure or organization accounted for 54% of online purchase scams. IRS impersonation scams most often start with a phone call from a fake IRS agent. The "agent" says you owe back taxes and pressures you into paying by prepaid debit card or wire transfer. If you don't comply, the scammer threatens you with arrest and fines. This information can later be used for identity theft.

The callers are professional criminals who sound official with fake badge numbers and names. Knowing how the IRS communicates can help consumers avoid this type of fraud.

Tax Identity Theft Scams

Identity theft was the top fraud reported to the FTC in 2021. Tax identity fraud occurs when a scammer uses another person's social security number to file a tax return and claim a refund. Unfortunately, many people don't realize there is a problem until they file their return and receive a notice that their taxes have already been submitted.

Email Phishing Scams

This scam involves an urgent email directing the person to update their file immediately and includes a link to a bogus website that looks like the IRS site. Once on the site, they want to collect your personally identifiable information, which can lead to identity theft.

Ghost Tax Preparer

Hiring a tax professional can save individuals time and money, but it's important to make sure they have the right credentials. A ghost tax preparer is a fly-by-night operator who hasn't received a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN), which the IRS requires for anyone who does taxes in return for compensation.

When hiring a tax professional, ask them for their credentials, verify that they have a PTIN, and check their profile on BBB.org. Avoiding a scam this tax season can be done by following these steps:

- File your taxes as early as possible before a scammer can use your information to submit a fake return.
- Jot down the six-digit Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) from the IRS before you file your return. The IP PIN is another way to confirm your identity; however, once you apply for an IP PIN, you must use it each year.
- Verify you are on the IRS website, irs.gov, and not a fake one. Avoid clicking on links that direct you to a website.
- When sharing your tax documents with a tax professional online, ask if the preparer has a secure portal to upload documents. If you need to email, make sure your documents are encrypted.
- If you are a victim of identity theft, contact the IRS at (800) 908-4490, and begin your identity theft recovery plan at identitytheft.gov.

For more information visit bbb.org/all/taxtips. To report a tax scam, go to bbb.org.





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808-559-0200 cell kay@okamotorealty.com







Mahalo, Lāna'i!

To all my friends, family, supporters, community partners, volunteers, and all those who have been with me on this journey of serving our Maui County Community - my deepest Mahalo to all of you!

It has been an honor serving you as your Mayor.

From my family to yours - we wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year!





Paid for by Friends of Michael P. Victorino, P. O. Box 3085 Wailuku HI 96793

Lāna'i Community Health Center

LCHC Executive Director Diana Shaw retires

After 15 years as the Executive Director of the Lāna'i Community Health Center, Dr Diana Shaw retired on December 31, 2022. Originally from upstate New York, Diana and her husband Mike came to Lāna'i via Kaua'i. She integrated herself into the Lāna'i community - establishing friendships and joining a local hula hālau. She has been a fierce advocate for facilities and policies that would benefit the community and has passed on her patient-centered attitude to the Center staff. The Board of Directors and Center staff wish Diana and Mike well as they enjoy Diana's retirement together on Moloka'i.



E Ola Nō

Lāna'i

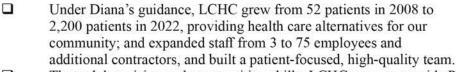
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and

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for Lāna'i





Working with the clinical team, specialty services were brought services to Lāna'i that keep our patients and community at home and reduce the cost of medical expenses.

Working alongside one of our Founding Mothers, Ms. Phyllis McOmber, she purchased our land and completed the construction of our 6,800 sq. ft. facility.

☐ Diana was 2018's PBN Honoree, "Women Who Mean Business".

She consistently brought passion, dedication and advocacy to the job; her voice is heard throughout the state and as far as Washington, D.C. Senators reach out to Diana for her input on the issues that we all face within our community and across the country.

Diana has had a lasting impact on our community and each of our lives.

With the guidance of our Board, LCHC has grown into one of the largest employers on the island (providing employment and health care options to our community), and a community partner that truly embraces the philosophy of "life, health, and well-being for Lāna'i."

Michele Holsomback, Board Secretary said, "Diana was instrumental in bringing forth the dream our founding mothers Jackie Woolsey and Phyllis McOmber had for a health center that served all our community. I thank her for her leadership, guidance, patience, and working with others in making that dream a reality! Best wishes for a relaxing retirement!"

Simeona Taiji, Board Director said, "Diana gave her all to a Lāna'i legacy, a legacy clearly seen through the health care community she devotedly served. From founding Aunties Phyllis McOmber and Jackie Woolsey to the young Lāna'i graduate aspiring to a career in medicine, Diana exemplified a trait the LCHC 'ohana all share: Tireless, unbounded hope for a healthy Lāna'i."

Deborah dela Cruz, Board Treasurer said, "Nowadays you can get an ultrasound or get your eyes checked on Lāna'i instead of going off island. You can "see" a dermatologist and other providers remotely from Lāna'i. People may not know that they owe these conveniences and more in large part to Diana, Phyllis McOmber and Jackie Woolsey. They all had a vision for the Health Center, and Diana brought it over the finish line. Thank you and happy retirement, Diana!"

State Med-QUEST Division expands to Dental Coverage

New year, new reasons to smile! Expanded Dental Coverage is now available for Adults with Medicaid. Please call us to schedule your appointment! Beginning Jan. 1, 2023, adults with Medicaid will have expanded dental benefits coverage for diagnostic, preventative, restorative, endodontic, and prosthodontic services.

Children under the age of 21 currently have comprehensive dental benefits, but for the past 14 years, adult Medicaid beneficiaries only had emergency care as a benefit. That will change next year. HDS is the third-party administrator for the State Medicaid dental benefits program.

Priscilla Thode, contracts and monitoring compliance section administrator with the Med-QUEST Division of the Hawaii Department of Human Services, gave an update on adult Medicaid dental benefits at the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition's annual statewide meeting on Nov. 16.

Aloha LCHC Patients, has your contact or health insurance information changed recently? Please update your contact information with us! Call us at 808-565-6919 to make the change, or visit us at 333 Sixth Street. Mahalo!

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Lorina Amby

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Would like to thank those who helped make the Christmas Tree Lighting Festival a successful event:

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Ross Morita
Saul Kahihikolo
Susu & Ron Woolsey
The classes of 2023, 2024, 2025, & 2026

All of our performers and participants, especially SANTA

Damon Pham & David Harrison for the gifts for the Keiki



LCA also expresses our appreciation to the businesses who have so generously given to our 2022 Fund Drive:

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Making a difference to Lana'i community organizations

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Our goal is to inspire and empower Lāna'i recipients to learn, participate, improve and thrive. We are accepting Funding Requests in the areas of Education, Health Care, Arts, and Senior Services.

Deadline for request is: February 10, 2023. Funding available March 1, 2023.

Visit our website at www.manelekoele.org. Please use our online form or download and complete the linked Word document and email to info@manelekoele.org. You will receive an email confirmation once we receive your request.

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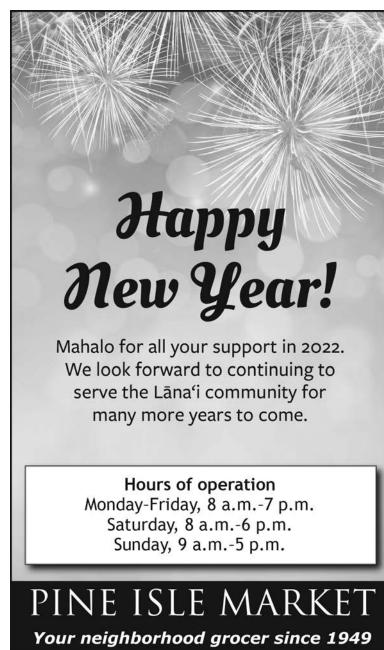
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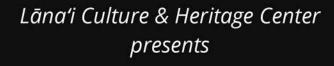
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Ungulate Removal - December 2022







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What's your New Year's resolution?



"To be a better person and be more understanding towards others."

- Marcom Pascua



"Spend more time outdoors."

- Jahnna-Lynn Burns



"I want to live happier this year than last."

- Delarae Basques



"Eat more healthy food this year, exercise at least twice a week, save more and spend wisely, and spend more time with my family."

- Erica Dianne Esmeria



"Create stronger connections with others in the community and to work together with others to make our community better."

- Lorry Cornish



"To be healthier overall.

To be able to travel and spend more time with my grandson."

- Jennifer Kaaikala



"Embrace new challenges."
- Romeo Elan



"Live, love, and laugh plenty this year. Life is too short." - Edwin Vila