

LĀNA'Ī TODAY

FEBRUARY 2023



The Lāna'ī High & Elementary School Pine Lasses basketball team finished the season as Maui Interscholastic League Division II champs for the first time in school history.

*Top row, left to right: Keala Montgomery, Haley Ostrander, Kami Kanno, Katelyn Bello.
Middle row, left to right: Mia Majkus, Miyah Vila, Leisha Figuerres, Shelby Ostrander, Souina Seuli.
Bottom row, left to right: Trinity Simon, Veniza Jackson, Alexa Pascual, Myah Doolin.*

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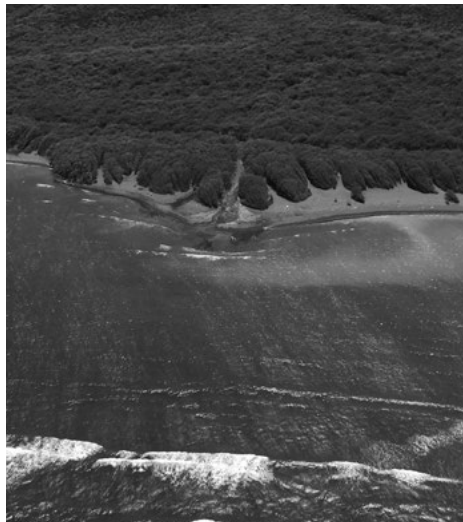


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Cut to the Chase

Lānaʻi Community Association is looking for a part-time executive assistant. They are looking for a candidate who is organized, detail-oriented and passionate about Lānaʻi. The executive assistant works closely with the Board of Directors to organize special events, assist with fund drives and submit grant applications. For more information, please contact Kay Okamoto at (808) 565-7519 or kay@okamotorealty.com.

Meetings are available with **Lānaʻi High & Elementary School counselor**, Beth Humphreys. Each high school student is required to complete a Personal Transition Plan for guidance on what to participate in in high school and understand what is needed to enter college, military or career paths. For more information, please email elizabeth.conroy-humphrey@k12.hi.us.

Maui Police Department – Lānaʻi District’s “Let’s Talk” sessions are opportunities for residents to express concerns and ask questions. Maui Police Chief John Pelletier will be present for the March 7, 2023 session from 9-10 a.m. at the Police Station, 855 Fraser Avenue.

Lānaʻi Public & School Library’s Keiki Construction Zone will happen on the last Thursday of every month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. No hard hats needed. Just put on your creativity cap and use your imagination. Great STEM toys will be provided for use in the library. This free program is suitable for adults, teens and children ages 3 and up. Young children must be accompanied by a caregiver. For more information, please call the library at (808) 565-7920. Check with the library for monthly sessions as schedules are subject to change.

MPD Lānaʻi has a job opening for a public safety aide. For more information, call or visit the Lānaʻi Police Station, (808) 565-8388. To apply, go to: <https://www.mauicounty.gov/jobs.aspx>

MPD Lānaʻi will host a job fair event on Saturday, March 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Dole Park. They will also be celebrating Women’s History Month during the entire month of March. A sign waving event will be held on March 10. More details to come.

Pūlama Lānaʻi is offering lifeguard certification for anyone ages 15 and up. 2023 certification dates are March 10, 11, 12 and March 17, 18, 19. For more information, please contact MaryLou Kaukeano at (808) 563-2703.

Corrections

Lānaʻi Today strives for stories that are accurate, objective and truthful. Unintentional errors may occur during the production process. Once an error is identified, Lānaʻi Today will correct it as quickly as possible. Please note the following errors:

On page 8 of the January issue (Wallace Au: raised by community), Henry Aki should be identified as harbor employee; only brother Les joined Wallace in waiting tables, and the big tanks should be noted as Standard Oil tanks.

2023 Axis deer hunt season opens

Contributed by Melanie Bandalan, Wildlife Technician V, DLNR-DOFAW

The 2023 State Axis Deer Hunt opened on Wednesday, February 1. This year, the hunting format is back to the original pre-COVID format of Axis deer in the spring and mouflon sheep in the fall. The season kicked off with 2 archery sessions of 12 days each with just over 300 applicants drawn for each session. The first session took place February 1-12 and the second session is February 15-26. The youth, muzzle and rifle hunts will all be 4-day sessions with hunting days open Thursday-Sunday. The youth hunt for hunters ages 10-15 will be from March 2-5. The muzzleloader hunt will be from March 9-12. Eleven sessions of rifle hunts make up the bulk of the season running from March 16-May 18. This year's bag limit is two does, one Axis deer (either sex) and one mouflon ewe. The original hunt announcement stated that doe tags must be purchased prior to an either sex tag, but this is no longer required due to a lower than

anticipated deer population. No additional free doe tags will be given. A free mouflon ewe tag will be offered with any Axis deer tag purchase due to a higher-than-expected mouflon population. Hunters can purchase tags in advance of their hunt online at gohunthawaii.ehawaii.gov or at the hunter check station.

If purchasing tags online, check in is still required at the hunter check station during the following check in hours:

Archery 2nd session:

- Wednesday, February 15 – Friday, February 24: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Youth, Muzzle and Rifle hunts:

- Wednesdays: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Thursdays and Fridays: 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- Saturdays and Sundays: CLOSED

Hunters may check in online using the outerspatial app if the hunter check station is closed, but in-person check in is preferred. All hunters must check out of their hunt and record harvest results at the end of each session.

Council proposes resolutions important to Maui County youth

Established in 2022, Maui County Youth Council was a pilot project proposed by Councilmember Kelly Takaya King and established by the Maui County Council via Resolution 21-199. The goal of the council was to explore youth engagement in county government.

“It was my hope the youth council would provide an avenue for young people to express their stance on issues facing the next generation of our community,” King said in a news release. “I am inspired to see these high school students accept this opportunity to engage with their communities and learn about the local government process.”

The youth council included Chair Therese Nicholle Ignacio, Vice-Chair India Buchanan, and Officer Pro Tempore Natalie Petty, who were nominated and elected by the youth councilmembers, and Dylan Arisumi, Raje Bluml, Dylan Bowen, Grace Crowe, Anna Galbreath, and Jacob Janikowski of Lānaʻi.

The high school students met with councilmembers and community leaders to learn about county government and local issues. On December 5, 2022, the nine youth councilmembers introduced resolutions they drafted.

“Civic engagement and education are important for a robust government, and by supporting this initiative, we can help to ensure that Maui County is representing and serving its next generation,” said King.

“This project was intended to give young people a voice on issues that impact their community,” says Axel Beers, senior executive assistant for Councilmember King and former social studies teacher who served as their advisor. “It explores any interest among our next generation in learning about county issues, taking a leadership role, and making recommendations to our county leaders.”

Resolutions were prepared and proposed by the members of the youth council, who are high school students from across Maui County. They met in the Council Chamber to receive public testimony and deliberate on their proposed resolutions, which touched on topics ranging from housing to school funding to the mental health of teens.

Specific resolutions addressed funding for public schools, urging the county of Maui to achieve the state's commitment to become carbon net negative by 2045, and encouraging implementation of a fog drip pilot project. The meeting was in-person, but virtual access was also available.

The 10 resolutions adopted by majority vote were transmitted to the Maui County Council.

King said the resolution proposals represent policy priorities of Maui County's youth, and she hopes the issues will be addressed by the incoming council.

After the culminating activity, the youth council of 2022 has concluded. “As a pilot project, it was a success in demonstrating the ability and interest of young people to participate in local government,” says Beers.

Next, the group will work on legislation to create a Youth Commission that is codified as part of the County's Boards and Commissions.

IT'S THE LAW

It's the Law

Contributed by the Maui Police Department – Lānaʻi District

The Maui County Municipal Code 10.20.450 - Mudguards states:

No person shall operate on any highway any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer unless equipped with fenders, covers or devices, including flaps or splash aprons or unless the body of the vehicle or attachments thereto afford adequate protection to effectively minimize the spray or splash of water or mud to the rear of the vehicle.

Simply, this means that it is illegal to have any part of your tire sticking out of the wheel well/fender of your vehicle without proper equipment. If the vehicle body does not protect from projecting debris due to being lifted or having the tires extend past the body, then mud flaps/splash aprons or fender flares need to be installed on your vehicle.

Penalties begin from \$72.00 per tire and could total up to \$576.00. For example, if you have a lifted truck and you have four (4) wide tires that extend past the body of the vehicle, you can be cited \$72.00 x (4) for the tires for not having fender flares and an additional \$72.00 x (4) for not having mudguards/splash guards. That is a total of \$576.00 in penalties.

Hawaii Revised Statute 291C-150 - Bicycle Helmets requires:

That anyone under 16 years old wears a properly fitted bicycle helmet while operating a bicycle on any street, bikeway, or any other public property.

A violation of this section is punishable by a fine of not more than \$25.00, and the parent or legal guardian having control or custody of an unemancipated minor whose conduct violates this section shall be liable for the amount of the fine imposed under this section.

Although it is not required for everyone to wear a bicycle helmet, it's recommended that riders of all ages use a helmet. While using a helmet does not eliminate the risk of injury, it significantly reduces the odds of a head injury. Studies have shown that helmets reduced the risk of head injury by at least 45%, brain injury by 33%, facial injury by 27%, and fatal injury by 29%.



‘Ōlelo No‘eau

Kuhi no ka lima, hele no ka maka.
Where the hands move, there let the eyes follow.

A rule in hula (Pukui 201).

Student film selected for Hawai'i International Film Festival

If you think a black and white film without dialogue isn't your cup of tea, then you probably haven't watched "The Artist's Subject," a five-minute short film by Lāna'i filmmaker and high school student, Lucie Reese. The film, shot on Hulopo'e Beach, was an official selection of the 2022 Hawai'i International Film Festival.

Beautifully shot, carefully constructed, and sensitively acted, "The Artist's Subject" is Reese's follow up to "First Base," her earlier short film that premiered at the Lāna'i Theater in September 2022. The prior film, shot over several months in 2022, starred multiple Lāna'i community members and relied on a crew of volunteers. In contrast, "The Artist's Subject" had a cast and crew of just one person, Reese, who plays the only two roles in the film.



Lucie Reese in "The Artist's Subject"

"It's a film about perception," says Reese. "There's an artist and there's a subject. The artist is painting who they think they are — their perception of how they see themselves."

Reese shot the film in 2022 in under three hours, using a camera and tripod borrowed from her parents.

"I would set up the tripod, go behind the camera and take a few test shots," says Reese. "There was no one else to help me. I was filming by myself."

Her only company during the shoot were a few guests of the nearby Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i who wandered by and stopped to ask what she was doing.



Louis-John Romero (left) as Rich Reese and Garry Mendoza as Earl in "First Base"

She edited the film on her laptop, often using "little specks of time between classes" at high school.

Reese made the film as part of a class she took online from Hawai'i Women in Filmmaking "Making Media That Matters." She credits the organization with providing practical support and for submitting her finished work to the film festival.

Reese learned "The Artist's Subject" had been accepted to the festival the night before "First Base" premiered in Lāna'i to an audience of 180 community members. A few weeks later, she was attending the screening of her film at The 2022 Hawai'i International Film Festival.

"It was the first time I had seen it on the big screen," says Reese. "It was emotional for me. Ever since I was young, I've always wanted to act. I always had that vision of seeing myself on the big screen with people watching me. The moment the screen came on, my second-grade self was proud."

"The Artist's Subject" was part of the festival's Student Showcase.

Today, Reese is submitting her earlier film, "First Base," to multiple festivals and working on her next film project.

"I'm really excited for it because [the new film] is really different than 'First Base,'" says Reese. "I have the outline done, and I'm almost done with the script."

Similar to "First Base," she will be relying on members of the community to help with the project.

"It's just amazing what this community has done. Such a positive community and I'm so grateful. I want to thank the community because without them 'First Base' wouldn't be what it is."

"The Artist's Subject" and the trailer for "First Base" are free to watch on Reese's YouTube channel, Lucia Cinema (youtube.com/@LuciaCinema).

Photography courtesy of Lucie Reese

Supporting victims of domestic violence with immediate financial support

For victims of domestic violence, the decision to leave an abusive relationship is never an easy one. Many serious factors contribute to a victim's thought process when assessing their options, such as the threat of increased abuse, how leaving will impact other family members, whether they have a safe place to go, and if they have the monetary resources to leave.

The Lāna'i Domestic Violence Taskforce's new Financial Assistance Program aims to remove some of the financial barriers that prevent a victim from leaving an unsafe situation.

"Many times, it starts with creating their own personal plan which could include expenses," says Kelli Maltezo, a child and adult protection specialist for the state of Hawai'i and a member of the Lāna'i Domestic Violence Taskforce (LDVTF). "My car hasn't been working and I need to get it fixed first, or I need to set up my own cell phone plan. All of these thoughts are going through these victims' minds, and we want to support all victims whether they are planning to leave a relationship or are already in the process of leaving."

Through the Financial Assistance Program, victims of domestic violence can apply to receive up to \$500 which may be used on monetary expenses that support their needs. Examples include purchasing a plane ticket to another island where a victim's family is located, using the money as a security deposit for a separate place to live, or using funds to establish a bank account.

Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis and LDVTF will make a determination in three working days. "If someone is in an emergency situation on Lāna'i, we want them to have a place they can turn to to access funds quickly," explains Maltezo.

In addition to the program being Lāna'i-based and for Lāna'i residents, another benefit is that applicants do not have to already be signed up with a social service provider. The program is a stand-alone financial program, but the taskforce hopes it can direct victims to other social service agencies for additional support and resources.

The Financial Assistance Program was established from LDVTF's annual fundraiser which has garnered tremendous support from the Lāna'i community. Funds raised traditionally cover expenses related to hosting workshops, presenting at community events, and training taskforce members to provide outreach to other providers in the community, such as health care workers and clergy members. After the 2021 fundraiser, the taskforce wanted to create its own program that would directly impact people in the community. "We have so many great donors that support our fundraiser each year," says Maltezo. "We want to be able to show our donors and supporters that this is where your money is going to. Something very tangible."

Maltezo hopes that the new program also sheds light on the very real issues of domestic violence on Lāna'i. "I hope the community recognizes that domestic violence is prevalent on Lāna'i even if it's not actually visible," says Maltezo. "Many times, people think of domestic violence as just physical violence, but a huge part is also emotional, psychological and financial abuse."

For Financial Assistance Program qualification requirements and to request an application, please email lanaidvtf@gmail.com. Applications may also be picked up at the Lāna'i Police Station, Women Helping Women, Parents and Children Together and Lāna'i Child Welfare Services. Interested donors may also contact lanaidvtf@gmail.com.

Seeking a cure for physician shortage

Hawai'i's physician shortage has long been a challenge, most recently exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic as physicians battled with uncertainty and burnout. The need for physicians is felt more acutely in rural communities like Lāna'i. According to the 2022 Annual Report on Findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project, there is a shortage of 776 physicians in the state, with Maui County looking to fill 167 of those spots.

A partnership between the University of Hawai'i's John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) and Pūlama Lāna'i aims to help reverse the shortage by exposing medical students to rural health care in hopes that they will eventually decide to practice in rural communities.

Established in 2011, JABSOM's Hawai'i Rural Health Program gives first-year medical students the chance to provide health care in rural areas of Hawai'i Island. Since then, it has expanded to Kaua'i, and in 2022, a grant from Pūlama Lāna'i brought the program to Lāna'i.



Members of the John A. Burns School of Medicine's Hawai'i Rural Health Program will spend two months on Lāna'i.

"A big part of this program is living in a rural community and seeing what it's like," says Jill Omori, MD, director, Office of Medical Education at JABSOM. "Our first Lāna'i cohort got to experience the challenges, but also the benefits, of working in a rural community. The students felt that the community was so supportive and friendly."

Six second-year medical students make up the second Lāna'i cohort currently living, learning and providing care on island. Cohort participants are from JABSOM's rural health interest group.

While growing up on Guam, cohort member Eduardo Biala, Jr. experienced firsthand the challenges people in rural areas face when it comes to health care. "When the opportunity was announced to our class that we could spend our MD7 unit on Lāna'i, I immediately hopped on the opportunity and applied," says Biala, Jr.

The cohort members participate in virtual JABSOM lectures based on O'ahu, learn from tutorial sessions with a Lāna'i physician, and gain clinical experience interacting and assisting with patients at Lāna'i Community Hospital, Straub Medical Center – Lāna'i Clinic, and Lāna'i Kinā'ole.

"We have learned so much about what health care is like here," says Biala, Jr. "Working with the folks at Lāna'i Kinā'ole has been an eye-opening experience for me, learning how integral of a role they play in ensuring the health care needs of the residents are met in the face of obstacles and challenges, such as transportation access."

In between lectures, studying and clinic time, the cohort has been able to enjoy some of what makes Lāna'i special, including stargazing and deer sightings.

"Being here reminds me so much of my home in Guam," adds Biala, Jr. "Everyone knows each other, and you definitely feel the sense of community and 'small town' living that doesn't exist anywhere else but Lāna'i."

Latest news from Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i

Gold certification for organic landscaping

Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i was awarded gold certification for its organic landscape management by Maui Nui Marine Resource Council (MNMRC), making it the first property to receive accreditation for reef-friendly landscaping.

MNMRC's Reef Friendly Landscaping (RFL) Program aims to prevent polluted runoff originating from the use of synthetic fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides from resorts, golf courses, businesses and residential areas. Research has shown that traditional pesticides, fungicides and fertilizers can negatively impact marine ecosystems and can cause cancerous growths in sea turtles and other marine life.



MNMRC worked with Robert Woodman, director of landscaping at Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i, to incorporate plants that are less water and labor intensive, and those that can thrive in the specific microclimate around Hulopo'e Bay. Woodman has been leading the landscaping team for seven years, managing 12 densely planted acres of gardens, which includes several native Hawaiian plants.

Sensei Lāna'i, A Four Seasons Resort ranked top 10

Organic Spa Magazine, the paramount media source in natural beauty and wellness, recently ranked Sensei Lāna'i, A Four Seasons Resort as one of its Top 10 wellness travel destinations. Each year, the publication's hospitality experts investigate the best and brightest experiential spas and transformational hotels across the globe to bring its readers the best in wellness travel.

Amir Nematipour appointed to director of food and beverage

Previously executive chef at Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i, Nematipour will oversee all food and beverage operations.



Amir Nematipour, director of food and beverage

"We are so pleased to welcome Amir into this role, a new chapter for him," says Alastair McAlpine, general manager of Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i. "His culinary positions have provided valuable experience delivering high-level, luxury service to restaurants as well as for social occasions such as group events and festive weddings. We look forward to seeing him leverage his creativity and keen management skills to develop innovative experiences and a strong team on property."

Prior to Lāna'i, Nematipour served in several high-end kitchens in Los Angeles, the Middle East and Europe.

Photography courtesy of Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i

Slice of Life: Football All-Stars

Three Lāna'i High & Elementary School football players were selected to The Maui News 2022 MIL 8-Player Football All-Stars. Senior offensive lineman Shawn Abraham and junior running back Diesel Del Rosario made the first team offense selection, and senior defensive back Aiden Hough made the first team defense selection.

Even more impressive is the relatively short time all three students have been playing football for LHES. This was the first full year Hough and Abraham played LHES football and second year for Del Rosario.

The future looks bright for these young men. After high school, Hough hopes to play baseball for a D1 or D2 college and eventually make it to the MLB. Abraham plans to continue playing football in junior college after taking a gap year to work.

Honorable mentions include Ryan Noble and Reece Etrata.



Diesel Del Rosario



Aiden Hough



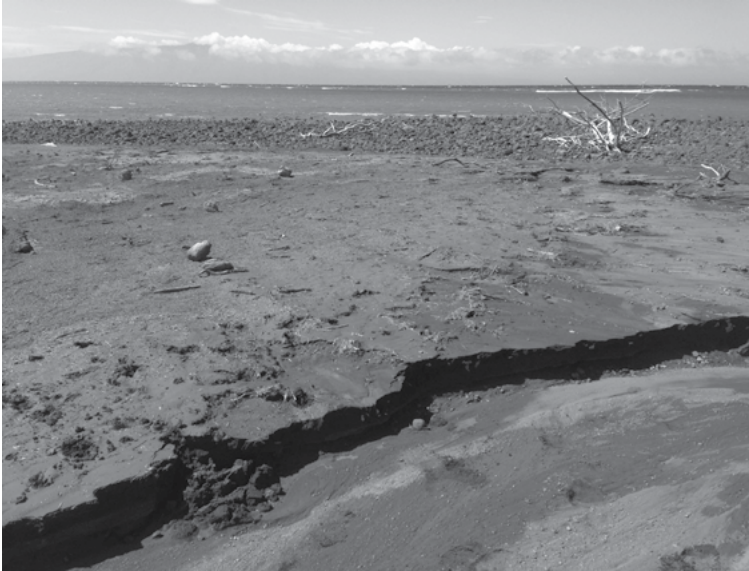
Shawn Abraham
Photo courtesy of The Maui News

Fish for the future

The community is coming together to ensure Lānaʻi has plenty fish for the next generations

Contributed by Lesa Griffith

Almost 500 years before Captain Cook stumbled on Hawaiʻi, islanders were catching as much fish as today’s fisherman — while keeping fish stocks healthy. They achieved that balancing act by following the rules of the kapu system that controlled catches. Meanwhile, over the last 100 years, catch reports for some Hawaiʻi fish have decreased by 90 percent. So, the state has been looking to traditions of the past to improve the future outlook for island fisheries.



Example of siltation on Keōmoku coastline from just one rain episode

In August 2015, Gov. David Ige signed into law the state’s first community-based subsistence fishing area (CBSFA) in Hāʻena on Kauaʻi’s north shore. CBSFAs are a state-recognized avenue for local community groups to mālama ʻāina by proposing regulatory recommendations and management activities to sustain the health and abundance of marine resources for current and future generations. This type of initiative uses traditional knowledge as a strategy for resource management. On Kauaʻi, Hui Makaʻāinana o Makana, an association of fishing families ancestrally tied to the area, works with the state to successfully manage fishing and educate the public. Hāʻena has become internationally recognized for this groundbreaking work. Then last June, Miloliʻi on Hawaiʻi Island became the state’s second CBSFA.

Now other fishing communities throughout the islands — including on Lānaʻi — are exploring becoming CBSFAs. On January 25, eight people gathered at the Lānaʻi County District Office to discuss establishing the entire island of Lānaʻi, where fishing and hunting are a way of life, as a CBSFA.

“The group was small, but two main themes were dominant,” says lawaiʻa (fisher) and hunter Stanley Ruidas who is spearheading the effort. “One was creating a plan to sustain the lifestyle that is uniquely Lānaʻi and to maintain the shoreline and waters surrounding Lānaʻi for our children and our children’s children. It was said repeatedly during the meeting that this initiative will not be for us, but for the future generations. Secondly, collaboration.”

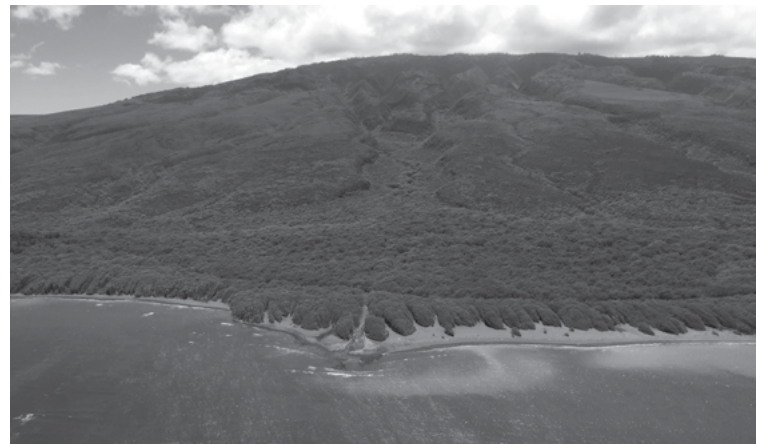
Ruidas cites the importance of the Lānaʻi fishing community, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Department of Aquatic Resources (DAR) and Pūlama Lānaʻi working together to ensure the protection of the island’s resources.

To establish a CBSFA, the community needs to come together to identify “an overall goal to regulate the specific needs for their aquatic sustainability and to establish the guidelines to maintain it,” explains Ruidas. “CBFSAs are never created to be a one-size-fits-all [initiative].” Instead, it is tailored from the wants and needs of each community.

“Most CBSFA’s have the same foundation — establishing seasons for catching certain types of fish or the gathering of ʻopihi and limu, and determining what counts as offshore waters and what steps will be taken to protect the shoreline and outward,” says Ruidas. “It is also a reminder — which was stressed to the new participants — that the CBSFA initiative at its very core is community based, so their input is critical and feedback is necessary to establish the guidelines that will protect our waters.”

“Pūlama Lānaʻi is very much interested in seeing a community-based subsistence entity in place,” says Jonathan Sprague, director of conservation for Pūlama Lānaʻi. “It would be great for the island’s resources.”

He points out that the Kuahiwi a Kai: Lānaʻi Watershed Program already supports the goals of a future CBSFA on the windward side, where the nearshore reef is heavily impacted by silt. “One of our big goals is to reduce the amount of sedimentation running off of the slopes onto the reef,” says Sprague. “You support the health of the reefs by supporting the health of the land.” That support includes reducing the number of ungulates and restoring native vegetation.



Keōmoku shoreline accretion

As on many islands, Lānaʻi residents rely on the natural resources. “Because we have a relatively low population, the fishery is still pretty healthy,” says Sprague. “Getting ahead of the curve and protecting ocean resources now [with a CBSFA] is a lot of good foresight.”

Ruidas says more meetings are coming and next steps are to establish guidelines that will cover everything from regulating seasons to designating offshore limits, as well as to “brainstorm on innovative ways we can work together to use technology instead of just manpower to monitor the waters around the island.”

“You support the health of the reefs by supporting the health of the land.”



**LIGHT
SIDE UP**

By
Nina Amby



Pine Lasses take gold

LHES girls basketball team makes history with first league championship

What, if any, are the advantages of having a team of shorter basketball players? It is a question MaryLou Kaukeano and Christian Yumol, the two co-head coaches of the Lānaʻi High & Elementary School girls basketball team, answer without hesitation and in perfect unison, “Speed!”

They should know. Their team, the Pine Lasses, won the Maui Interscholastic League Division II tournament this past January for the first time in school history. They did it with a team of players whose heights range from 4’10” to 5’10”.

“Most are under five foot, six inches,” says Yumol. “We’re the smallest.”

They may also be the fastest. The team put that advantage to use during their games with “a lot of fast breaks, running up and down the court. A lot of possessions.”

“If we’re going to talk about speed, we’ve got to talk about Veniza Jackson,” Yumol says about the junior who scored 22 points during the championship game. “I call her the Road Runner. She’s just zooming back and forth on court. She’s probably one of the fastest players in the state.”

Speed isn’t the team’s only advantage. The Pine Lasses also bring cohesion and experience. Kaukeano and Yumol have been a coaching duo for a decade. The two have been continuously coaching some of their senior players for the majority of that time.

“This group of juniors and seniors, we’ve taught many since middle school,” says Kaukeano.

“We had a very strong team coming back this year,” says Yumol. “That was the only way they were going to get the title. Every year we’re always kinda fighting for first place. They were so close last year and heartbreakingly lost. From that very day we said, ‘The championship is ours and we’re not settling for anything else.’ They did exactly what they were supposed to do.”

During the preseason, the team came together for practices five days a week. Once the regular season started, they dropped down to four practices a week to make time for traveling to games.

At practice “everything is on repeat,” says Yumol. “Repetition is everything. You’ve got to keep working on your craft until you master it. Keep doing the same thing until you feel so good about it that it’s time to move on.”



Veniza Jackson



Keala Montgomery

All that practice paid off.

“The one compliment we always get about the whole team is their chemistry,” says Yumol. “They know how to find each other. They know where they’re going to be. When they’re moving and shaking it’s a beautiful thing to watch.”

The Pine Lasses also benefit from cohesion that extends beyond the team and their coaches — all the way into the community.

“Anything to do with youth sports, this community is extremely supportive,” says Kaukeano. “When we have bake sales, they are more than giving.”

“Everyone is so generous” when it comes time to do fundraising, says Yumol. “We live in the middle of the Hawaiian Islands. When we go on a trip, we have to pay for everything. It’s a lot of money to get off the island. It’s \$300 [per person] just to get to O’ahu. It’s a tremendous amount of money [for the whole team].”



Haley Ostrander

Sometimes, even with all the community support the budget won’t stretch for a hotel.

“If we aren’t able to raise the money, we sleep in the gym...and I’m on an Aerobed,” says Kaukeano who clearly loves coaching, but not spending the night on gym floors.

Community support went into overdrive when the girls arrived home with their gold medals, having won all 10 of their league games.

“They had a little parade for us when we got home,” Kaukeano says. “Fifty or sixty people greeted us by the basin.”

Now, about that championship game against Molokaʻi.

“You could just see it on them,” Yumol says. “They were the team that got the message. I told them, ‘Look, do it for the island. Do it for every team before you, because no one else has done it.’”

By the end of the first quarter, the Lasses led Molokaʻi 15-8.

“They let it all out,” says Yumol. “They were hell bent on making sure they were not going to be denied. Some of our seniors were overcome with emotions from the third quarter. I said, ‘You guys gotta chill out.’”

At that point the team was ahead by more than 30 points, allowing the coaches to relax a little and change strategy.

“Pretty much everyone played,” says Yumol. “We pulled the starters and got some of our freshmen and other players playing. I didn’t necessarily have to coach the team, because they knew what they were doing. Some of the girls that don’t typically shoot were shooting and making shots. It was crazy. We could do no wrong.”

At the end of the game, Lānaʻi led Molokaʻi 62-31.

“You chase something so big, and then when it’s there, and it’s inevitable, it’s surreal,” says Yumol. “It was really nice to watch. Relief. Joy. All at once. It was an unbelievable season. I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

Player Spotlights



Senior **Haley Ostrander** has been selected to participate in the Mufi Hannemann Invitational Girls Basketball Jamboree, a unique all-star tournament which showcases Hawaiʻi’s female basketball players. Ostrander is the first player from Lānaʻi to be invited.

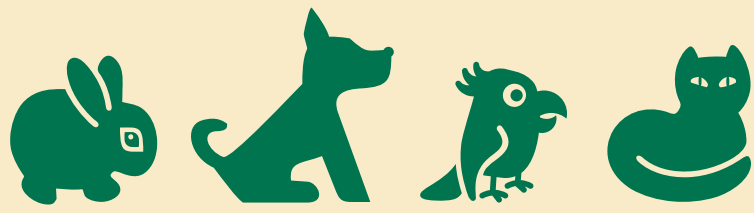


Senior **Keala Montgomery**, who also excels at softball and plans to play the sport in college, is deciding between Lawrence University in Wisconsin and Kenyon College in Ohio.

Players on this year’s history-making team:

Katelyn Bello, Myah Doolin, Leisha Figuerres, Kamrynn Kanno, Veniza Jackson, Mia Majkus, Keala Montgomery, Haley Ostrander, Shelby Ostrander, Alexa Pascual, Souina Seiuli, Trinity Simon, Miyah Vila.

Co-head coaches MaryLou Kaukeano and Christian Yumol are joined by two volunteer coaches, Gina Anton and Mahina Romero. Yumol’s daughter, Kylie Yumol, helps out by recording all the games.



We love our *pets!*

In celebration of National Love Your Pet Day on February 20, Lānaʻi Today put a call out on social media and asked community members to send in photos of their pets — and the photos came rolling in! As we read through the submissions, one thing became apparent: our pets play an important role in bringing happiness to our everyday lives.



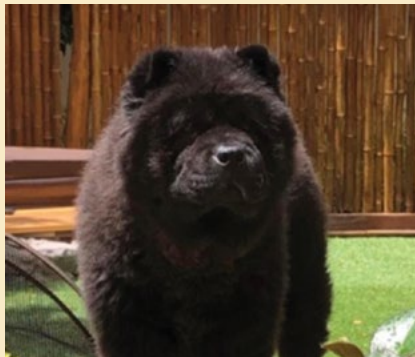
Max, 10 years
Owner: Gianna Reilly



Kiwi (Green Check Parrot), 1 year & Zoey (cat), 4 years
Owner: Joy Maggard



Coco, 5 years
Owner: Janet Cortez



Kong, 5 years
Owner: Josh and Maria Bunting



Snickers, 16 years
Owner: Diane Irons



Frankie, 3 years
Owner: Anne Van Valkenburg



Roxy (left), 16 years and Snookie (right), 14 years
Owner: Alec & Raine Pascua



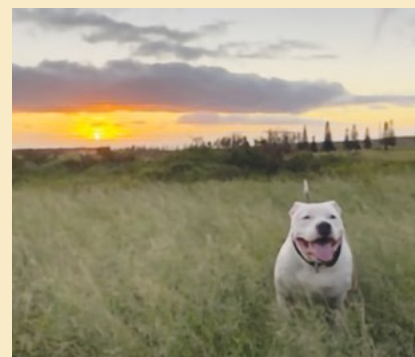
BJ, 18 years
Owner: Levina Inaba



Mopsey, 1 year
Owner: The Kahihikolo Family



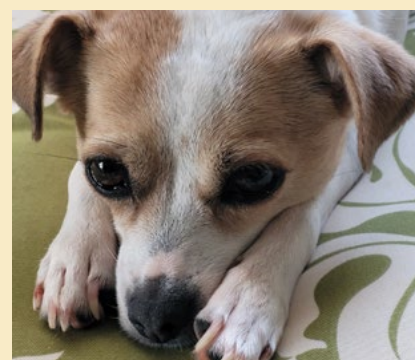
Dash Masuno, 6 years
Owner: Jolene Sugiyama-Segault



Whisky Plunkett Masicampo, 5 years
Owner: Josette Plunkett



Bliss, 12 years,
Owner: Edward and Terri Lynn Cousley



Bubbles, 5 years,
Owner: Anita (Saranillo) Fuertes & Dennis Fuertes



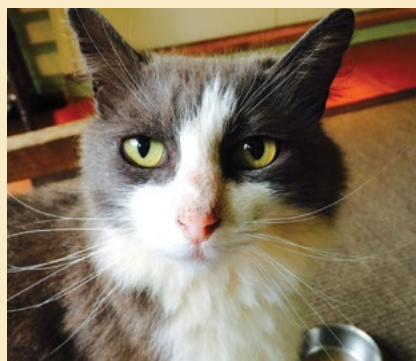
Lena (mom), Loki (uncle): 8 years, Wielo (dad): 4 years,
Odin, Cotton, & Missy (Lena's & Wielo's offspring): 3 years
Owner: David Carlson



Ludo, 3 years
Owner: Jolie Hamm



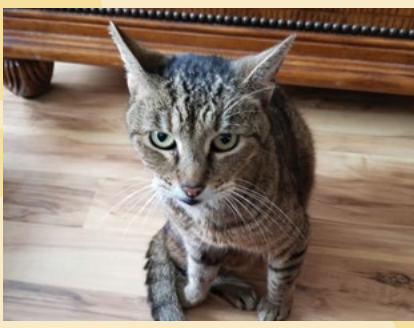
Kimbo, 13 years
Owner: Shelly Barfield



Toulouse, 18 years
Owner: Kathy and Mike Carroll



Maka, 1 year
Owner: Harrilynn and AJ



Cat, 16 years
Owner: Genalyn and Duke



Luna, 4 years
Owner: Genalyn and Duke



Yoona, 3 years
Owner: Mindy Bolo



Kobe, 4 years
Owner: Jolene Sugiyama-Segault



Community invited to activities at Lānaʻi Hongwanji Mission

The Lānaʻi Hongwanji Mission lends its facilities to various community groups that host a range of classes. The community is invited to come out and try any of these activities taking place throughout the week:

- Lānaʻi Jiu Jitsu and Kickboxing — adult and kid classes held Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. For a full schedule, please visit lanaijj.com.
- Therapeutic Yoga — Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Certified instructor Deborah Scarborough’s style is slow and gentle but can be as advanced as the student prefers.
- Tai Chi and Gymnastics — Sundays at 2 p.m. and Mondays at 4 p.m., taught by Sifu Hung.



The community is welcome to attend service typically held at 9 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. Please check the board in front of the temple for the schedule. Lānaʻi Hongwanji is also planning a bento fundraiser in April and its annual bon dance festival in July.



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christian.ibanez@sensei.ag



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Executive Assistant

The Lānaʻi Community Association is looking for a Part-Time Executive Assistant! We are looking for a candidate who is:

⇒ Organized ⇐

⇒ Detail-Oriented ⇐

⇒ Passionate about Lānaʻi ⇐

Our Executive Assistant works closely with the Board of Directors to organize special events, assist with fund drives, and submit grant applications.

For more information contact:

Kay Okamoto
President, Lānaʻi Community Association
(808) 565-7519
kay@okamotorealty.com

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Lāna'i Community Health Center

LCHC welcomes new Executive Director Rahnia Boyer

Rahnia Boyer joined LCHC in March, 2022 as the Associate Executive Director with 17 years of healthcare operations and administrative management and leadership experience from rural Alaska. Rahnia started in the healthcare field as a student intern which led to her working directly in chronic disease prevention and management, where she received the opportunity to not only offer patient care and community education but was able to start her healthcare management and leadership career. Prior to moving to Lāna'i to join her family, Rahnia worked at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation where she provided executive leadership to the management of 46 remote village clinics, Diabetes prevention and management, the Environmental Health program, Human Resources, and Legal departments. She is a leader who values communication, teamwork, and working towards providing quality care and serving the community healthcare needs.



In addition to her professional experience, Rahnia has also appreciated opportunities to give back to the community in various ways. She has volunteered on professional and community committees and boards, as a volunteer EMT, as a booster/coach/ref for youth sports, as a hospice volunteer, and as a Big Sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. She enjoys spending time with her family, staying active, playing sports, watching movies and shows, and reading.

Rahnia earned her master's degree in communication and leadership from Gonzaga University and her bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. She is also a scholar for American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Thomas C. Dolan Executive Diversity Program and maintains a certification as a Senior Certified Professional from the Society for Human Resources Management.

LCHC welcomes Jacey G. Laborte - Risk Management, Safety, and Privacy Officer

Jacey Laborte's position manages and oversees Lāna'i Community Health Center's risks management and safety services, and through continuous improvement, provides mitigation of potential risks and safety issues through continuous improvement. As the Privacy Officer, Jacey is responsible for maintaining and coordinating compliance for the health center in all aspects required by law, and creates a culture of safety through continued education. Jacey also works closely with the Director of Quality—providing informatics from source data, to collaborate in the maintenance and growth of the Quality Improvement Plan of the health center.



In this position, Jacey will serve the community and patients of Lāna'i Community Health Center by ensuring compliance to all rules and requirements, implementing best practices, and providing effective and inspirational leadership in these areas to our team. This will facilitate overall quality of care for our patients, by ensuring their needs are met and optimum performance of the health center is sustained. In collaboration with his colleagues in leadership, Jacey will provide his expertise in these areas, and continue to support the strategic goals of Lāna'i Community Health Center.

For over 10 years, Jacey has been a private consultant in the health care industry specializing in clinical practice management, along with serving as a Clinical Director/Privacy Officer for other Federally Qualified Health Centers. Recently, Jacey was worked within the health insurance sector, specific to Medicare and Medicaid members in Hawaii. Jacey holds degrees in Anthropology, Sociology, and Psychology. His experiences in the corporate and nonprofit realms have fostered a passion for navigating the innovative health care domain, with experience in strategic management and growth. Jacey's belief in valuing and sustaining culture, and our unique human expressions, help to grow our community in meaningful ways. Jacey celebrates diversity and it, along with a primary focus on patient care with clinical diligence, directly drives his goals and future aspirations.

He has travelled extensively throughout the world and enjoys arts, culture, new cuisine, and spending time with all his friends. He strives to support his favorite charities and organizations whenever possible.

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- **Exercise:** Get at least 150 minutes of moderate activity weekly.
- **Sleep:** Get seven to nine hours of quality sleep every night.
- **Screenings:** Schedule annual wellness exams. Early detection and treatment are key to managing your health.

Small lifestyle changes can lead to big benefits, so talk to your doctor today about a plan that works best for you. Learn more about Maui's nationally-recognized heart program at mauihealth.org/heart.

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Bringing the plantation era stories to life *through art*



Last year was a busy one for Lānaʻi Culture & Heritage Center (Lānaʻi CHC) as they developed a number of programs and events to honor the island plantation centennial — a celebration of Lānaʻi’s vibrant community, history and people. This included a unique partnership with Maui Public Art Corps, which brought plantation-era stories to life.

In early April, Kelly McHugh-White, founder and chair of Maui Public Arts Corps (MPAC), reached out to Lānaʻi CHC’s executive director, Shelly Preza, to see if the center would be interested in partnering on a public art piece. While some may perceive public art as being something physical such as a sculpture or mural, McHugh-White explained that it included digital as well. The conversation led to the idea of recording intergenerational interviews and bringing historic photos from Lānaʻi CHC’s archival collections to life through digital art.

“I think something that I found really interesting was their approach to doing intergenerational kind of talk stories, helping to facilitate kind of these conversations between different generations,” says Preza. “And I thought, well, that very much fits in with the culture center and our mission to preserve, perpetuate and honor Lānaʻi’s unique history, culture and values.”

Three talk-story sessions were recorded with Dean Del Rosario and Shelly Preza, Soon Yai Amaral and Diane Preza, and Henry Eskaran, Jr. and Anthony Pacheco. While many histories written might focus on tough working conditions and economic disparity, for this series, Lānaʻi CHC wanted to focus on the vibrant lives people lived and the deep connections they forged as a community.

“I think that the deep sense of community and values is something that I haven’t really read much in history books. Through my own personal conversations with my family, I understand there was much more to plantation life than just work,” Preza explains. “The work was hard. They’ll say that. But, I think they also have a lot of nostalgia around that time and just how joyful and how awesome the community was. The idea behind this partnership is to celebrate the vibrant plantation community that existed here on Lānaʻi and to honor those who have come before us.”

After the recordings, Maui Public Art Corps coordinated discussions between Lānaʻi CHC and Ace & Son Moving Picture Company, a Brooklyn-based animation team. Lānaʻi CHC provided photos from its archival collections that aligned with the stories, and New York-based artist Taisiya Zaretskaya then created a painting of each one, which was then composited by Natalie Greene. Artist Richard O’Connor and his animation team then combined all the elements to create the animated films.



MAUI PUBLIC ART CORPS
STORY: Diane Preza and her mother Soon Yai Amaral, Kamaʻāina of Lānaʻi
ARTISTS: Painting: Taisiya Zaretskaya; Compositing: Natalie Greene; Direction: Richard O’Connor
LEARN: mauipublicart.org/lanai



MAUI PUBLIC ART CORPS
STORY: Dean Del Rosario, Kamaʻāina of Lānaʻi and Shelly Preza, Executive Director, Lānaʻi Culture & Heritage Center
ARTISTS: Painting: Taisiya Zaretskaya; Compositing: Natalie Greene; Direction: Richard O’Connor
LEARN: mauipublicart.org/lanai



MAUI PUBLIC ART CORPS
STORY: Anthony Pacheco and his father Henry Eskaran, Jr., Kamaʻāina of Lānaʻi
ARTISTS: Painting: Taisiya Zaretskaya; Compositing: Natalie Greene; Direction: Richard O’Connor
LEARN: mauipublicart.org/lanai



To view the art and to learn more about the partnership, visit mauipublicart.org/lanai.
To stay up to date with Lānaʻi CHC events and programming, visit lanaihc.org, follow them on Facebook and Instagram ([@lanaihc](https://www.instagram.com/lanaihc)), and sign up for their e-newsletter.