

# Westside Stories

"The Pride of the Westside"

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

JULY 2026  
Volume 29, Number 7

## WHS Junior Class Has an "SBA" Field Day

Submitted by Mae Oshiro and Madilyn Fulchiero

In May, Wai'anae High School's Junior Class participated in the first annual Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) Field Day—a reward for their improved SBA scores and solid attendance. SBA is taken by all juniors in the state to

measure their learning and meeting of all the Common Core State Standards in English and Math. Their scores can then be compared with students across the nation, because WHS' Common Core State Standards are the same as National Common Core Standards. The SBA field day was open to all juniors who improved their attendance, took all three parts of the SBA, and made some growth from the interim SBA.

The whole day was packed with fun and excitement and included games, competitions, water activities, food, and prizes, a reward for months of focused



A group of happy, smiling and somewhat sweaty juniors and teachers pose for an impromptu group picture.

### ALSO IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

**WOW**  
**2026 Scholarship Awardees**  
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**Out and About with Lei'a**  
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**Public Library Programs**  
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Tritin Raymond-Lacbayan laughs as teachers and students emerge from behind the bleachers in sumo bubble balls, an unexpected field day game

grueling and intense learning from data feedback on the student's areas needing growth. The students signed up for at least three events — potato sack races, the three-legged race, musical chairs, hukihuki tug of war (with the rope), slip and slide, sumo bubble balls and more. Lunch was catered by Ko Olina resort and Tamura Super Market. Following lunch, students watched a movie and ate ice cream and popcorn.

Nearly all food, drinks, games, prizes and supplies were purchased with money from families and local donors

*Continued on page 16*



**celebrating Our 250th Independence Day - Saturday, July 4, 2026**  
**Be watching for your Voting Ballots in the mail this month**

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## INPEACE Celebrates One-Year Anniversary of Hale Nānāikeola with Community Gathering and Mākeke

Submitted by Kirra Downing & Saydee Pojas

Last month, the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture (INPEACE) marked a meaningful milestone with the one-year anniversary celebration of its Nānāikeola Headquarters in Nānākuli. The event, "Nānā I Ke Ola," welcomed community members, supporters, local vendors, educators, and families for an evening centered on culture, education, and connection.

Over 250 attendees gathered to celebrate the continued growth of INPEACE's community-centered work across Hawai'i. The celebration featured a lively mākeke showcasing sixteen local ar-

tisans and small businesses through INPEACE's Center for Entrepreneurship.

Guests enjoyed music throughout the evening, along with food offerings and opportunities to connect with community partners and program staff. The atmosphere reflected the spirit of the Wai'anae Coast, rooted in 'ike (knowledge), aloha and collective uplift. "We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us, contributed to this celebration, and continues to invest in our mission," said CEO Sanoë Marfil. "Whether through attendance, donations, or participation in our programs, your support strengthens our ability to serve families across Hawai'i.



Francine Medeiros, Sanoë Marfil, Kathy Au, Sue Doyle and Geena Koka celebrate in front of the Nānāikeola headquarters.

This milestone is not just about expansion projects, safety improvements and other critical infrastructure needs that directly impact families and learners. Support for the Capital Fund ensures Hale Nānāikeola continues to serve as a safe, modern, and inspiring

Looking ahead, INPEACE launched phase two of its Capital Campaign to strengthen and improve the community hub through our planned facility upgrades, new technol-

*Continued on page 14*



# From the Publisher

By Steve Olbrich

Please visit our Facebook page for updated events that are happening throughout the month here on our Westside



The 4th of July holiday, which is a federal, state and city and county holiday, is right around the corner and will be observed on both Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4. All banks and credit unions will be closed as well as the post office (no regular mail delivery). All state offices along with schools and public libraries will also be closed along with all City & County offices. However, the 'ōpala folks will be working, so set those cans out.

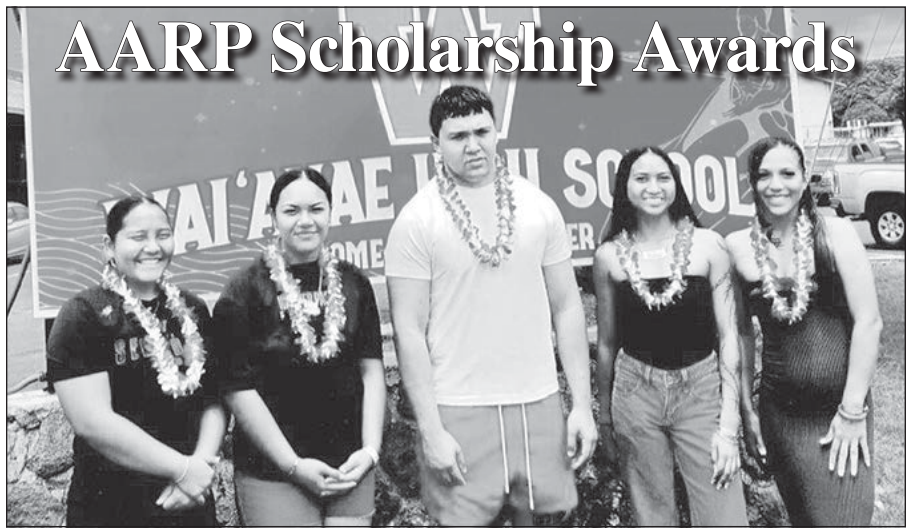
You must have already obtained a permit if you plan to burn fireworks. Remember that they can only be set off between 1 to 9 pm. Due to all the recent rain, many areas are full of brush and tall grass that could mean brush fires. Make sure your animals are secure and your yards are clear of dry grass and combustible debris. Be prepared to put out small fires.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education's USDA's Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program is still serving breakfast from 7:15 to 8:45 am and

lunch from 10:30 a.m. to noon until July 17. There will be no meal service on July 3. Once again, all meals must be eaten on campus, and children do not have to be enrolled at a participating school to be served. Westside school's participating in the SSO program are: Leihokū, Mā'ili, Mākaha, Nānāikapono, Nānākuli Elementary, Nānākuli High & Intermediate, Wai'anae High and Wai'anae Intermediate.

Hurricane season began on June 1 and runs through November 30. All forecasters with NOAA's National Weather Service as well as local television and radio forecasters are predicting an above-normal hurricane season for the central Pacific basin this year with a possibility of 5-13 tropical cyclones which include tropical depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes. With all the recent weather oddities that we have had recently, start your preparations now!

Prevent "brain drain" and participate in the public library's Summer Reading Challenge which started on June



The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Wai'anae Chapter awarded five scholarships to recognize deserving students. They are: Ry-n S. Uyeda, Hayden T. Viela, Shawdan Pacheco, Kalena Matthews and Karma K. Pestana. We wish all our applicants and graduating seniors every success in your future studies! *Submitted by Kay Smith*

1 and runs to July 31. It's open to all keiki, 'ōpio, makua and kupuna. This summer's theme is "E Heluhelu Kākou – 'Umeke K'āeo" is a calabash full to the brim and promises to fill your summer with "spam-tastic" programs, niu-knowledge and lots of literary adventures. Our Westside public libraries will be celebrating with many programs and activities (*see page 16*).

For more information, please visit: [librarieshawaii.org/summerreading](http://librarieshawaii.org/summerreading)

With the 2026 elections approaching, you should receive your ballot for the upcoming August 8 primary election in the mail on or about July 21. Once again this is mail-in election only and bright yellow drop boxes will be at Wai'anae District Park, Nānākuli Public Library (new this year) as well as Kapolei Hale for you to deposit your completed ballot. Once you have voted and dropped your ballot in the drop box, you can

*Continued on page 3*

**HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY U.S.A.**

**Rego & Nakoa**  
Attorneys at Law  
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**Celebrating Independence Day - July 4th!**

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

## ?? Nīele ??

In our last issue, the question was asked, "Do you know why there are wastewater pumping trucks that hook up long hoses that seem to be dumping raw sewage in the manhole in the ground oceanside by the stoplight at Kaukama Road in Mā'ili? If they are dumping wastewater, is it sanitized before they pump it out?"

We reached out to both the City & County of Honolulu's Environmental Division as well as State of Hawai'i for answers, as there seems to be a jurisdictional issue. As of our press date, we have no definitive answer but will con-

tinue to pursue and report back.

Now for this month's nīele question, "What ever happened to the Nānākuli Museum that used to be at the back building of the old Nānāikapono Elementary School (now Ka Waihona)? It was beautifully maintained and run by Mrs. Kapaku and was supposed to transition to the new location of Nānāikapono. Is it still there and is it open to the public?"

If you know the answer or would like to ask us a nīele question, e-mail us at [wss@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:wss@hawaii.rr.com) and we'll try to feature in an upcoming issue.

### Contributors to this Month's Issue:

*Kelsey Domingo, Kirra Downing, Leila Ferreira Sparks, Sally Ford, Madilyn Fulchiero, Lei'a Haff, Sharon Higa, Mae Oshiro, Saydee Pojas, Maile Shimabukuro, Kay Smith, Kelly Stinefelt, Deborah Thierbach, Karen Young*

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

**F.O.W.L.**  
Friends Of Wai'anae Library

Independence Day  
July 4th

**IN JULY WE ARE FEATURING U.S HISTORY & LANDMARKS.**

**ALSO LOTS OF NOVELS FOR SUMMER READING.**

**THE SPIRIT OF 1776**

**The 25 cent cart will be reloaded with new selections!**

SEE PAGE 16 FOR BOTH PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SCHEDULES FOR JULY

Next issue: August 2026 • Story & Advertising Deadline: July 10, 2026



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### From the Publisher

Continued from page 2

trace your ballot by visiting [hawaii.ballottrax.net/voter](http://hawaii.ballottrax.net/voter) For those of you who wish to vote in person, or have a question or problem with your ballot, you can visit a Voter Service Center which will be at Kapolei Hale and Honolulu Hale which will be open daily starting on July 27 from 8 am to 4:30 pm Mondays through Saturdays. If you are not already registered to vote, you may register to vote and vote that day at those

#### E Kala Mai Ia 'U

Apparently, Spectrum, our internet provider, has decided to block all Gmail accounts to our original road runner e-mail. If you've been reaching out to us and haven't had a response, that's why. We are working with them and will keep you posted once this issue is resolved.

### HECO's 2026 Solar Sprint



Qiubei Wei of Wai'anae Intermediate, shown here with her solar vehicle, represented our Westside.

Submitted by Sharon Higa

Under mostly sunny skies, Hawaiian Electric's annual Solar Sprint held on May 5 at Kapolei Middle School drew nearly 90 students from five Leeward and West O'ahu public schools to race their solar-powered cars on a 20-meter course in under 20 seconds. The challenge provides an opportunity for students to learn how the power of the sun can be harnessed and converted to electricity, while they earn prizes for meeting and exceeding the standards.

-Photo courtesy of Hawaiian Electric.

### Shop Locally



Save time and money by shopping and supporting local businesses and services right here on the Westside.

Voter Service Centers. If you don't receive your ballot by August 1, you will need to update your voter registration by visiting [elections.hawaii.gov](http://elections.hawaii.gov) or call (808) 453-VOTE (8683).

July 31 is "Lā Ho'iho'i Ea — Sovereignty Restoration Day" which recognizes the accomplishments of King Kame-

hameha III, who worked to restore the sovereignty of the Hawaiian Kingdom after a four-month occupation by the British in 1843. Although not an official state or city and county holiday, many groups and civic organizations will be holding ceremonies. Our Westside activities will be held on August 1 from 8 am

to 4 pm at Pōka'i Bay Beach Park.

Hard to believe that public school is scheduled to start on August 3. For those of you who have children starting kindergarten or seventh grade or have keiki who plan to participate in a school's sports program, make sure you schedule their required physicals quickly.

## Announcing Foster Realty's 16th Annual "My Dream Home" Coloring Contest!

If selected, your Keiki could win a Brand New Bicycle!



### THE RULES:

1. Keiki ten years and under...draw us a picture of your "Dream Home".
2. Pictures must be drawn with... **CRAYONS ONLY.**
3. We must have your picture by July 31, 2026.
4. Please bring it to our office.
5. Make sure a grown-up writes your name, age, and phone number on the back.
6. Only one entry per keiki please.
7. If you win, you get to pick out your very own bike - But you gotta take a picture with us when you get it! (Previous winners not eligible)



Last year's contest winner was 8 year old Lucille Silva-Kane.

Everyone who enters the contest wins a prize!

When you are ready for your dream home, Foster Realty is here to help you, every step of the way... Call us to get started today!

96792 Proud!

# Foster Realty, Inc.

License Number RB-17403

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# 2025-2026 West O'ahu Report



Hawaiian Electric's Campbell Industrial Park (CIP) Generating Station is a 130-megawatt fuel-flexible power plant that includes a 128-kilowatt photovoltaic solar system to power plant operations using the sun. Before the CIP Generating Station was developed, Hawaiian Electric and West O'ahu community leaders agreed to a Community Benefits Program for the Leeward Coast community adjacent to the plant. This update and the community programs described are a result of that commitment.

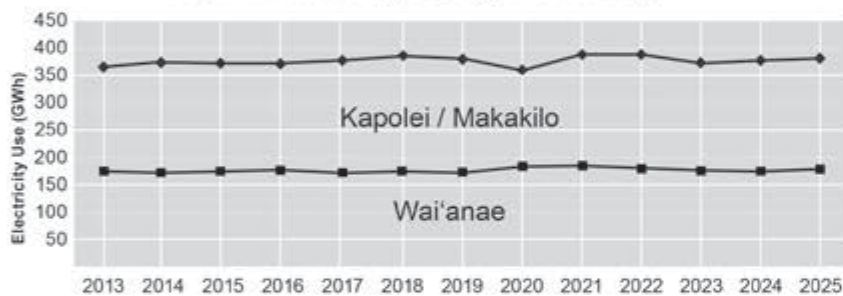
## West O'ahu Electricity Use

According to the Hawai'i Annual Climate Report, in 2025, O'ahu experienced its fourth warmest year since 1990. More intense warm days led to higher residential electricity use in West O'ahu. The average energy use in homes without rooftop solar in Kapolei/Makakilo and Wai'anae rose 4.3% while residential rooftop solar participation in the area grew by 2.3% and these homes saw an 8.4% increase in energy use. Hotter weather continues to shape how our communities use energy – especially for cooling.

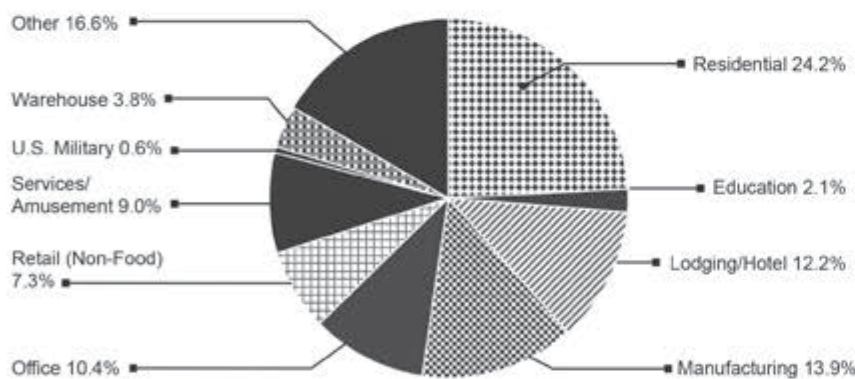
In the commercial sector, total energy use in West O'ahu remained essentially unchanged around -0.2% lower.

In Wai'anae, residential customers now account for 55.4% of usage, up 1% from the previous year. Residential customers account for 24.2% of Kapolei/Makakilo usage, up 1.2% from the previous year.

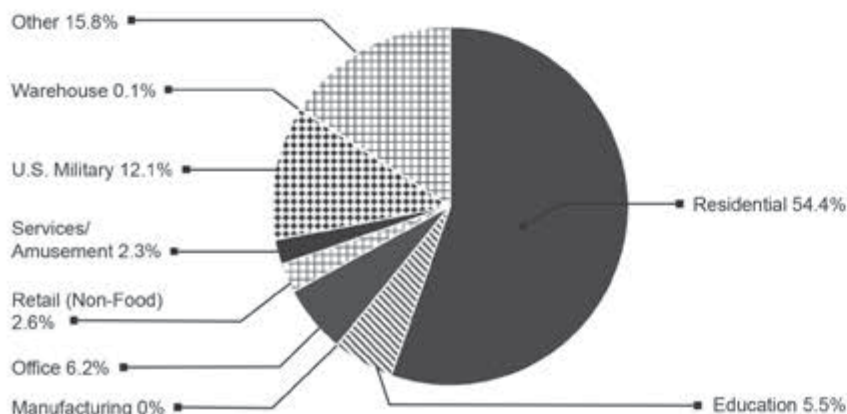
Total Electricity Use (2013-2025)



Kapolei / Makakilo



Wai'anae



## Monitoring our Impact



At Hawaiian Electric, protecting the environment and ensuring the safety and health of the public is our kuleana, and one we take seriously. To minimize the impact in communities where we operate, we continue to:

- ◆ Monitor air quality at the Lualualei and Pālehua stations. Since the inception of the air quality monitoring stations in 2009, near real-time data has recorded consistently good air quality in the region. Visit [westoahuair.com](http://westoahuair.com) for more information.
- ◆ Minimize potable water use for electricity generation at our Kahe Power Plant and CIP Generating Station by utilizing reverse osmosis water from the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- ◆ Make night skies friendlier for endangered seabirds with International Dark Sky Association-approved lighting at our Kahe Power Plant and CIP Generating Station.
- ◆ Study and monitor fish communities and populations along O'ahu's Leeward Coast. Results from the survey data can be found in annual reports at [hawaiianelectric.com/westoahu](http://hawaiianelectric.com/westoahu).



## Resilience/Reliability

For Hawaiian Electric, the safety of our communities, customers and employees is our highest priority and our culture of safety permeates every aspect of our vision to build a strong, resilient and sustainable Hawai'i.

- ◆ Our expanded 3-year wildfire strategy was updated, filed and approved by the Public Utilities Commission in 2025 and calls for continuing initiatives that will harden the grid, minimize potential for ignitions due to utility equipment and remove hazards such as overgrown vegetation near power lines.
- ◆ We installed more weather stations and hazard-detection cameras and created a wildfire-focused Watch Office, including the addition of a staff meteorologist position responsible for monitoring media reports, weather products and field reports to provide more situational awareness for Hawaiian Electric.
- ◆ Our crews completed a major, 4-month project replacing direct buried cables in Nānākuli to reduce power outages for about 1,500 customers served by the Mikilua 3 circuit. Known as Surf and Sand Mikilua 3, the project involved excavating and trenching sidewalks followed by installing ducts to protect the new insulated power cables and improve service reliability for our Nānākuli customers.



- ◆ In early July, the first Public Safety Power Shutoff watch of 2025 occurred during forecasted high winds and low humidity coupled with the already dry conditions in West O'ahu. While Hawaiian Electric did not need to implement a PSPS, wild land fires in Mā'ili and Nānākuli prompted emergency response officials to ask the utility to de-energize power lines as a protective measure. Power was restored after our crews conducted inspections and when it was safe to do so.
- ◆ PSPS Watch alerts also were announced in late July/early August, October and November during Red Flag Warnings or high wind advisories by the National Weather Service, however power shutoffs were not needed in West O'ahu.

### 2025 Contributions to Wai'anae, Nānākuli, Kapolei & Makakilo communities

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ◆ Ahupua'a O Nānākuli Homestead                                | ◆ Mālama Learning Center  |
| ◆ Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii                                  | ◆ Nā Kama Kai   |
| ◆ Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization                     | ◆ Nānākuli High School  |
| ◆ Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture (INPEACE) | ◆ Trees for Honolulu's Future (Wai'anae High School Climate Champion Program) |
| ◆ Ka'ala Farm  | ◆ Valley of Rainbows  |
| ◆ Kapolei Chamber of Commerce                                  | ◆ Wai'anae Ahi Tournament & 'Ohanalaule'a                                     |
| ◆ Kapolei High School  | ◆ Wai'anae Coast Community Foundation   |
| ◆ Keiki On The Rocks   | ◆ Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation                               |
| ◆ Kids Hurt Too Hawai'i (Aloha 'Ia 'O Wai'anae)                | ◆ Wai'anae High School  |
| ◆ Ko Olina Charities   |   |
| ◆ Koa 'Ike   |   |
| ◆ Leeward Kai Canoe Club                                       |   |

## Supporting our Communities

Our employees volunteered their collective "people power" at several community workdays during the year, in support of West O'ahu:

- ◆ In collaboration with the **Wai'anae Mountain Watershed Partnership** and **Wai'anae High School** staff, students and their 'ohana, Hawaiian Electric volunteers enjoyed a day of service to help create a green break in the Wai'anae Kai Forest Reserve, mitigating the potential for a wildland fire to spread.



- ◆ Our employees and their families were among the 100 volunteers from 11 local companies that joined with **The Trust for Public Land** during its annual "A Day on the Land" at **MA'O Organic Farms** in Wai'anae. The hardworking volunteers pulled weeds, harvested produce, and planted fruits and vegetables in the effort to connect with the land and contribute to a more self-sufficient Hawai'i.



We awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Erica Fulgencio, the 2025 **Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association Citizen-Scholar** from Nānākuli High, as part of our annual support of the program which recognizes one exceptional senior from each public high school across the state.

Erica balanced early college courses while earning top awards for her school's robotics program and pursuing a career pathway as a future mechanical engineer. We applaud Erica for earning her Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts before graduating high school!

### CITIZEN-SCHOLAR AWARDS



Erica Fulgencio, center, with Hawaiian Electric's Sam Nichols (left) and Christy Tomas (right)

As part of our efforts to educate communities about our Wildfire Safety Strategy and Public Safety Power Shutoff program, Hawaiian Electric participated in a number of West O'ahu resource fairs including the **Catholic Charities of Hawaii and Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement Renters Resource Fair** and the **Family Resource Night at Wai'anae High School**, among others across O'ahu.



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



# Legislatively Speaking



Representative  
**Darius  
Kila**

**House District 44**  
Mā'ili, Nānākuli,  
Honokai Hale

While we continue having robust discussions on issues affecting our community and have already begun preparing for the next legislative session, I also recognize that for many families, summer is a time to slow down, spend time together, and enjoy the school break.

With students out of school and more families spending time at our beaches, parks, and neighborhoods, I want to remind everyone to be mindful of increased pedestrian activity throughout our community. Whether you're driv-

ing, biking, or walking, a little extra awareness can go a long way in keeping our roads safe. Summer often brings more children crossing streets, more recreational activity, and more visitors to our coast, making safety a shared responsibility.

Creating safer roadways is not just about enforcement or education, it is also about making sure our infrastructure keeps pace with the needs of our growing community. That is why I was excited to see Governor Green release the first tranche of funding from the \$27 million investment announced for improvements along Farrington Highway.

The goal is to build upon the progress residents are already seeing today, including the fifth turning lane and new makai-side sidewalks. Future phases will continue extending these improvements further along Farrington Highway, with the long-term vision of reach-

ing Hakimo Road. These investments are intended to improve traffic flow, enhance pedestrian safety, and make it easier for everyone to move through our community.

I will continue to keep residents informed and engaged throughout the process.

I also invite you to save the date for our Transportation Town Hall on September 2 at 6 pm at Nānākuli High & Intermediate School, which I will be hosting alongside Councilmember Tupola. It will be an opportunity to discuss transportation priorities, hear updates, and share your mana'o on the future of mobility in West O'ahu.

As always, my office remains here to assist and serve you. If you need assistance, please contact my office at (808) 586-9480 or [repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Mahalo for the opportunity to represent our community.

## Summer Safety and Looking Ahead

As we head into the summer months, work at the Legislature does not stop.



Representatives Kila and Hartsfield with students at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs 'Aha 'Ōpio o OHA Youth Leadership & Civic Engagement Conference.

## Waianae Coast YMCA Kupuna Classes

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday**

9:30 am Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

10:30 a.m. Cardio and Strength class

12:15-12:45 pm Hula with Kumu 'Aukai

**Tuesday & Thursday**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Pickleball

**Saturday**

8 am - 9 am Yoga Flow

9:15 am - 12 noon Pickleball

**Everyone is invited to TRY the Y for FREE!**

For more information, contact Deborah Thierbach at 808 541-5255 or

just stop by the Wai'anae YMCA located at 86-71 Leihoku Street!

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS STARTS WITH YOU

Visit: [ready.hawaii.gov](http://ready.hawaii.gov)

### ARE YOU 2 WEEKS READY?

#### BUILD KITS

Have Go Bags ready for work, each family member, pets, & a vehicle safety kit too.

#### PLAN TO BE ON YOUR OWN FOR AT LEAST 2 WEEKS

Water (1 gal. per person/day)  
Food (Non-perishable)  
First Aid Kit  
Medical Equipment  
Medications  
NOAA Alert Radio  
Extra Batteries

Flashlight  
Can Opener  
Tools  
Warm Clothes  
Sturdy Shoes  
Personal Hygiene Items  
Toilet Paper

Pet Supplies  
Fire Extinguisher  
Glasses/Eye Care  
Cash  
Identification  
Important Documents  
Comfort/Entertainment

Presented by the Hawai'i State Public Library System

e heluhelu Kākou  
2026 Summer  
**Reading Challenge**  
**'UMEKE KĀ'EO**  
JUNE 1 - JULY 31

Hawai'i State Public Library System  
For more information, go to: [librarieshawaii.org/summerreading](http://librarieshawaii.org/summerreading)

SPONSORS: FRIENDS OF LIBRARY-HAWAII, HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM, ALASKA AIRLINES, HAWAIIAN AIRLINES, H.M. TOWILL CORPORATION, MCDONALD'S, PIZZA HUT, HANSEN, HMHost, The Mary and Joanne Weisberg Foundation, THE GAIL URAGO MEMORIAL FUND, ZIPPY'S

Visit: [ready.hawaii.gov](http://ready.hawaii.gov)

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- Tools
- Warm Clothes
- Sturdy Shoes
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Toilet Paper
- Pet Supplies
- Fire Extinguisher
- Glasses/Eye Care
- Cash
- Identification
- Important Documents
- Comfort/Entertainment

# 2026 WOMEN OF WAI'ANAE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

GRAND WINNER	LORI VAN SKY AWARD WINNERS		FRED DODGE AWARDEE	FLO WARD MUSIC AWARD	
 <b>Krisen Gouveia</b> Teacher	 <b>Shawna Egami</b> Teacher	 <b>Nanea Akau</b> Nurse	 <b>Desiree Kealohanui</b> Administrator	 <b>Leimomi Nahulu</b> Music	 <b>Melina Silva</b> Museum Curator
 <b>Sheldon Avilez</b> Certified Substance Abuse Counselor	 <b>Cassandra Werner</b> Teacher	 <b>Darielle Medeiros</b> Teacher	 <b>Natatia Furtado</b> Psychology	 <b>Shareefa Irwin</b> Counselor	 <b>Nina Kealoha-Baker</b> Criminal Justice

## WOW GRADUATE STUDIES AWARDEES

 <b>Alaysia Kyle</b> Certified Public Accountant	 <b>Candy Matautia</b> Social Work	 <b>Berenita Kamaile</b> Social Work	 <b>Natalia Kalama</b> Teacher	 <b>Dariess Ah Sui</b> Teacher	 <b>Kanani Naweli</b> Hawaiian Studies
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Submitted by Karen Young and Maile Shimabukuro  
For 2026, the Women of Wai'anae (WOW) provided awards to nineteen nontraditional Wai'anae college students. Krisen Gouveia, a substitute teacher at Wai'anae Elementary School, was selected by the Women of Wai'anae (WOW) as Grandwinner for the 2026 Scholarship Award. She has completed her second year at LCC-Wai'anae Moku and is continuing her education at UH West O'ahu this fall. She is working towards her BA in Education and plans to become a Special Education teacher.  
This year, WOW also provided a privately funded Music Award to Leimomi Nahulu who is a music student at UH Mānoa and will be graduating in the Fall 2026. She hopes to develop a music school

based on the Wai'anae Coast in the future. The award is funded by Flo Ward and Friends.

Mahalo nui to our yard sale and Facebook customers, supporters, donors, grantors, friends, and WOW members who have helped us achieve our mission this year and in the past. A Very Special Mahalo to the Hawai'i Womens Legal Foundation and the Community Health Education and Evaluation Program. In addition, we would like to thank Danny Wyatt at LCC-Wai'anae Moku for his continued support.

He 'a'ali'i ku makani mai au; 'a'ohe makani nana e kula'i  
"I am a wind-resisting a'ali'i; no gale can push me over."



**LILIKOI LOUNGE**  
AT MĀKAHA VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

Ask About Our  
**LOYALTY PROGRAM**  
Take your receipt to  
**LANTERNS** for a  
**DISCOUNT!**

Order online with "TOAST" we use "Uber Eats" to deliver!

July 17th: See website for more information. **CASINO Night** Tickets available for sale at the restaurant.

Check out our Facebook and Instagram pages for updates!

**JULY 3RD KARAOKE NIGHT, FULL MENU!**

**8/8 - Reggaeton at Lanterns**

**NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS: 808.427.5089**  
www.lilikoiloungehi.com

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

**HAPPY HOUR • FAMILY DINING • LIVE MUSIC • COCKTAILS**

**4th of July** Smash Burgers Street Dogs \$4 Shots! VISIT OUR TAVERN SIDE BAR! **HAPPY HOUR Weekdays 12-5 pm**

Happy Independence Day **LANTERNS** RESTAURANT AND TAVERN

**WESTSIDE WING WEDNESDAY**

\$15 DOMESTIC BUCKETS!

Assorted Flavors of Our Own Wings and Sauce

**\$1.00 PER WING!**

**SATURDAY, JULY 11TH**

Join us as we "Watch Max" along with great Food & Drink Specials!

UFC 329: "McGregor vs. Holloway 2" T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada Preliminary Start Time at Noon HST | Main Card Start Time at 4 p.m. HST

808-762-0264  
WWW.LANTERNSHAWAII.COM

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Check out our Facebook & Instagram Pages for updates

**HOURS:**  
SUN - THURS NOON - 9PM  
FRI - SAT NOON - 10PM

Ask about our Loyalty Program Discount

**Live Entertainment Nightly!**



# NEWSLETTER

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

SERVING WEST OAHU SINCE 1972 | MAKAHA · WAIANAE · NANAKULI · KAPOLEI · EWA · WAIPAHU

JULY 2026 | RICHARD BETTINI, PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | DR. DONALD SIMPSON, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER | GINGER FUATA, CHAIRPERSON

## WCCHC TO LAUNCH NEW ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD & PATIENT PORTAL ON JULY 14TH

**A New Electronic Health Record & Patient Portal**

*Coming!*  
**July 14, 2026**

Learn more at [wcchc.com/epic](http://wcchc.com/epic)

At the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC), we are committed to continually improving the care and services we provide to our patients and community.

On **July 14, 2026**, WCCHC will transition to **Epic**, a new electronic health record system, along with **MyChart**, a new secure patient portal.

This transition will strengthen coordination of care, improve access to health information, and enhance the patient experience. As the largest electronic

health record and patient portal system in Hawai'i and across the nation, Epic & MyChart will improve interoperability by allowing healthcare providers and care teams to securely exchange health information, communicate more efficiently, and work together to deliver more connected, convenient, and patient-centered healthcare experience.

Your health information will now be managed in Epic & MyChart, and you may notice some new forms and appointment processes during your visit.

### While Our Technology Is Changing, Our Commitment to You Is Not

The following will remain the same:

- Your healthcare provider
- Your clinic staff and care teams
- Your clinic locations
- How you schedule appointments
- WCCHC's mission of providing compassionate, high-quality, patient-centered care

### What Do Patients Need to Do?

Beginning **July 1, 2026**, patients are encouraged to download the MyChart app and create an account once enrollment opens on Go-Live Day, July 14.

From **July 14-21, 2026** MyChart support team members will be available at all WCCHC clinics to help patients download the app, create an account, and answer questions.

With MyChart, patients can:

- View appointments
- Join video visits
- Manage healthcare information online
- Communicate with their care team
- Request prescription refills
- Access test results
- Pay bills

### What Happens to My Previous Medical Records?

Your medical records will continue to be available to support your care at WCCHC.

**Visits & records from July 13, 2026, and earlier** will remain securely stored in **NextGen** (our former patient portal). If you need copies of these records, please contact our Medical Records Department at **(808) 697-3681**.

**Visits & records from July 14, 2026, and later** will be available in **MyChart** (our new patient portal), making it easy to access your current health information online.

We are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible and ensuring you continue to have access to the health information you need.

**For the latest information and updates, visit [wcchc.com/epic](http://wcchc.com/epic).**

## SCHOOL & SPORTS PHYSICALS

Offered at Your Nearest School Based Health Center



[wcchc.com/sbhc](http://wcchc.com/sbhc)



[n.o.o.w.health](https://www.facebook.com/n.o.o.w.health)



SCHEDULE YOUR SUMMER APPOINTMENTS NOW!



**WAI'ANAE HIGH SCHOOL**  
808-697-3520



**WAI'ANAE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**  
808-697-3523



**NANAKULI HIGH & INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**  
808-697-3222

## IS YOUR MED-QUEST INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

### WAYS YOU CAN GET YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATED:

- 1 Call WCCHC Patient Assistance Services: (808) 697-3405 | [medquest\\_pas@wcchc.com](mailto:medquest_pas@wcchc.com)  
Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM | Saturday, 8 AM - 12 PM
- 2 Call the number on the back of your health insurance card
- 3 Update Online: [medical.mybenefits.hawaii.gov](http://medical.mybenefits.hawaii.gov)
- 4 Call Med-QUEST directly: 1-800-316-8005



### PLEASE CONTINUE TO:

- ✓ Schedule & keep your HEALTHCARE APPOINTMENTS.
- ✓ PICK UP your prescribed medications.
- ✓ Make sure your CONTACT INFORMATION are up to date so you dont miss any important letters or notices.

SERVING WEST OAHU SINCE 1972 | [wcchc.com](http://wcchc.com)

## CMS MEDICAID LEADER VISITS WCCHC

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) recently welcomed Daniel "Dan" Brillman, Director of Medicaid and CHIP and Deputy Administrator at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), during a visit coordinated with AlohaCare.

Brillman, joined by AlohaCare staff, toured WCCHC's main campus and met with WCCHC leadership to discuss the critical role community health centers play in providing access to care for Medicaid beneficiaries, coordinating services, and addressing the complex health needs of underserved communities.

With Medicaid policy changes expected to begin in 2027, the visit provided an important opportunity to highlight Medicaid's critical role in ensuring access to comprehensive, high-quality healthcare for thousands of WCCHC patients and families across West O'ahu.

As these changes approach, **WCCHC encourages patients to stay informed, keep their Med-QUEST information up to date, and learn how to prepare by visiting [wcchc.com/medquest](http://wcchc.com/medquest).**



JULY 2026 | RICHARD BETTINI, PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | DR. DONALD SIMPSON, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER | GINGER FUATA, CHAIRPERSON

## WEST O'AHU KŪPUNA RESOURCE FAIR CONNECTS COMMUNITY WITH VITAL HEALTH & SUPPORT SERVICES

On June 13, WCCHC proudly hosted the inaugural West O'ahu Kūpuna Resource Fair at our Dining Pavilion in partnership with Project Dāna. This community event brought together kūpuna, caregivers, and local organizations to share resources that support healthy aging, wellness, caregiving, and independent living across West O'ahu.

Attendees had the opportunity to connect with community partners, visit resource booths, listen to educational presentations, enjoy refreshments, participate in raffles, and learn about programs and services available to support kūpuna and their families.

The fair featured keynote speaker Dr. Kamal Masaki, Professor and Chair of the Department of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine. Guest speakers also included Joni Kamiya, President of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawai'i, who presented on understanding fall risk; Jeannie Yukitomo of HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union, who shared tips on protecting kūpuna from fraud and scams; and Gina Plummer of the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, who presented on the 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's disease.

Participating organizations included:

- Project Dāna – [www.projectdana.org](http://www.projectdana.org)
- Waiānae Coast Comprehensive Health Center – [www.wcchc.com](http://www.wcchc.com)
- University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine – [jabsom.hawaii.edu](http://jabsom.hawaii.edu)
- HMSA – [www.hmsa.com](http://www.hmsa.com)
- The Queen's Health System – [www.queens.org](http://www.queens.org)
- The Queen's Medical Center – West O'ahu
- St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawai'i – [www.stfranchawaii.org](http://www.stfranchawaii.org)
- Devoted Health Plans – [www.devoted.com](http://www.devoted.com)
- O'ahu Transit Services (TheBus) – [www.thebus.org](http://www.thebus.org)
- Hawai'i Meals on Wheels – [www.hmow.org](http://www.hmow.org)
- Generations Magazine – [www.generations808.com](http://www.generations808.com)
- Child & Family Service – [www.childandfamilyservice.org](http://www.childandfamilyservice.org)
- Alzheimer's Association – Hawai'i – [www.alz.org/hawaii](http://www.alz.org/hawaii)
- Catholic Charities Hawai'i – [www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org](http://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org)

- Assistive Technology Resource Center – [www.atrc.org](http://www.atrc.org)
- OT Association of Hawaii – [www.otassociationofhawaii.org](http://www.otassociationofhawaii.org)

WCCHC was honored to support this important event and extends our sincere mahalo to Project Dāna for bringing the Kūpuna Resource Fair to West O'ahu. We also thank our event sponsors, HMSA and The Queen's Health System, whose generous support helped make this event possible.

While many valuable resources are available to kūpuna living on the Waiānae Coast, organizations often face challenges reaching our communities. Events like the West O'ahu Kūpuna Resource Fair help bridge that gap by connecting kūpuna and caregivers with trusted services, practical information, and local support that promotes healthy aging, independence, and overall well-being.



## Congratulations

### 2026 Emergency Medical Technician Graduates



(L-R) Ruby Gali, Kianie Kaaihue-Lincoln, Sunnylyn Landford (Top Recruit Award Recipient), Kristy Maxwell, Asia-Zhane Outlaw, Xandyn-Blaiz Rabaino, Bristie Lynn Raspotnik (Leadership Award Recipient), Joshua Regalaro, Karissa Sharpnack, Sarina Simmons





WAIĀNAE COAST  
COMPREHENSIVE  
HEALTH CENTER

# Mahalo

HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE  
Awarded \$300,000

Grant-In-Aid for WCCHC's Medicaid Readiness Plan:  
Enrollment & Redetermination Support to Assist Patients with  
Maintaining Healthcare Coverage.

SERVING WEST OAHU SINCE 1972



HEALTH INSURANCE

GUEST SPEAKERS:  
KUMU MAKANI TABURA  
GLENN ARAKAWA

FEATURED TOPIC:  
Cultural Activities to Promote Mental Health  
Discover how cultural traditions, meaningful activities, and  
community connections can support emotional well-being,  
strengthen resilience, and promote healthy aging for kūpuna.

TOPICS:  
• MED-QUEST, SNAP, SLIDING FEE SCALE  
• WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDICARE


Plan Benefits

July 14 | 9 AM - 11 AM  
WCCHC DINING PAVILION

July 21 | 9 AM - 11 AM  
WAIPAHU FAMILY HEALTH CENTER  
FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER

Register Today! Call Patient Assistance Services at (808) 697-3405  
or email: [PAS@WCCHC.COM](mailto:PAS@WCCHC.COM)

FREE TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE  
from Makaha to Honokai Hale



WAIĀNAE COAST  
COMPREHENSIVE  
HEALTH CENTER

IN OBSERVANCE OF  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
JULY 3 & 4, 2026

ALL CLINICS AND DEPARTMENTS  
WILL BE CLOSED

THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT  
REMAINS OPEN | 24 HOURS/365 DAYS A YEAR.



WAIĀNAE COAST  
COMPREHENSIVE  
HEALTH CENTER

# FREE! KEIKI CAR SEAT

## CHECK-UP & INSTALLATION

PLEASE BRING WITH YOU:

- ✓ YOUR CAR
- ✓ YOUR CHILD
- ✓ YOUR CHILD'S CAR SEAT

Is your child's car seat installed properly?  
**DON'T RISK IT!**  
Get your child's car seat checked by our professionals!

THE LAW:  
A child passenger restraint or booster seat is required for children 4-9 years old, unless the child is over 4 feet 9 inches tall.

QUESTIONS? CALL (808) 697-3548



# Out and About with Lei'a

By Lei'a Haff  
Leia.vhaff@gmail.com

## Rooted in 'Ōlelo, 'Ohana, and Place

On the Wai'anae Coast, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is more than language. It is memory, identity, responsibility, and a pathway home. At Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Nānākuli, the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program at Nānākuli Elementary School, Kumu Kekai is helping keiki and 'ohana reconnect to who they are, where they come from and what they have the power to carry forward.

For Kumu Kekai, the work is deeply personal. His 'ohana has called Wai'anae home for generations, but like many families from Hawai'i, hardship eventually forced them to leave the islands. Still, the connection to place and culture remained strong.

"Powered with the love for our home and our culture, my 'ohana eventually succeeded in returning back home

to beautiful Wai'anae," Kumu Kekai shared. That return shaped his purpose. Once home, he saw many families facing familiar challenges, including poverty, cultural separation, and other socio-economic barriers across the coast. Rather than push him away, those realities called him deeper into community.

"Poverty, cultural separation, and other socio-economic challenges is what inspired me to become a kumu," he said. "It led me to want to sink my roots deeper into my community and share the love for my culture and language with not only my wife and children, but with the future generations as well."

At Nānākuli, that kuleana carries special meaning. The Wai'anae Coast is home to one of the highest populations of Native Hawaiians on O'ahu, and Nānākuli Elementary sits on Native Hawaiian Homestead land. In this place, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Nānākuli is not just an educational program. It is a resource for restoration, continuity, and access.

The program's impact extends beyond classroom walls. Over the years,



Kumu Kekai and son Kawai sharing free plants, resources and information at the annual Aloha 'la 'O Wai'anae event at Wai'anae Elementary school.

haumāna have participated in community outreach efforts that include giving away hundreds of free plants, helping maintain cultural sites and farms, and sharing free educational resources with the public. The program also maintains a māla filled with native and Polynesian plants and hosts monthly volunteer days where students, families, and community members learn about plants, practices, language and how plants can be used for food, medicine and tools.

Through 'ōlelo, students learn more

than how to speak. They learn how to understand the meanings carried in mo'olelo, inoa, mountains, landmarks and the places they call home. As they learn about their kupuna, they begin to better understand themselves. That foundation builds confidence, pride, and kuleana. It prepares haumāna to become advocates, protectors, and warriors willing to preserve and perpetuate their home and culture.

But no program grows alone. Kumu

*Continued on page 16*



## DARIUS DELIVERS, vote Kila this August.

### \$63,535,000 in Capital Improvement Projects in the 2026 State Budget directly impacting District 44.

**\$48,400,000 delivered for Wai'anae Coast Farrington Hwy Improvement Project**  
Provides funding to extend the fifth lane, advance a future parallel route, and support additional traffic safety, roadway preservation, and congestion relief projects.

**\$2,500,000 delivered for Nānākuli Homestead**  
Provides funding to plan, design, and construct infrastructure improvements for 15 vacant lots along Ulei Loop, in the Nānākuli Homestead community.

**\$4,690,000 delivered for Nānākuli High and Intermediate School**  
Supports baseball field improvements (\$3.7 million) As well as facility upgrades including driveway resurfacing, parking lot improvements, kitchen ceiling fan installation, and replacement of a roll-up door and gate

**\$1,897,000 delivered for Nānākuli Elementary School**  
Provides funding for air conditioning replacement, parking lot lighting repairs, playground improvements, and staff restroom renovations.

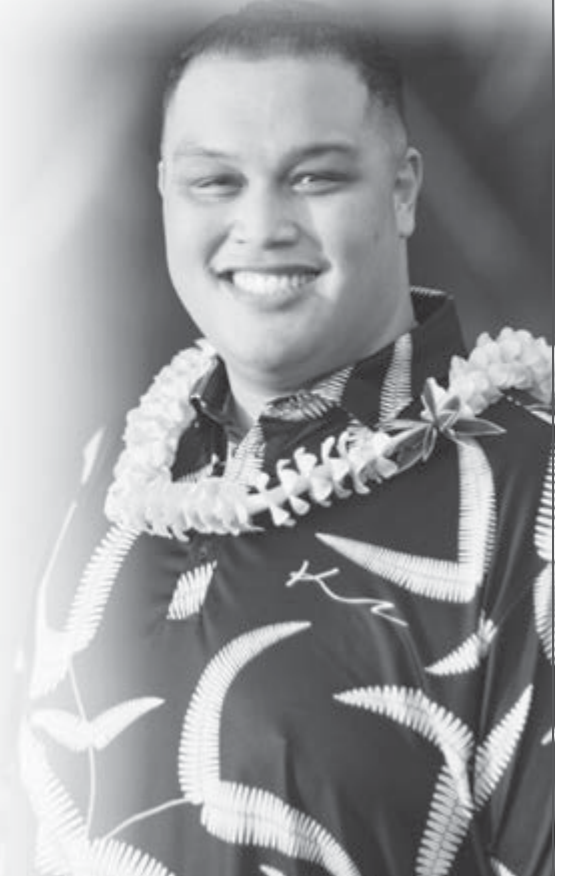
**\$1,048,000 delivered for Mā'ili Elementary School**  
Provides funding for parking lot improvements, rear fence relocation, and other general ground and site upgrades.

**\$5,000,000 delivered for Pa'akea Road**  
To improve emergency access, evacuation capabilities, and overall transportation resilience for West O'ahu communities during major traffic incidents, natural disasters, or roadway closures along Farrington Highway.

**\$40,000,000 delivered for Statewide Repair and Maintenance - Hawaiian Home Lands Existing Infrastructure**  
Provides funding over two fiscal years for the repair, maintenance, and improvement of existing infrastructure across Hawaiian Home Lands communities statewide.

## MAHALO FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

PAID FOR BY FRIEND OF DARIUS KILA P.O. BOX 903 WAI'ANAE, HI 96792



## WILDFIRE SAFETY & PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

# Protecting lives, homes and communities

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

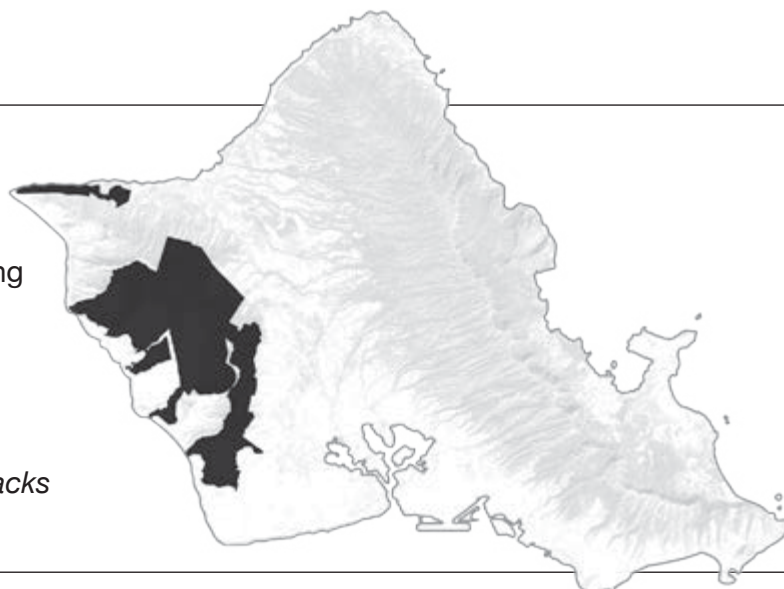
- Replacing and upgrading utility poles and overhead lines
- Utilizing the latest technology to shut power lines off quickly
- Installing high-definition cameras with artificial intelligence and weather stations
- Clearing vegetation around power lines
- Deploying spotters, drones and helicopters to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

### Sign up for PSPS notifications

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

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

**96792** *Waianae / Mākaaha / Nānākuli*      **96707** *Kapolei*  
**96791** *Waialua*                                      **96857** *Schofield Barracks*  
**96786** *Wahiawa*                                      **96759** *Kunia*



### Special Medical Needs

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

Go to: [hawaiianelectric.com/medicalneedsalerts](http://hawaiianelectric.com/medicalneedsalerts)

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

### Homeowners and Renters

If you're a Homeowner, please update your contact information at: [hawaiianelectric.com/myaccount](http://hawaiianelectric.com/myaccount)

If you're a Renter, sign up for PSPS notifications here: [hawaiianelectric.com/pspsalerts](http://hawaiianelectric.com/pspsalerts)

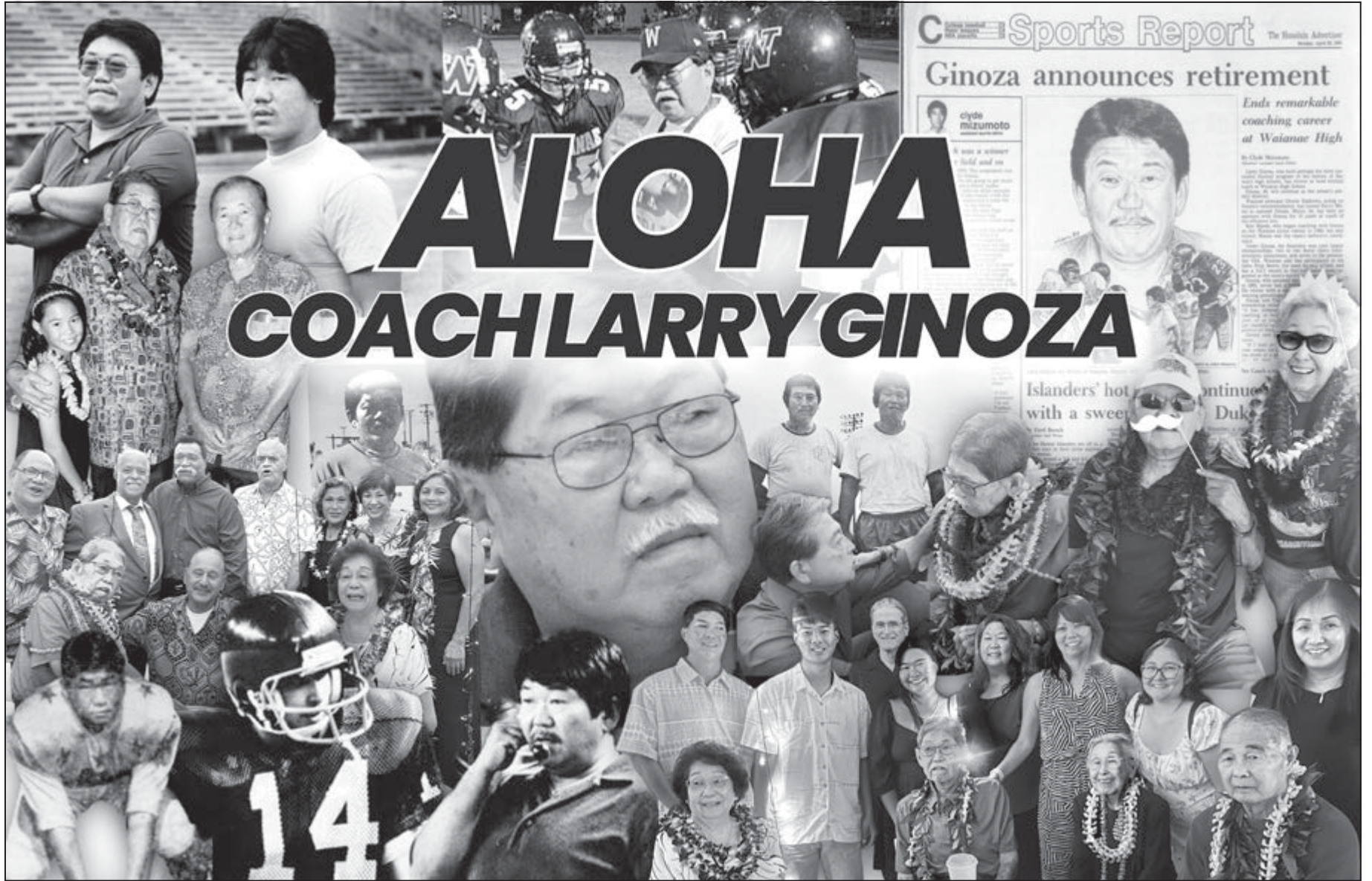
### Mobile App

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



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





# ALOHA COACH LARRY GINOZA

C Sports Report The Honolulu Advertiser

## Ginoza announces retirement

*Ends remarkable coaching career at Waiānae High*

**Clyde Mizumoto**  
Waiānae High School

It was a retirement field and on the sidelines of a football game, Larry Ginoza, who had coached the team for 35 years, announced his retirement. Ginoza, who coached at Waiānae High School from 1971 to 2006, said he was retiring to spend more time with his family. He coached 1,200 students during his career. Ginoza was a member of the National Football Coaches Association and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. He was inducted into the Waiānae High School Hall of Fame in 2007. Ginoza was born in Hawaii and graduated from Waiānae High School in 1964. He played football for the school and then coached for three years before becoming a head coach. Ginoza coached football, basketball, and volleyball. He was a member of the Waiānae High School Athletic Association and the Waiānae High School Alumni Association. Ginoza was a member of the Waiānae High School Athletic Association and the Waiānae High School Alumni Association. Ginoza was a member of the Waiānae High School Athletic Association and the Waiānae High School Alumni Association.

## Islanders' hot with a sweet

*Continues Duk...*

# Kuleana grows leaders

Applications for K-12 campuses and preschools open August 15, 2026



Kamehameha Schools' admissions policy is to give preference to applicants of Hawaiian ancestry to the extent permitted by law.



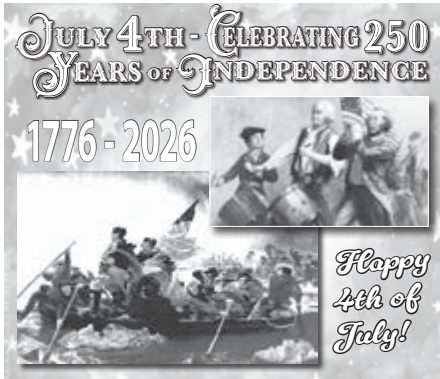
Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha



# “What's Up” on the Westside

\*\* Please visit our Facebook page for updated events that are happening throughout the month here on our Westside\*\*

## JULY 2026 Calendar of Events



**July 21**  
5:30 to 7:30 pm — Wildfire Prep Workshop at KS' Community Learning Center in Mā'ili

**July 23**  
6 to 7 pm — Jeff Peterson Slack Key Guitar Concert at Nānākuli Public Library

**\*\*Please Note — We will be updating our Clubs, Community Groups and Civic Organizations section. If you want your listing to continue, please e-mail us by 7/24. Mahalo!**

### CLUBS, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

**AARP Chapter 4936 of Wai'anae**  
9:30 am on the first Friday of each month at the Wai'anae Community Center (Satellite City Hall).  
Contact Tim Thornton (404) 272-4225.

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

**Aikido**  
Daily classes, morning, afternoon and evening for children, teens and adults. Call 808.202.6171 or 808.462-1118.

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

**La Kōkua Ka'ala Farm**  
9 am to 12 noon on the 2nd Saturday of each month to mālama 'āina, lo'i and weeding. All are welcomed! Call 808.696.4954 or check our website [www.kaalafarm.org](http://www.kaalafarm.org)

**Lualualei Hawaiian Civic Club**  
3rd Thursday of every month at 6 pm and held both in-person and virtually via zoom at KS Learning Center in Mā'ili. For more information, Email: [lualualeihcc808@gmail.com](mailto:lualualeihcc808@gmail.com) or visit our Instagram: [@lualualeihcc808](https://www.instagram.com/lualualeihcc808) or Facebook: Lualualei Hawaiian Civic Club.

**Mākaha Bridge Club**  
10 am on Wednesdays and Saturdays at Lilikoi Lounge (Mākaha Valley Country Club). Call Kay Smith at 808-695-7844 for more information.

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

**Maj Jongg (American style)**  
Tuesdays at 11 am at various locations. Call Coco at 808-330-4765 for more information. *Beginners welcomed!*

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

**St John the Baptist Church Thrift Shop**  
Wednesdays. from 9am-1pm  
Thursday 1pm-5pm Stop by for great bargains! To volunteer, please email [revjazybostock@gmail.com](mailto:revjazybostock@gmail.com)

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
VFW Post 849 (Leeward Coast) monthly membership meetings at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at "Beach House by 604" (Piliāau Army Rest Camp). Our mission is to serve our veterans, the military, and our community. For more information, contact Steve Mayoral at 310-365-7048.

**Wai'anae Coast Neighborhood Board #24**  
6:30 pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Wai'anae Public Library. For more information, contact Neighborhood Commission Office at 808-768-3710 or visit [honolulu.gov/nco](http://honolulu.gov/nco)

**Waianae Coast Rotary Club**  
12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at "Beach House by 604" (PARC) Piliāau Army Rec. Center (Rest Camp). For more information, contact: [waianae coastrotary.org](http://waianae coastrotary.org) or Glenn Arakawa - [glenn@planbenefitshawaii.com](mailto:glenn@planbenefitshawaii.com)

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

**Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club**  
5:30 to 7:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the KS Learning Center in Mā'ili. Contact [waianae hawaiian civic club.org](http://waianae hawaiian civic club.org) for more information.

**Women of Wai'anae**  
For more information visit [womenofwaianae.org](http://womenofwaianae.org) or call Karen Young at 808-388-8828. *Focus is on fundraisers for non-traditional college scholarships.*

**July 3**  
Independence Day Holiday Observed

**July 4**  
Independence Day Holiday  
5:30 to 7:30 pm — Hot Kūpuna Nights Concert at Kahumana

**July 7**  
5:30 to 7:30 pm — Wildfire Prep Workshop at KS' Community Learning Center in Mā'ili

**July 10**  
5 to 9 pm — Searider Grub at Wai'anae High's front parking lot.

**July 18**  
11 am — Dave Del Rocco Stories From Around the World at Wai'anae Library

**WAIANAЕ STORE** ★★★★★★  
85-863 FARR. HWY.  
696-3131  
7:00 AM - 9:00 PM EVERYDAY

**NANAKULI SUPER**  
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Be sure to check for our in-store Special Sales, Deals, and Announcements!  
Make sure you pick up all your Cookout & BBQ Specials for your July 4th Doings!  
[www.waianae store.com](http://www.waianae store.com)

**Happy 250th Birthday America!**

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

As we celebrate our 250 years of Independence, we also Celebrate 29 years of Westside Stories here on the Wai'anae Coast

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The team behind The Waianae Store's first bagging competition celebrated a successful event, supported by customers, employees, and family members on May 28, 2026.

## The Waianae Store Found its Best Baggers!

*Submitted by Leila Ferreira Sparks*

Imagine getting your groceries bagged by the best baggers in the state. You can experience this at *The Waianae Store* and *Friendly Market Center*.

The Hawaii Food Industry Association (HFIA) introduced the state to "The Best Bagger" Competition on June 6. Prior to that day, an internal contest was held to determine who would represent The Waianae Store and Nanakuli Super at the state competition.

The store-level competition was fierce as only one of the ten participating cashiers would advance. The winner was not necessarily going to be the fastest bagger. Contestants were judged on speed, proper bag building technique,

distribution of weight, and presentation.

Headed by Assistant Store Manager Jarred Campos, a team of admin, buyers and managers, ran the competition. This team took on the roles of coaches, timers, judges, and set up crew. It was truly a collaborative effort bringing everyone together.

On May 28th, an enthusiastic crowd of customers and employees cheered on the final four contestants. After countless hours of practice to improve her skills, Kimberly Sparks emerged as The Waianae Store champion.

At the state competition Kimberly delivered another impressive performance, finishing in second place and earning \$500. The champion Austin Kaalekahi came from The Waianae Store's sister company Friendly Market Center on Molokai. Austin won \$1000 and a trip to Las Vegas where he will represent Hawai'i at the National Grocers Association (NGA) national competition.

Kimberly performs exceptional service with friendly efficiency in her daily duties and was excited to showcase her talents competitively. The Waianae Store is proud to have Kimberly serve you as our best bagger.

## Hale Nānāikeola

*Continued from front page*



Mākeke Vendor, Hūpēkole & Co., with their handcrafted eco-conscious earrings and accessories

ing space for learning, cultural connection and growth for generations to come, while expanding educational opportunities and strengthening programs across the Wai'anae Coast.

As INPEACE enters its second year at Nānāikeola, the organization remains committed to deepening its impact and building pathways that uplift individuals, families, and the broader West O'ahu community. To join the mission, visit [www.inpeace.org](http://www.inpeace.org) and don't forget to save the date for INPEACE's 6th annual Jubilee fundraiser on October 3.

## TheHandi-Van

City and County of Honolulu



To get more information about TheHandi-Van eligibility process, call 808-538-0033.

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*Keiki Steps*  
A Hawaiian Culture-Based  
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[keikisteps@inpeace.org](mailto:keikisteps@inpeace.org)  
[inpeace.org/keiki-steps](http://inpeace.org/keiki-steps)

INPEACE's Keiki Steps program is supported by the Native Hawaiian Education Program and Kamehameha Schools Kaiāulu.





**PVT**  
LAND COMPANY, LTD.

# PVT LAND COMPANY

ALOHA E KOMO MAI!

## It's a wrap. NPAC celebrates successful 2025-26 season

Congratulations to the students of Nānākuli Performing Arts Center, who celebrated the close of the 2025-2026 Season with *A Night in Hollywood*, their end-of-year banquet. Over the years, NPAC has produced more than 100 different productions and performances, ranging from Broadway musicals such as "Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*" to dramatic plays and various musical revues.



**The Winners Are** — Members of Nānākuli Performing Arts Center celebrated their 2025-2026 season at a year-end banquet.

## There's something fishy going on here

Students from Nānākuli Elementary School experienced a field trip to the Waikiki Aquarium with support from PVT. The students learned about the aquarium's mission to inspire and promote understanding, appreciation, and conservation of Pacific marine life. They also enjoyed a close-up look at jellyfish, sharks, a Hawaiian Monk seal habitat, and a Hawaiian Day Octopus, which is an expert at using camouflage to conceal itself.



**Looking for Nemo** — There was plenty to see on the NES field trip to the Waikiki Aquarium.

## Celebrate July 4th at the Tumbleland Jam

The 2026 Tumbleland Jam is coming to Ma'ili Beach Park on Saturday, July 4th. Brought to you by A'ala Imua, Tumbleland Jam is a family-focused gathering created to bring 'ohana together for fun day of mele and mea'ai--music, food, laughter, and connection. The event is rooted in the belief that strong communities are built when families gather in places that uplift culture, creativity, and togetherness.



**Let's Get Ready to Tumble!** — PVT is proud to support the Tumbleland Jam, scheduled for July 4th at Ma'ili Beach Park.

## The fast and the famished



**Hunger Games** — PVT supplied pre-meet snacks for LTC competitors for five weeks during their recent track season.

This year, Leeward Track Club registered 71 Wai'anae Coast youths ages 4 to 18 to compete in the 2026 USA Track & Field Junior Olympics season. To help fuel their performance, PVT supplied pre-meet snacks for competitors for five weeks during the season.

The Leeward Track Club (LTC) is a premier track and field development program for youth athletes on the west side of Oahu. Operating out of Nānākuli High and Intermediate School, the club focuses on coaching sprints, distance, hurdles, jumps, and throws.

**The Gentle Way** — The NHIS Judo Club is now wearing new judogi with the support of PVT.



## Nānākuli judo team hits the mats in new judogi

Judo, which means *gentle way*, is a dynamic Japanese martial art founded by Dr. Jigoro Kano in 1882. It focuses on using an opponent's momentum against them, primarily using throws to take an opponent down and grappling through pins, chokes, and joint locks to subdue them on the mat.

A judo uniform is called a *judogi*. The jacket is made of thick, reinforced cotton because judo involves a lot of gripping, throwing, and pulling. The Nānākuli High and Intermediate School Judo Club is now wearing new judogi with the support of PVT.

## Out and About

*Continued from page 10*

Kekai credits 'ohana and the wider community for helping Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Nānākuli thrive. Local nonprofits, cultural learning centers, practitioners, farmers, local leaders, and community

partners help expand student learning through field trips, guest speaking, collaboration, and hands-on experiences.

Parents are another pillar. Many entrust their keiki to Hawaiian language immersion even when they themselves do not speak 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

Looking ahead, Kumu Kekai's great-

est hope is to see Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Nānākuli grow into a full K to 12 school. He said many Wai'anae students currently have to travel far from home to continue their Hawaiian language education.

At Nānākuli, language is not only being taught. It is being returned. And

on the Wai'anae Coast, through keiki, 'ohana, kumu, and community—it is taking root again.

## SBA Field Day

*Continued from front page*



Relay races at the event were made more interesting with the addition of water buckets, which were a necessary way for both students and staff to cool down.

— or donated from businesses themselves. This event was part of a long effort to frame the 11th grade as a year of learning, growth and celebration, rather than merely anxiety and testing. This was the first SBA Field Day, but we are looking to make the event annual as a routine motivator for students to have solid attendance, try their best and demonstrate academic growth.

A special shoutout goes to students Daniel Mataiumu, Jaeani-Love Lee, Mylee Cyrus Young and Tyler Perez and for securing the highest scores in math and English, and the highest growth in math and English, respectively. Thank you to the staff and community members who made this awesome event possible!



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## NĀNĀKULI PUBLIC LIBRARY

# JULY 2026 PROGRAMS



**FRI 10, 17, 24, 31** KEIKI STORYTIME EVERY FRIDAY 11:30AM

**FRI 3 - SUN 5** LIBRARY CLOSED: INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND


**MON 6** HUI LEI 5:30PM-7PM

**TUE 14** LEGO TIME 2:30PM-3:30PM

**THUR 23** JEFF PETERSON SLACK KEY GUITAR CONCERT 6PM-7PM

**SAT 25** MESSY PLAYTIME SRC FINALE 10AM-12PM

**TUE 28** PERLER PARTY 2:30PM-3:30PM



For more info visit [librarieshawaii.org/events](http://librarieshawaii.org/events)

HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM PRESENTS

## Summer Reading Challenge Events

# JULY

Wai'anae Public Library  
85-625 Farrington Hwy  
808-697-7868



**'UMEKE KĀ'EO**

**CUPCAKE DECORATING JULY 25 @ 10:00 AM**

Let's decorate a delicious cupcake together!

Lucky prize drawing! Play BINGO! Snacks! Summer reading registration!

**BINGO—every BINGO you get earns you 2 Tickets**

**Kitchen Playdate**  
Tuesday @ 10:30 AM  
July 7, 14, 21, 28  
Play with our kitchen playsets!

**Worldwide Stories**  
June 1-July 31  
Dave Del Rocco will tell funny folktales for kids age 5-12!



**Butterfly Pea Sparkling Lemonade**  
Wed. July 8 @ 6:00 PM  
Make a blue drink purple!  
All ages welcome



**Fruit Kabobs**  
Saturday, July 11 @ 10:00 AM  
After a fruit-themed story-time, kids can make delicious fruit kabobs. All ages.

**Toddler Time**  
Tuesdays @ 9:30  
July 7, 14, 28



Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity should contact library staff as soon as possible. Advance requests 48 hours or more before the event are encouraged but not required. All programs are subject to change. See a schedule of upcoming events at [librarieshawaii.org/events](http://librarieshawaii.org/events).