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The RISE Project Hawai‘i Announces 2025 Fall “Next Level of You” Scholarship Recipients

Hawai‘i Island — The RISE Project Hawai‘i is proud to announce the recipients of its 2025 Fall “Next Level of You” Scholarship, a \$1,000 award dedicated to supporting women who are pursuing higher education or certification as a pathway to empowerment and growth. This scholarship honors individuals who have demonstrated resilience in the face of adversity and are committed to rising through education.

Among this year’s awardees is **Kiana Lei Vallente**, a dedicated mother and Communications major at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. While balancing work and volunteer efforts with local nonprofits, Kiana is driven by a vision to create lasting, positive change in her community.

“My inspiration is my keiki, and I know he is watching me pursue my goals and dreams,” said Vallente. “By setting positive examples, I hope to create a ripple effect that will inspire others to do the same.”

Also recognized is returning recipient **Franziska Bass**, a mother pursuing a career in nursing. Awarded the scholarship for a second consecutive year, Franziska has channeled personal grief into a renewed sense of purpose and healing.

“Through my experiences, I learned the importance of empathy and compassion,” she shared. “I hope to inspire change in how we address grief and mental health in our communities and healthcare settings.”

The RISE Project Hawai‘i applauds these women for their resilience and commitment to both personal and community growth. Congratulations to the 2025 “Next Level of You” Scholarship recipients!

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