

Women's Meeting, South Shore, Kauai

Evolution to Na Wahini Ku Pono Group

1. SEPTEMBER 8, 1997-START

On this day, from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm in the community room of the Koloa Library, Kauai, the first Women's Alcoholics Anonymous meeting on the South Shore was held (the very first Women's AA meeting on Kauai was 1995 on the North Shore). The person who started the South Shore meeting was Shari A. She worked at Grantham Resorts across the street from the Koloa Library. She wanted an AA meeting she could go to directly from work. Shari A (now Shari B.) was an important part of the meeting until she moved in 2002 to Bend, Oregon.

2. 1997 to 2008

The meeting met each week at 4:30 pm, was well attended, and had various formats and arrangement of chairs. One format, led by Maureen M., was "AA Principles". The meeting was part of the Koloa Aloha Group (GSO # 0104061). A member of the Koloa Aloha Group attended the Women's Meeting and brought news and announcements of General Service Activities. Thus, the GSR for the Women's Meeting was the Koloa Aloha GSR.

3. JUNE/JULY 2008

The Women's Meeting underwent a change, brewing for a time, in which personalities became increasingly stronger than principles. In June or July, angers flared. A vote was taken as to whether the Women's Meeting should leave the Koloa Aloha Group. The vote was taken during the regular meeting and passed by majority. Thus the Women's Meeting separated from the Koloa Aloha Group to become an independent AA meeting. One of the long time and current members, Laurie L, was present and remembers well this period and helped provide details to this document.

4. 2008-2010

The Women's Meeting struggled a bit, had less members attending, had a member like Ester S who tried to get the meeting closer to the General Service guidelines. Eventually several names for the Meeting were suggested and voted on. "Na Wahini Ku Pono" won the vote. The person suggesting this name was Mahea, who is Hawaiian, and who now lives with her partner, Michelle, on the Big Island.

5. February, 2010, GSO notified

February 14, 2010 is the first entry of Na Wahini Ku Pono into the General Service, NY records. As GGO personnel in 2020 all work from home because of the Covid Pandemic, our GSO contact, Stephanie G. did not have access to the registration form itself that would show just who submitted the form. We think it was Mahea. With registration, Na Wahini Ku Pono Meeting officially became Na Wahini Ku Pono Group GSO # 0719079.

6. 2010-2018

Somewhere around 2010-2012 the Group decided on a 5:00 pm meeting time to better accommodate the working members.

During the 2010-2018 time the Group had an increasingly competent structure, but no connection to General Service or Intergroup. One person from another group (Mathea A.) asked the Group to allow her to carry the Group vote to Assemblies for Panels 65 and 67 (2015 through 2018). Her own group had GSR's that carried the vote for her group. After Ann W. and April T. moved permanently to Kauai they became regular members of the Na Wahini. Ann W. stepped in to take and distribute minutes from the business meetings, and also led the business meetings as she had solid General Service experience. Others began to participate more strongly in the structure of the Group, including Connie S. who moved to Kauai in 2014.

7. 2019-2020

From the developing Group business meeting came Connie S., in mid panel 69 (2018), to volunteer to be the General Service Representative for Na Wahini. She was elected. THE FIRST GSR FOR THIS GROUP/MEETING!. Connie began to attend the Area 17 Assemblies, got a service sponsor, attend District 6 (Kauai) meetings. Mary C, a long time member of the Group stepped up to be its first Intergroup Representative. Printed Agenda, minutes, and treasury reports became a constant. The membership was 20-25 each meeting, had a birthday meeting at the last Monday of each month with pot luck, and was child/baby friendly

In 2018 the State of Hawaii said no private groups meeting in the Libraries. Our kind and helpful head Librarian, David Thorp, said the Group must find another meeting place. Connie got permission to move the Group to Church of Koloa

The Covid Pandemic shut down the face-to-face meetings and the Group successfully went to Zoom with enlarged participation from other Islands, States, and Countries

In summary, Na Wahini Ku Pono started in 1997, was immediately successful, went through some changes, although always popular, and now flourishes as a fully integrated Kauai AA GSO registered Group.

Mathea A. District 6 Archives Chair, Panel 71, Area 17. December 25, 2020