



# Michelle Horton: A Legacy of Love & Lōkahi

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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MICHELLE HORTON  
AND THE LŌKAHI KAILUA MARKET

Kailua native Michelle Horton has been dating Justin Day for more than three years, but their history goes way back. They met in their teenage years through mutual friends, but then lost touch for 15 years.

"The stars brought us back together in 2017, only to find we hadn't skipped a beat," said Horton.

On their first date, Justin brought Michelle back to his home, which has been in his Kailua family for several generations. When they arrived, they made the connection that Michelle's family had rented the house when she was a baby, and coincidentally, his bedroom growing up was her former nursery. It turns out that Justin's family rented the home to Michelle's family when they lived abroad for a few years.

"We saw it as a confirmation that the universe kept crossing our paths at multiple points throughout our lives," says Michelle.

Michelle has held many jobs and volunteer positions throughout the Kailua area, including her first job at Teddy's Bigger Burgers, and volunteering at Kailua Methodist



Preschool and as an AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) Youth Soccer assistant coach. Later, she was a server at Zia's Caffe. She later became an AmeriCorps advocate at the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, as well as a court reporter for the Social Security Administration.

Michelle earned her bachelor's degree from Eastern Washington University in 2010, where she studied government and philosophy. She then moved back to Hawai'i to pursue graduate school, and received a Master in Arts in sociology from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in 2014. Her master's thesis, titled "A Divided Community Seeks Lōkahi: An Exploration of Social Change & 'Sense of Place' in Kailua," is one of her most treasured accomplishments. (To read it