



HUALĀLAI 'OHANA FOUNDATION

CELEBRATING OUR FOUNDERS

past, present and
into the future...

Nānā i Ke Kumu

*Look to the Source.
Build for the Future.*

Spring/Summer 2025



HUALĀLAI 'OHANA FOUNDATION

Not all wounds can be healed, nor every problem solved. But the mere existence of the Foundation brings hope and healing each and every day.

- Kahu Billy Mitchell,
Founding Board Member

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS

In celebration of the past 23 years of the Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation's growth, we honor our Founding Board of Directors, whose vision and thoughtful caring hearts paved the way for the Foundation to be possible.

Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation Founding Board Members — November 2002:

Joe Schell
Nicola Opdycke
Bertie Bialek Elliott
Tom and Debby Davidson
Kahu Billy Mitchell
Richard Albrecht (ex-officio)
Kathleen Horrigan (ex-officio)
Kathryn Wiese (ex-officio, Executive Director)
Kessie Hollister (ex-officio)



2025 Board of Directors, Volunteers, and Committee Members

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Dr. Bradley Chipps
President & Medical Chair
Ed Mueller
Emeritus President
Larry Kelley
VP & Governance Chair
Rob Kildow
Emeritus VP & Governance Chair
Dean McPhail
Treasurer
Emily Spencer
Secretary
Teresa Schneider
Education Chair
Lilian Murray
Investment Chair
Kathy Ferguson
Events Chair

DIRECTORS:

Julie Hill
Diane Kantor
John Krystynak
Dr. John Lechleiter
Susan Mendelson
John Mouer
Stella Zamarripa

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

Charlie Parker
Regional VP & GM
Four Seasons Hualālai
Lloyd Gillespie
Hualālai Club GM
Nico Leilani Verissimo
Executive Director
Ashley LaPan
Advancement Coordinator
Stefanie Repolio
Programs Coordinator
Nikki Bredeson
Programs Assistant

VOLUNTEERS & COMMITTEES:

Marti deBenedetti
Dr. Michael Fazio
Susan Frampton
Becky Holman
Bob & Judy Huret
Chris Jones
Laurie Kozlak
Janet Love
Cheryl & Jim Markham
Martha Mouer
Cindy Muscatel
Chantal Prunier
Deborah Webster & Stephen Blanchard
Dr. Jim & Mimi Weinstein

We are proud to share that 100% of our Board of Directors, Volunteers, and Committee Members participated in charitable giving to Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation over the past year.

With profound gratitude, the 2025 Board of Directors honors the leaders and trailblazers whose unwavering dedication transformed a shared dream into the thriving foundation we celebrate today. Their vision helped spark a community-wide commitment to caring for one another, a spirit that continues to guide and inspire us today.

Thanks to the path they charted and the seeds of hope they nurtured, the Foundation now supports more Hualālai employees and families than ever before. From scholarships and keiki literacy initiatives to emergency medical assistance and vocational training, every initiative is rooted in the same guiding values our Founders championed from the start.

Many hands have shaped the Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation's journey. Each one, past and present, is appreciated, remembered, and treasured.

AUNTY BERTIE'S STORY

Roberta Buffett Bialek Elliott

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER, HUALĀLAI 'OHANA FOUNDATION

"It is a sense of unity, shared involvement and shared responsibility. It is mutual interdependence and mutual help. It is emotional support, given and received. It is solidarity and cohesiveness. It is love — often; it is loyalty — always."

— Mary Kawena Pukui,
Nānā I Ke Kumu

Tell us about the early days...

"When the resort opened, the vision was clear: natural, understated elegance. No more than two stories, open air, and deeply Hawaiian. It reminded me of the Halekulani Hotel cottages in the 1960s and '70s. My husband and I fell in love — with Hualālai, with the Big Island. The warmth, the friendliness, the genuine connection to nature — there's nothing like it. When I'm here, I slow down, I'm present from sunrise to sunset. That kind of feeling can't be manufactured, it rose organically from how the place was developed, and it worked beautifully."

The Foundation began with a group of homeowners who really believed in giving back. Joe Schell and Nicola Opdycke were instrumental. It started small, resident-led, but deeply rooted in relationships. Monday night receptions at the Residents' Beach House brought everyone together. People like Melo Clark and Kathleen Horrigan made it feel like home. I once asked Kathleen how she built such a special team. She said, 'We can train for skill — but we hire for heart.'"

What does 'ohana mean to you?

"I never knew the word until I came to Hawai'i. On the mainland, we separate "family," "friends," and "community." But in Hawai'i, 'ohana blends all three. It means we're in this together. The hanai culture speaks to that beautifully — how we care for each other because we're all part of life. And I love being called "Aunty." On the mainland, the best compliment is "You look so young." Here, the highest honor is "Aunty" — a title of respect, love, and belonging."

What are your hopes and dreams for the Foundation?

"That it continues to sustain its momentum and remains rooted in connection, generosity, and joy. The Foundation benefits everyone involved — both those who give and those who receive. It builds community, not separation. It lifts people up. That's something rare and special. It makes me happy every time I think of it."

Mahalo, Aunty Bertie, for the legacy you have paved for over 21,000 families since 2002. We appreciate you!

Dear Ohana A Message from our General Manager



"...not only do we have the best resort in Hawaii, we also have the best team!"

THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT US EVERYWHERE

Condé Nast Traveler

1997 - "Hot List" one of the "25 coolest places to stay"

1998 - United States Gold List

USA Today

1997 - the "hottest new resort in the Pacific"

Travel & Leisure

1997 - "The Sexiest New Resort in Hawaii"

1997 - World's Best Awards rated #1 in the Top 25 Hotels in Hawaii and #12 in the Top 100 Hotels in the World

Robb Report

1998 - #2 Best Resort in the World

Travel + Leisure

1998 - Hawaii Insider Awards "Best Kept Travel Secret in the Islands"

Arkansas Democrat Gazette/Libby

Smith

1997 - Best Hawaiian Resort

These accolades are because of what each of you, as employees of this fine resort, have accomplished in the mere twenty months we have been open. Many employees have been mentioned by name in these articles, in letters and on our guest comment cards. You've made a statement and people are talking about you. I would like to add my personal congratulations and thanks to each and every one of our Ohana — not only do we have the best resort in Hawaii, we also have the best team! It is you, our Ohana, whose warmth, sincerity and willingness to open your arms and hearts, who make the difference in our guest experience and what makes them feel as if they were their home.

The first few years after opening a new hotel are always demanding and we have
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completed that stage with great success. The challenge to all of us now is not only to maintain the high level of service our guests have come to expect of us, but to exceed those expectations. What comes naturally to you is serving our guests and anticipating their needs. Although we make every effort to provide our guests with a relaxed resort environment, we must always maintain the highest level of intensity and attention to the smallest detail, in order to keep our edge over our competitors. We are off to a fantastic start in 1998 and I have every confidence that you will continue to meet, and even surpass, the expectations of our guests.

The special love and aloha of this place has made strangers feel welcome here for many years — "O ke aloha ke kalesa a kahi malihini" - "Love is the host in strange lands." Thank you for your aloha, love and no koke hospitality which you so willingly and sincerely share with our guests. May they continue to sing your praises.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Kathleen Horrigan

Kathleen Horrigan
General Manager



RUDY DELOS SANTOS:

Thirty Years of Aloha—Honoring Uncle Rudy

Rudy Delos Santos has been a pillar at Four Seasons for more than three decades — first in Washington D.C., then as part of the original team that opened Four Seasons Resort Hualālai. But this year, Uncle Rudy, as he's affectionately known, will retire from the Engineering Department. Like a vintage car, they don't make them like him anymore. He's full of stories, wisdom, and an enduring spirit that's helped shape the culture of care and excellence that defines Hualālai.

"The Foundation always goes the extra mile to help and care for us. It's like our Five Diamond service — above and beyond. To me, that is the true meaning of 'ohana."

Uncle Rudy knows firsthand the importance of that support. After undergoing three surgeries in one year while managing diabetes, he went to the Foundation for medical assistance. *"To know that there is support while you are going through a difficult time is such a relief. Not only does the Foundation help you with your medical costs, they genuinely care about you and your health. It's like a second family."*

For Rudy, the greatest part of Hualālai is the people. *"Everyone here exudes the spirit of aloha. We care about each other and learn from each other. Employees, guests, homeowners — it's what I love and will miss the most."*

In retirement, Uncle Rudy looks forward to helping with his wife's business and spending more time fishing. He proudly shares a photo of a prized Hawaiian game fish he caught and gifted to the Natural Resources team. *"Now there's a big Mū in the King's Pond named after me,"* he says with a smile.



His hopes for the Foundation are simple but powerful: longevity. *"As long as Hualālai Resort is here, so will the Foundation. It is a place that employees can truly rely on for all kinds of support throughout their lives. Of course, they need to do the work but when they do, the whole world opens for them."*

As Uncle Rudy enters a new chapter in his life, the story of the Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation comes full circle. His son, Andrew, a tenured Security employee at Four Seasons Hualālai, is married to Bea, another cherished member of the Hualālai employee 'ohana.

Their daughter, Pearl, just attended her very first Keiki Book Fair this past December. Uncle Rudy finds pride and peace of mind in knowing that the Foundation will continue to be a source of support for his 'ohana today and into the future.

"Hualālai will always be in my heart," he says. *"It is always the very best — even the memories."*

As Uncle Rudy looks forward to retirement, his legacy remains: a founder, a mentor, and a reminder that the true spirit of Hualālai is carried through its people.

PRANEE COOK:

Dreams Made Possible by 'Ohana

For nearly 30 years, Pranee Cook has been a devoted Common Area Attendant at Four Seasons Resort Hualālai. Her quiet strength and tireless work have helped preserve the resort's warmth and beauty. Behind her calm presence lies a powerful story of resilience, community, and a mother's unwavering love to build a brighter future for her child.

Pranee became a single mother when her daughter Ananda was just three, after the sudden loss of her husband. To support them, she worked three jobs — often from morning until midnight. Amid the hardship, hope arrived through unexpected acts of kindness and a caring community.

Unexpected Kokua

During those challenging years, Michelle Guppy from the People & Culture Office opened her home and heart, caring for five-year-old Ananda while Pranee worked. A mother herself, Michelle taught Ananda to read, ensured she was well-fed, and welcomed her into family life. "I was thankful and relieved to know Ananda was in a loving, nurturing environment," Pranee says.

Support continued to grow when Pranee learned about the Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation at a department outreach event. The Foundation offered opportunities she never imagined — providing Ananda with school supplies, books, backpacks, and eventually a computer. "She jumped up and down yelling, 'My dream came true!'" Pranee recalls. "The Foundation gave me hope and a path forward as a single parent."



Years later, when Pranee faced another difficult chapter — needing knee-replacement surgery she could no longer delay — she again turned to the Foundation. "I was scared," she recalls. "But they told me, 'We will help you find a way.'" With guidance from Dr. Branchflower at the Four Seasons Wellness Center, Pranee built strength to prepare for surgery. A homeowner donated a recumbent bike for her recovery, and the Foundation provided a Surgical Medical Award to help cover costs, along with a Kako'o Award to offer wrap-around support during her healing.

The Spark That Lit the Fire

A turning point came when Ananda attended the Honor Roll Ceremony she had worked so hard to qualify for. Former recipient Savannah Harriman gave a speech about her journey to college, saying, "If I can do it, every single one of you can too." Ananda took those words to heart, determined to follow a similar path. Though college once seemed out of reach financially, the Foundation stepped in — guiding Pranee through every step of the process.

Ananda enrolled at Northern Arizona University, becoming the first in her family to attend college. She graduated with honors, supported throughout by Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation scholarships, Academic Merit Awards, LEAP awards, and Work for College Match incentives.

In May 2025, she earned her Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from the University of Las Vegas. Ananda now hopes to return to the Honor Roll Ceremony one day and inspire the next generation — sharing the same message that lit her path: "If I can do it, you can too."

Today, Pranee is back at Four Seasons Hualālai, helping to maintain the welcoming spirit that first drew her in. "I'm so grateful I decided to work for Four Seasons all those years ago," she says. "It changed my life."

PLANTING SEEDS OF CHANGE:

Becky Holman's Enduring Influence

My husband and I have always said, "We came to Hualālai for the beauty, but we stayed for the people." From the moment we arrived, we felt the magic of their aloha spirit. Reflecting on the early challenges of starting the Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation, I'm honored — because with those challenges came meaningful triumphs.

Shortly after Bob and I arrived at Hualālai in 2001, we attended a focus meeting conceptualizing how to support employees needing medical care. A member of the golf department was diagnosed with cancer and required treatment in Houston, Texas, but the community struggled to mobilize resources. Despite a generous homeowner's flying the employee by private plane to Houston, the employee died.

The tragedy sparked discussions among homeowners about creating a non-profit organization. One such homeowner, **Joe Schell**, spearheaded the initiative and established the Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation and its Board of Directors. He became the leader of a true experiment, unique and audacious, aiming to support community employees with a charitable mission unheard of in the world of resorts and charities alike.

Our Board of Directors quickly realized that good intentions and generous funding were only the beginning. To ensure lasting impact, we established strong bylaws inspired by other successful nonprofits. Not long after the foundation's creation, its mission began to evolve. An eye-opening article in the *Honolulu Advertiser*



— reporting that Hawai'i's education system ranked last in the nation — galvanized us to broaden our focus. What began as a primarily medical initiative expanded to include educational scholarships, driven by a deepened commitment to the well-being and future of our community.

It Takes a Village, but In Our Case, It Takes an 'Ohana

In the early years, Hualālai Resort and the Four Seasons graciously provided meeting space and volunteer support until the foundation could hire an Executive Director.

Richard Albrecht and **Kathleen Horrigan** were especially generous with their time and guidance. As our programs grew, so did homeowner involvement — contributing expertise across more committees.

Among them was **Dr.**

Ray Lager, a renowned neurosurgeon who saved countless lives in the Hualālai community for over three decades and served as Board President and Medical Committee Chair. Under **Paul Locklin**'s leadership, we launched the Honor Roll and Academic Merit Awards — celebrating student achievement with monetary prizes and family gatherings. Homeowners also helped start the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, bringing books to children from birth to age five. With growing financial support, our funds were skillfully overseen by **Martin Stein, Richard Rosenberg, Dave Keyes, and Lilian Murray**. Homeowners gave generously and shared time and talent that shaped our success. Their continued support remains a source of inspiration.

As we celebrate two decades of success, we also acknowledge the challenges that have shaped the Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation. Looking ahead, new challenges will arise, and I'm confident we'll meet these needs with the same compassion, innovation, and expertise that built our foundation. But today, we take pride in realizing an early dream: a thriving, resilient foundation, and an 'ohana growing healthier, more educated, and more deeply connected to Hawaiian culture and the joy of life.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS:

Measuring Our Impact

With your support, we're proud to share a few key metrics that tell the story behind the impact we're making together.

Program Growth:

Since 2020, the support of our community made it possible the Foundation to expand program reach by 112%, growing from 424 awards to 900 and bringing program opportunities to more local families. This growth reflects both increased community needs and your powerful response. Each branch of support extends the canopy of care to those who need it most.

Collectively, the Foundation supports 15 unique programs across 5 core areas of impact.

Increasing Donor Participation:

Our donor participation rate reached an impressive 74% this year — 240 out of 325 donors — showing the strength of our shared belief in the Foundation's mission.

More voices, more impact. Over the past 10 years, participation in direct charitable giving to the Foundation has increased among Hualālai homeowners.

Nearly 3 out of every 4 Hualālai homeowners contribute to the Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation, fostering a deep sense of lōkahi — unity and harmony — in our community. With nearly three-quarters of our donor community giving, your collective aloha continues to uplift local families and shape brighter futures.

One hundred percent of the Board of Directors for the Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation donate to the Foundation with an average gift of \$20,000, collectively contributing over \$575,000 each year.

These numbers are more than statistics—they're an expression of your trust and our shared *kuleana* (responsibility) to the mission established by our Founders over 23 years ago. Mahalo for helping us grow good throughout our community.

In 2018, 33% of Hualālai members supported the Foundation. In 2024, 74% made charitable gifts with your support, the Foundation's goal of 100% is within reach.



YOUR GENEROSITY, YOUR WAY...

8 Ways to Give

Your generosity fuels life-changing programs for Hualālai's workforce families. Whether you're giving today or planning for tomorrow, there are many meaningful ways to support the Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation.

1. One-Time or Recurring Gifts:

Make a secure donation online or by check. Recurring gifts help sustain scholarships, medical assistance, and literacy programs throughout the year.

Online:
[HualalaiOhanaFoundation.org/donate](https://hualalaiOhanaFoundation.org/donate)

By Mail: Send checks to
Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation,
72-100 Ka'ūpulehu Drive,
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

-or-

P.O. Box 5227
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

2. Tribute or Memorial Gifts

Honor a loved one, friend, or mentor by making a gift in their name. We'll notify the honoree or their family with a personalized message.

3. Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)

Easily recommend a gift through your donor-advised fund. Our EIN is 81-0570716.

4. Stock and Securities

Donating appreciated assets is a tax-smart way to give. Contact us for transfer instructions.

5. Legacy and Planned Giving: Leave a Legacy of Aloha

Leave a legacy of aloha and make a lasting impact by including the Foundation in your will, trust, or retirement plan. A planned gift to the Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation is a lasting commitment to the people who make this community home. For sample bequest language or to notify us of your plans, please reach our office.



6. In-Kind Gifts

Donate furniture, appliances, vehicles, golf carts, and household goods through our Hana Hou program, providing direct support to workforce families in need.

7. Employer Matching Gifts

Double your impact! Many companies match charitable donations made by their employees.

8. Event Sponsorships and Peer Fundraising

Support special events like our Hōkū Gala donor appreciation evening or golf fundraisers. Host your own giving circle or birthday fundraiser in support of our mission.

Have questions or want to discuss your giving?

Contact Nico Leilani Verissimo
at (808) 325-8177 or
nico@hualalaiohanafoundation.org.

Your legacy can change lives.

***Strengthening Families and
Investing in the Future
of Our Island Community...***

Every gift to the Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation has a lasting impact on the lives of our workforce families. Here's what your generosity can make possible:

\$100,000 Will...

- Fund 10 Hualālai Scholars merit-based awards for one year
- Provide 18 higher education scholarships for college students
- Support 34 LEAP Awards for vocational training and workforce advancement
- Deliver 225 child literacy awards and 12,000 books to 675 students over three years

\$50,000 Will...

- Fund 12 preschool scholarships for one year
- Provide 6 private school scholarships (K–12)
- Provide 17 LEAP vocational training awards of \$3,000

\$25,000 Will...

- Award 8–10 LEAP vocational training awards
- Support 25–30 dental care grants
- Recognize 45 students with academic achievement awards

\$10,000 Will...

- Provide a Hualālai Scholars Award for one year
- Fund 100 child literacy kits for young readers
- Celebrate 15 students with Honor Roll recognition awards

Your support makes opportunity real for hundreds of Hualālai's workforce families.

Together, we can invest in education, wellness, and lifelong success.

Our EIN# is 81-0570716



MAHALO NUI LOA *from our 'Ohana*



The Hualālai 'Ohana Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supported by residents of the Hualālai Resort community who believe in the power of philanthropy to make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of the employees who make Hualālai a special place to be. Our vision is a community where we embrace our kuleana (responsibility) for the workforce families by collectively working to expand access to workforce development, child literacy, lifelong learning, higher education and healthcare.

HUALĀLAI 'OHANA FOUNDATION

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