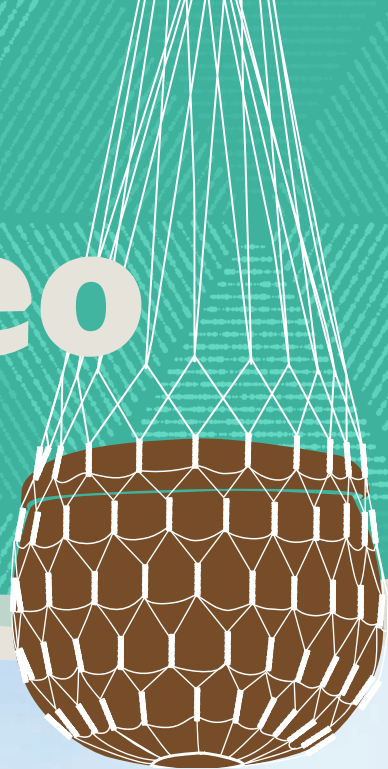


# ‘Umeke Kā‘eo

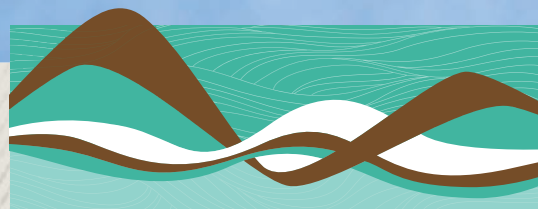
*A well-filled calabash, a well-filled mind.*

HAWAI‘I LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 12, NUMBER 2 | FALL 2022



**HILT'S GROWING TEAM**  
**PG. 3**

**PROTECT, STEWARD, AND CONNECT  
ACROSS THE ISLANDS**  
**PG. 5**



**HAWAI‘I LAND TRUST**



# HAWAI'I LAND TRUST

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa Grove, *Chair*  
Jennifer Luck, *Vice Chair*  
Keith Ogata, *Treasurer*  
U'ilani Tanigawa Lum, *Secretary*  
Mary Charles, *Past Chair*

## DIRECTORS

Joey Aquino  
Matt Beall  
David Carswell  
Jocelyn Garovoy Herbert  
Leahi Hall  
Neil Hannahs  
Marissa Harman  
Jody Kaulukukui  
Larry Stevens  
Roy A. "Randy" Vitousek  
Teresa Young, CPA

## STAFF

Laura H. E. Kaakua, *President & Chief Executive Officer*  
Angela Britten, CFRE, *Chief Operations & Philanthropy Officer*  
Scott Fisher, Ph.D., *Director of 'Āina Stewardship*  
Shae Kamakaala, J.D., *Director of 'Āina Protection*  
Denby Freeland, *Director of 'Āina Education*  
James Crowe, *Director of Conservation Easement Stewardship, Compliance, & Technology*  
Zach Horton, *Director of Philanthropic Giving*  
Shea Tamura, *Executive Assistant to the CEO*  
Madison Masek, *Philanthropy Associate*  
Kia'i Collier, *Waihe'e Steward & Educator*  
Kaninau Villanueva, *Kāhili Beach Steward & Educator*  
Ann Eu, *Kāhili Beach Steward & Educator*  
Patti Ann Solomon, *Mahukona Steward & Educator*  
Ulumauahi Keali'ikanaka'oleohailiani, *Kūkūau Steward & Educator*  
Mamo Leota, *Maunawila Steward & Educator*  
Ewaliko Leota, *Maunawila Steward & Educator*  
Olivia Wallace, *Maunawila Admin Coordinator*

'Umeke Kā'eo is the newsletter of Hawai'i Land Trust, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to land conservation in Hawai'i.

As a Hawai'i organization, we encourage our entire community to learn more about the Hawaiian language. Should you come across a Hawaiian word or term you don't understand in our newsletter, please visit [wehewehe.org](http://wehewehe.org) or email [info@hilt.org](mailto:info@hilt.org) for more information.

**Hawai'i Land Trust**  
126 Queen St., Ste 306  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
(808) 744-AINA (2462)  
[www.hilt.org](http://www.hilt.org)



Follow us on:



Hawai'i Land Trust



@HILandTrust



@HILandTrust



Hawai'i Land Trust

Cover Photo: A Koa'e Kea (White-tailed Tropic Bird) soars over Kāhili Beach Preserve. Photo Credit: Kanoa Jacang

## FROM THE CEO

# Aloha HILT 'Ohana,

In the last few months, we have had more students learning at HILT's seven preserves than ever before. We see their eyes light up as history lessons come alive because they are standing where that history took place. We hear from teachers that students scored well in math because they were excited to learn measurements and multiplication using distances and native plants at a HILT preserve. We know being out there on 'āina helps students learn, and improves how students treat one another, but does their presence provide reciprocal benefit to 'āina?

Absolutely. Keiki on the land bring laughter and light, and ultimately healing for the land. Many of HILT's preserves were in poor shape when we acquired and protected them. At Waihe'e Refuge on Maui, HILT literally hauled out tons of abandoned cars, batteries, and debris from houseless encampments. At Kāhili Beach Preserve on Kaua'i, years of people driving and camping on the sand dunes left behind rubbish, invasive species, and sand dune erosion. It can take years of cleanup and stewardship before a place is ready to safely host students. So, when those students are present on 'āina, it is a win in and of itself. When keiki are present, singing songs, laughing, and joking, their young spirits lift the spirit of all who protected and restored that place, and honor the spirits of kūpuna. Students learning from, and caring for, these special places means that the dreams of those who dared to protect these places are being fulfilled.

In many class visits, the teachers work with HILT's educators to incorporate a stewardship activity and a kilo (observation) activity. This may look like 25 students spread out on the beach picking up marine debris for 15 minutes and then sitting in a shady spot to quietly observe the winds, birds, and ocean currents. In addition to protecting and stewarding the lands that sustain Hawai'i, we are teaching future generations to do the same. Mahalo for being a part of this joyous and fulfilling work to protect, steward, and connect.

*With gratitude and aloha,*

Laura H. E. Kaakua  
PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER







# My How You've Grown!

## Meet the Newest Members of the HILT Team

Hawai'i Land Trust staff met on Kaua'i this summer for a one-day retreat. As a statewide organization, we don't often get to work with or see our co-workers in person. This was a unique opportunity for most of us to gather and strengthen our 'ohana. **Bottom row, left to right:** Ann Eu, *Kāhili Steward & Educator*, Kamaha'o Acpal, *Waihe'e Steward*, Shea Tamura, *Executive Assistant*, Ulu Keli'ikanaka'oleohaililani, *Kūkūau Steward & Educator*; **Middle row, left to right:** Jennifer Luck, *Board Member*, Kanānā Kuhaulua, *Kāhili Steward & Educator*, Kaninau Villanueva, *Kāhili Steward & Educator*, Angela Britten, *Chief Operations & Philanthropy Officer*, Laura Kaakua, *President & CEO*, Olivia Wallace, *Maunawila Administrative Coordinator*, Māhealani Keo, *Maunawila Steward & Educator*, Kanoa Jacang, *Communications Intern*; **Top row, left to right:** Scott Fisher, *Director of 'Āina Stewardship*, Kia'i Collier, *Waihe'e Steward & Educator*, Madi Masek, *Philanthropy Associate*, Zach Horton, *Director of Philanthropic Giving*, Ewaliko Leota, *Maunawila Steward & Educator*



Zach Horton,  
Director of Philanthropic  
Giving - Hawai'i Island



Ulumauahi  
Keali'ikanaka'oleohaililani,  
Kūkūau Steward &  
Educator - Hawai'i Island



Ewaliko Leota,  
Maunawila Steward &  
Educator - O'ahu



Madi Masek,  
Philanthropy Associate -  
O'ahu



Olivia Wallace,  
Maunawila Administrative  
Coordinator - O'ahu

Many of you may have noticed new faces at some of our preserves or in the office over the last few months. It's an exciting time for HILT, currently with 7 public preserves and 49 conservation easements, representing nearly 22,000 acres of land across the Island chain, and efforts in progress to protect an 8th public preserve and 4 more conservation easements by the end of 2023. HILT has expanded its staff to include 10 full time and 6 part-time employees on Kaua'i, Hawai'i Island, Maui, and O'ahu to meet the needs of our growing organization and our communities.

We've increased our stewardship staff with the addition of three new steward educators on Hawai'i

Island and O'ahu. On Hawai'i Island, **Ulumauahi (Ulu) Keali'ikanaka'oleohaililani** has been hired as 'Āina Steward & Educator at our newest preserve: Kūkūau Community Forest in Hilo, Hawai'i. The 1,600 acre property was donated to HILT in 2019, and requires staff to create safe access before welcoming community to learn about and help care for the native forest. One of Ulu's first priorities will be to draft a stewardship plan that will guide HILT's work in the next few years. We have applied for funding support from a variety of sources to support our work at Kūkūau and hope to build an access road to the forest in 2023. If you have any questions or want to offer support for the forest, please contact Ulu at [ulu@hilt.org](mailto:ulu@hilt.org).



At Maunawila Heiau Complex in Hau'ula, O'ahu, **Ewaliko Leota**, and **Olivia Wallace** join Mamo Leota, forming an incredible team providing daily education to Hau'ula Elementary and other schools, and strengthening community through hands-on efforts including building a traditional hale this summer. In 2023, the team intends to build a second, larger hale at Maunawila, so be aware of opportunities to get involved in the summer. If you want to know more about Maunawila Heiau Complex and our educational programs there, please connect with Mamo Leota at [mamo@hilt.org](mailto:mamo@hilt.org).

Finally, our philanthropy department added two positions this year. The first is **Zach Horton**, Director of Philanthropic Giving. Zach is based in Hilo, and is focusing on ensuring we successfully reach our fundraising goal to permanently protect Mahukona Navigational and Ecological Complex. Zach can be reached at [zach.horton@hilt.org](mailto:zach.horton@hilt.org).

The second addition is **Madi Masek**, based in Honolulu offering much needed office support to the philanthropy team. Madi can be reached at [madi.masek@hilt.org](mailto:madi.masek@hilt.org).

*If you have the opportunity to see or speak to any of our new team members, please do say hi and welcome them!*

### **Zach Horton**

Zach has spent his career dedicated to conservation, previously working for The Nature Conservancy and the Coral Reef Alliance before joining HILT. Zach grew up in Arizona, and spent several years in Austin, Texas before moving with his wife and daughters to Hilo.

### **Ulumauahi Keali'ikanaka'oleohailani**

Ulu was born in Hilo and raised in Keaukaha and Pana'ewa. He has been a student of Hālau Kekuhi for nearly three decades and recently was elevated to the position of Pā'ie'ie Alaka'i - a position that requires the student to have intimate knowledge of the forest, the ocean, gathering regulations, and reciprocity of both the forest and the ocean.

### **Ewaliko Leota**

Born and raised in Hau'ula, Ewaliko comes from a long line of Hau'ula ancestors. He has worked in education since graduating high school as a kumu in Hawaiian immersion schools.

### **Madi Masek**

Born in San Diego, California, Madi came to Hawai'i as a student at Hawai'i Pacific University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies with minors in Political Science and International Studies. Since moving to O'ahu she's found her passion to help restore the land through community work days and volunteering for a variety of 'āina organizations in her spare time.

### **Olivia Wallace**

Olivia is from Paukūkalo, Maui and is currently living in Kahana, O'ahu. She is a lineal descendant of Hau'ula, and comes from a family of cultural practitioners and continues to strive to emulate the practices of her kūpuna. Through her role with HILT she is looking forward to building a new generation of cultural practitioners in her community.

Right to left: Ann Eu, Madi Masek, and Angela Britten at Kāhili Beach Preserve







# HILT Happenings



## Protect



*Protecting land is the foundation of our work. Hawai'i Land Trust was created by communities around Hawai'i out of a passionate love of natural spaces. Today, HILT prioritizes protecting wahi kūpuna (Hawaiian cultural landscapes), coastlines, and lands that produce food for Hawai'i's people.*

Island Harvest is planting 10 acres of over 200 ulu trees and 400 macadamia nut trees.

### Hawai'i Island

HILT has been working on a few great agricultural conservation easement projects on Hawai'i Island in the North Kohala district. One of these projects is with **Island Harvest**, a locally owned business who is cultivating their first fee-owned 28 acre farm with newly planted ulu, macadamia nut, citrus, and other food plants for the local community. This parcel was previously sugarcane land and is located near Kohala High School allowing Island Harvest to engage the next generation of farmers and provide meaningful jobs for local Kohala families. With funding support from the USDA NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and The Freeman Foundation, we look forward to the successful protection of yet another farm producing healthy food for Hawai'i's people in 2023. You can find Island Harvest's 100% locally grown mac nuts in Foodland and other local stores.





Above: Hāna families and supporters gather at a reinternment site on the protected Mokae lands, providing space for the return of 'iwi kūpuna through cultural protocols carried on by Hāna families; Below: Lepa (traditional flags) were posted across the protected coastline from Hāmoa to Waioka Pond where Hāna practitioners and 'ohana shared about the special place names and mo'olelo of these lands.





## Kaua'i & Moloka'i

As inquiries flow our way, HILT's Protect team continues to explore possibilities for Kaua'i and Moloka'i's next land protection projects protecting coastlines, wahi kūpuna, and lands that grow healthy food for the local community. If you are a landowner interested in exploring land conservation opportunities for your land, please contact Shae Kamakaala, Director of 'Āina Protection at [shae.kamakaala@hilt.org](mailto:shae.kamakaala@hilt.org).

## Maui

In July of this year, HILT assisted with the completion of one more step toward realizing the permanent protection of nearly two contiguous miles of Hāna coastline, an effort known as **Save the Hāna Coast**. HILT participated in a meaningful 'awa ceremony and sharing of mo'olelo on the land hosted by members of the Hāna community and our community partners Ke Ao Hāli'i. The event witnessed Ke Ao Hāli'i make its commitments to steward the lands and waters of Mokae and Maka'ala'e and learn more about the community's sacred work of engaging in cultural protocols to mālama the 'iwi kūpuna of place. Mahalo to Ke Ao Hāli'i, the Hāna community, Maui County's Open Space Program, and the State Legacy Land Conservation Program for making space for community, culture, and the environment to thrive. We look forward to protecting the last phases of this special stretch of Hāna's coastline. More info at: [hilt.org/hana](http://hilt.org/hana).

## O'ahu

The HILT team is working hard to complete its first conservation easement protecting an ancient Hawaiian fishpond. The **Waikalua Fishponds Complex**, contains two fishponds, in fact, and is located in the ahupua'a of Kāne'ohe, in the moku of Ko'olaupoko. HILT is humbled to partner with landowner and stewards, Pacific American Foundation, to ensure the land along Kāne'ohe and Kawā Stream and these fishponds are protected for our grandchildren's grandchildren. Also on O'ahu's Windward side, HILT is working with The Trust for Public Land and Windward communities to purchase and permanently protect historic lo'i kalo in Maunawili and Kāne'ohe. Our community partners for the Maunawili project are two local non-profit organizations, Ho'okua'āina and Kauluakalana and the project has received City Council approval for funding support from the City & County of Honolulu's Clean Water & Natural Lands Fund. We look forward to the collaborative effort to moving these special cultural and agricultural projects forward in Ko'olaupoko!



Above: Keiki walk along the kuapā of Waikalua Loko I'a in Kāne'ohe on the island of O'ahu during the July 2022 Volunteer Day; Below: Keiki hold up invasive mangrove saplings they removed at the event.







# Steward

A Koa tree (Acacia Koa) stands tall in Kūkūau Forest.

*Stewardship for HILT means mālama ‘āina. We steward by listening to and observing the natural elements and community wisdom, removing invasive species and replacing them with native plants, and caring for cultural sites. As we steward, we gain an intimate understanding of the threats our special places face, and implement strategies to overcome them.*

## Hawai‘i Island

HILT’s newest public preserve has a new steward and educator! **Ulumauahi Keali‘ikanaka‘oleohaililani** was hired as ‘Āina Steward and Educator for Kūkūau Community Forest in Hilo, Hawai‘i this summer. Read more about him on page 4. Ulu is currently planning for the perpetual care of Kūkūau. While we are only in the early stages of this process, we feel fortunate in knowing that Ulu is leading the way in caring for this wahi pana.



## Kaua'i

This summer at **Kāhili**, as in most years at the height of *kauwela*, the 'iwa are prolific and command the attention of everyone who is there. During our summer program keiki and parents spent a lot of time learning about their behaviors and their development. Kāhili is a place where the 'ōpio 'iwa do a lot of their learning and growing, too. They learn maneuverability, how to ride the wind currents, how to fly in formation, how to hunt and forage together,

and how to interact as a flock. This is an especially awesome experience to learn about with our groups of keiki and 'ōpio as they learn those same skills! As everyone deepened their kilo observations, we also deepened in our understanding of our environment and the *po'e manu* that we share it with. How very special to share this *wahi pana* with these magnificent birds!



Top: Students from Kanuikapono Charter School in Kīlauea River at Kāhili Beach Preserve mimicking the flight of the 'iwa birds; Bottom left: Close-up shot of Akulikuli propagation. This plant is a coastal native succulent gathered from Mokolea point along the northern edge of Kāhili Beach. These will be planted at Kāhili Beach Preserve to help with erosion; Bottom right: Students walking along the Kīlauea River mouth at Kāhili Beach Preserve





## Maui

Planning for the **restoration of Kapoho loko i'a kalo** is now underway thanks to the guidance and leadership of Waihe'e Steward and Educator, Kia'i Collier. Kia'i organized and participated in a series of uhaū humu pōhaku (traditional Hawaiian dry-stack wall-building) classes starting in May 2022. Once the training period ends in December 2022, Kia'i will be inviting volunteers to assist him in rebuilding the fishpond walls on our monthly work days. So far, the training has revealed several artifacts left behind by ka po'e kahiko, including a papa mū (kōnane board) among other items that tell the story of Waihe'e. Please contact him at [kiai@hilt.org](mailto:kiai@hilt.org) if you are interested in being part of the incredible restoration work of our 'āina.

On July 23rd, HILT staff, including CEO Laura Kaakua, dedicated a day to caring for the 'āina at **Nu'u Refuge**. Activities included clearing accumulated wood debris from the interior of Nu'u Pond, removing invasive species and planting indigenous hala. Nu'u continues to be a popular location for camping, fishing, and hiking for community members and volunteers.



Top: A close-up shot of part of the loko kalo i'a wall being rebuilt at Waihe'e; Above right: These students were helping to collect the abundant kauna'oa, a leafless, parasitic vine. It grows densely on other plants while taking their nutrients. Later on, the kauna'oa was used for lei at a ceremony and to make wristlets; Bottom right: Scott Fisher showing the Ahupua'a Stewards the petroglyphs along the walls of Nu'u



## O‘ahu

The primary focus of the past year has been tree removal, weeding, and clearing with Hau‘ula Elementary School students and other community members to prepare a space for our recently built hale. As we continue to expand our communal spaces at **Maunawila**, the mālama ‘āina work done with this year’s summer ‘ōpio included clearing tall California grass along our property fence line and north end of the heiau to prepare the space for an access road. This access road will be used to transport kūpuna and those with physical disabilities to share space at the heiau. Our next steps are cutting and clearing hau bush to open the terrace in the central zone of Maunawila and extend the boundary toward Punaiki Stream. With the new school year and as we resume class visits from Hau‘ula Elementary School and other schools within the moku of Ko‘olauloa, we plan to continue the preparation work for our access road and central zone. In addition, we will start the preparation work needed to clear a space for the 20 ft x 40 ft upcoming hale project. This includes tree removal, thanks to our recently chainsaw-certified staff. It takes many hands to accomplish great things and through scheduled community workdays, school visits, and other workshops, working together will make the work light.

Contact Mamo Leota at [mamo@hilt.org](mailto:mamo@hilt.org) if you are interested in joining any of our community workdays. Our workdays are every 2nd Saturday, 8:30 a.m.



Above: Volunteers preparing wood for hale building; Below: Volunteers at Maunawila Heiau helping remove cut down branches from the pathway







## ▶▶▶ Connect

The Ahupua'a Stewards making observations while hiking in Waikamoi.

*Connection is at the core of all of our work at Hawai'i Land Trust. Our connection work includes our 'āina-based educational programs, Talk Story on the Land hiking series, volunteer days, and many more activities that connect people to the 'āina.*

This summer was filled with much activity at our public preserves. It is heartwarming and exciting to have students learning and participating at our different sites! Their eager questions and smiling faces are also a reminder that the success of our programs is dependent on our community. Our 'āina-based programs educate participants on the natural and cultural history of the sites. With that foundation, we're able to work towards our current goals of ecological restoration and cultural preservation. The 'Ōlelo No'eau, **'A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia (no task is too big when done together by all)**, consistently resonates.



Top: Close up view of hinahina (*Heliotropium anomalum*) taken among the rocks at Mahukona; Center: Panoramic view of Mahukona



## Hawai'i Island

We are excited to launch our first series of **Talk Story on the Land hikes at Mahukona Navigational and Cultural Complex** in December. Join us for a special guided hike where you will learn about the area's history from representatives of our stewardship partner Nā Kalai Wa'a and the Kohala community. After your hike you will help with our first 'āina restoration efforts, planting native trees that we hope will thrive during ho'oiho. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today at [www.hilt.org/talk-story-on-the-land](http://www.hilt.org/talk-story-on-the-land).



## Kaua'i

**Kāhili Beach Preserve** on the island of Kaua'i welcomed the Kaiaulu Ko'olau for a second summer to camp and learn while they connect to the 'āina. This 'ohana campout includes multiple generations, where keiki hear stories from their parents and grandparents of the Ko'olau moku and why Kāhili is thought of as a wahi pana. While listening to one another and working together, their enthusiasm for Kāhili grew while learning unique details about the land, such as the pu'uone (sand dunes) and the once abundant resources of 'anae and 'o'opu.



Right: During the summer program, families learned how to cook using only what they could find on the beach, and a little tin foil. Here are families uncovering their beach imu at Kāhili Beach Preserve.



## Maui

**Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge** and **Nu'u Refuge** on Maui were the keystones to our **Ahupua'a Stewards Program**. Through 'āina based education and indigenous knowledge, the high school participants learned sustainability and resilience of different ecosystems throughout the island for six weeks. Conservation leaders shared multiple approaches to restoration projects which varied mauka to makai and

included native rainforests, wetlands, and lo'i kalo. Each week the students heard the 'Ōlelo No'eau, **He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwa ke kanaka**, from different presenters. This 'ōlelo means: the land is chief, the human is the servant. Our students were motivated by this theme throughout the program. By the end of the summer these future stewards had a stimulated interest that had grown immensely.

This summer's Ahupua'a Stewards walking towards the ocean along the Pi'ilani Alanui at Nu'u Refuge



## O'ahu

**18 high school and college students participated in HILT's paid summer internship program called Maunawila 'Opio.** The 'Ōpio constructed a hale using traditional techniques and materials. Ironwood posts and hau branches came from Maunawila and were harvested and prepared by the interns themselves. Community donations of loulu fronds, use of machinery, and much more made this effort a collaborative success. The 'Ōpio learned the different stages of kūkulu hale while integrating Hawaiian values like mālama 'āina, caring for the land and the land will provide us with what we need. The strength of the 8 ft x 12 ft hale is from the knowledgeable teachers that shared their 'ike and to all those that worked together. It is a proud product of community collaboration that we hope will continue to thrive in Hau'ula.

The Maunawila 'Opio during Hō'ike in July 2022 standing in front of the traditional Hawaiian hale they had built during their internship this summer; Photo by Mark Holladay







Left: Ahupua'a Stewards holding sea stars while exploring Waihe'e Refuge at low tide; Center: Ahupua'a Stewards cleaning the mala at Kipuka Olowalu; Right: Volunteer guides from The Nature Conservancy hiking in Waikamoi

Now that the summer is behind us we have a small window to regroup while we prepare for our upcoming school visits. It is also a time where HILT educators gather the influence of the teachers and colleagues we learned from these past months. As well as reflect on the

contagious enthusiasm of our program participants. It is through these experiences that we gain encouragement to build our programs for the communities that have already given so much to us.

## Special Connect Story

This summer, Hawai'i Land Trust was honored to help a family reconnect with their Hawaiian roots and find their great grandmother's grave at Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands. **Sheryl and Myrriah Gallegos** were on a search for their family history and connected with HILT when they learned their ancestor's grave might be at Waihe'e Refuge. Here's a little about their story.

Sheryl Gallegos and her daughter Myrriah who live in Florida were researching their family history and uncovered a connection to Maui through a burial notice in a 2006 Office of Hawaiian Affairs *Ka Wai Ola* [article](#) which mentioned Sheryl's great grandmother Abbey Maria Kailihala. They learned that Abbey had passed away at the age of 37 leaving an orphaned 7-year-old Leilani Pearl (Sheryl's grandmother) who eventually married a Navy man and moved to the continent to raise her family of five children, including Sheryl's father. Sheryl didn't learn much about her native Hawaiian ancestry as a child, but cherished when her grandma Leilani Pearl would recall childhood memories of Maui, and felt a deep connection to this culture she had never experienced. Her daughter Myrriah ignited a passion for learning more and the two visited Maui in 2014 to try to find their ancestor's grave and get to know the Maui that Leilani Pearl had loved when she was young. They couldn't find the grave on that trip, but continued their search. Myrriah applied to attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and began taking classes to learn more about who she was. Through continuous research, Sheryl found Hawai'i Land

Trust and connected with Kia'i Collier, HILT's Waihe'e 'Āina Steward. She asked him if he knew if there was a person with the last name Kailihala buried at Waihe'e Refuge and he said "Yes, I know exactly where that grave is." The pair flew to Maui where Kia'i led them to their kūpuna's grave. Once there, mom and daughter cleared away the weeds and saw Abbey's name. "We wanted her to know, we are here, your great grand daughter and great great grand daughter," Sheryl shared. "She is remembered and never forgotten."



Sheryl and Myrriah hope to reconnect with their Hawaiian family and history, and are steadfast in passing their cultural pride to the next generation. Sheryl reflected, "It's so fragile, so we must keep it awake and alive and get that knowledge out there. It can disappear fast. I love seeing what you (HILT) are preserving and doing – getting the keiki back into the culture and not having it disappear on us," Sheryl said.

Sheryl and Myrriah Gallegos at their kūpuna's grave site at Waihe'e Refuge






## HAWAI'I LAND TRUST

126 Queen Street, Suite 306  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
WWW.HILT.ORG  
(808) 791-0729



 Hawai'i Land Trust

 @HILandTrust

 @HILandTrust

 Hawai'i Land Trust

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PUUNENE, HI  
PERMIT NO. 75

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 2 FALL 2022

## Jan 28, 2023 Old Lāhainā Lū'au

HILT's popular lū'au benefit event hosted by Old Lāhainā Lū'au is back for its 21st anniversary!

### *Honoring Dana Naone Hall as the 2023 Champion of the Land*

Join us for an event that is sure to inspire. Guests will be treated to live entertainment, an amazing live and silent auction with highly exclusive items and experiences curated especially for HILT, and 'ono cuisine provided by local farmers, ranchers, and fishermen who work with the chefs at Nā Hoaloha 'Ekolu. Table sponsorships and tickets can be purchased online at [hilt.org/events](http://hilt.org/events) or by calling (808) 791-0731. For more information, contact Angela Britten, Chief Operations & Philanthropy Officer at [angie@hilt.org](mailto:angie@hilt.org).

