

Westside Stories

"The Pride of the Westside"

A community newspaper by and for residents of the Leeward Coast of O'ahu, Hawai'i
Direct mailed to over 15,400 residences in the areas of Nānākuli, Mā'ili, Wai'anae, Mākaha and Mākua

OCTOBER 2026
Volume 29, Number 10

Eight-Year-Old DanniRose Keohuhu Publishes Her First Childrens' Book!

Submitted by Kourtney L.H.I. Keohuhu

At just eight years old, Native Hawaiian author DanniRose Keohuhu is sharing her own message of faith, love, hope and purpose through her first published

children's book, *The Caterpillar Prince*.

DanniRose celebrated the release of her book on September 19 at the Nānākuli Public Library, where 152 family members, friends, kūpuna, keiki, educators, community leaders, and supporters gathered to celebrate her accomplishment.

Sponsored by the Maiko Abigail Sale Foundation and The Meigui Digu Group LLC, with support from community sponsors and partners, the celebration honored not only a young author, but a young girl determined to use her voice to make a contribution to her world.

The *Caterpillar Prince* tells the story of a caterpillar prince who transforms into a butterfly. As he discovers his new identity, he chooses to spend his limited time sharing an important message with others: "Jesus Loves You."



DanniRose surrounded by family and loved ones. Pictured (left to right) is her Tūtū (Grandma) Michelle, dad Hank Keohuhu Jr., sister Kaila Rose and godparents Dani & Vic Mao.

For DanniRose, the butterfly represents transformation—leaving the past behind, embracing who you are becoming, and using your life to en-

courage others.

Her journey has been one of transformation as well. Her story was featured

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PUBLIC SCHOOL FALL BREAK
OCTOBER 5th — 9th

Happy Halloween!
SATURDAY OCTOBER 31ST

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Bring Home a Gift, Lift Up a Community: Look for "Wai'anae Moku Made" Originals

Submitted by Lei'a Haff

This holiday season, residents are invited to shop, talk story and celebrate Christmas together, right here at home. Each introduction offers a chance to discover a neighbor's creativity and build a meaningful connection that lasts beyond the market. A holiday gift purchased close to home can help a neighbor replenish supplies, grow a business and provide for their 'ohana. That connection between purchases and local opportunity is at the heart of Wai'anae Moku Made, returning this November for its "Kalikimaka Edition."

The free community event takes place Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Kalaniho'okaha Community Learning Center in Nānākuli Village Center.

Families can enjoy local retail and

Continued on page 4



Kolea Manu answers questions about his varied items available for sale.



From the Publisher

By Steve Olbrich

Hurricane Lowell's outer bands slammed into our Westside on Labor Day. The storm surge wiped out sections of Farrington Highway, side streets along our coast, parks, Wai'anae High's football field and sadly many homes and condominiums along the makai (ocean) side. Once again Westsiders stepped up to help each other and the sound of chainsaws, back hoes and excavators could be heard at "first light" as we all began to dig out. Big mahalo to Department of Transportation Services from both the State and City and County for being out there early to get Farrington Highway reopened. Also, the first responders with our utility companies were out at daybreak working to restore power, cell service and internet.

As always, many community groups stepped up to help with food distribution and hot meals to the many who were impacted. 'Elepaio Social Services held several food distributions along the

Westside and churches, elected officials and community groups stepped up to deliver hot food to many locations who were without power for many days.

However, as we are going to press, Hurricane Nolo is stalled near Hawai'i Island and causing major damage to most islands. Here on our Westside, we currently have very high winds — so continue to be prepared and stay ready to evacuate if necessary. With the "Super El Niño" weather, we could be in for a very long hurricane season.

It is hard to believe that fall intersession for public schools is coming up starting October 5. Many schools and organizations are having day-long events for the keiki and 'ōpio, so make sure you check them out!

October 12 is the Columbus Day/ Discovers Day holiday. It's a federal holiday only so the post office and all banks and credit unions will be closed. All state and city and county offices and schools will remain open.

Election day is right around the corner, and we will all be voting by mail this year as we did in the primary election. If you haven't registered to vote for the General Election, visit <https://olvr.hawaii.gov> as the deadline to register to vote is October 26. Ballots will be mailed out starting October 16 and you can drop off your ballot at the "Ballot Drop Box" at Wai'anae District Park, Nānākuli Library or Kapolei Hale.

If you prefer to vote in-person or make a mistake on your ballot, a Voter Service Center will be open at Kapolei Hale and Honolulu Hale starting October 20 to November 3. Their hours are Monday through Saturday from 8 am to 4:30 pm and on November 3 (*Election Day*) from 7 am to 7 pm.

In addition to the candidates running for governor and state house, there are twenty proposed amendments to the Honolulu City Charter. The Honolulu Charter Commission will be holding community information sessions on O'ahu with one held at Wai'anae Intermediate School on October 12 starting at 7 pm. They will also hold an island-wide virtual session on October



13 at 6 pm. Learn more about the charter by visiting honolulu.citycouncil.org/chartercommission

Make sure you vote on November 3 as we recently saw several of our recent primary races decided by just a few votes and two of them actually tied!

Don't forget that Halloween is on October 31. There will be lots of keiki out, so please pay attention and drive carefully.

Sadly, we learned that our Westside has lost another legend. Mrs. Anita Korenaga passed away on September 18. Our deepest condolences go out to her 'ohana and the many of us who's lives she touched throughout her years at Wai'anae High and beyond.



In our last issue, the question was asked, "What happened to Yuens Store and Maile Deli? I've tried to stop by there several times, but doors are locked and everything seems to be boarded up. I so miss stopping in there and picking up a few of the items that were unique. Are they permanently closed?"

We reached the property owners on record and haven't gotten a response. Sad to see them just fall apart and become derelict buildings.

Now for this month's nīele question,

"With all the recent storms and necessary evacuations, is there any chance of getting a few more shelters open in each area along the Westside? Last time there was only Nānākuli Elementary, and it made it hard for folks from Mākaha and Wai'anae to get there with the road conditions."

If you know the answer to this month's question or want to ask a new nīele question, e-mail us at wss@hawaii.rr.com and we'll try to feature it in an upcoming issue.

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F.O.W.L.

Friends Of Wai'anae Library

DINOSAURS AND SPORTS

10 CENT KID'S BOOKS!

SEE PAGE 16 FOR BOTH PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SCHEDULES FOR OCTOBER

Contributors to this Month's Issue:

Bert Beaman, Kelsey Domingo, Sally Ford, Elsie Foster,
Kourtney Keohuhu, Lei'a Haff, Kay Smith,
Val Tavaai, Eula Tempa

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed to their community newspaper and we invite everyone to do the same.

Next issue: November 2026 • Story & Advertising Deadline: October 10, 2026



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Direct mailed to over 15,400 residences in the areas of Nānākuli, Mā'ili, Wai'anae, Mākaha and Mākua
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"Real" Talk

By Sylvia "Elsie" Foster R, CRB, CRS, GRI, SFR / License No. RB-15721

The House Nobody Wants Might Be the Best Buy

When buyers begin looking for a home, it is easy to be drawn to the one with fresh paint, new flooring, a beautiful kitchen and a perfectly maintained yard. But sometimes the property that deserves a closer look is the one everyone else is passing by.

There is an old real estate saying: "Buy the ugliest house in the best neighborhood, not the nicest house in the worst neighborhood." There is a reason that advice has been around for so long. You can improve a house, but you can't pick it up and move it to a different neighborhood.

Homes that are dated, cluttered, or in need of repairs can be difficult for buyers to see past. Old carpet, worn cabinets, overgrown landscaping, and years of accumulated belongings can make a property appear much worse than it really is.

The key is to know the difference between ugly and expensive.

You can usually change paint, floor-

ing, fixtures, and landscaping. Structural damage, major plumbing or electrical problems, a failing roof, or unpermitted improvements can cost much more to fix.

A fixer-upper also isn't automatically a bargain simply because it needs work. Buyers need to consider the purchase price, repair costs, and what the property is likely to be worth once the improvements are completed. Financing may also be more difficult if the property is in poor condition.

On the other hand, a home that doesn't show well may attract fewer buyers, creating an opportunity for someone willing and financially prepared to make improvements.

A beautiful kitchen can be replaced. Ugly flooring can be changed. An overgrown yard can be cleaned up. But location, lot size, and neighborhood aren't nearly as easy to change.

Sometimes the house everyone else overlooks is the one worth a second look.




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We can't wait to see what you come up with!



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INPEACE's Keiki Steps program is supported by the Native Hawaiian Education Program and Kamehameha Schools Kailua.



Legislatively Speaking



**Representative
Darius
Kila**

House District 44
*Mā'ili, Nānākuli,
Honokai Hale*

As we close out September, I just want to take a moment to say mahalo to everyone who continues to show up for our community.

First, thank you to everyone who joined Councilmember Andria Tupola and me for our Transportation Town Hall at Nānākuli Public Library. I appreciated the opportunity to hear directly from you folks, answer questions alongside our transportation partners,

and share updates on the projects we've been working on and what's still ahead.

This past month also brought another round of challenges with Hurricane Lowell. From our families who lost power, to those impacted by coastal flooding and the closure of Farrington Highway, it was another reminder of why we must continue investing in the resiliency of our Westside.

I was especially grateful to welcome Governor Josh Green and Transportation Director Ed Sniffen to our community to see firsthand the impacts of our recent storms. We had important conversations about our coastline, the vulnerabilities of Farrington Highway, and what we need to do to strengthen our infrastructure and emergency response moving forward.

To our transportation crews, commu-

nity partners, businesses, and volunteers who stepped up once again to help our neighbors, mahalo nui loa. Whether it was clearing our roadways, distributing food, or simply checking on one another, your efforts did not go unnoticed.

There's always more work to be done, but I remain thankful for the opportu-

nity to do this work alongside so many of you.

As always, my office remains here to assist you. Please don't hesitate to reach us at (808) 586-9480 or repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo for continuing to show up for our Westside!

Wai'anae Moku

Continued from front page

food vendors, music, keiki activities, giveaways and community resources while discovering makana made by entrepreneurs within Wai'anae Moku.

For Lei Riedel, executive director of Pakini Fund, the gathering responds to a challenge: entrepreneurs do not always have the same access to visibility, networks and markets as businesses elsewhere on O'ahu. "We wanted to create something that was more than a shopping event," Riedel said.

Wai'anae Moku Made creates space for makers, businesses, nonprofits and entrepreneurs to connect with residents who can become customers and supporters. It also encourages dollars to circulate locally, helping business owners invest in supplies, equipment and inventory while contributing to household income. Many entrepreneurs are growing their businesses alongside family responsibilities and other jobs. A purchase can help them continue developing their work while meeting their needs. The market gives residents an opportunity to meet the people behind those efforts and learn what they are creating.

That opportunity extends to the next generation through the 'Ōpio Mākeke, featuring young entrepreneurs from Hānai Kai'ulu. Participants will sell their products and interact with customers, practicing pricing, communication, money management and how to present



Hānai Kai'ulu student Jeremiah leading efforts to empower young people through culture, environmental stewardship and community service

their brands and the experience helps young people see entrepreneurship as a possibility within their own community and recognize their potential to contribute to Wai'anae's economic future.

For vendor, volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit waianaemokumade.com. Follow [@waianaemokumade](https://www.instagram.com/waianaemokumade) for more information and join the community in giving local this holiday season. The event is sponsored by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, KS Kai'ulu and HawaiiUSA FCU.



Representative Kila with Governor Josh Green, HIDOT Director Ed Sniffen, and Kolealani of Kuleana Coral for a tour of storm-damaged areas along the Westside.

Come join us for
a night of fun

Saturday Night SPECIAL

October 31st
Ark of Safety Center
Wai'anae Mall
5:30 - 8:30 PM

Games, Prizes, Food, and Plenty of good vibes!
Pull out your best 70's & Disco look and come ready to have a great time!

For more Info: visit aoshawaii.com or call (808)696-3781

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Out and About with Lei'a

By Lei'a Haff
Lei'a.vhaff@gmail.com

The Next 50 Years Begins Here

On the Wai'anae Coast, a canoe does not have to be in the water to bring people together. E Ala is still under restoration, but the work surrounding him continues to connect education, culture, and com-

munity. At E Ala Voyaging Academy, preparing for his return means thinking about the next 50 years and beyond.

For Executive Director Isaiah Pule, restoration remains a priority. Alongside it is a bigger responsibility — building a future that will keep E Ala cared for, supported, and sailing once he returns to the water.

E Ala has always been a floating classroom, a place to explore wayfinding, ocean patterns, marine biology, and even a little more about yourself. While that classroom awaits its return to the water, the academy's educational mission continues. After all, curiosity does not need to wait for launch day.

That spirit carries into Kamaehu o ke Kai'ulu, connecting E Ala with Hoa 'Āina O Māka-ha, PALS, Ka'ala, Purple Mai'a,

Ma'o, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and 'Elepaio. These partners recognize the health and wealth that culture-based education brings to communities. The Kaiona framework grounds this work in cultural values already at the heart of what these organizations do. It is a shared foundation for learning together and caring for the places they call home.

The academy's efforts include after-school and summer programming, alongside curriculum and resources connecting wayfinding and voyaging practices with local histories, geography, and academic standards. Those connections help bring big ideas closer to home. A coastline becomes something to study more closely, a familiar place holds another story, and one good question makes room for the next.

Continued on page 12



Isaiah Pule teaching on navigation with students along the Wai'anae Coast



Captain Kaina Holomalia and Kaulana Stanley working on restoration efforts



LILIKOI LOUNGE

Due to damages from Hurricane Lowell, we have temporarily moved to the "Tavern" side of Lanterns Restaurant and Tavern in Mā'ili 2nd Floor

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Aloha Hour 12 - 4pm Monday - Thursday

10/12 - Halloween Trivia 6-8 pm

10/24 - **KEIKI COSTUME NIGHT** (Wear your costume and get a free cookie to decorate w/purchase of an entree *limited supply)

10/31 - Halloween Drag Brunch and Costume

Contest -- Doors open at 11.

No time for dinner? 'Ohana Meal Packs available.



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Check out our Facebook & Instagram Pages for updates



E Ala shares the art of star navigation with community members as they await the first star to appear in the evening sky



Vote on November 3, 2026!

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE 2026 CHARTER AMENDMENTS**



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NEWSLETTER

SERVING WEST OAHU SINCE 1972 | OCTOBER 2026

RICHARD BETTINI, PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | DR. DONALD SIMPSON, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER | GINGER FUATA, CHAIRPERSON

CONGRATULATIONS 1ST GRADUATES OF KCC WAI'ANAE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN PROGRAM



(Top L-R): Ian Buckley, Lauren Debutiaco Odvar, David Di Martino, Heidi Garcia, Mike Allen Galiza, Kainiokapulani Hamili, Jalen Rene Molina
(Bottom L-R): John Iose, Sean Jara, Kekoa Kaeha, Tyson Kuahine, Gerome Morse, Iulia Patt, Aubree Quon-Clark

Congratulations to the fourteen West O'ahu graduates who completed the inaugural Summer 2026 Wai'anae Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program through Kapi'olani Community College. The 12-week intensive, college-credit program marked the first time Kapi'olani Community College's EMT training was offered on the Leeward Coast. Kapi'olani Community College provided the curriculum and instruction, Leeward Community College

– Wai'anae Moku hosted the program, and students completed clinical rotations at WCCHC and other health systems.

WCCHC's Ka 'Ike Ola has helped bring other EMT training opportunities to Wai'anae in recent years. This new program was created through a partnership between Kapi'olani Community College, Leeward Community College – Wai'anae Moku, University of Hawai'i (UH) Office of Community Colleges – Good Jobs Hawai'i, and WCCHC, helping bring healthcare workforce training closer to home for West O'ahu residents. "What makes this program so special is that we brought Kapi'olani Community College's EMT training directly into the Wai'anae community, removing barriers like travel and cost," said Michele Chrissy Kuahine, WCCHC Development Director of Ka 'Ike Ola. "These students already had the ability and desire; they just needed the opportunity. This is what 'grow our own' looks like, investing in people within their own communities while building the EMT workforce across West O'ahu and the state."

The graduates were celebrated on August 28 at the WCCHC Dining Pavilion alongside their 'ohana, instructors, community partners,

and leaders from across Hawai'i. Mayor Rick Blangiardi, State Senator Samantha DeCorte, and State Representatives Darius Kila and Chris Muraoka were among those in attendance. WCCHC extends its mahalo to the many partners, clinical and field preceptors, faculty, instructors, and families who helped support the students throughout their training, and congratulates each graduate as they take their next steps in healthcare.



OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Call (808) 697-3487
to schedule your appointment

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to reflect on the impact of this disease and the importance of early detection. Breast cancer remains one of the most common cancers among women, and while many believe family history is the primary risk factor, the reality is that most women diagnosed, nearly 3 out of 4, do not have a family history. This makes routine screenings essential for everyone, not just those considered high risk.

In Hawai'i, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women, with an average of 1,287 women diagnosed each year. Yet about one in four Hawai'i women ages 40 and older had not received a mammogram within the previous two years as of 2024.

Early detection of breast cancer saves lives and

mammograms remain the most effective screening tool. Mammograms can identify cancers long before symptoms appear. For women ages 40 and older, screening mammograms once a year are strongly recommended.

This October, we encourage you to take time for your health and schedule a mammogram. It is fast, important, and it could save your life. WCCHC is offering a small gift of appreciation to every patient who receives a mammogram with us this month.

Call (808) 697-3487 to book your mammogram appointment today.

This month, the featured topic for Talk Story Tuesdays is Breast Cancer Awareness. Attend our October 13 or October 20 events to learn more.



GUEST SPEAKERS:
GLENN ARAKAWA &
CYNTHIA AU

FEATURED TOPIC:

Breast Cancer Awareness

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is to promote screening, educate on risks, and fund research for the disease, which affects 1 in 8 women in the U.S. Keep your appointments, listen to your body, and don't assume you are 'too old' for a check-up!

TOPICS:

- MED-QUEST, SNAP, SLIDING FEE SCALE
- WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDICARE
- MEDICARE ANNUAL WELLNESS VISITS

Register Today!

Call Patient Assistance Services at (808) 697-3405
or email: PAS@WCCHC.COM



October 13 | 9 AM - 11 AM
WCCHC DINING PAVILION

October 20 | 9 AM - 11 AM
WAIPAHU FAMILY HEALTH CENTER
FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER

FREE TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE
from Makaha to Honokai Hale



OCTOBER 2026 | RICHARD BETTINI, PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | DR. DONALD SIMPSON, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER | GINGER FUATA, CHAIRPERSON

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS AT WAI'ANAE HIGH SCHOOL

On Friday, September 18, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, the Hawai'i State Department of Education, and the Nānākuli-Wai'anae Complex Area celebrated 10 years of School-Based Health Centers with an anniversary event at Wai'anae High School. WCCHC representatives, school leaders, staff, program partners, and Senator Samantha DeCorte gathered to recognize the occasion.

Established in 2016, WCCHC's School-Based Health Centers were created to help address barriers to healthcare access for Wai'anae Coast families. What began at one school has grown to serve six schools across the Wai'anae Coast, bringing primary medical care, behavioral health services, health education, prevention, and connections to community

resources directly onto school campuses. As of this year, School-Based Health Centers have served 5,322 patients over 23,193 patient visits.

By providing care where students already spend their day, this program helps reduce time away from class and makes it easier for students to receive care. Ninety-two percent of students return to class after their primary care visit. "By bringing care onto the school campus, we remove some of those barriers," said Dr. Vija Sehgal, WCCHC Chief Quality Officer and Director of Pediatrics. "Over the past 10 years, these health centers have become a trusted place where students can get care early, return to class and continue learning."

The anniversary celebration included remarks,

giveaways, a tour of the School-Based Health Center, and light refreshments. Ten years after the program began, it continues to support students' physical and emotional health while helping them remain healthy, present, and ready to learn.



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WAYS YOU CAN GET YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATED:

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COMING **THIS OCTOBER**

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INFO SESSIONS:
Thursday, October 15 at 4:00pm MT/6:00pm ET
Wednesday, October 28 at 10am MT/12:00pm ET
Wednesday, November 11 at 3:30pm MT/ 5:30pm ET

Apply at nimaa.edu

For more information, visit wcchc.com/nimaa

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Thursday, October 29th
6 AM - 1 PM

WCCHC MAIN CAMPUS
BOTTOM OF HILL

OCTOBER 29
DONOR DAY

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT,
PLEASE EMAIL YOUR NAME, BIRTH DATE,
PHONE NUMBER, AND TIME
EGALARIADA-ROSA@WCCHC.COM

Mission Statement Contest

Help Develop Our
New Mission Statement

Submit your mission statement idea to
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HONOLULU CHARTER COMMISSION COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS SCHEDULE

Mililani High School

Monday, September 28
7 PM - In person

Neal S. Blaisdell Center - Hawai'i Suites

Wednesday, September 30
6 PM - In person

Kapālama Elementary School

Thursday, October 1
7 PM - In person

Kalani High School

Friday, October 2
6 PM - In person

Waipahu Intermediate School

Monday, October 5
6 PM - In person

Waialua High School

Wednesday, October 7
7 PM - In person

Allamānu Elementary School

Friday, October 9
6 PM - In person

Wai'anae Intermediate

Monday, October 12
7 PM - In person

Zoom (island-wide)

Tuesday, October 13
6 PM - Virtual

Windward Community College

Wednesday, October 14
6 PM - In person

Note: All DOE school site events will take place in the cafeteria.

DanniRose Publishes 1st Book

*Continued from
front page*

in the Hui 'Ike Loa documentary "Bullied to Blooming Author," produced through eyes of the youth. The documentary went on to receive 1st place in the Elementary Division at the 'Ōelo Youth Xchange, highlighting her journey and the power of young people telling their own stories.

Her book release brought together generations of supporters, including her 92-year-old great-grandmother, Abigail Sale, who proudly celebrated the milestone. Nānākuli.

"I am so proud of Danni Rose," Sale said.

The celebration also included messages from community leaders and educators, including Representative Darius Kila, Amanda Mahelona, Principal Lisa Higa, and Kelsey Domingo of Nānākuli Public Library.

By the end of the celebration, DanniRose had sold out of her books.

For her family, the milestone repre-



DanniRose surrounded by generations of love and support. Pictured with her great-grandmother, Abigail Sale, 92, of Nānākuli.

sents much more than becoming a published author. It represents faith, perseverance, family, community and the belief that every child has something meaningful to contribute.

DanniRose hopes young readers will be reminded that they have purpose, that they can overcome challenges, and that they each have a message worth sharing. "The Caterpillar Prince" is available for purchase through Amazon.

December 12, 2026



Nānākuli Ave | 4:00pm to 10:00pm

FOOD | CRAFTS | LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



**KUPUNA
PANTRY**

**ELEPAIO
SOCIAL SERVICES**



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CHARLA WEAVER

FOR HAWAII STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 44 - MĀ'ILI, LUALUALEI, NĀNĀKULI, KO OLINA, HONOKAI HALE



**“HONORED TO SERVE THE
COAST THAT RAISED ME.”**

-Charla Weaver

A proud lifelong resident of the Wai'anae Coast, a graduate of Wai'anae High School Class of '86, a Hawaiian Homestead Leasee, a wife, a mother, and a grandmother.

WWW.CHARLAWEAVER.COM

"WE WERE REGISTERED DEMOCRATS... when Charla told us she was running for State House as a Republican.

It caught us by surprise at first though knowing Charla, maybe it shouldn't have. Her values, her commitments, and her passion for people have always come before any party label Democrat, Republican, Non-Partisan, or Green.

Even as a little girl, Charla fought for the underdog, the deprived, the needy. She'd invite strangers into our home just to feed them. That same spirit follows her today. We are so proud of her, and we support her wholeheartedly. We know she'll do everything she can to serve her community."

-Aunt "Ronie" and Uncle Leonard Low (Charla's Parents)



Left to right top row : Leonard jr "Bulla" Low, Charon Hoapili, Charla Weaver, Bronson Low. Bottom row: Leonard Low, Aunt "Ronie" Low (Charla's Mother)



Charla Weaver with her parents, children and grandchildren supporting her at her campaign announcement event.

Paid for by Friends of Charla Weaver | P.O. Box 161, Waianae, HI 96792

Scan our QR Code
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DARIUS KILA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DARIUS DELIVERS

FROM CLASSROOMS TO COMMUNITY

BUILDING FOR OUR KEIKI

THEIR FUTURE STARTS HERE.

Continuing to invest in stronger schools, safer campuses, and greater opportunities for West Oahu keiki.

INVESTING IN OUR SCHOOLS

\$10M+ FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

Capital investments strengthening schools across Nānākuli and Wāianae.

CREATING OPPORTUNITY

\$9 MILLION NĀNĀKULI PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

A new performing arts center for Nānākuli High & Intermediate.

IMPROVING OUR CAMPUSES

INVESTING WHERE KEIKI LEARN

\$1.9M Nānākuli Elementary campus upgrades

\$1M Mālii Elementary site improvements

\$990K Nānākuli High & Intermediate facility repairs

\$89,998 Nānākapono Elementary restroom improvements

KEEPING KEIKI SAFE

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Advancing safer routes to school and advocating for stronger campus safety.

SAFER SCHOOLS

STANDING UP FOR NĀNĀKULI

Advocating for stronger school security and continued efforts to bring a School Resource Officer program to Nānākuli High & Intermediate.

VOTE FOR DARIUS KILA FOR HOUSE DISTRICT 44.



Out and About

Continued from page 6

Outreach extends that learning through connections with Keiki Steps, Kamaile, Ma’o interns, Nā Kama Kai and Mālama Learning Center summer programming, and professional development for educators, including Teach For America. Each offers another opportunity to share knowledge and welcome more learners into the work.

Marine conservation and food security are also helping shape the academy’s direction. Through the Keolaniowaianae ‘ōpelu project, E Ala is working to restore a native koa ‘ōpelu wa’a. That effort provides a guiding focus for understanding fishing resources and practices, working toward balance, and collaborating with ‘āina partners to nourish ko’a. The questions are practical and connected: how do we care for what feeds us, and what can we learn by paying closer attention?

For now, E Ala’s return to the water remains a goal the team is working toward. The restoration and the broader community work belong to that same long view.

Fifty years is a lot of horizons, plenty of lessons, and more than a few future voyagers. Preparing for them begins now, with care, collaboration, and a community willing to keep showing up. E Ala may still be on land, but there is already meaningful work underway to help his next chapter last for generations to come.



Kaulana Stanley teaching students crew training and on-land drills



OCTOBER

Breast

CANCER

AWARENESS

MONTH

Kuleana grows leaders

Preschool applications close October 31, 2026



APPLY NOW

Kamehameha Schools' admissions policy is to give preference to applicants of Hawaiian ancestry to the extent permitted by law.



Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha



Westside Stories

“What's Up” on the Westside

**** Please visit our Facebook page for updated events that are happening throughout the month here on our Westside****

OCTOBER 2026 Calendar of Events

October 3

5 to 9 pm — INPEACE Jubilee Celebration at Nānāikeola
5:30 to 7:30 pm — Hot Kūpuna Nights at Kahumana

October 5 – 9

Fall Break – No school for public school students

October 12

Columbus/Discover's Day
Federal Holiday
7 pm — Charter Commission's Information Session at Wai'anae Intermediate School

October 16

General Election Ballots mailed

October 17

10 am — Super Mario Galaxy Movie at Wai'anae Library

October 29

6 am to 1 pm — Blood Drive at WCCHC
5 to 7 pm — "Halloweentown" movie at Nānākuli Library



October 31st

Happy Halloween!

CLUBS, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

AARP Chapter 4936 of Wai'anae

9:30 am on the first Friday of each month at the Wai'anae Community Center (Satellite City Hall).
Contact Tim Thornton (404) 272-4225.

Aerobics (Low Impact)

4 to 5 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Wai'anae District Park. For more information, contact Flo Pell at 808-696-2776.

Aikido

Daily classes, morning, afternoon and evening for children, teens and adults. Call 808.202.6171 or 808.462-1118.

La Kōkua Ka'ala Farm

9 am to 12 noon on the 2nd Saturday of each month to mālama 'āina, lo'i and weeding. All are welcomed! Call 808.696.4954 or check our website www.kaalafarm.org

Lualualei Hawaiian Civic Club

3rd Thursday of every month at 6 pm and held both in-person and virtually via zoom at KS Learning Center in Mā'ili. For more information, Email: lualualeihcc808@gmail.com or visit our Instagram: [@lualualeihcc808](https://www.instagram.com/lualualeihcc808) or Facebook: Lualualei Hawaiian Civic Club.

Mākaha Bridge Club

10 am on Wednesdays and Saturdays at Lilikoi Lounge (Mākaha Valley Country Club). Call Kay Smith at 808-695-7844 for more information.

Mākaha Hatters

2nd Monday of each month at various restaurants along the Westside. If you would like to join this club, call "Queen" Karen Forsythe at 808-761-1955.

Mai Jongg (American style)

Tuesdays at 11 am at various locations. Call Coco at 808-330-4765 for more information. *Beginners welcomed!*

Nānākuli-Mā'ili Neighborhood Board #36

7 pm on the third Tuesday of the month at Nānākuli Public Library's meeting room. Call Neighborhood Commission Office at 808-768-3710 for more information or visit honolulu.gov/nco

St John the Baptist Church Thrift Shop

Wednesdays from 9am-1pm
Thursdays 1pm-5pm Stop by for great bargains! To volunteer, please email revjazzystock@gmail.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 849

6:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Beach House (Piliiaau Army Rec Center). For more information, contact Steve Mayoral at 310.365.7048

Wai'anae Coast Neighborhood Board #24

6:30 pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Wai'anae Public Library. For more information, contact Neighborhood Commission Office at 808-768-3710 or visit honolulu.gov/nco

Waianae Coast Rotary Club

12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the

month. For more information, contact: waianae coastrotary.org or Glenn Arakawa - glenn@planbenefitshawaii.com

Wai'anae Farmer's Market

Mākeke 'Iki 9am to 12 Noon every Tuesday at WCCHC Main Campus.

Mākeke Wai'anae 8 am to 12 noon every Saturday at Wai'anae Mall. For more information call 808-697-3709.

Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club

5:30 to 7:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the KS Learning Center in Mā'ili. Contact waianae hawaiiancivicclub.org for more information.

Women of Wai'anae

For more information visit womenofwaianae.org or call Karen Young at 808-388-8828. *Focus is on fundraisers for non-traditional college scholarships.*

WAI'ANAE COAST YMCA Kupuna Classes

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY- FRIDAY

9:30 am Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention
10:30 a.m. Cardio and Strength class
12:15-12:45 pm Hula with Kumu 'Aukai

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Pickleball

SATURDAY

8 am - 9 am Yoga Flow
9:15 am - 12 noon Pickleball

Everyone is invited to TRY the "Y" for FREE!

For more information, contact Deborah Thierbach at 808-541-5255 or just stop by the Wai'anae YMCA located at 86-71 Leihoku Street!

WAIANAE STORE
 85-863 FARR. HWY.
 696-3131
 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM
 EVERYDAY

NANAKULI SUPER
 87-2090 FARR. HWY.
 668-2055
 7:30 AM - 8:00 PM
 EVERYDAY

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Halloween Headquarters!
It's just good to have a quick size

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DARIUS KILA

DARIUS DELIVERS

FROM PROMISE TO PROGRESS

PROMISE 1:
OUR FAIR SHARE

THEN — 2022
Fight for West O'ahu's fair share of infrastructure investment.

NOW
Major investments in transportation, schools, community facilities, and infrastructure across District 44.

PROMISE 2:
MORE HOUSING

THEN — 2022
Expand housing opportunities so Leeward families can afford to stay home.

NOW
Investments in DHHL lots and infrastructure, Nānākuli Homestead infrastructure, and continued work addressing housing and homelessness. The campaign currently identifies \$24 million in statewide DHHL lot/infrastructure development and \$2.5 million for Nānākuli Homestead infrastructure among its record.

PROMISE 3:
OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR KEIKI

THEN — 2022
Expand access to college, vocational training, and pathways to good-paying jobs.

NOW
More than \$10 million in reported capital investment for local schools, alongside continued advocacy for education and workforce opportunities.

PROMISE 4:
ACCESS & ACCOUNTABILITY

THEN — 2022
Remain accessible, listen to constituents, and make government more transparent.

NOW
Continued focus on community access and constituent engagement while taking on expanded legislative responsibilities.

THE COMMITMENT CONTINUES

The promises made in 2022 weren't meant for one election — they were a commitment to keep showing up, doing the work, and delivering for West O'ahu.

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF DARIUS KILA
PO BOX 903 WAI'ANA'E, HI 96792

VOTE FOR DARIUS KILA FOR HOUSE DISTRICT 44.

KILA

Rosalee Smith Celebrates 100 Years

Rosalee Smith celebrated her 100th birthday on September 4 at the Wai'anae AARP meeting and again on September 14 with the Mākaha Hatters at Assagios Restaurant in Kapolei. Congratulations



Right (Top and bottom)
Rosalee Smith Celebrated her 100th birthday at with AARP members. She is pictured here with newly elected president, Tim Thornton.



Left (Top and bottom)
Rosalee Smith celebrated her 100th birthday with the Mākaha Hatters with a cake made by Sally Vance.

Kuleana grows leaders

PAUHI FOUNDATION POSTSECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Pauhi Foundation scholarships support haumāna throughout their educational journeys, creating pathways for learners to thrive academically and grow into 'Ōiwi leaders who will strengthen our lāhui.

APPLICATION WINDOW:

OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 1, 2026

LEARN MORE

Pauhi Foundation's policy is to give preference to applicants of Hawaiian ancestry to the extent permitted by law.

Pauhi Foundation

Keola Hoomalu Senior Housing Says Mahalo!

Submitted by Bert Beaman

The kūpuna residents of Keola Hoomalu Senior Housing lost their electricity on August 15 during Hurricane Lala. Following the storm, residents had to sit in their cars with the engine running in order to charge their phone or medical devices for ninety minutes or more to restore power to these necessary devices.

By August 18, freezers and refrigerators were thawing and the heat in their housing units was unbearable. Residents that use oxygen had to call 911 for help to get additional oxygen or transport to someplace where it was safe.

Hearing about the situation, Rep Chris Muraoka brought in a large, gas powered generator on August 19 and residents were able to charge their phones and batteries for their fans, flashlights and other devices powered by rechargeable batteries. On that same day, Teri Kia Savaiinaea and Kim Haupu delivered hot meals — the first they had in days and continued to deliver hot food to all the residents until power was restored.

On August 21, one week after the residents lost power, Senator Samantha DeCorte arrived and quickly called Hawaiian Electric and Governor Green's office and had the power res-



Keola Hoomalu Senior Housing residents relax and flash shakas in appreciation for getting their badly needed energy back. Mahalo Rep Muraoka, Senator DeCorte, Teri Savaiinea and Kim Haupu from all the kūpuna residents at Keola Hoomalu!

KILA THE ROAD WEST

Safer Roads, Safer Communities

THE ROAD AHEAD

DARIUS DELIVERS

Continuing the work for safer, more resilient West O'ahu transportation.

BUILDING RESILIENCE

\$5 Million for Pa'akea Funding invested for improvements to strengthen reliable emergency & secondary access.

SAFER STREETS

Advancing funding and improvements focused on safer crossings, intersections, and routes for pedestrians.

INVESTING IN OUR ROADS

\$48.4 million secured for Wai'anae Coast transportation and traffic improvements.

EMERGENCY ACCESS

Pa'akea Road opened as a secondary route between Nanākuli and Mā'ili, improving emergency access when Farrington Highway is blocked.

2022 COMMITMENT

Improve West O'ahu infrastructure, address Farrington Highway and create safer transportation options.

VOTE FOR DARIUS KILA FOR HOUSE DISTRICT 44.

MAHALO

FOR SUPPORTING OUR WAI'ANAE MALL MERCHANTS!

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DARIUS
KILA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**OUR HOME
OUR FUTURE**

HOME IS MORE THAN A PLACE.
KEEPING WEST O'AHU FAMILIES
IN WEST O'AHU.
IT'S THE ABILITY FOR OUR KEIKI TO GROW
UP HERE, OUR KUPUNA TO REMAIN HERE,
AND OUR FAMILIES TO BUILD THEIR
FUTURE HERE.

MORE HOMESTEAD OPPORTUNITIES:
\$24 MILLION
STATEWIDE INVESTMENT IN DHHL LOT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT TO HELP
MOVE MORE NATIVE HAWAIIAN FAMILIES
TOWARD HOMESTEADING OPPORTUNITIES.

INVESTING IN NĀNĀKULI:
\$2.5 MILLION
INVESTMENT IN NĀNĀKULI HOMESTEAD
INFRASTRUCTURE TO STRENGTHEN THE
COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT LOCAL
FAMILIES.

HOUSING FAMILIES CAN AFFORD:
KEEPING LOCAL FAMILIES HOME
CONTINUING WORK TO EXPAND
AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES
AND ADDRESS THE RISING COSTS
PUTTING PRESSURE ON WEST O'AHU
FAMILIES.

ADDRESSING HOUSELESSNESS:
HOUSING + SUPPORT
SUPPORTING COORDINATED
APPROACHES THAT CONNECT HOUSING,
HEALTHCARE, AND SERVICES FOR
INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

DARIUS DELIVERS
VOTE FOR DARIUS KILA FOR
HOUSE DISTRICT 44.





WIS' Kileigh Sanchez Named Nānākuli-Wai'anae Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Kileigh Sanchez, Wai'anae Intermediate School art teacher, for being named the Nānākuli-Wai'anae Complex Teacher of the Year on September 21 at a ceremony at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. She is pictured here with WIS Principal John Wataoka.

Kūpuna Independent Life Series to Begin

Submitted by Val Tavai

The Kupuna Independent Life Series health workshops will begin on October 20 at 8am at the HCAP Leeward District Service Center (next to Wai'anae Boat Harbor). The weekly workshops, in conjunction with Hawaii Pacific Uni-

versity's College of Nursing, are geared towards health education and provides a safe space for socialization for seniors 60 years and up. To register or for more information call 808-696-4261. The workshops are from 8 am to 12 noon and a continental breakfast is served.



Hawai'i is experiencing "storm fatigue" — a growing sense of exhaustion, confusion, and emotional strain among residents due to repeated, large-scale storms in a short period. This phenomenon is both biological and psychological, and it's becoming more common as the state continues to face back-to-back disasters. Storm fatigue refers to the mental and physical toll of living through multiple disasters in quick succession. Experts note that after a traumatic event, the body and mind are in a "fight-or-flight" state, which shuts down many cognitive functions like planning, concentration, and emotional regulation. When recovery work — such as insurance claims, rebuilding, and community rebuilding — is expected while people are still in this survival mode, it can be overwhelming and counterproductive.

Since spring 2026, Hawai'i has faced March's Kona low storms, Hurricane LaLa, Hurricane Lowell and now Hurricane Nolo with more storms expected due to an intensified El Niño. Each event can compound the stress of the last, leaving communities in a prolonged crisis state and could lead to residents ignoring repeated evacuation orders because they see them as abandoning half-finished recovery efforts, unfiled insurance claims or property they're trying to protect.

Residents report hopelessness, confusion, and intense exhaustion which can lead to prolonged hypervigilance leads to breakdowns in concentration, memory, and emotional regulation and some may delay or avoid evacuation due to warning fatigue.

So hang in there — you are not alone feeling this way. Call or text to 988 through Hawai'i CARES 988, a free 24/7 crisis and mental health support line, or call their local number 808-832-3100 for in-state counselors.

Nānākuli Public Library

October 2026 Programs



FRI
2, 9, 16,
23, 30

Keiki Storytime:
Every Friday
11:30am

TUE
20

Perler Party
2:30pm-3:30pm

TUE
6

Lego Time
2:30pm-3:30pm

THUR
29

Movie Night:
Halloweentown
5:00pm-7:00pm

SAT
10

Messy Playtime
10:00am-11:00am

MON
19

Slime Time
5:30pm-6:30pm



For more info visit librarieshawaii.org/events

 **Wai'anae Public Library**
Hawai'i State Public Library System

OCTOBER 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAT 3, 10, 24	10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Family Storytime Fun Halloween storytime followed by a kid-friendly craft/ activity! Kids can enjoy a spooky story and then get creative with their very own craft. Registration required for this month.
MON 5, 19	01:00 PM-02:30 PM	Writing Group Practice your writing skills, learn from others, and share your own work, thoughts, and dreams.
TUES 6, 13, 20, 27	09:30 AM-10:30 AM	Toddler Time Learn and build your toddler's pre-reading skills by enjoying music, stories, and toy time.
SAT 17	10:00 AM-11:45 AM	Kids' Movie Matinee Bring the kids for a fun-filled movie matinee featuring a family-friendly film, popcorn, and plenty of smiles! 
WED 21	09:30 AM-10:30 AM	Book Club Explore <i>The Things We Never Say About</i> , a thought-provoking read that invites reflection, vulnerability, and meaningful conversations about the feelings and truths we often leave unspoken. 
FRI 30	10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Community Court
SAT 31	10:00 AM-12:00PM	TRICK OR TREAT EVENT FOR THE KIDS! Kids are encouraged to wear Halloween costume. There will be halloween craft activities and a special halloween zumba party for kids.

LIBRARY HOURS: M,T,TH,SAT 09:00AM-4:00PM; WED: 12:00PM-7:00PM; F: 11:00AM-4:00PM; SUN-CLOSED