

## **LEO LIONA**



#### The Voice of District 50 Hawai'i Lions

District 50 Hawaii Lions hawaiilions.org

Hawaii Lions Foundation hawaiilionsfoundation.org

Lions Eye Bank of Hawaii lebh.org



#### **Cabinet Meetings**

2nd Quarter - Oct. 25, 2025 Lanakila Senior Center, OAHU 3rd Quarter - Jan. 31, 2026 Kilauea Military Camp, HAWAI'I 4th Quarter - Apr. 23, 2026

Hilo Hawaiian Hotel, HAWAI'I

#### New Lions, Stronger Clubs!

Ewa Beach
Hawaii Kai
Hilo Crescent City
Kalakaua
Kamehameha
Mililani CC & C Branch
Palolo



#### **District Governor's Message**

Ike Aloha in Orlando Reflections from the 2025 Lions Clubs International Convention & DGE Seminar

Aloha mai kākou, Lions 'ohana,

This past July, I had the deep honor of representing District 50 Hawai'i at the Lions Clubs International Convention and

District Governor-Elect Seminar in Orlando, Florida.

But I didn't walk this journey alone.

I was blessed to be accompanied by my beautiful wife, Keahi, who stood by my side every step of the way. Whether it was attending sessions, connecting with Lions from around the world, or simply holding space with grace and love — her presence grounded me. Leadership may wear one pin, but real service is always powered by 'ohana.



Our Hawai'i Lions were well represented at the convention — a proud contingency of about 20 of us — carrying the Flag of Aloha in spirit and presence.

From the stunning Parade of Nations, where our state colors shined bright, to the emotional plenary sessions filled with global impact stories, to every handshake and conversation—we carried the mana of Hawai'i with pride.

We also continued a meaningful tradition by attending our annual reunion with the 10 Districts of the Lions of Illinois. It was a joyful and heartfelt gathering of long-time friends and new connections alike — a reminder that while our districts span oceans, our aloha brings us together like family.

#### A Global Gathering of Lions

At the International Convention, we joined Lions from all over the world in one united mission: We Serve.

Flags waved, pins were exchanged, stories shared in every language. And through it all, one truth stood out clearly:



#### 2025-2026 District 50 Leadership

District Governor Sean Benito

First Vice District Governor

Cedric Mitsui

Second Vice
District Governor
Tony Tassillio

Immediate Past
District Governor
Lori Inouye-Yamashita

Honorary District Governor PDG Blayne Hanagami

Past International Director
Maurice Kahawaii

Past International Director
Robert Lee

Cabinet Secretary
David Iwana

Cabinet Treasurer
Nikki Loh

Sergeant at Arms Charles Ortiz

#### **Board of Governors**

**Chairperson**PDG Gary Nip

**Vice Chairperson** PDG C.J. Kalopodes

**Secretary**IPDG Lori Inouye-Yamashita

PDG Garrett Ogawa
PDG Mitch Tam
DG Sean Benito

#### www.hawaiilions.org

#### **Submissions**

Lion Renee Ako, Editor
Please email submissions for the
September issue by August 25th
to leoliona@hawaiilions.org

We are not alone. We are a global movement of hope, powered by love in action.

#### **DGE Seminar Highlights – July 13**

Keahi and I participated in a full day of training that reminded me what this next year is truly about: servant leadership.

#### We covered:

- Artificial Intelligence in Lions using tech to serve smarter
- Leos and Young Lions empowering our future leaders
- LCIF accessing grants for greater impact
- Branding & Marketing telling our story with power and clarity
- Service Initiatives turning ideas into transformational action
- DGE Companion Program Focus on Diversity
   lifting all voices in our 'ohana

These sessions reaffirmed that we don't need to reinvent our purpose — we just need to return to it: Serve with heart. Lead with aloha.

#### Shailee Basnet - The Summit Within

Later that afternoon, we heard from Shailee Basnet, leader of Nepal's first all-women Everest expedition. But it didn't stop there — she and her team went on to climb the highest peaks on all seven continents.

Her message was clear:

"Your mountain may not be Everest. It might be emotional, political, or personal. But it's yours to climb."

It reminded me that the mountain we face in Hawai'i — whether it's membership growth, engagement, or inspiring service again — is real. But when we climb together, we rise higher than we ever could alone.

#### A.P. Singh: Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead

One of the most unforgettable moments came when Lions International President A.P. Singh took the stage.

His 2025 theme — "Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead" — couldn't have been more fitting for the moment, or the movement we're building.

"We are not just volunteers. We are the voice of the forgotten, the strength of the weak, and the hope of the hopeless."

He then shared the story of Walt Disney:

"When Disney World opened, someone said, 'Too bad Walt didn't live to see this.' But his wife replied, 'He did see it. That's why it's here.'"

And then he looked into the crowd and said:

"True leadership is seeing what others cannot — and having the courage to build it anyway."

That was the heartbeat moment. The kind that stays with you forever. Because that's what we're doing this year: seeing the future, building the path, and serving with all our heart. President Singh reminded us that leadership is not a title. It's an action. And it always begins with service.

#### A Personal Reflection: The Secret Is in the Service

Let me share one simple truth I've learned:

At the center of all of this is our motto: We Serve.

And it's more than just words. It's a compass.

We're either serving, or we're not.

And when we are serving, everything else falls into place.

If we put service first:

- Membership grows naturally
- Clubs come alive
- Communities are changed
- And lives including our own are transformed

So here's the "secret":

If we're serving, we're succeeding.

It really is that simple.

#### What I'm Bringing Home to Hawai'i

I didn't return from Orlando with just training notes — I returned with vision, purpose, and a deeper commitment to serve.

Together with Keahi and with all of you, I will lead District 50 with:

- Accountability
- Leadership
- 'Ohana
- Humility
- Action

That's ALOHA POWER, and it will guide everything we do.

And as President Singh reminded us — we must always Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead.

#### Final Mana'o

We may not see the harvest of every seed we plant this year. But when we serve with aloha, lead with faith, and build with boldness — the future will bloom.

And one day, someone will walk into a thriving Lions club in Hawai'i and say: "I'm so glad someone built this."

And we'll know — we did.

With Aloha and gratitude, Bruddah Sean & Keahi District Governor & First Lady District 50 Hawai'i Lions | 2025–2026

Stay connected for regular updates, district highlights, and service opportunities:

Facebook: Sean Benito & Lion Bruddah Sean Instagram: @bruddahsean

#AlohaPower #LeadWithAloha #D50Lions

#### 107th Lions Club International Convention - Orlando, Florida





















#### **Welcome New Lions**

**Congratulations to These Clubs with New Members!** Let's give a warm welcome to the newest Lions and celebrate the clubs that are growing stronger!

**Lion Julia Betancourt** 



Lion Deb Duby

**Lion Caroline Burton** 



Sponsor: Lion Patrice Wilson Lion Mark Despault Lion Bud Jenkins

**Lion Ana Despault** 



Sponsor:

Lion Patricia "Pat" **Menor** 



Sponsor:

Lion Marilyn "Lyn" Moku



Sponsor: Lion Berta Jenkins

Lion Zenobia "Zee" Suzuki



Sponsor: Lion Berta Jenkins

**Lion Frenchie Rivera** 



Sponsor: Lion Lola Tripp

**Lion Pauline Perez** 



Sponsor: Lion Lola Tripp

**Lion Brad** Caldwell



Sponsor: Lion Joel Leo

**Lion Jeff Kramer** 



Sponsor: Lion Rosemary Chong

**Lion Kyla** Gomes



Sponsor: Lion Sandra Gomes

**Lion Kaulana** Suzuki



Sponsor: Lion Sharon Matsuo

**Lion Chastytie** Lopes



Sponsor: Lion Nathan Tajon

**Lion Sheri** Tajon



Sponsor: Lion Nathan Tajon

**Lion Noah** Chun



Sponsor: Lion Rona Augustine-Chun

**Lion Emelie Ogata-Tambua** 



Sponsor: Shen

**Lion Dallas** 



Sponsor: Lion Lauta Amutafea Lion Lauta Amutafea Shen

Shen



**Current Balance: 1,480 members Net Gain/Loss: O (holding steady)** 

MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT (AS OF AUGUST 9, 2025)





Sponsor: Lion Lauta Amutafea Lion Lauta Amutafea Shen

**Lion Lannah** Shen



Sponsor: Shen



Together, we're building a future of impact, compassion, and unity. Every new Lion means more hands, more hearts, and more hope for our communities.

We Serve. We Lead. We Inspire.

Join us and be part of Hawai'i's service legacy where friendship meets action, and aloha changes lives.

#HawaiiLions #WeServe #AlohaPower #ServiceHeroes

## D50 Hawai'i Lions 1st Quarter Cabinet Meeting

Saturday, August 9, 2025 Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Youth (KEY) Project, Kāne'ohe

Submitted by Lion David Iwana, Cabinet Secretary

Photos by Lions Glenn Teraoka, Heather Valdez, Matthew Rangel & Ric Ching See the entire photo gallery here.

Aloha Lions 'Ohana,

Our Lions year kicked off with energy and aloha on August 9, 2025 at the Key Project, Kahalu'u, under the theme Aloha Power – 'Ohana of Service Heroes.

#### **Membership Growth**

- Started July 1 with 1,480 Lions.
- As of Aug 9, still 1,480, but with 38 new Lions added!
- Lion Kalae's formula: A.S.K. Ask, Share, Keep inviting!

#### **Budget Approved**

2025-2026 budget passed unanimously.

#### Leadership & Service

- Global Leadership Team (GLT): Trainings in Lions Portal, RLLI Jan 17–20, 2026.
- Global Extension Team (GET): Lion Jaci ready to help start new clubs.
- Global Service Team (GST): Goal 95% service reporting, focus on Global Causes & Mental Health projects.

#### Fellowship & Culture

- Ono food & games from Kina'ole Lions and Kahalu'u Lions.
- Hawaiian music & hula from Uncle John Kepa'a's group with Lions Carmi, Gail, and Virginia.

Let's roar into the year with Aloha Power! Lion David Iwana Cabinet Secretary, District 50 Hawai'i Lions



Mahalo to Lion Kalae Kukahiko for hosting us at KEY Project.



Leos in the House! Always a joy to have tomorrow's Lions with us today.



A touch of aloha.



#### FROM 2VDG LION TONY

#### JULY 01

#### WAIKOLOA LIONS 20 YEAR CHARTER NIGHT & OFFICERS INSTALLATION PARTY

Kona Lions, Waiakea Lions, Waimea Lions, Hilo Hawaii Lions Unlimited were present.

Great night, Great Lions!

#### JULY 15 & 16

## KAHALU'U LIONS & HALEAKALA LIONS CLUBS VISITATION

Talked Lionism, concerns, and sharing.

Thank You Maui Lions.



#### JULY 19

#### KOKO HEAD LIONS CLUB 78TH CHARTER CELEBRATION

Enjoyed the celebration with PID Robert Lee, DG Sean, Honolulu Lions, Kamehameha Lions, Leeward Oahu Lions, Hilo Hawaii Lions Unlimited.

Mahalo Koko Head Lions.

#### JULY 28

#### **D-50 BEST PRACTICES**

Attended D-50's Best Practices on New Clubs & Guiding Lions. Good night, Good information.

Thank You D-50.

Thank You D-50 Lions. Any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call me (808) 498-8900

> 2nd VDG Lion Anthony Kaluhikai Tassillio



# FOOD DRIVE

LET'S FEED THE HUNGRY



Saturday Sept. 27, 2025 8:00 a.m. - Noon

## LIONS & LEOS ARE NEEDED AT THESE LOCATIONS:

- STATE CAPITOL OAHU (ELLSWORTH FUJII)
- SAFEWAY HAMAKUA -KAILUA (KALAE KUKAHIKO)
- SAFEWAY LAULANI VILLAGE - EWA BEACH (LOLA TRIPP)
- KTA STORES HAWAI'I ISLAND (DG SEAN BENITO)
- WALMART MAUI (PAUL SETO)

Additional locations are in the process of being identified.



We've got some great events coming up. Save the dates and check our calendar!

www.hawaiilions.org

Lions, Stay Connected!

Don't Miss Our Upcoming

Zoom Meetings.

Sunday, Aug. 17th @ 6:30 p.m.

Health & Wellness Seminar:

"Chronic Kidney Disease"

Presenter:

Lion Dr. James Yamashita

Monday, Aug. 25th @ 6:30 p.m.

Best Practices w/

PDG Cecelia Izuo

"SMART Goal Settings for Your

Club"

Presenter: Lion Chris Chow, Global Service Team

#### **Going Green 2025**

Going Green Partners: T & N Computer Recycling Services, Hawaii Lions District 50, United Cerebral Palsy Hawaii, Oahu SPCA, Hawaii Foodbank, Soares Trucking, Aloha Diaper Bank, Menehune Water Co, Hawaiian Memorial Life Plan/Borthwick Mortuary

#### Subject to change

Contact: Rene Mansho
Facebook "Going Green"

Aug 2 Mo'ili'ili Community Center

14 DAGS/DLNR Basement-Kalanimoku Bldg

16 Kahala Elementary School

30 Makaha Elementary School

Sep 27 Leilehua High School



## LIONS IN SIGHT EYEGLASS RECYCLING

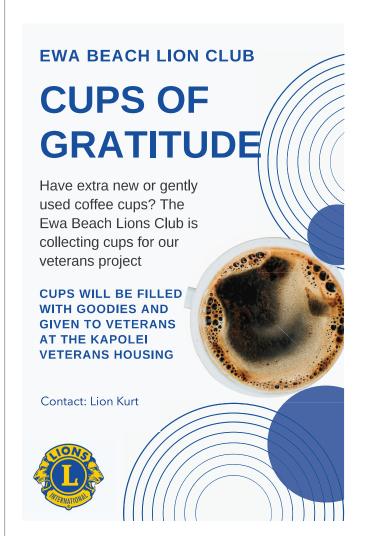
Saturday January 24, 2026

Stay tuned—more details on this STATEWIDE D50 Project are coming your way!



This coffee carrier, provided by Dunkin' Donuts or Starbucks, can be repurposed. Simply open it, remove the fluid bag, rinse, and dry thoroughly. You now have a handy water storage container for disaster preparedness.

Submitted by PDG Garrett Ogawa, Emergency Awareness





#### The LCI Revised Lions Pledge

I pledge allegiance to my country and to the cause of peace throughout the world.

I believe in the principles of Lionism as contained in the Lions Code of Ethics and will embody these principles by serving my community and supporting our global foundation.

I am proud to be a Lion, dedicated to the service of others.

Revised, effective March 19, 2025 LCI Board Policy Manual Chapter XIII, Par. D

#### Mission 1.5 Summit | Las Vegas | June 27-29

Submitted by DG Bruddah Sean Benito

**MISSION 1.5** is the drive to reach 1.5 million members worldwide, so we can better meet the growing needs of our communities and serve more people than ever before. The summits are designed to empower Lion leaders to drive sustainable membership growth, while strengthening their leadership impact.

This recap shares the powerful insights, strategies, and reminders we received at the Mission 1.5 Summit. The time to act is now. The world needs Lions—and we're being called to grow, lead, and serve with aloha.

#### **Change Starts with Us**

- We must first be willing to change ourselves.
- Set yourself up for success.
   Be bold and act now.

#### **Visibility matters**

- Bring back the yellow vests and place Lions signs at every project and event.
- District challenge: Post one new Lions sign in every region.

#### **Act Quickly**

- Act quickly to retain members.
- Clubs either grow or become stagnant.

#### **Branch Out**

- Sponsor branch clubs, special interest clubs, and more
- Use the Leo-Lion bridge to keep youth connected after high school.

#### Induct. Invite. Impact.

- Go beyond just asking people to join.
- Make it genuine and significant.
- Every Lion deserves to feel appreciated and acknowledged.

#### Membership Grants are Available

- A \$4,500 grant is available to support membership growth.
- · Let's utilize it now.

#### **Create a Real Plan**

- Set SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound
- Conduct a SWOT analysis: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats.
- Focus your plan on the real needs of your community.

#### Youth Want a Ticket to the World

- When we prioritize children, parents will also engage with us.
- Young people want to be involved, so we need to create opportunities for them.
- Build the bridge from Leo to Lion with service and fun.
- Let's help them see that becoming a Lion opens doors to leadership, travel, and global impact.

#### 100 Clubs in 100 days

LCI is challenging every district to start one new

- Lions club in the next 100 days (starting July 1st).
- Let's embrace this challenge with enthusiasm and aloha.
- Cyber clubs, family clubs, branch clubs — let's start one in D50.
- "We commit to one new club in 100 days."

#### Seal Beach Lions: Growth Blueprint

- Marketing + Service = New Members
- They post signs around town and assist every nonprofit in their community, becoming the club everyone wants to join.

#### **Cub Clubs = Family Power**

- A Lion shared their experience of starting a Cub program for keiki ages 0-12.
- When parents got involved, they created a new club with 40 Lions, engaging the whole family.

### Supporting Struggling Clubs While Planting New Seeds

 We must balance our support with wisdom and compassion.

Continued on next page

- It's essential to listen to and assist struggling clubs while also creating new opportunities through innovative clubs such as cyber, special interest, and community-based clubs.
- Let's support our current Lions 'ohana while planting seeds for the future.

#### It's Not a Pitch, it's Personal

- When someone asks, "What is Lions Club?" Make your answer personal.
- Ask, "What interests or passions do you have?"
- Once they share, say, "That's exactly what we do!"
- Finally, invite them to a service project to experience being a Lion.

#### Imagine a World Without Lions

- No vision screenings, food distributions, peace posters, youth scholarships, or disaster aid.
- No one to step in when it's needed most.
- Our presence and service matters. Our Lions make an impact.
- Let's not just imagine a better world — let's work together to create it.

#### Serving a passion = Explosive Growth

- A powerful story about supporting a community's passion can create change.
- In District 49, Alaska, a Lions Club united the

- community around a shared love of baseball.
- Grants and donations were organized.
- The club became a magnet for new members.
- Lions grow strongest when we connect with what matter most to people.

#### **Final Thoughts**

- Be bold, be quick, be visible and be welcoming.
- We are the Lions, builders of hope and hands of aloha.
- Now is the time to grow our pride, one club at a time.





At the event, three inspiring LCI leaders took the stage dressed as superheroes: 2nd Vice President Mark Lyons, PID Pat Vannett, and Past International President Brian Sheehan—who came out suited up as *The Flash*!

PIP Brian Sheehan invited me up on stage for a role play to demonstrate how to invite

someone to a Lions service project. The big message? Don't rely on a canned elevator pitch. Instead, focus on what the person is passionate about. If someone says, "I love cleaning beaches," you say, "Awesome! We do that too—come join us!"

During the role play, I looked at PIP Brian and asked, "Will there be food at the service project?" The whole room burst into laughter!

It was a fun and powerful reminder that building connections starts with real conversations and shared purpose.

#### Two Year Maui Wildfire Report

An Analysis of Causes, Consequences, and Recovery Initiatives in Maui

Submitted by PDG Mark Mizuno, Maui Wildfire Response Team

#### Introduction

Though this report will ultimately center around the efforts of non-profit service organizations to spearhead immediate relief efforts, it must begin with a review of the almost unimaginable magnitude of destruction in Lahaina. The wildfires engulfed Lahaina and parts of Upcountry Maui, representing one of the most significant natural disasters in the recent history of Hawaii. The intensity and speed of the conflagration, coupled with the loss of 102 lives, 2,200 structures, the displacement of 12,000 residents and the destruction of cultural heritage, commanded widespread attention and initiated urgent calls for accountability, resilience, and comprehensive recovery measures. A total of 2,170 acres were burned in Lahaina with another 1,283 acres in Upcountry. The final cost of the wildfires is estimated to reach 12 billion dollars with current settlements accounting for about 4 billion dollars of which about 2 billion will come from Hawaiian Electric, 1.6 billion from the federal government and the rest from the state of Hawaii. This report aims to provide an in-depth examination of the Lahaina wildfire, including its origins, the extent of its destruction, and the ongoing efforts to restore a community profoundly affected yet resolute in its recovery.

#### **Background: Lahaina and Its Vulnerabilities**

Lahaina, formerly the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom and a town celebrated for its historical landmarks and vibrant culture, is situated on Maui's western coast. The area is characterized by an arid, leeward climate and, in recent decades, has faced escalating risks resulting from drought and the proliferation of invasive species. These environmental challenges, when combined with land management difficulties and urban development, have significantly heightened the region's susceptibility to wildfires.

#### **Climatic Patterns and Environmental Factors**

Persistent drought conditions particularly impacted Central and West Maui, resulting in dry vegetation and an increased risk of fire. The spread of invasive grass species, which exhibit greater flammability compared to native plants, further exacerbated the probability and severity of wildfires. The effects of global climate change, including elevated average temperatures and altered rainfall patterns, also intensified risks.

#### **Infrastructure and Emergency Preparedness**

Prior to the wildfire, concerns were raised regarding the adequacy of Lahaina's emergency warning systems and evacuation routes. The town's historic architecture, predominantly wooden, closely spaced homes, enabled the rapid propagation of fire from structure to structure. These vulnerabilities significantly contributed to the scale of the disaster that ensued.

#### The Onset and Propagation of the Wildfire

On August 8, 2023, strong winds associated with a distant hurricane, in conjunction with arid conditions, created a highly combustible environment. Downed power lines are suspected as a primary ignition source, igniting dry grasses and vegetation surrounding Lahaina. Within hours, the wildfire escalated dramatically, sweeping through residential and commercial districts. Eyewitness accounts described flames advancing at a pace exceeding human escape,

with wind-borne embers igniting secondary fires ahead of the main front. Despite some warnings, many residents received insufficient notice, compelling urgent and often perilous evacuations.

#### **Chronology of Events**

- Morning: Wind advisories were issued, accompanied by widespread power outages.
- Late Morning: The initial fire was reported in the northern vicinity of Lahaina.
- Midday: The blaze intensified and advanced toward the historical center of Lahaina.
- Afternoon: Residents attempted evacuation as fire overtook streets, residences, and businesses.
- Evening: Emergency services arrived to confront the blaze, but containment efforts were hindered by persistent winds.

#### **Impact: Human and Cultural Losses**

The destructive force of the wildfires resulted in a tragic loss of life, with dozens confirmed deceased and hundreds initially unaccounted for. The rapid escalation of the fire left minimal time for coordinated evacuation, and numerous survivors escaped with only essential possessions.

#### **Destruction of Residential and Commercial Infrastructure**

Thousands of homes and businesses suffered destruction, rendering substantial areas of Lahaina unrecognizable. Essential infrastructure, including roadways, water supply systems, and electrical grids were severely compromised, thereby hindering both rescue and recovery operations.

#### **Loss of Cultural Heritage Sites**

The destruction extended to Lahaina's historical landmarks, among them the Waiola Church, dating to the nineteenth century, the Baldwin Home Museum, the oldest house on Maui, the Lahaina Jodo Mission, the Lahaina Shingon Mission, the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission and the Kamehameha III Elementary School. Numerous art galleries, cultural centers, and community spaces with deep historical significance were also lost.

#### **Environmental Consequences**

The aftermath of the fire included significant environmental damage, such as toxic ash and debris contaminating soil and water resources. Local wildlife habitats sustained considerable harm, and the loss of tree cover increased the risk of erosion following subsequent rainfall.

#### **Emergency Response**

Local fire services, emergency medical personnel, and volunteers mounted a determined yet challenging response under unprecedented conditions. The interplay of strong winds, obstructed roads, and compromised communication systems hindered rescue efforts. In certain cases, residents unable to evacuate by land sought refuge in the ocean, where the United States Coast Guard facilitated critical rescue operations.

#### **Federal and State Assistance**

In the aftermath of the disaster, the Governor of Hawaii declared a state of emergency, thereby enabling the allocation of federal disaster aid. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Guard deployed personnel and resources to support immediate rescue and relief efforts. Temporary shelters were established for displaced individuals, and local organizations mobilized resources and support.

#### **Key Challenges**

Disrupted communications: Power and cellular outages impaired coordination.

- Evacuation obstacles: Narrow and blocked thoroughfares impeded escape.
- · Resource shortages: Limited firefighting equipment and water supply.

#### **Community Response and Determination**

The residents of Lahaina, supported by wide spread island communities along with national and international donors, demonstrated exceptional solidarity in providing food, shelter, and clothing to affected families. Local businesses, non-profit organizations, and volunteers played critical roles in relief efforts, exemplifying community resilience.

#### **Support for Displaced Individuals**

Initial recovery efforts prioritized the relocation of displaced residents, the provision of temporary housing, healthcare, and the commencement of mental health services. PTSD is and will continue to be a lifelong obstacle to recovery. Educational institutions and places of worship offered vital shelter, and fundraising initiatives generated significant financial relief. The first need of displaced residents was moving from Red Cross shelters to hotels and extended family homes while dealing with food security issues. Individuals, churches, and various non-profits came through to make sure that everyone was fed.

#### **Preservation of Cultural Identity**

As recovery began, community leaders and cultural stewards initiated discussions on preserving Lahaina's heritage through the reconstruction of historic buildings where feasible and the establishment of memorials to honor those lost.

#### **Investigation and Accountability Measures**

Post-disaster, authorities commenced investigations concerning the causes and response to the wildfire. Scrutiny was given to the effectiveness of warning systems, the management of utility infrastructure, and overall emergency preparedness. There was a commitment to transparency and public accountability among local and state officials, as well as independent experts once the magnitude of the disaster was assessed.

#### **Utility Management and Fire Mitigation**

Downed power lines were widely suspected of being the fire's ignition source, leading to a reevaluation of utility practices and prevention protocols. Recommendations include the burial of power lines, removal of invasive vegetation, reevaluation of emergency alert systems and proactive power discontinuation when hazardous conditions dictate it.

#### **Policy Evolution and Community Advocacy**

Community advocacy groups actively encouraged the adoption of advanced fire prevention strategies, improved evacuation planning, and investment in resilient infrastructure. The event also strengthened resolve to address climate change and the particular vulnerabilities of insular communities. The timetable to improve evacuation routes by widening and moving infrastructure inland has been given priority.

#### **Recovery and Reconstruction**

The recovery process for Lahaina will be lengthy and complex. Reconstruction efforts not only target the restoration of physical structures but also seek to address social and cultural healing. Financial support from federal, state, and private sources underpins various projects, infrastructure enhancements, and environmental restoration.

#### **Rebuilding Housing and Infrastructure**

Construction of new residential buildings, restoration of schools and healthcare facilities, and the repair of essential roadways and utilities is underway. There is significant emphasis on construction using fire-resistant materials and urban designs conducive to effective evacuation and emergency access.

#### **Environmental Rehabilitation**

Environmental restoration is focused on replanting native species, removal of hazardous debris, and the rehabilitation of local ecosystems. Conservation organizations are engaged in efforts to restore habitats, mitigate erosion, and promote sustainable land management.

#### **Commemoration and Psychological Recovery**

Memorials and commemorative events are being planned to honor the victims and acknowledge the collective trauma experienced by the community. Sustained mental health support is recognized as vital for long-term recovery.

#### **Key Lessons and Future Preparedness**

The Lahaina wildfire has highlighted the criticality of disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure, and cohesive community action. It has revealed areas of vulnerability in emergency systems and underscored the necessity for proactive planning in anticipation of climate-driven risks. The importance of cultural preservation as a foundation for community resilience and identity has also been accentuated.

#### Conclusion

Despite the profound scars left by wildfires, the determination of Lahaina's residents and support from the global communities offer optimism for future renewal. Insights gained from this tragedy will inform Maui's approach to future hazards and serve as a reference point for other communities confronting similar threats. Through collective remembrance, innovation, and unity, Lahaina is poised to rebuild and emerge as a symbol of resilience and cultural strength.

#### **Analysis of Recovery Initiatives Post-Maui Wildfires**

The recovery initiatives following the Maui wildfires have been multifaceted, addressing immediate needs, long-term rebuilding efforts, and mental health issues.

Immediate Response and Relief Efforts: Local fire services, emergency medical personnel, and volunteers mounted a determined response under unprecedented conditions. Despite challenges such as strong winds, obstructed roads, and compromised communication systems, rescue operations were carried out, including critical rescues by the United States Coast Guard. The Governor of Hawaii declared a state of emergency, enabling the allocation of federal disaster aid. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Guard deployed personnel and resources to support immediate rescue and relief efforts. Temporary shelters were established by the Red Cross for displaced individuals, and local organizations mobilized resources and support.

**Community Response and Support:** The displaced citizens of Lahaina were supported by the broader Hawaiian community and donors here and abroad, demonstrated exceptional solidarity in providing food, shelter, and clothing to affected families. Local businesses, non-profit organizations, and volunteers played critical roles in relief efforts, exemplifying community resilience. Initial recovery efforts prioritized the relocation of displaced residents, the provision of

temporary housing and healthcare, and the commencement of mental health services. Educational institutions and places of worship offered vital shelter, and fundraising initiatives generated significant financial relief.

**Reconstruction and Long-Term Recovery:** The recovery process for Lahaina is expected to be lengthy and complex. Reconstruction efforts target the restoration of physical structures and social and cultural healing. Financial support from federal, state, and private sources underpins various projects, infrastructure enhancements, and environmental restoration. Current plans entail constructing new residential buildings, restoring schools and healthcare facilities, and repairing essential roadways and utilities. There is significant emphasis on constructing fire-resistant materials and urban designs conducive to effective evacuation and emergency access.

**Environmental Rehabilitation:** Environmental restoration focuses on replanting native species, removing hazardous debris, and rehabilitating local ecosystems. Conservation organizations are engaged in efforts to restore habitats, mitigate erosion, and promote sustainable land management. Efforts to keep Lahaina's iconic banyan tree alive have become a rallying point toward community restoration.

**Commemoration and Psychological Recovery:** Memorials and commemorative events are being planned to honor the victims and acknowledge the collective trauma experienced by the community. Sustained mental health support is recognized as vital for long-term recovery.

**Key Lessons and Future Preparedness:** The Lahaina wildfire has highlighted the criticality of disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure, and cohesive community action. It has revealed areas of vulnerability in emergency systems and underscored the necessity for proactive planning in anticipation of climate-driven risks. The importance of cultural preservation as a foundation for community resilience and identity has also been accentuated.

#### **Summary**

The recovery efforts following the Maui wildfires have entailed a coordinated and comprehensive response involving emergency services, governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and the local community to address both immediate relief and long-term rebuilding. Principal initiatives encompassed emergency rescue operations, the provision of shelter and healthcare, environmental restoration, and psychological support. The reconstruction process has emphasized the development of resilient infrastructure, the fostering of community solidarity, and the preservation of cultural identity. Lessons derived from this disaster are now guiding improved preparedness and strategic planning for future hazards.

Non-profit organizations played a significant role in the recovery efforts following the Maui wildfires. Here are some key contributions:

Community Response and Support: Non-profit organizations, along with local businesses and volunteers, were instrumental in providing food, shelter, and clothing to affected families. Their efforts exemplified community resilience and solidarity in the face of adversity. The Lions Clubs of Maui took a multifaceted approach by sending members with medical skills into the shelters to dress burns and comfort bewildered residents. Those with Red Cross training were called into immediate action while others took the required shelter training to help. Those with cooking experience joined in to help prepare meals while others helped to pack and distribute them. The Lions with a LCIF emergency grant in hand used it to supply much needed food warmers and

helped fund tons of incoming food needs. Cases of water, toilet paper and paper towels were sent to popup supply hubs in Lahaina guided by our Lahaina Mauna Kahalawai Lions Club which monitored supply needs. The hardest hit families were given gift cards to purchase supplies which had the added advantage of helping to keep unaffected local businesses afloat. Lions from throughout the nation and the world sent \$750,000.00 dollars in aid, with the majority sent to HLF until needed. About \$40,000 dollars was sent directly to the Lions Clubs of Maui Wildfire Relief Account by some who wanted funds to go directly to those at the front lines. After families were placed into long term housing, Lions pivoted from prepared meals to produce boxes as kitchens became available. We purchased and packed 150 boxes of food a week which amounted to about \$18,000 a month. All this was done at the University of Hawaii Maui College (UHMC) culinary department where meals were also being prepared for regular students and staff. It became apparent that many students and staff that were from Lahaina could not afford a wholesome meal and thus we funded a free meal program for those with Lahaina identification at a cost of \$12,000 a month. This cost will increase as 2 new classes of seniors have since graduated from Lahainaluna High School and many will attend UHMC. Our next project is to pivot from the food boxes to a UHMC Basic Needs Emergency Pantry where local produce and venison along with other supplies will be distributed on an as needed basis to fire impacted students and staff. This is anticipated to cost \$20,000 per month of which \$18,000 will come from food box funds. To minimize food costs, we will continue the monthly harvest of unused vegetables from the UHMC Hydroponic Facility. We have also committed to support the Ohana Village community of small, prefabricated homes built completely without government funding and struggled through mounds of red tape to gain occupancy certificates. Their story will become a great movie someday that showcases courage, persistence, and unwavering faith. For those that wonder what our long-range plans are, it is to continue to evaluate needs and get the most done with our limited resources. In two years, we have used about half the funds that were so generously donated to support wildfire survivors and at our current rate we will exhaust those funds in the next couple years. Many organizations that came to Maui at the beginning of the wildfires have now left but along with other local non-profits we will continue to support our beloved community.

Support for Displaced Individuals: Initial recovery efforts by non-profits prioritized the relocation of displaced residents, the provision of temporary housing and healthcare, and the commencement of mental health services. Educational institutions and places of worship, supported by non-profits, offered vital shelter. This is the exact case for Maui Prep Academy and the Lions Clubs of Maui were happy to help fund its lunch program for Lahaina students. Additionally, fundraising initiatives led by Lions and other organizations worldwide generated significant financial relief for those affected. The list of donations from Lions members, clubs, districts, and foundations is long but I want to give special thanks to the Lions of California who were simply amazing! Every one of you should have received a thank you card, e-mail, or call acknowledging your contributions but if you inadvertently did get one, thank you so much, your support has been inspiring.

**Environmental Rehabilitation:** Non-profit conservation organizations are engaging in environmental restoration efforts, focused on replanting native species, removing hazardous debris, and rehabilitating local ecosystems. These initiatives aim to restore habitats, mitigate erosion, and promote sustainable land management. The Lions of Kauai have offered to send a team to Maui to help plant trees, and we are looking for a partner organization to lead this since

the watershed areas that need replanting are on difficult private terrain and will need special equipment. We appreciate the help.

Commemoration and Psychological Recovery: Non-profits also play a role in planning memorials and commemorative events to honor the victims and acknowledge the collective trauma experienced by the community. They recognize the importance of sustained mental health support for long-term recovery. At some point we all need to celebrate the accomplishments of the myriads of individuals and organizations that have poured their hearts and pocketbooks out to simply give someone they don't know a helping hand. Lions Club members will be there. No fireworks, just a prayer and the opportunity to shed a tear.

These contributions highlight the critical role non-profit organizations played in addressing both immediate needs and long-term recovery efforts in the aftermath of the Maui wildfires. For all those that donated funds, made thank you cards for first responders, visited us and were put to work packing produce boxes, or simply sent us their best wishes, Mahalo!

Respectfully submitted, PDG Mark Mizuno, Maui Wildfire Response Team

#### **D50 1st Quarter Cabinet Meeting** BY THE NUMBERS

View Cabinet Meeting photos here. Mahalo to our photographers! Lions Glenn Teraoka, Heather Valdez, Matthew Rangel & Ric Ching

Neighbor island Lions (including 1 Leo) joined us in person! Mahalo to Lion Matthew, Lion David, PDG Gary, and 1VDG Cedric for providing rides



**70** 

Centennial Aloha Shirts have been purchased!



100

Bentos & 100 slices of pizza were donated by Kina'ole Lions Club!



Participants watched our live streamed meeting!



1,180

\$1,180 was donated to LCIF!

Photo by Lion Puna Nouchi



#### Good Vibes, Big Hearts, Real Impact

Lions who prove service is a superpower.



#### Lion Matthew Rangel, Mililani Lions Club

#### Lion Matthew, what inspired you to join the Lions?

I was looking to volunteering, helping out or doing something for others. Then **Lion Winston** asked anyone if they would be interested in joining the Lion's Club at our church and I was eager to join.

#### How did it feel attending your very first Lion meeting?

It was fun — we voted on The Sight Is Beautiful posters and played bingo. My first event was the Annual Breakfast and it was fun and exciting.

#### What's one thing about the Lions that surprised you?

The amount of Lions who love to serve others in many different ways while working together with many good laughs.

#### What's one word you'd use to describe your club?

Supercalifragilistic expialidocious (extraordinarily good; wonderful).



Lion Matthew, a proud Mililani Lion since 2023, was named Mililani Lions Club's Lion of the Year and completed the Emerging Lions Leadership Institute in January 2025. He currently serves as the club's 1st Vice President and Lion Tamer, and contributes at the district level as Executive Assistant and co-chair for the Lions in Sight Eyeglass Recycling Program for District 50.

#### 8 Strategies to Invite New Lions Lion Kalae Kukahiko, Global Action Team - Membership

#### 1. Make it Personal

Reach out directly through phone calls, face to face conversations, or personalized emails. A warm, genuine invitation goes a long way.

#### 2. Bring-a-Friend Approach

Encourage current members to invite friends, family, or colleagues to club meetings, projects, or socials — let them see the magic firsthand.

#### 3. Share the Impact

Tell real stories about how your club has made a difference in the community to inspire potential members.

#### 4. Leverage Social Media

Post engaging updates, photos, and behind-the-scenes looks at your club's activities and invite followers to join.

#### 5. Host Info Events

Organize open houses, coffee chats, or "Meet the Lions" nights where potential members can ask questions in a casual setting.

#### 6. Referral Program

Motivate members to invite others by recognizing or rewarding those who bring in new members — even a simple thank-you goes a long way.

#### 7. Keep It Clear and Friendly

When talking to prospects, be upfront about what membership involves and the rewards of being a Lion.

#### 8. Don't Forget to Follow Up

After meeting someone interested, follow up with a friendly message or call. Answer any questions and invite them to take the next step.



#### District Governor Bruddah Sean Benito, Hilo Crescent City Lions Club

DG Bruddah Sean, what is one Lion moment you'll never forget?

It was launching our very first community-based Leos Club right in the middle of the pandemic — and seeing it still thriving today!

#### What's the funniest thing that's happened at a Lion's event?

At the International Convention in Orlando, I was rocking my Lion's tail at a burger joint. A family asked if I knew I had a tail, and a little boy told me I should "go to the jungle." I wear it proudly at conventions — even on the bus back home on Oʻahu — because that's all part of my Lion marketing.

#### Please share one piece of advice to a new Lion.

Serve with aloha from the heart — when you focus on helping others, friendships, impact, and personal growth will naturally follow.

#### How has being a Lion shaped you outside of club activities?

Being a Lion has taught me that true abundance comes when you lift others first — in life, at work, and in your community. And whenever you can, take the opportunity to wear a Lions pin, shirt, or hat — let the world know you're a proud Lion!

DG Bruddah Sean has been spreading aloha as a Lion since 2012.

Every month, we'll spotlight two Lions — one a familiar face and leader in our organization, and one you might not have met yet. It's our way of celebrating the heart and spirit of our Lion 'ohana.

~Lion Kalae Kukahiko, Global Membership Team & Lion Renee Ako, Leo Liona Editor



## **ALOHA POWER**'Ohana of Service Heroes

Facebook: Sean Benito & Lion Bruddah Sean

Instagram: <a href="mailto:obruddahsean">obruddahsean</a>







Helped District Governor Sean check a bucket list item by toasting at Coca Cola Las Vegas with a Coke Ice Cream and Creamsicle float. Cheers!

Mission 1.5 Summit. Las Vegas

Mission 1.5 Summit, Las Vegas Submitted by PDG Garrett Ogawa



Hilo Lions Club Visitation





Mission 1.5 Summit, Las Vegas





International Convention, Orlando

## D50 Lions at the 107th Lions International Convention





I'm excited to share that Lions International has its own YouTube channel <u>@lionsclub!</u> PIP Dr. Patti Hill revealed this gem during our recent D50 Convention, and it's definitely worth checking out!

You can catch fantastic highlights from the Orlando Convention, where you might even spot Lion Kobey from **Mililani** and Lion Ellsworth from **Hawaii Kai** proudly flashing their shakas in the Parade of Nations.

The channel offers a variety of engaging playlists, including:

- Lions 360: Inspiring stories of Lions worldwide
- LCIF: Heartwarming tales that highlight our humanitarian spirit
- Leo Club Program
- Volunteering Changed My Life | Being a Lion

Submitted by Lion Renee Ako



1VDG Cedric with new friend Lion Rob of Alpharetta Lions, Georgia. Spotted on an Instagram post by @lionsclub Submitted by Lion Renee Ako



Fun photos at the Exhibit









Annual social with Lions from Illinois.

Legendary Olympian Michael Phelps was the Keynote Speaker. He talked about his battle with mental health, our newest service focus area.

#### More great photos from PDG Gary:



PDG Gary
congratulates newly
installed International
Director Tomoyuki
Tanabu from the
Hachinohe Lions
Club (Japan), Koko
Head Lions' sister
club since 1976. Read
the fascinating story,
"Timeline of a Sister
Club," in the October
2024 issue of the Leo
Liona.



Congratulations DG Bruddah Sean and CIS Keahi!

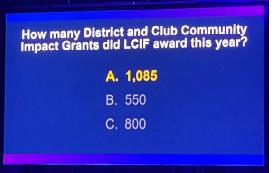
#### Mahalo 1VDG Cedric Mitsui for his photos:



















## Promotional Flyer Template Available for District 50 Lions Clubs

Submitted by Lion Irwin Santos, Public Relations

Several months ago, Lion Alice **Kudo** requested a promotional flyer for the **Pearl City Lions** Club, and I'm happy to share that it was completed with a broader vision in mind: to serve as a customizable template for any **District 50 Lions Club** interested in having their own flyer. These flyers are great for public outreach, member recruitment, and **event promotion**, and they can be tailored to reflect your club's unique identity and activities. See the last page of this month's issue of Leo Liona for the Kamehameha Lions Club version.



#### What I Need to Create Yours:

#### Contact Info:

- Club email address
- Website and/or Facebook page (If none available, please provide a phone number)

#### Photos:

- A group photo of your club members OR
- A clear photo showing members actively engaged in service
- The photo when scaled down should fit the area depicted in the template

#### Interested? Let's Collaborate!

Reach out to me directly:

Email (preferred): irwinsantos@hawaiilions.org

Let's help more people learn about the incredible work our Lions Clubs are doing across Hawai'i!



Lion Gary Nip & Lion Lori Inouye-Yamashita



At the 107th Lions International Convention in Orlando Florida, on July 14-17, 2025, it was reported that we raised US\$81 million for LCIF. This brings **HOPE** to those in need around the world as shown on the big screen at the convention.

LCIF Chairperson IPIP Patty Hill asked:

- a. How many people were helped by LCIF grants this past FY? Answer: 19 million
- b. How many District and Club Grants were awarded this past FY? Answer: 1,085 (includes Waiakea & Chinatown Lions Club)

Clubs that donate \$5,000+ to LCIF within one fiscal year are eligible for a grant of 15% of their donations for a club project. Waiakea, Chinatown, Hawaii Kai, Manoa, Koloa and Kona Lions Clubs have DCG balances.

#### **District 50 Hawaii LCIF donation statistics:**

#### Goal

FY23-24 = \$39,150 (actual \$45,402 donated)

FY24-25 = \$41,686 (actual \$55,887.42 donated) **MAHALO** 



#### **Donors**

FY23-24 = 254 donors

FY24-25 = 313 donors



#### Clubs

FY23-24 = 41 Lions Clubs donated

FY24-25 = 44 Lions Clubs donated



#### PLEASE DONATE TO LCIF

BY CHECK: PAYABLE TO LCIF

ONLINE:

Mail to: Lions Clubs International Foundation

Department 4547

Carol Stream, IL 60122-4547 USA

**Donate Now** 



## Discover the Lion Portal! Your Go-To Hub for Lions & Leos!

Submitted by PDG Eric Nordmeier, D50 District Administrator

#### **Lion Portal Open To All Lions & Leos**

All Lions have access to the Lion Portal. You may have heard that the Lion Portal is only for club officers, but that is not true. The Lion Portal is open to all Lions and Leos.

#### **Lion Portal Access**

The Lion Portal offers access to Lions' applications: Membership, Service, Insights, Learn, Shop, and more. All Lions and Leos can access the portal, but some areas are restricted to club or district officers.

Insights Comprehensive overview of Lions International in the areas of Membership, Service Activity, Donations, and Club Strength. Also featured are District Goals Progress and Learn.

Learn The Lions Learning Center (LLC) serves as a central hub for Lions and Leos to complete online courses in the Learn in the Lion Portal. Users can explore training from the Faculty Development Institute (FDI) and the Lions Certified Instructor Program (LCIP), view local training from the District GLT Coordinator, and access their "My Learning Record" report.

**Lion Shop** Order common club supplies and Lions International merchandise easily. Club

presidents, secretaries, and treasurers can log in to the Member Portal to use club funds for purchases, while members can buy items using their own accounts.

As the district administrator, I can access the Lion Portal and help members with any related issues.

#### What is available in the Lion Portal:

**Manage club officers:** Create new assignment and or end officer assignment

Manage club members: Transfer a member, Add a student member, Edit member-reinstate member, Edit member-change membership type, Drop a member, Edit member data, Add a club member, Add a club member family member

Club page: Explore page tabs, Export data Club actions: Get membership cards, Edit club details, View reports, Create club branch Member actions: View club officers Service activities: Full walk-through, Create report copy a meeting activities, Upload view manage images, Copy a service activity, Enhanced Service Activity Summary Page Experience.



Lion Berta Jenkins, HLF President hawaiilionsfoundation.org

#### **Updates from your Hawaii Lions Foundation:**

#### **HLF Officers**

The newly installed Officers of HLF are: President Lion Roberta "Berta" Jenkins, VP PDG Chris Morris, Secretary Lion David Iwana & Treasurer Lion Robert Pilmauna.

#### **Golf Classic**

Mahalo to the many Lions and friends who participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual HLF Golf Classic Fundraiser. We were able to raise approximately \$20,000.

#### Lions Eye Bank of Hawaii

Through an MOA with Legacy of Life and San Diego Eye Bank, San Diego Eye Bank will be managing and operating the Lions Eye Bank of Hawaii.

#### **News From the San Diego Eye Bank**

The Lions Eye Bank of Hawaii is officially operational! Referrals are now linked to the EMR, and donor screening and review is actively underway. We are still onboarding additional per diem staff to add to the 2 we currently have, and we're also awaiting EMR access at The Queen's Medical Center. In the interim, Legacy of Life Hawaii will be supporting us with chart access. San Diego Eye Bank has also expanded its family services team to assist with Hawaii referrals. Our lab is fully equipped with supplies, temperature monitoring and quality systems for quality controls, and SDEB is preparing for a potential LEBH FDA inspection. Our goal this year is to build toward 24/7 operations and expand into Hilo once staffing is complete on Oahu.

#### **Approved in 2024-2025**

During the 24-25 Lion year, HLF approved the \$31,370 requested for D50 activities like hearing, vision, diabetes, and other projects. Committee chairs to file Grant Reporting Form; see hawaiilions.org

#### **HLF Grant-in-Aid Program**

See application on **hawaiilions.org** 

#### **HLF Scholarships**

HLF provided \$500.00 scholarships to three 2025 UH Ophthalmology graduates.

#### **Parade of Checks**

Mahalo - HLF Parade of Checks at the 2025 D50 Convention raised approximately \$11,400.00.

#### **HLF & LCIF**

What is the difference between HLF & Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)? The simple answer is HLF takes care of Hawaii while LCIF takes care of the world.

#### Foodland's "Give Aloha"

Donate to Foodland's "Give Aloha" program during September and they will match.

#### **HLF's New Website**

It's here, it's fresh, and it's officially launched — <a href="hawaiilionsfoundation.org">hawaiilionsfoundation.org</a>. Mahalo to Gibbard Web Design for bringing our vision to life.

#### 2025 HLF Fellowship Plaques

At the 2025 D50 Convention, seven were awarded HLF Fellowship Plaques:

Linda Ross Myers Shizuo Onishi Patrick Naughten Norman Sakata PDG Jack Kampfer Herbert Watanabe Cathy Shea Norman Sakata PDG Bernard Ho Tokuo Tani Joan Sorbets Norman Sakata Tokuo Tani Earl Tsukamoto Norman Sakata Harvey Ouchi Tabidrik Reed Norman Sakata Kerry Yoon Norman Sakata

Karen Morimoto Norman Sakata

#### **HLF Fellows**

You too, can become an HLF Fellow. Your total donations will qualify you for the various levels of Fellowship.

PDG Norman Sakata Fellowship: \$ 1,000.00 donation
PDG Tokuo Tani Fellowship: \$ 2,500.00 donation
PID Herbert Watanabe Fellowship: \$ 5,000.00 donation
PID Shizuo Onishi Fellowship: \$10.000.00 donation

Mahalo to YOU for the many generous donations to the Hawaii Lions Foundation.

Get an HLF pin for a minimum \$20 donation. You may donate online or send checks payable to Hawaii Lions Foundation.

Mail to: Hawaii Lions Foundation

405 N. Kuakini Street, Suite 801

Honolulu, HI 96817

Other ways to donate? You may set up a monthly donation or even donate stocks! Contact HLF Treasurer Robert Piimauna.

**Donate Now** 



Blue Angel #5 was used as Lieutenant Pete Mitchell's jet in the movie "Top Gun."
Also striking the hero pose is Scot Shimamura's 1967 Shelby Cobra 427.

#### **D50 Lions in Action**

#### D50 Leo Conference - Behind the Scenes!

Feeding 74 Leos and 11 advisors requires a tremendous amount of effort, and that's exactly what was accomplished! Lion Wayne and CIS Carol from the **Waiakea Lions Club** went above and beyond in preparing for the Leo Conference. They took the lead by planning and organizing with the help of many dedicated Lions. Submitted by Lion Keani Shirai







Grating cheese for the nachos.

The crew taking a break.

Cutting veggies.

#### Treasures for the Brave

Koko Head Lions continue to work with Kaiser Moanalua and the Kaiser Clinic. Lion Jaci Yokogawa recently re-filled the treasure chest meant to reward the brave keiki who come into the clinic to get treatment. This is valuable because the Moanalua clinic hosts specialty doctors and keiki from all over the island.

Submitted by Lion Jaci Yokogawa





#### Maui Lions Zone Social

On July 15th, SVDG Tony Tasillio, Lion Wayne & CIS Carol Kuwaye joined seven Lions from **Kahului Lions Club** and five Lions from **Haleakala Lions Club**.

Submitted by ZC Paul Seto

#### Akaka Falls Lions — Here To Serve!

Submitted by Lion Len Shimabukuro



Quarterly Adopt A Park & Adopt A Highway projects successfully completed!





Lion Judy representing our club packing Kupuna Boxes monthly at the Food Basket. Fellow Lion Paul in the back.



Lion Bob traditionally serving our participants ice cream at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event.

We thank our friends, families and our Lion 'ohana for helping us raise over \$5,000 for Relay for Life Big Island. Team Captain Lion Diane did a fantastic job!

#### 1st Cabinet Meeting

These incredible team members helped lead us past every 2024–2025 LCI goal — with a +118 boost in membership!

(Missing from photo: PDG Mark Mizuno)

Submitted by IPDG Lori Inouye-Yamashita



Kāne'ohe Lions Club

#### **Sharing Stories and Smiles in Memory of Lion Ernie**

Submitted by Lion Diane Fujio

On a beautiful sunny Saturday, May 31, 2025, Lions representatives gathered from near and far to join the **Kāne'ohe Lions Club** in celebrating the life of Ernie Abaya at Pu'uloa Ewa Beach Park. It was truly a fitting tribute to Ernie, or "Sonny Boy," as he was affectionately known by others. Brought together by Ernie's deep impact on each of our lives, his beloved wife, Barbara, his children, Alexis and Alika, his family, many friends, numerous neighbors, extended



community, associated organizations and of course, his treasured Lions all enjoyed the day together.

The event was a time of reminiscing about happy memories, some emotional goodbyes, meeting new friends, reuniting with past ones, tons of delicious food, a bouncy house for the children, nonstop great music, comparing favorite Ernie stories, a beautiful display of memorabilia from his life experiences, the release of homing pigeons in his honor, dance performances and much more. Just as she did for him when he was with us, Barbara went all out for his send off. She shared that joining the **Kāne'ohe Lions Club** really gave Ernie meaning in his life, even extending it





longer. We love you, dear Ernie, you brought so much joy and humor to every Lion gathering. Your touching celebration of life demonstrated how much you truly meant to so many people and we feel so blessed that you and Barb chose to be part of our Kāne'ohe Lions Club. A hui hou, until we meet again!







Lions Club of Kona & Konawaena Leo Club

#### Pancake Breakfast & Fundraiser

Submitted by Lion Elaine Albertson

On Saturday, June 7th, Lions Club of Kona and our Konawaena Leo Club held a multi-event fundraiser, and welcomed many Lions among the attendees, including 2nd Vice Governor Elect Lion Tony Tassillio, and Lion Wayne Kuwaye from Hilo Waiakea. We served onolicious pancake breakfasts to nearly 300 hungry supporters. And there were several other activities going on to keep everyone busy and having fun that morning!

There were Bingo games, with over 100 prizes won, which were played for about 10 minutes every half-hour. Between game times, good conversations were held at each table while people ate and visited. A Silent Auction was going on, too, with some fabulous items, services, cruises, local restaurant gift cards,

and original artworks to bid on. Door prizes, available to all who purchased breakfast, gave supporters something more to take home, and the Leos had both a Bake Sale and potted Plant Sale.

Kona Hongwanji Temple in

Kealakekua generously provided the space, and the morning's events were held both indoors and out. While the Lions and Leos worked together to serve breakfasts indoors, the Leos made several hundred dollars on their own having a Bake Sale and Plant Sale in a covered outdoor area of the parking lot.

The breakfast menu included pancakes, eggs, fruit, fried rice, sausages,

and refreshments, all cooked and served by **Kona Lions**. And while most of those who ate did so while they were there with family and friends, quite a few individuals picked up breakfasts-to-go that they had pre-ordered. Others did both – they purchased some plates to eat on site, and then purchased more to take to those who couldn't come.

Each table had flower centerpieces that were arranged and donated by **Kona Lions**. The beautiful decorations were added to the door prizes, and winners were extra happy to have something special to take home. This event was a Great Project, with Lions and Leos donating time, energy and prizes to make it a success! Mahalo to everyone who participated!









Kona Healthy Leo Lion Club

#### Introducing the Kona Healthy Leo Lion Club

Submitted by Lion Michelle Tam

On June 13, 2025, the **Kona Healthy Leo Lion Club** was officially chartered under the sponsorship of the **Lions Club of Kona**. Our club proudly consists of 27 dedicated young adults —former members of the **Konawaena Leo Club**—who have made the meaningful transition from Leos to Lions. As a cyber club, our members are continuing their educational journeys at colleges across Hawai'i and the mainland, while also entering the workforce and seeking opportunities to serve their communities wherever they are.

Since our chartering, we've hit the ground running, completing three impactful service projects:

- UCC Coffee Kona Marathon Supporting one of Kona's biggest annual marathon events. We served at two stations, passing out refreshments and cheering on the marathoners!
- Higashihara Park Volunteering our time to paint and improve Higashihara park benches and tables.
- Kaukau for Keiki Partnering with Vibrant Hawaii to help package and distribute meals to 500 keiki in the Kona community. This was the last week of their six-week summer food distribution for families who signed up for this wonderful opportunity.

We are incredibly proud of our beginnings and excited about the road ahead. Mahalo nui to PDG Lori Inouye-Yamashita, PDG Gabrielle McKechnie, our Guiding Lion PDG Chris Morris, PDG Mitch Tam, and Lion Cheryl Tam for their work and support in helping to charter our club. It's an honor to join the Lions 'ohana, and we look forward to serving alongside our fellow Lions across District 50!









Koko Head Lions Club

## **Koko Head Lions Club Celebrates 78th Charter Anniversary**

Submitted by Lion Ashley Uyehara

The **Koko Head Lions** proudly celebrated its 78th years of service on Saturday, July 19, 2025 with a lively luncheon held at Gyotaku Restaurant in Niu Valley. The celebration brought together Lions and non-Lions alike for an afternoon of friendship and community.

Among the distinguished guests were Past International Director Bob Lee and Pam Lee from the Chinatown Lions, District Governor Bruddah Sean Benito of the Hilo Crescent City Lions, Second Vice District Governor Anthony "Tony" Tassillio and Joy Tassillio from Hilo Hawai'i Lions Unlimited, Past District Governor Gary Nip of the Koko Head Lions, President Kendrick Chang from the Hawai'i Kai Lions, President Irwin Santos from the Kamehemeha Lions as well as community partners including Jailu Navarrete (Founder) and Jesse Navarrete from Global Nursing Interchange, Hawai'i Kai Jaycees' President Brosnan Dumayas, and Laura Ruby, Director of the Mōʻiliʻili Cemetery.

The celebration featured a cheerful program, emceed by **Koko Head Lions'** very own Richard Ching and Richard Kaneko, highlighting the club's decades of service and the ongoing



commitment to making a positive impact in the community. Guests enjoyed a delicious luncheon and had the chance to win a huge variety of door prizes and specialty raffle items, adding to the joyous atmosphere.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate this special milestone. Here's to continuing our legacy of service for many more years to come!



















Palolo Lions Club

### Palolo Hongwanji Bon Dance

Submitted by Lion Irwin Santos, Kamehameha

Photos by Palolo Lions Darlene Nakayama & Janet Fujii, Friends Jon & Sandy Tsujimura

Bon Dance — or Bon Odori (盆踊り) — is a traditional Japanese Buddhist custom that honors and celebrates ancestors. Especially prominent in Hawai'i, Bon Dance is a festive and communal event marked by circle dancing around a central raised platform called a yagura. The dances are performed to lively music, often accompanied by taiko drums, and are meant to express gratitude and remembrance for those who have passed away.

Rooted in the spirit of 'ohana and respect, Bon Dance blends reverence with joy — uniting communities through movement, music, and shared heritage.

The **Palolo** and **Kamehameha Lions Clubs** proudly took on parking duty at Sacred Hearts Academy during the recent Bon Dance Festival. Lions volunteers & friends efficiently directed vehicles to available stalls and overflow parking at nearby Jarrett Middle School, while also assisting patrons utilizing the shuttle service to and from the temple grounds.

Meanwhile, the **Kapahulu Mōʻiliʻili Lions Club** served up refreshing shave ice as part of a fundraiser supporting their beloved community Christmas parade —a tradition cherished by many. In the true spirit of fellowship and service, Lions and friends joined the vibrant festivities alongside hundreds of community members celebrating heritage, unity, and the joy of gathering together.













Kamehameha Lions Club

### **Kupuna Cards Workshop Social**

Submitted by Lion Irwin Santos, Kamehameha Photos by Kamehameha Lions Irwin Santos, Daryl Matsuo, and Palolo Lion Bev Mau

See the entire photo gallery here.



#### Palolo Chinese Home – "Farm Hall" (Upper Campus), July 20, 2025

The **Kamehameha Lions Club** recently hosted a heartwarming **Kupuna Card Workshop Social**, welcoming both Lions and non-Lion guests to join in a meaningful act of service for our cherished elderly community. Our Kupuna Card Chair Lion Lori "Bad Lori" Yamada has retired from Lions to enjoy more time for herself. Before taking leave, we held this special workshop to transfer knowledge and hopefully find another chair. Everyone enjoyed slices of pizza and various desserts.

There are several clubs out in District 50, such as the **Hawaii Cyber Lions** and the **Hawaii Kai Lions Club**, that also do this project. With this article, I'm reaching out to Lions members on Oahu who would like to participate in a consortium of members forming a much larger Kupuna Card team that would streamline the process of promotion to senior care centers, delivery, and production of the cards. If any of you wish to be part of this team (can be from ANY Oahu club), please contact me. Lion Irwin Santos email (preferred) <a href="mailto:irwinsantos@hawaiilions.org">irwinsantos@hawaiilions.org</a>. Mahalo to everyone who joined us in making a difference — one card at a time.

**About the Project:** The **Kupuna Card Project** was initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic to help address the emotional toll of isolation on seniors. Today, it continues to thrive as a way to offer **comfort, connection, and compassion** to kupuna residing in nursing homes, long-term care units, and similar facilities.

**Purpose:** The primary goal is to **combat loneliness** and lift the spirits of our kupuna by providing **handmade or purchased cards** filled with heartfelt, positive messages. These small gestures make a **big impact** by letting seniors know they are remembered and valued.

**Creation & Participation:** At our Palolo event, Lion members, alongside caring community volunteers, gathered to create personalized cards. Some featured uplifting quotes, colorful art, and simple messages of aloha — all made with love.

**Distribution & Impact:** The completed cards are being delivered to care homes and elder facilities across Oʻahu, bringing smiles and warmth to those who need it most. The ongoing project remains a testament to the **Lions'commitment to service** and the power of human connection.







Kalakaua, Kamehameha & Palolo Lions Clubs

### Tri-Club Welcomes 6 New Lions

Submitted by Lion Irwin Santos, Kamehameha Photos by Lions Irwin Santos & Daryl Matsuo

#### Welcome to the Pride!

Kalakaua, Kamehameha, and Palolo Lions Clubs Celebrate New Member Inductions. It's always a shot in the arm when fresh energy joins the Lions 'ohana. The Kalakaua, Kamehameha, and Palolo Lions Clubs are proud to welcome their newest members into the fold!

At a recent induction ceremony
— officiated by Past District
Governor Gary Nip — six new
Lions were formally welcomed. For
those unfamiliar, the Lions induction
ceremony is a meaningful
tradition that symbolizes a new

member's commitment to service,







fellowship, and making a lasting impact in the community. It's a special moment not only for the inductees but also for the clubs that will grow stronger because of them.

#### **New Inductees:**

**Kamehameha Lions**: Kaulana Suzuki (Sponsor: Sharon Matsuo) **Palolo Lions:** Noah Chun (Sponsor: Rona Augustine-Chun)

Kalakaua Lions: Dallas Shen, Lannah Shen, Kohlby Shen, Emelie Ogata-Tambua

(All sponsored by: Lauta Amutafea Shen)

We extend our **warmest congratulations** to each of you. Your decision to serve through Lions reflects a shared commitment to bettering our communities — and we're excited for all the good that lies ahead. **Welcome to the club... the Lions Clubs!** 





Palolo Lions Club

### **Palolo Lions Mahjong Workshop**

Submitted by Lion Irwin Santos, Kamehameha Photo by Lion Rona Augustine-Chun, Palolo

Poster: see end of this issue

#### **Palolo Lions Mahjong Workshop**

**Hosted by the Palolo Lions Club** 

Palolo Chinese Home - "Farm Hall"

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Doors Open at 8:30 AM

Mahjong Play from 9:00 to 10:30 AM

Cost: \$5 per person (includes light snacks)



As Lions, we are dedicated to service — but we also cherish the moments when we can simply gather, relax, and enjoy each other's company. That's why the **Palolo Lions Club invites all fellow Lions** to join us for a fun and engaging **Mahjong Workshop**!



Whether you're brand new to the game or just a bit rusty, this workshop is a great way to **learn, laugh, and connect**.

**Got your own Mahjong set?** Please bring it along to help increase the number of active players.

RSVP by August 24, 2025 Contact Lion Rona

Workshop rules will be sent upon RSVP.



Mahjong is a tile-based game that originated in China during the mid-1800s, likely evolving from earlier card games such as Madiao. It gained popularity, especially in urban centers, before spreading internationally in the early 1920s. The global spread of Mahjong is linked to historical factors like China's opening to the West, the Treaty of Nanking, and the introduction of Mahjong sets to the United States.

Today, Mahjong is played around the world in various forms, each with its own rules and

regional variations, reflecting the game's cultural adaptation and ongoing evolution.



### MARKETING YOUR CLUB

PRESENTED BY: GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

**AUG. 14** 

6:30 PM THURSDAY - ZOOM CRAFTING EFFECTIVE ELEVATOR PITCHES

**NOV. 10** 

6:30 PM MONDAY - ZOOM **CANVA BASICS** 

**FEB. 12** 

6:30 PM THURSDAY - ZOOM SOCIAL MEDIA FOR LIONS

**APR. 13** 

6:30 PM MONDAY - ZOOM CANVA ADVANCED SKILLS

TBA

**IN PERSON - OLELO** 

FILMING AND EDITING SHORT PSAS

REGISTER FOR ONE OR MORE SESSION(S) USING THE QR CODE:

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: SHASTAYAMADA@HAWAIILIONS.ORG



# You're Invited!





MIB Agents Is A Leading Pediatric
Osteosarcoma Nonprofit Dedicated
To Making It Better For Our
Community Of Patients, Families,
Medical Professionals, Researchers,
And Industry Partners Through
Programs, Education, And Research.

# BOOGIE WONDERLAND



ENJOY DANCING TO MUSIC FROM THE 70'S TO 90'S





BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

WHEN: SATURDAY

**AUGUST 30, 2025** 

TIME 6 PM - 9:30 PM

LOCATION

KAUAI WAR MEMORIAL CONVENTION HALL

FUNDRAISER ENTRANCE FEE

> \$40 PER PERSON



CASH/CHECK/VENMO:

HTTPS://WWW.VENMO.COM/U/MELANEE-TERRY

CONTACT:

WAYNE MUKAI MELANEE TERRY

Heavy pupus & soft drinks included





Ewa Beach Lions Club is hosting a

# **Diaper Drive**

to collect 3000 Diapers, Wipes and Pull-Ups



Donation Dropoff on:
Saturday September 6th, 2025
Location: Safeway @
Laulani ShoppingCenter
8:00am-12:00pm

In Hawaii 30,000 keiki under 5 live in poverty.
With rising costs, 1 in 3 families experience diaper need.
Monthy diaper expenses are \$80-\$100.

Please help support this public health issue in Hawaii

For more information
Lion Lola Tripp





### CHINATOWN LIONS SMITH-BERETANIA PARK CLEAN UP



**SEPT. 13, SAT 9:30-11:30AM** 

Join us in keeping the community clean!

Meet at Smith-Beretania Park.

All cleaning supplies provided by City of Honolulu

\*Bring your own hat & water bottle

\*Municipal and street parking nearby

\*Sign-up with evite: <a href="https://evite.me/FMWcjbK6QV">https://evite.me/FMWcjbK6QV</a>





### **Guiding Lion Program**

Learn About the Guiding Lion Program – Hybrid Info Session Coming Soon!

- 📆 Sunday, September 28, 2025
- **0** 6:00 PM HST
- 📍 Hybrid In Person on Oʻahu & Online via Zoom

Are you looking for a meaningful way to support new and rebuilding Lions clubs? Consider becoming a Certified Guiding Lion!

Join us for an informational session on what the Guiding Lion Program is and how you can become a Certified Guiding Lion. This hybrid event is open to all Lions who want to arow their leadership skills and help strenathen clubs across our district.

### **What Is the Guiding Lion Program?**

The Guiding Lion Program is designed to assist clubs that are newly chartered, established, or in the process of rebuilding. Certified Guiding Lions are appointed for a two-year term by the District Governor in consultation with the sponsoring or club president. Guiding Lions may serve no more than two clubs at any given time.

Guiding Lions help clubs:

- Succeed in their first two years of operation
- ✓ Orient and train club officers and members
- Motivate and support club growth and development
- Connect with resources available from Lions Clubs International and district leadership

This role is vital in helping clubs build a strong foundation, increase member engagement, and ensure long-term success.

Whether you're an experienced Lion looking to mentor others or someone who simply wants to learn more, this session is a great way to explore the program and see if it's right for you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

REGISTER NOW

https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center/guiding-lion-program

### **Ewa Beach Lion's Club Foundation**



### \$15 A DOZEN FUNDRAISER

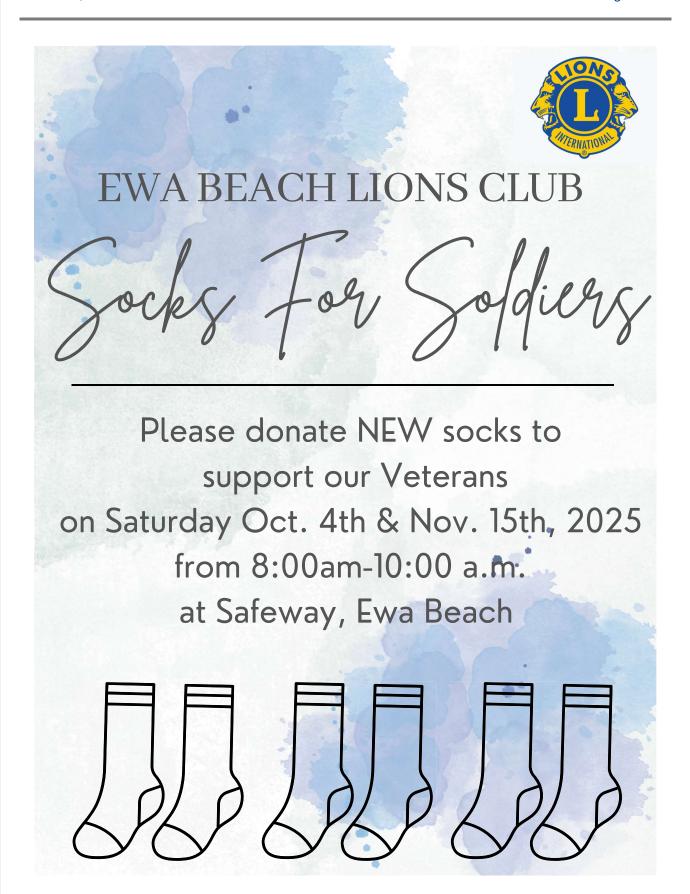
Date: Sat. October 4th, 2025

Time: 8AM-12PM, while supplies last

**Location: Safeway Ewa Beach** 

Benefit the Lions Club's Annual
Children's Christmas Party
Christmas Parade
Halloween Event
Easter Event
& Other Ewa Beach
Community
Services

For More Information:
Lion Lola Tripp





**EWA BEACH** 



**INVITES YOU TO** 

## HALLOWEEN BASH

Show your 'costume for a prize!





Join if you dare!

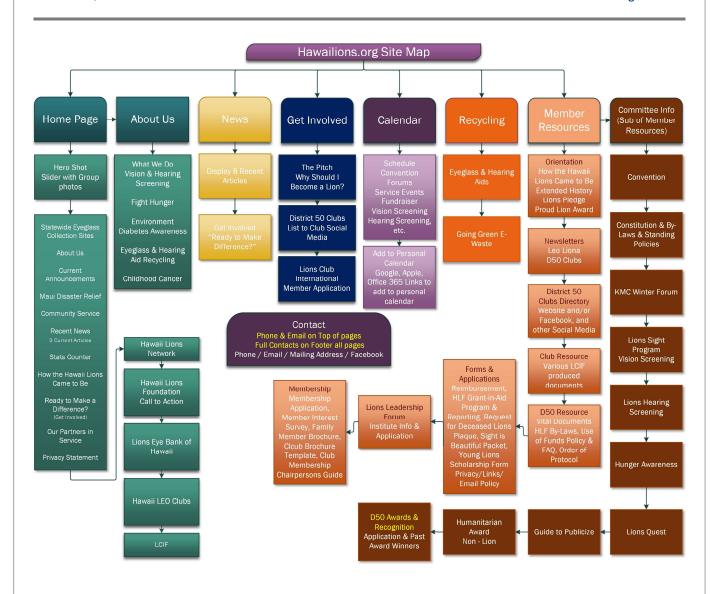
### SATURDAY OCT 25, 2025 Ewa Beach Shopping Center

91-919 Fort Weaver Rd (McDonald's Parking Lot)

5:00- 8:00 PM Trunk or Treat, Face Painting, Balloons, Photos and fun!

Contact Lion Lola for more info

Ewa Beach McDonald's, D.R. Horton Hawaii, Generators Hawaii, Moka, Roadways Solution, Ameresco, Ewa Beach State Farm Frelynn Kahalehili, Paradise Lua, Pinky Tows, Haseco, Ewa Beach Domino's Pizza, Gentry Homes & Design Works Inc. Weed & Seed Hawaii District 8, JCHS Alumni & Community Foundation, District 8 & Community Policing Team,





Catch PIP Brian Sheehan doing his signature move, "AWESOME," at our District Convention in April.

1st Quarter Cabinet Meeting
Photo by Lion Ric Ching

# WE'RE LOOKING



FOR NEW MEMBERS

## **KAMEHAMEHA LIONS**

Giving back to the Community





Men AND Women 18 and over

Volunteer your time & energy to help your community. Have a positive impact in your life and the lives of others. Join the Kamehameha Lions Club today!

- Support your Community locally & internationally
- Develop relationships
- Personal & professional Growth
- Impact local & international issues
- LeadershipOpportunities

Email: Lion Irwin Santos irwinsantos@hawaiilions.org



More Information

klcfoundation.org

@KamehamehaLionsClub