



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

3rd Quarter - Jan. 31, 2026
 Kilauea Military Camp, HAWAI'I

4th Quarter - Apr. 23, 2026
 Hilo Hawaiian Hotel, HAWAI'I



LIONS CONVENTION 2026
 HILO, HAWAII
 Design by Lion Geoli Ng
 Hilo Crescent City Lions Club

**D50 Lions Convention
 Website**

District Governor's Message

If We Want D50 Hawai'i Lions to Grow, This Is the Way Three Simple Rules for Stronger Clubs Across Our District

As we begin a new year across District 50 Hawai'i Lions, many Lions are asking an important question:

How do we build clubs where people want to stay—and where new members feel excited to join?

The answer doesn't require complicated strategies, pressure, or perfect speeches. In fact, it comes down to something much simpler—three principles that have always lived at the heart of Lionism, now clearly explained and easy to share.



The 3 Rules of the System

Rule #1: Value

People give their time and energy to what feels meaningful. Lions join and remain active when they feel the value of their service—when they know their time matters, their efforts make a difference, and their club stands for something real. When value is felt, commitment follows naturally.

Rule #2: People Hold the Key

Every Lion matters. Strong clubs are built on relationships, not titles. When members feel welcomed, appreciated, and respected, they stay engaged and invite others to join. When people feel unseen or unimportant, they quietly drift away. Taking care of our Lions is just as important as serving our communities.

Rule #3: Do It Good. Do It Often. Do It Happy.

Great clubs aren't created by one great event. They grow through habits.

- Do service with care and pride
- Do it consistently, not just once in a while
- Do it with joy, positivity, and aloha

Continued on next page

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

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

Please email submissions for the February issue by January 25th to

leoliona@hawaiilions.org

Lion Renee Ako, Editor

When clubs serve with heart and happiness, the results come naturally—stronger culture, better retention, and organic membership growth.

Why This Matters—Especially Now

In today's world, people are looking for connection, purpose, and belonging. Younger Lions, Leos, and potential members want to be part of something that feels alive—not just meetings and motions, but action, friendship, and impact.

Clubs that lead with value, treat people well, and serve with joy don't need to convince others to join. Their energy speaks for itself. Culture becomes the invitation.

Why Membership Matters — Plain and Simple

Here's the truth, explained the easy way.

Lions is like a team.

If we don't have players, we can't play the game.

If we don't have members, we can't serve.

Membership is not about numbers on a report.

Membership is about people.

If we want District 50 Hawai'i Lions to be strong today—and still strong years from now—we must take care of the people who are already here and make it easy for new people to join.

Think of Lions like a garden:

- Value is the soil
- People are the plants
- Joyful service is the water

If we take care of the garden, it grows.

If we don't, it slowly fades.

When leaders truly understand what Lions is offering—purpose, friendship, service, and belonging—and deliver it with care, consistency, and happiness, people naturally want to be part of it. No pressure. No convincing. Just good experiences that speak for themselves.

If we want to leave a strong legacy for future Lions and Leos, this is the direction we must go:

- Create real value
- Take care of our people
- Do it good, do it often, and do it happy

When we do that, membership growth will follow—just like fruit growing on a healthy tree.

Continued on next page

A Message to Our Lions, Leos, and Future Lions

To our Lions: Thank you for serving with heart and dedication. You are the foundation of everything we do.

To our Leos: We see you, we value you, and we are excited for the energy and leadership you bring. You are not just the future—you are part of the present.

And to those thinking about joining Lions: know this—there is a place for you here, just as you are.

Let's continue building clubs that feel welcoming, meaningful, and full of life—clubs where people are proud to belong and excited to serve.

Much love and aloha,
Lion Bruddah Sean Benito
District Governor | District 50 Hawai'i Lions

Next Steps:

- Invite one person to serve with you
- Share the message with one Lion, Leo, or friend
- Turn inspiration into one simple action (serve, recognize, connect)
- Make it easy to join at every visible service project
- Lead with joy and aloha

Remember: People don't join clubs—they join experiences.

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

Facebook: [Sean Benito & Lion Bruddah Sean](#) Instagram: [@bruddahsean](#)
[#AlohaPower](#) [#LeadWithAloha](#) [#D50Lions](#) [#AlohaPowerinAction](#)



ALOHA POWER IN ACTION 'Ohana of Service Heroes

Facebook: [Sean Benito & Lion Bruddah Sean](#)



Crowds bring the energy at the **Hawai'i Kai Lions** Holiday Parade.



Behind the scenes as we get parade-ready for the Downtown Hilo Christmas Light Parade.

Continued on next page



Marching with gratitude: our first year at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in Waikiki

Nothing but happy faces at the **Ewa Beach Lions Parade!**



Big smiles and great bargains at the **Kapolei City Lions** Rummage Sale at Kapolei High School!

Waiakea Lions spreading holiday cheer while ringing bells for the Salvation Army at KTA Superstores-Puainako.



Mahalo DG Robert & Amy Posma of **D49A-Alaska** for visiting **Region VII** and supporting the Food Basket Kupuna Food Distribution!



So much fun celebrating the season at the **Mililani Lions Club** holiday party!

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Sweet treats, cool tattoos, and holiday cheer! **Hilo Crescent City Leos** at KTA Superstores' Christmas Village.

Bowling, bonding, and Leo pride!

Waipahu Leos joined 50 Leos from **Moanalua, Waipahu, Mililani, and Kapolei High Schools** at the D50 Hawai'i Leos Winter Social at Barbers Point Bowling Alley.



Spreading good cheer on the Big Island and happy to run into Lions and Leos along the way



So much joy in one place! **Hilo Crescent City Leos** helped spread smiles at a Project Hawaii, Inc. event at The Arc of Hilo, hosting games and prizes for 200 homeless keiki and their families.

The last holiday celebration before 2026 begins. Mahalo to every club for sharing your fun and fellowship. Being a Lion means serving others—and remembering to care for ourselves and our Lions 'ohana too.



At the **Kapolei City Lions Club** Holiday Party, five perfect attendance pins were proudly presented—then the fun continued with a lively game of *Revenge of the Rudolphs!*

Congratulations PDG Angie Haramoto Maui County 2025 Woman of Excellence Award — “Unsung Hero”

Submitted by ZC Paul Seto

In recognition of her dedication and compassion for community service, PDG Angie was honored as a Maui County 2025 Woman of Excellence and immortalized in Maui's history.



District 50 Angels Thank you for your service!



Jitsuo (Jits) Fujimura

Pearl City Lions Club

Lion for ten years

Services: January 3, 2026

Time: 9:00 – 10:00am

Mililani Mortuary

Mauka Chapel



Ernest Puua

Lahaina Mauna Kahawai

Lions Club

Lion for five years

Services: Already Held

We Will
Miss You!



Nadya Penoff

East Kauai Lions Club

Lion for eleven months

Services: Private



DISTRICT 50 HAWAII LIONS

2026 LIONS CONVENTION

Thu April 23 - Sat April 25
Hilo, Hawaii

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW

CONVENTION ONLINE STORE
Tshirts, Tote Bags and more!
The store is open now!
[Pre-orders only](#)

STORE CLOSES MARCH 1ST

REGISTER NOW!

- THURSDAY**
Flag Ceremony (limited to first 100)
- FRIDAY**
Awards Luncheon
Fun Night
- SATURDAY**
Key Note Speaker Luncheon
(PIP Brian Sheehan)
DG Gala

Registration fee (\$50) must be postmarked no later than February 28th.

Click [here](#) for registration form.

BOOK YOUR STAY TODAY!
Special group rates at the [Hilo Hawaiian Hotel](#)

ADVERTISE WITH ALOHA
Support our convention by placing an ad in our Souvenir Booklet—your support helps keep costs down. Mahalo!

Please submit payment by March 15th

[Order Form](#)

Schedules | Updates | Announcements:
[Convention Website](#)

UPDATE: District 50 Hawai'i Lions Directory

Submitted by DG Sean Benito

Every year, District 50 Hawai'i Lions usually prepares a district directory at the beginning of the Lions year to help Lions stay connected. This year, due to unforeseen circumstances, the release of the district directory was delayed.

Because of that delay, some Lions have been reaching out asking how to contact district leaders, zone chairs, and clubs.

To help everyone stay connected and keep Lions work moving forward, we will be releasing the District 50 Hawai'i Lions District Directory shortly. The directory is being shared in a simple format so it can be easily printed, copied, or pasted for reference.

What information is included?

The district directory includes:

- District leaders and Cabinet
- Zone Chairs
- One contact for each club (President or Secretary)

This information is provided to support communication, coordination, and service within District 50 Hawai'i Lions.

Need club or district contact information?

If you are a leader in District 50 and at any time need contact information for clubs or district leadership for official Lions business, please contact Lion David, our District Cabinet Secretary. He will be happy to email the appropriate information to you.

Why are we doing it this way?

Before releasing the directory, district leadership took a moment to review Lions Clubs International privacy guidelines to be sure we are doing things the right way and taking good care of everyone's information.

Our goal is simple: **to help Lions connect, keep serving, and respect privacy at the same time.**

Important reminder

For Official Lions Use Only

This directory is for District 50 Hawai'i Lions communication and service only. Please do **not** post or share outside the district.

Where does this guidance come from?

For those who would like to review the official sources, here are the Lions Clubs International references used:

- [LCI Privacy Policy](#)
- [LCI – Your Privacy](#)
- [Member, Officer or Club Information Requests \(MyLCI guidance\)](#)

With Aloha & Mahalo

We sincerely apologize for the delay in getting the district directory out this year. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and grace as we worked through this and took the time to do it the right way.

Mahalo for all that you do in service to your clubs, your communities, and District 50 Hawai'i Lions. We truly appreciate each of you, and we move forward together with aloha.



Message from SVDG Tony Tassillio

Aloha D-50 PID, DG, FVDGs, PDGs, CIS, and all Lions,

Hoping your holidays were filled with awesomeness and wishing you all the very best in 2026!

We continue to stay busy serving our communities and visiting District 50 clubs. Mahalo to each and every one of you who gives so generously of your time and heart in service.

If you have any concerns or need support, please feel free to call me.

Much Aloha,

SVDG Lion Anthony Kaluhikai Tassillio



1st and 2nd place winners at the Musical Cup game! Lions took 1st and 3rd place, with 2nd place going to a Kona Leo. Great job to everyone!

FVDG Lion Jim Ness and his Lion companion, visiting from California, enjoying the Kona Christmas Party.

Happy New Year!



District Governor's Membership Update

As of December 28, 2025

Aloha Lions 'ohana,

Since July 1, 2025, District 50 Hawai'i has welcomed 95 new members—proof our service still inspires.

We're holding steady at 1,478 members, and the path forward is clear through our **Three Rules: Value people. Build relationships. Do it good, often, and happy.**

When we focus on belonging—especially in the first 30–90 days—Lions stay and thrive.

Recruitment opens the door.
 Belonging builds our future.

Mahalo for all you do.
 DG Bruddah Sean

KMC WINTER FORUM 2026

Build Your Own Omiyage Box

Fundraiser for Second Vice District Governor
 Tony Tassilio



Take home some of Big Island's favorite Omiyage.
 We will shop for you and deliver your order to KMC.

Order from the list of
 products below:

- Atebara Mix Chips & Shrimp Chips
- Maebo One Ton Chips & One Ton Cookies
- Low's Int'l Bakery Rainbow Bread & Sweet Bread
- Mountain View Bakery Original Stone Cookies
- Frank Foods Oven Ready Deli Roll
- Punahele Jerky
- Two Ladies 4pc Strawberry Mochi & 6 pc Assorted mochi and manju



SCAN QR OR
 CLICK LINK FOR
 ORDER FORM



<https://forms.gle/VGgB58MzTmLNpC3A>



Going Green 2026

Subject to change
[Facebook "Going Green"](#)

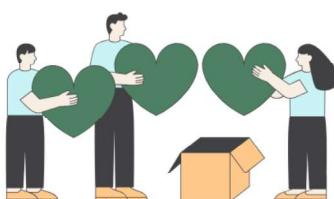
Going Green Partners: T & N Computer Recycling Services, Hawaii Lions District 50, United Cerebral Palsy Hawaii, Oahu SPCA, Hawaii Foodbank, Soares Trucking, Aloha Diaper Bank, Menehune Water Co, Hawaiian Memorial Life Plan/Borthwick Mortuary

Jan. 3: INPEACE Nanakuli

87-2116 Farrington Highway
 Old Kaiser Clinic

Jan 10: Waikiki Elementary School

D50 Hawaii 2025-2026 NON-LION HUMANITARIAN AWARD



Information & Nomination
 Form may be found on the
[Hawaii Lions Website](#)

Contact: Lion Puna Nouchi

DEADLINE: Feb. 1, 2026



REGIONAL LIONS
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
RLLI

February 14 - 16, 2026

Key Project, Kaneohe

Lionism is about more than just our projects; it is about the personal growth and leadership we develop while serving our community.

To support this growth, I am excited to announce that our district will be hosting
Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI)
February 14 - 16, 2026 (President's Day Weekend)
Key Project, Kaneohe

Thanks to a generous grant from Lions International, we are able to offer this intensive training designed to help you lead with purpose—both within your club and in our professional lives.

What You Will Gain

- **Team Building:** Learn to build fast, effective, and collaborative teams.
- **Member Engagement:** Discover strategies to keep volunteers motivated.
- **Global Insight:** Align your service with Lions International's global priorities.
- **Communication Skills:** Learn to navigate challenges using empathetic communication.

Event Details

- **Requirement:** We must have **20 Lions enrolled** for this to qualify as an official institute, so your participation is vital!
- **Application Procedure and Deadline:** Detailed information and the RLLI application may be found on the [Hawaii Lions website](#). All completed documents and registration fee made payable to District 50 Hawaii must be **postmarked no later than January 15, 2026**. There will be no refunds or cancellations after February 2, 2026.

Let's show the strength of your club by having a strong presence at this institute.

If you have any questions about the curriculum or the schedule, please feel free to reach out to:

PDG Eric Nordmeier District Global Leadership Team Coordinator



Annual Club Elections Coming Soon!



REFERENCE: D50 HAWAII LIONS
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS
amended 5/03/25

Elections and Filling Vacancies

Who is elected: All club officers (except Immediate Past President) and board members.

Elections

When: Elections are held in April.

Term: Officers serve July 1–June 30 (1 year).

Directors serve 2-year staggered terms (half elected each year).

Eligibility: Must be an active member in good standing.

Reporting: The Secretary reports results to Lions International within 15 days via the Lion Portal.

Nominations

- A nominating committee is appointed by the President.
- Nomination meeting: Held in March with 14 days' notice.
- Members may nominate from the floor at the nomination meeting only.

Voting

Secret written ballot. A majority vote (more than half of valid votes) is required to win. If no majority, the lowest vote-getter is eliminated and voting continues. No nominations from the floor at the election.

Timeline

March: Nominations
April: Election
By April 15 (or within 15 days): Results reported in Lion Portal

Vacancies

- If the President or Vice President position is vacant, officers move up by rank.
- If needed, the Board calls a special election with 14 days notice.
- Other vacancies are filled by Board appointment.
- If an officer-elect cannot serve, a special election is held.

On the Lion Portal webpage you will find quick guides and training videos on how to report the newly elected officers.

**These are highlights only.
Please refer to the D50 Constitution and By-Laws for complete details.**

Submitted by PDG Eric Nordmeier

YOUNG LION SCHOLARSHIP

TO BUILD & PROMOTE LEADERS UNDER 40

Each District Governor fundraises for this scholarship.
DG Sean Benito will be awarding one scholarship.

THIS SCHOLARSHIP PARTIALLY FUNDS ATTENDANCE TO

- District 50 Convention or
- Lions International Convention or
- USA/Canada Forum or
- Other event subject to committee approval

REQUIREMENTS

- Is a Lion in good standing for 6 months +
- Is younger than 40 years old
- Participated in various leadership roles
- Share what you learn with future applicants
- Submit your application to PDG Gary & CIS Joyce Nip
Not later than January 31st





COMMON SENSE CPR/AED TRAINING

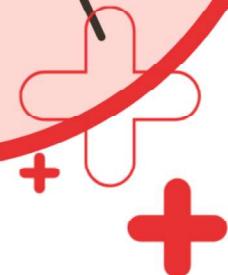
*Help Save Lives – Join the
CPR/AED in Schools Program*

We're partnering with the Hawai'i Heart Foundation and the Hawai'i Lions Foundation to support a statewide effort to educate and certify all sophomore students in CPR/AED. This is a major initiative, and we're seeking committed Lions from all islands to help.

What's Needed

- Willingness to participate and commit
- Completion of a required State of Hawaii vetting process
- Training provided after vetting

**CONTACT PDG GARRETT OGAWA,
LIONS WITH HEART CHAIR**



LIONS IN SIGHT 2026 RECYCLED EYEGLASSES & D50 STATEWIDE FOOD DRIVE



IT'S A DOUBLE IMPACT DAY OF SERVICE!

**SATURDAY
JANUARY 24, 2026**
8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Join fellow Lions and Leos across Hawai'i as we collect recycled eyeglasses and nonperishable food donations – same date, same locations!

LOCATIONS:

- O'ahu: State Capitol
- O'ahu: Safeway Hamakua – Kailua
- O'ahu: Safeway Laulani Village – 'Ewa Beach,
- Hawai'i Island: KTA Stores (Hilo, Kona, Waikoloa, Waimea)
- Maui: Walmart
- Kaua'i: Kukui Grove Shopping Center
- Kaua'i: Big Save at Ele'ele Shopping Center

For more information, please contact:
Lion Ellsworth Fujii, Hunger Awareness:
PDG Lori Inouye-Yamashita, Lions in Sight

Maui Wildfire Update

Submitted by PDG Mark Mizuno

Excerpt from a National Geographic report:

In 2023, wildfires devastated the Hawaiian island of Maui, destroying much of the historic town of Lahaina along with parts of the island's "upcountry." But now, over two years later, Maui is calling visitors back with gusto. For some time after the fires, tourism—Maui's largest economy driver—dwindled, first from pausing entirely, and later, as a result of tourists who shied away either out of an overabundance of sensitivity, or due to misinformation. But locals want travelers to know that Maui is open and that taking a trip here isn't just a vacation, it's an investment in the island's future.

Ordering locally caught ahi from a family-run restaurant helps sustain operations. Planning a snorkeling tour with a beachfront vendor supports a small business. Booking a stay at a resort keeps thousands of locals employed. Every dollar spent aids Maui's long-term rebuilding, and in 2026, there are more reasons than ever to make the trip.

Many beloved businesses impacted by the fires have reopened, some of the island's best resorts just completed major renovations and "voluntourism" programs offer hands-on ways to assist recovery efforts.

While each Hawaiian island offers its own magnificent feast for the senses, prioritizing Maui is an act of *kōkua*—support—and simply showing up is what matters most.

Ascend Haleakalā: Haleakalā is a dormant volcano and national park that rises to 10,023 feet above sea level. Atop the summit wrapped in wispy clouds, hiking trails weave down into a crater colored by otherworldly swirls of red and brown desert earth. Many visitors wake before dawn to witness the sunrise here, while others descend via thrilling bike rides.

Head to Hana: A scenic 52-mile drive along Hana Highway leads visitors around Maui's eastern end to the town of Hana. The route is a destination in itself, though it can be strenuous with hairpin turns and single-lane bridges. It's also greatly rewarding with ample pit stops to admire thick rainforests, dramatic waterfalls, black sand beaches, and stunning landscapes.

Go to the beach: Maui's 120 miles of coastline boasts some of the best beaches in the country, if not the world. Kā'anapali is a pristine three-mile stretch of white sand on Maui's west coast, Ho'okipa on the North Shore is renowned for surfing, and Wai'anapanapa State Park has rugged black sand beaches.

Visit a farm: Maui has more than 800 farms, many of which open their doors to visitors who wish to see how everything from cacao to lavender to where the famous Maui Gold Pineapples are grown. Besides being a fun way to explore the upcountry, these tours also support working farms and local agriculture, which is Maui's second-largest industry after tourism.

Give back: While just visiting Maui is one of the best ways to show support, it can be incredibly meaningful to donate time or resources. Mālama Maui Nui organizes volunteer opportunities for travelers, and some hotels—like the Grand Wailea or the Four Seasons—facilitate their own programs or offer resort credit to guests who join these efforts.

While Maui experiences pleasant weather throughout the year (average temperatures are often between 75°F and 85°F), some times are better than others to visit.

Summer is typically peak season when the island swells with crowds, and while winter is generally cooler, many visitors come in droves for the island's whale watching season, which runs from December to May, or to see the year's biggest waves crash on the North Shore. For fewer crowds, better prices, and equally great weather, look to shoulder periods such as spring (April to May) or fall (September to November).

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Many Lāhainā businesses were destroyed in the 2023 wildfires, but a handful have reopened, including Maui Ku'ia Estate Chocolate (a **big supporter of the Lions Clubs of Maui**), Lahaina Cannery, Lahaina Gateway, Mala Ocean Tavern, Old Lāhainā Lū'au, Star Noodle, Aloha Mixed Plate and Coco Deck Lahaina.

Maui Brewing Company: Maui Brewing Company is the largest craft brewery in Hawaii and its headquarters in Kihei has a tasting room, restaurant, and beer garden with 36 craft and specialty beers on tap. The indoor-outdoor space often hosts live music, trivia, and weekend tours. There's also a second location in Kā'anapali.

Humuhumunukunukuāpua'a: Facing a beachfront lagoon inside the Grand Wailea, this indoor-outdoor restaurant was recently reimagined. Grab a seat at the circular aquarium bar, where live fish swim directly underneath well-crafted tiki cocktails, before dining on sustainably caught seafood.

Mama's Fish House: Family-owned since 1973, the menu at this upscale spot is updated daily to not only reflect that day's catch, but the exact person who caught it, and where.

Miso Phat: This family-owned sushi favorite in Kihei serves fiercely fresh rolls, nigiri and sashimi with casual dine-in or takeout options. If it's too busy, a new, second location joined the scene in summer of 2025 at Maui Coast Hotel.

Monkeypod Kitchen: With locations in Wailea and Kā'anapali, Monkeypod's menu lists everything from hand-tossed pizza to Saimin noodles. But one signature fixture is their whimsical take on a Mai Tai, topped with a dreamy and decadent honey-Lilikoi foam.

Lineage: Revered family recipes and a deep respect for Hawaiian traditions merge at this Asian-American restaurant where guests learn about the roots of their meal, all of which utilize local ingredients.

The Four Seasons Maui Resort: Nestled on the shores of Wailea Beach, this 383-room resort is renowned for immaculate service, pristine grounds, and a starring role as the location of the original White Lotus. Rooms are spacious, perks for families are plentiful, there are three saltwater pools (including an adults-only haven), and a sushi restaurant.

Wailea Beach Resort - Marriott, Maui: Spanning 22 acres amid the golden sands of two crescent

beaches, this resort has five pools, as well as the longest hotel water slide in Hawaii. Much of the resort was recently refreshed, plus there's the addition of an adults-only pool with daily wellness perks and in-water chaises.

Grand Wailea, a Waldorf Astoria Resort: Set on 40 acres of tropical landscaping, all standard rooms start at an oversized 640 square feet. Much of the property has been recently updated, including the opening of Kilolani Spa, which is the largest spa in Hawaii, and new restaurants, including Maui's first Nobu.

Royal Lahaina Resort & Bungalows: In the immediate aftermath of the wildfires, this resort closed for 10 months to host displaced residents and support the local community. It has since reopened, and there is a new oceanfront restaurant and poolside bar, plus updates to the lobby, pool, and bungalow rooms.

Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa: Facing Ka'anapali Beach, the Hyatt Regency has been a mainstay on Maui since the 1980s. The hotel completed a major renovation in time for its 45th anniversary, including remodeled guest rooms, the primary pool, and expanded its Japanese restaurant. Kahului Airport is Maui's main point of entry, and major airlines service the airport, either from the mainland U.S., or via inter-island flights. There are also two smaller airports—Kapalua Airport and Hana Airport—however, these are limited to regional and commuter flights.

Rental cars are widely available at Kahului Airport and most major resorts, making it easy to explore the island at your own pace. Alternatively, rideshare services and taxis operate in the area, and several resorts offer complimentary shuttle service to nearby attractions and beaches.

For those who do drive, keep in mind a few local customs. Please refrain from honking the horn, as it's considered rude, and always drive with aloha, which means don't tailgate, use signals and wave a "thank you" when merging.

For most of us lucky enough to call Hawaii home, you already know most of these things about Maui and despite some residents that would rather not be overrun with tourists. The truth is that tourism is our economy and is limited by accommodation and for Maui to

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recover we must get business back (limited by available employees) and get all those displaced by the wildfires (those that choose to stay, many have left) back to work and into stable long-term housing (limited by permitting, costs, and cultural responsibilities). Thanks to dozens of non-profit organizations with the support of local businesses no one in Maui is starving (including the pre-fire homeless) and everyone who **chooses** can live in available temporary shelters. I recently toured Lahaina, and houses are being built (a few), permits are being issued, and recovery funds are being dispersed. The banyan tree is alive and flourishing. Downtown Front Street is still closed due to unstable structures that have yet to be dismantled. Hundreds of bags of contaminated soil are making its way to a permanent landfill. **The Lions Clubs of Maui** along with other non-profits continue to support food security. Temporary housing stalled by permitting and logistical challenges are opening. Some short-term housing has transitioned to intermediate term housing and many new apartment complexes are now open. As seen in the attached story, the return of tourism is being promoted. To supplement our tourist-based economy diversified agriculture is starting to pay dividends through the efforts of Maui Pono.

Many of you have asked why recovery efforts have not gone faster and that is not an easy question to answer. The easy answer is just having to push through the bureaucratic speed bumps that in some cases were intentionally placed to allow for retrospective analysis. The hard answer is that not all those affected by wildfires agreed as to how to proceed and cultural differences have become a sticking point. The wildfire response could have become the model for disaster recovery, where long standing infrastructure issues could have been remediated but the fight for funding may have dashed that. Funding could have been earmarked to upgrade water distribution, wastewater recycling, undergrounding power lines, make schools/homes/businesses fire resistant, reconstruct important cultural sites including many that were previously destroyed, provide critical long-term support for those physically and psychologically in pain, and provide interest free small business/home loans to supplement insurance reimbursements.

This was my dream scenario, albeit a costly one, but all the items will have to be dealt with at some point and if everyone agreed it could have happened sooner than later.

Meanwhile the **Lions Clubs of Maui** will continue to serve our community on a personal level, one meal at a time, face to face, with love.

Health & Wellness Seminar

**Sunday, Jan. 18th @ 6:30 p.m.
“Obesity & Weight Management”**

Presenter:
Lion Dr. James Yamashita

Best Practices with PDG Cecelia Izuo

Monday, Jan. 26th @ 6:30 p.m.
Topic to be determined (see below)

We're looking for your input as we work to better support our clubs.

Please share your ideas for topics and possible presenters—we'd love to hear from you!

Please contact PDG Cecelia



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

Lion Gary Nip & Lion Lori Inouye-Yamashita

**US\$167
MILLION** GIVEN FOR
**DISASTER RELIEF
SUPPORT SINCE 1968**



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Thanks to **LCIF disaster relief grants**, Lions can bring relief and hope to those who need it most. Last year, a devastating earthquake hit the Philippines, landslides caused multiple casualties in northern India, and parts of the United States, Mexico, Spain, and Nepal experienced severe flooding. As Lions, we are ready to make a difference. Your gifts to LCIF empower us to respond to disasters around the world and support Lions disaster relief efforts. **In 2023, Maui received a LCIF grant of \$10,000.00.**



MJF and PMJF to be pinned at the next D50 Convention on April 23-25, 2026.

Our international guest will be Past International President (PIP) Brian Sheehan. At the Keynote lunch, PIP Brian will pin all the MJFs and PMJFs

received since the last D50 Convention. MJF and PMJF pins are earned for every \$1,000 donation. Also LCIF tracks all donations large or small and when you have donated a total \$1000, you may apply for a MJF or PMJF. Don't delay in getting your MJF and bring your pin to the next D50 convention.



Melvin Jones birthday is January 13!

Donate \$147 in honor of our founder's 147th birthday and receive this limited edition pin.

Be sure to email

DonorAssistance@lionsclubs.org with donation receipt and request the pin.

PLEASE DONATE ANY AMOUNT TO LCIF

BY CHECK: PAYABLE TO LCIF
Mail to: Lions Clubs International Foundation
Department 4547
Carol Stream, IL 60122-4547 USA

ONLINE:

Donate Now



Hawaii Lions Foundation

Together We Can Do So Much

A MIDYEAR MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION

As we reach the midpoint of the year, we reflect with gratitude on the power of partnership and service across D50. With the support of our Lions, donors, and community partners, the Hawaii Lions Foundation continues to advance programs that make a lasting difference—supporting the Diabetes Camp He Ola Ke Keiki, sustaining ongoing Maui recovery efforts, and responding to D50 activity needs.

We are especially encouraged by the renewed activity of the Lions Eye Bank of Hawaii, now operating under the management of the San Diego Eye Bank. This partnership represents a meaningful step forward in restoring essential vision services and ensuring long-term sustainability for this vital program.

Looking ahead, we are focused on building capacity and expanding impact. In the months to come, we will be ramping up the CPR/AED training initiative in collaboration with the Hawaii Heart Association, the Hawaii Department of Health and Education and community leaders. We will be moving forward with a new three-tiered Grants-in-Aid program designed to better align resources with evolving needs. Additional details will be shared soon.

As we plan for the future, we also proudly continue to recognize the generosity and leadership of our Hawaii Lions Foundation Fellows and members of the Lions Hall of Fame, whose commitment strengthens our mission and inspires continued service.

Mahalo for your partnership, your trust, and your dedication as we move forward together—serving with purpose, resilience, and aloha.

HLF President Lion Berta Jenkins

hawaiilionsfoundation.org

MAKE YOUR DONATION

Online: hawaiilionsfoundation.org

Check: payable to Hawaii Lions Foundation

Mailed to: 405 N. Kuakini St., Suite 801, Honolulu, HI 96817

[DONATE HERE](#)

Serving with Aloha Across Our Islands



Members of the **Kaua'i Lions Club** proudly supported the first annual Nourish Gala by assisting with event set-up, staffing the registration table, and welcoming guests as greeters—helping make the fundraiser a success for the Hawai'i Foodbank-Kaua'i.

Submitted by Lion Deb Thompson



Here are a few photos from the **Mililani Lions Club's** holiday party, capturing the joy, laughter, and fellowship of their celebration.

Be sure to view all the photos of their festive fun on the [Hawai'i Lions Facebook](#) page—there's plenty more holiday cheer to enjoy!

Submitted by Lion Pamela Young



Continued on next page



In late October, the **Waiakea Lions** proudly participated in the YWCA *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes* event, standing in solidarity with survivors of domestic violence and helping raise awareness about ending gender-based violence. In November, we continued our commitment to caring for our community by joining the **Hilo Hawaii Lions Unlimited** to provide Thanksgiving meals to those in need.

Submitted by Lion Keani Shirai

Merry Christmas from the Lions Clubs of East Hawaii!

Submitted by Lion Wayne Kuwaye



Continued on next page



Mahalo to the **Kahului Lions Club** for supporting Lion Jennifer and the Common Ground Collective during their community outreach program at Twin Falls.

Kahului Lions Club VP Lion Judith Eagle and Maui High School HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) students at their monthly beach cleanup—celebrating over two years of partnership with the Pacific Whale Foundation.

Submitted by ZC Paul Seto

Koko Head Lions continue to support the Global Cause, “Childhood Cancer” by replenishing the toy treasure chests for Pediatric Cancer patients and Pediatric Specialty patients at Kaiser Moanalua and Clinic.

This ongoing project started over two years ago, and we refill the chests with toys when they are running low.

Submitted by Lion Sue Saffery



West Kauai Lions Club

West Kauai Lions Ring in the Season!

Submitted by PDG Eric Nordmeier

The **West Kauai Lions Club** proudly supported the Salvation Army in Hanapepe through their annual Bell Ringing fundraiser. From 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Lions raised an impressive \$1,525 in support of vital community services.



The spirit of the season continued at the **West Kauai Lions** Christmas Social, bringing together members from **East Kauai, Koloa, Kauai, and West Kauai Lions Clubs**, along with family and supporters.

The holiday celebrations wrapped up with participation in the Waimea Christmas Light Parade in Waimea—an annual tradition proudly supported by the **West Kauai Lions**. Mahalo to everyone who gave, celebrated, and shared the joy of the season with open hearts!



Aloha Pono Lions Club

A Season of Service: Paws, Parties & Giving

Submitted by Lion Aileen Deese

**Santa Paws with Aloha Pono Lions Club**

What a *barking-good* day it was on Saturday, December 20, for the residents of One Kalakaua Senior Living!

Aloha Pono Lions Club

Co-President Denise Werle organized a heartwarming visit with her human and canine friends, bringing smiles, laughter, and plenty of tail wags to the

community. Fellow Co-President Aileen Deese added to the cheer, greeting everyone in festive holiday style.

Even though Rudolph didn't make an appearance, Denise's four-year-old basset hound Fred Flintstone stole the show—along with his bow-wow buddies Lii, Kona, Kami, Lokahi, Tiniri, Medja, and Toby. The joy continued as harpist Kaori serenaded residents and guests, adding a magical soundtrack to the celebration.

It was truly a *ruff* day—in the very best way! **Aloha Pono Lions Club** and friends certainly raised the woof, spreading aloha, comfort, and connection. Enjoy these snapshots by the pup-arazzi!

A Joyful First Christmas for Our Kinaole Lions 'Ohana

On December 16, the **Kinaole Lions Club** warmly invited their sponsor club, **Aloha Pono Lions Club**, along with Guiding Lion Garrett Ogawa and CIS Danielle, to celebrate their very first Christmas party as a new club.

The evening was filled with great fellowship, delicious food at Gyotaku Restaurant, and lots of laughter during fun holiday games. In the true spirit of service, instead of exchanging Secret Santa gifts, members brought donations to support the food bank—turning celebration into compassion in action.

Mahalo to the **Kinaole Lions** for inviting our club to such a memorable holiday gathering. We are incredibly proud to be the sponsor club of this dynamic new Lions club, made up of an inspiring mix of seasoned Lions and enthusiastic new members. What a joyful way to celebrate service, fellowship, and the season of giving!



38th Annual Mililani Hawaiian 'Ohana Holiday Parade

Submitted by Lion Pamela Young



Presented by the Mililani Lions Club



Palolo, Kamehameha & Kalakaua Lions Clubs

Wrapped in Service

Submitted by Lion Beverly Mau

Photos by Lions Beverly Mau & Pamela Young

We hope all Lions had a roaring Christmas holiday season, full of joyful times with family and friends. Here's a toast to wish you all ... **Hope, Joy, Peace & Good Health... in the New Year of the Horse for 2026.**

Please enjoy photos of our Tri-Club Christmas party and the Palolo Lions Club gift wrapping project for the residents of Palolo Chinese Home and Hale Hoaloha at Nuuanu



Akaka Falls Lions Club

Hats Off to Holiday Fun, Fellowship & Service

Submitted by Lion Len Shimabukuro



Following our brief December General Membership meeting, members enjoyed a festive decorated hat contest, along with delicious food, gift exchanges, and plenty of fun and fellowship. Our Lions also continued their monthly service by volunteering with food packing for the kupuna at The Food Basket.



At our annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing project at KTA, the joyful spirit was in full swing with the help of our talented musicians, carolers, and special appearances by Sumo Santa and the Ms. Together, we raised over \$600 in just 3.5 hours!

Continued on next page

Akaka Falls Lions members also joined fellow **East Hawaii Lions** for the Legacy Project cleanup and Christmas Lights event at Liliuokalani Gardens. Over two nights, hundreds of attendees enjoyed free hot chocolate, cookies, candies, lighted finger rings, and even doggie snacks as they passed through the beautifully decorated **East Hawaii Lions** section of the park.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, and hoping all Lions and their families enjoy a most wonderful and healthy New Year!



Koko Head Lions Club

Holiday Party: Party for Causes

Submitted by Lion Sue Saffery

Photos by Lion Jaci Yokogawa

Koko Head Lions Chair Lion Jaci Yokogawa hosted a festive Lions Global Causes holiday party on December 17, 2025, at the Wilson School cafeteria. Admission was canned goods for the Hawaii Food Bank, toys for pediatric cancer patients, and **Koko Head Lions** provided an onolicious potluck dinner for all to enjoy.

PDG Gary welcomed guests, established the order of protocol and invited the following to speak: President Ashley Uyehara, PID Bob Lee, FVDG Cedric Mitsui and 2nd VDG Candidate Lion David Iwana. Lion President Shari from **Roosevelt**, and Lion President Maria from **Ewa Beach** joined members from **Chinatown, Hawai'i Kai, Manoa, Palolo, Kamehameha, Kane'ohe, Kahalu'u, Kinaole, Leeward O'ahu, and Waikiki 2000**. Guests were entertained with boisterous holiday caroling, including a Hawaiian-style rendition of the "12 Days of Christmas."

Global Causes activities included collections for pediatric cancer, diabetes education, disaster relief (LCIF), environmental cleanup and recycling, humanitarian efforts with reindeer candy canes and card making, hunger relief through canned food donations, vision screenings, and youth activities featuring *Sight Is Beautiful* poster coloring. Additional highlights included CPR demonstrations, a hot cocoa station, baked goods, a silent auction, games, music and PA support, and generous donations—making the event a joyful celebration of service, fellowship, and holiday spirit.



Kalakaua, Palolo & Kamehameha Lions Clubs

Tri-Club Christmas Party & Kamehameha Lions 77th Charter Celebration

Submitted by Lion Irwin Santos, Kamehameha Lions

Photos & Video by Lion Pamela Young, Mililani Lions

Media: <https://facebook.com/hawaiilions808>

Kalakaua, Palolo, and Kamehameha Lions came together to celebrate Christmas—and the **77th Charter Anniversary of the Kamehameha Lions Club**—on **December 5, 2025**, at the Palolo Chinese Home (PCH). Members, Lions friends, and family filled the evening with laughter, music, and true Lions camaraderie.

The festivities kicked off with the annual **Chocolate Candy Bar Eating Contest**, where **Past International Director Bob Lee**

claimed first place honors—once again proving his championship form!



Guests then enjoyed a delicious **traditional Pot Roast and Smothered Chicken dinner**, expertly prepared by **PCH Chef Aaron**. For the evening, the Tri-Club meeting place transformed into a fabulous dining hall filled with holiday spirit.

Musical entertainment was truly provided by **EVERYONE**. Dinner music featured **Lion Kula Abiva, Laamea Paleka and her mom**, and hula by the **Mau 'Ohana**, including **Lions Beverly, Dorothy, and Blossom**. The set concluded with a lively Hawaiian-style rendition of the **"12 Days of Christmas,"** complete with participation from the **Kalani LEOs**, who also helped decorate and assisted with games throughout the night.

With Christmas music chiming in the background, the floor opened to **Christmas Carol Karaoke**. Congratulations to **Team Mariah Carey** for their show-stopping performance of *"All I Want for Christmas Is You."* Other highlights included group sing-alongs of *"Jingle Bells"*—yes, even the barking dog version!

Continued on next page



One of the evening's most anticipated moments followed with the annual "**Twas the Night Before Christmas**" **Secret Santa**, read by *the man himself*. Great storytelling, laughter, and a special gift made it a favorite tradition once again.

As the evening came to a close, everyone went home with festive party favors, including a **custom 3D-printed Santa tea light**, a **2026 "Year of the Fire Horse" drink coaster**, and, of course, seasonal candies. True to the holiday spirit, all the good boys and girls left with something special.





KONA HEALTHY LEO LION CLUB CHARTER PRESENTATION

You're Invited!

Chartered June 13, 2025



JANUARY 3, 2026

3:30PM-9PM

Scan to RSVP



bit.ly/KHLLC-CharterEvent



YANO HALL

82-6145 Mamalahoa Hwy, Captain Cook, HI 96704



ZOOM

Link TBA (Please RSVP if you're joining via Zoom)

DINNER FEE:
\$35.00

RSVP BY
DEC. 10, 2025

BYOB (DRINK
SAFELY!)

RAFFLES &
BINGO

3:30PM

Doors Open / Refreshments & Pupu's

4:00PM

Program Begins

5:30PM

Light Dinner, Games, Entertainment

9:00PM

End of Event

KHLLC HUNGER PROJECT: LCI SERVICE WEEK

Earn 1 raffle ticket for every 2 canned food donation
OR for every \$5.00 donation!



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Natsunoya Tea House*

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