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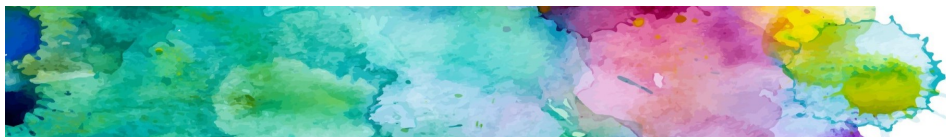
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◆ **PHOTOS**

Dennis Fujimoto

◆ **AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS STAFF**

*Mahalo...*



The Agency on Elderly Affairs, a designated Area Agency on Aging and recently functioning as an Aging and Disability Resource Center has been providing critical and essential eldercare services to Kaua'i's kupuna so they can continue to live a dignified life in the community or environment of their choice. Through a service provider contract or AEA staff, the agency provides the following eldercare services:

- Information, Assistance, Referral
- Outreach
- Senior ID
- Transportation
- Legal Assistance
- Home Delivered Meals
- Congregate Meals
- Case Management/Coordination
- Personal Care
- Homemaker
- Adult Day Care
- Caregiver Respite
- Caregiver Counseling
- Group Support & Information
- Civic Engagement
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Health Promotion
- Disease Prevention
- EnhanceFitness Program
- Better Health, Better Choices
- Options Counseling
- Long Term Support Svcs Planning

# OLDER AMERICANS MONTH



AGING UNBOUND: MAY 2023

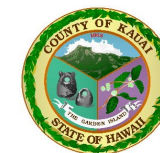


## Recognition Ceremony and Luncheon

Kauai Beach Resort

4331 Kauai Beach Drive

Lihue, HI 96766



For more information,  
call (808) 241-4770  
or visit [www.kauaiadrc.org](http://www.kauaiadrc.org)





Aloha,

Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami and the Agency on Elderly Affairs leads the celebration of Older Americans Month, a time for us to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of older Americans, highlight important trends, and strengthen our commitment to honoring our elders.

This year's theme, **Aging Unbound**, offers an opportunity to explore a wide range of aging experiences and to promote the importance of enjoying independence and fulfillment by paving our own paths as we age.

Here are some ways we can all participate in **Aging Unbound**:

**Embrace the opportunity to change.** Find a new passion, go on an adventure, and push boundaries by not letting age define your limits. Invite creativity and purpose into your life by trying new activities in your community to bring in more growth, joy, and energy.

**Explore the rewards of growing older.** With age comes knowledge, which provides insight and confidence to understand and experience the world more deeply. Continue to grow that knowledge through reading, listening, classes, and creative activities.

**Stay engaged in your community.** Everyone benefits when everyone is connected and involved. Stay active by volunteering, working, mentoring, participating in social clubs, and taking part in activities at your local senior center or elsewhere in the community.



**Form relationships.** As an essential ingredient of well-being, relationships can enhance your quality of life by introducing new ideas and unique perspectives. Invest time with people to discover deeper connections with family, friends, and community members.

May you be blessed to live the life of your dreams,

Kealoha Takahashi

## HAWAII ALOHA

E Hawai`i e ku`u one hanau e  
 Ku`u home kulaiwi nei  
 `Oli no au i na pono lani ou  
 E Hawai`i, aloha e

O Hawaii, O sands of my birth  
 My native home  
 I rejoice in the blessings of heaven  
 O Hawaii, aloha.

E hau`oli na `opio o Hawai`i nei  
 `Oli e! `Oli e!  
 Mai na aheahe makani e pa mai nei  
 Mau ke aloha, no Hawai`i

Happy youth of Hawaii  
 Rejoice! Rejoice!  
 Gentle breezes blow  
 Love always for Hawaii.

E ha`i mai kau mau kini lani e  
 Kou mau kupa aloha, e Hawai`i  
 Na mea `olino kamaha`o no luna mai  
 E Hawai`i aloha e

May your divine throngs speak  
 Your loving people, O Hawaii  
 The holy light from above  
 O Hawaii, aloha.

E hau`oli na `opio o Hawai`i nei  
 `Oli e! `Oli e!  
 Mai na aheahe makani e pa mai nei  
 Mau ke aloha, no Hawai`i

Happy youth of Hawaii  
 Rejoice! Rejoice!  
 Gentle breezes blow  
 Love always for Hawaii.

Na ke Akua e malama mai ia `oe  
 Kou mau kualono aloha nei  
 Kou mau kahawai `olinolino mau  
 Kou mau mala pua nani e

God protects you  
 Your beloved ridges  
 Your ever glistening streams  
 Your beautiful flower gardens.

E hau`oli na `opio o Hawai`i nei  
 `Oli e! `Oli e!  
 Mai na aheahe makani e pa mai nei  
 Mau ke aloha, no Hawai`i  
 Mau ke aloha, no Hawai`i

Happy youth of Hawaii  
 Rejoice! Rejoice!  
 Gentle breezes blow  
 Love always for Hawaii  
 Love always for Hawaii.

*2023 Outstanding Older Americans Honoree*  
*Leonard Vierra*



**Leonard Vierra** worked at the Department of Public Works as the Fiscal Management Officer and retired in 2005 after completing 36 years of service. Prior to his retirement, he was awarded Employee of the Year from the County of Kauai.

His previous work experience has been instrumental in facilitating contract bids and renovation for Saint Raphael Church, Rectory, and other buildings within the property. He tackled this important responsibility proactively and as an outstanding team player.

Leonard has served in several positions at Saint Raphael Church. He was an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a member of the Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee and chairperson of the Parish Building and Planning Committee since 2018. Prior to this he was part of the team taking care of the church, other buildings on the property and the grounds of about 16 acres. In 2014, Leonard was honored with Saint Raphael Church's Island Treasure Award.

He has fulfilled countless volunteer hours at St. Raphael Church. He is an exemplary steward of their Parish and has continuously been a go to person for major and minor repairs.

**Nominated by: Elaine Panui, St. Raphael's Church**

**HAWAII PONO'I**

Hawai'i pono'i  
Nānā i kou mō'i  
Ka lani ali'i,  
Ke ali'i

Hawai'i's own true sons  
Be loyal to your chief  
Your country's liege and lord  
The chief

**Hui:**

Makua lani ē,  
Kamehameha ē,  
Na kua e pale,  
Me ka ihe

Chorus:  
Royal father  
Kamehameha  
Shall defend in war  
With spears

Hawai'i pono'i  
Nānā i nā ali'i  
Nā pua muli kou  
Nā pōki'i

Hawai'i's own true sons  
Look to your chief  
Those chiefs of younger birth  
Younger descent

Hawai'i pono'i  
E ka lāhui e  
'O kāu hana nui  
E u'iē

Hawai'i's own true sons  
People of loyal heart  
The only duty lies  
List and abide



**2023 Outstanding Older Americans  
Award Ceremony**

Music provided by: Paul Togioka

**Welcome**

Ron Wood  
Radio DJ

**Hawai'i Pono**

**Acknowledgment of Special Guests**

**Opening Remarks**

Kealoha Takahashi, Executive on Aging

**Mayor's Message**

Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami

**Governor's Message**

Dana Hazelton, Governor's Representative

**Introduction of 2023 Outstanding Older Americans Honorees**

Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami and Kealoha Takahashi

**Announcement of Kauai's 2023  
Outstanding Older Americans Awardees**

Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami and Kealoha Takahashi

**Special Presentations**

**Closing Remarks**

**Hawaii Aloha**

*2023 Outstanding Older Americans Honoree  
Soledad Negrillo*



**Soledad Negrillo** has very actively volunteered in her community since retiring from the Department of Education, after a 30 year career as a teacher, having taught at Kaumakani Elementary School and Koloa Elementary School.

Prior to the Covid pandemic, Soledad volunteered at Kumu's Cupboard, assisting teachers when they would come in to pick up much needed items. She also volunteered with the Blood Bank of Hawaii scheduling appointments and keeping the canteen stocked.

Soledad is a member of St. Raphael Catholic Church and has been a very active member of their Filipino Catholic Club. She held several different positions over the years – President, Vice President, Chairperson of the Information and Education Committee and Chairperson of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. Currently she is on the Kauai Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs and is the Chairperson for the Awards Committee.

At St. Raphael Catholic Church, Soledad volunteers in several different capacities. She volunteers at the gift shop, is a member of the Music Ministry, singing in the choir, volunteers as counter, assists with Social Ministry and is a member of the Bereavement Ministry assisting grieving families.

Soledad continues to give of her time and talents to help make our community a better place to live.

**Nominated by: Lydia Rebugio, St. Raphael Filipino Catholic Club**



## 2023 Outstanding Older Americans Honoree

### Marina LaMadrid



For many years **Marina LaMadrid** actively promoted the Hawaiian culture through music and dance at the Kapaa Senior Center. From 2014 to 2022, Marina was a hula instructor and ukulele instructor at the center. She planned out and taught performances to her classes so they could share the joy of song and dance with residents in care facilities around the island brightening their days. Marina has a knack for engaging with others in such a way as to bring out the best in them, allowing them to achieve more than believe they can.

She also makes the audience feel comfortable enough to participate in the performance.

Marina used her creative abilities to create songbooks and chorde songs for the Kapaa Senior Center, the Filipino songs class, the Cerritos Senior Center in California, St. Catherine Parish choir and the Hawaii Government Employees Association. Marina was also instrumental in helping design the member t-shirt for the Kapaa Senior Center featuring the Sleeping Giant.

Marina is a member of St. Catherine Parish and operates in the role of librarian and musician. In addition to this she is a member of the Filipino Catholic Club assisting with special programs, entertainment, donations, conducting lei making classes and serving in the food pantry.

Marina retired from the education system as a teacher and school counselor.

**Nominated by: Beth Long, Kapaa Senior Center**



## 2023 Outstanding Older Americans Honoree

### Gloria Jean Aqui



**Gloria Jean Aqui** had a career in education that spanned 30 years. During that 30 years, she was a teacher, PCNC coordinator and a librarian. Gloria worked at King Kaumuali'i Elementary School and at St. Catherine's School.

At King Kaumuali'i, as the PCNC coordinator, she implemented the lunch and/or breakfast program with parents for all grade levels, to help strengthen student success and help parents feel welcomed at the school to promote their active participation in their child's learning. She also encouraged parents to engage in learning workshops with their children for reading and math, assisted teachers in scheduling parent/teacher conferences and kept everyone up to date with the school newsletter.

While at St. Catherine School, working as part-time librarian, she coordinated the annual career day. Gloria invited community members to come into the school to share information with the students on their occupations and what knowledge and skills are required to be successful at those occupations. In addition, Gloria also coordinated the annual Read To Me event the first week of March. She would invite parents, parishioners and community members to come to the school to read to the students to help promote the joy of reading. She also helped with the annual fundraising carnival working in several different booths and assisting with the finance portion.

Even though retired from the education system, Gloria was able to help her grandson, who lives in Washington, during the Covid pandemic by tutoring him remotely for many hours.

Gloria is a very active member of St. Catherine Church and has or continues to serve in many different capacities including, computer data input, website administrator, extra ordinary minister, sacristan as greeter/usher, hospitality committee, bereavement committee and stewardship committee. She is also a member of the St. Catherine Filipino Catholic Club currently serving on the Publicity and Catholic Press Standing Committee.

During the Covid pandemic Gloria took the opportunity to improve her technological skills and began livestreaming St. Catherine masses on FaceBook, providing an immeasurable service to parishioners who would have otherwise not been able to access their religious services. She faithfully livestreamed Sunday masses through April 2022 and the children's masses through May 2022. Now, every Wednesday evening, you can find her at St. Catherine preparing the church to welcome those coming for Adoration. She also makes herself available to help with Adult Faith Formation by livestream or project videos weekly. Gloria is certainly considered to be a parish treasure.

**Nominated by: Kathy Alisna, St. Catherine Filipino Catholic Club**

## 2023 Outstanding Older Americans Honoree

### Consuelo “Connie” Baniaga



**Consuelo “Connie” Baniaga** worked as a Community Service Worker for 30 years at Child and Family Services and has dedicated her life to helping others. She helped countless families suffering from domestic violence and child abuse.

Connie’s experience has made her the “hub” for resources and access to programs within the community. In retirement, she continued serving the community and assisting seniors who were in need of help interpreting legal concerns.

After retiring in 2013, Connie’s passion for helping others continued when she created the Mangan Tayon (Let’s Eat) program. This program served the homebound and houseless community from Kalaheo to Kekaha. For 15 years Connie dedicated her time taking in referrals, cooking meals and planning deliveries. Many people have come to depend on the meals they receive as they are no longer able to cook for themselves. Her kind-heartedness has resulted in thousands of delivered meals. Connie passed down the cooking duties for Mangan Tayon, but she still finds ways to share her famous lauya at church congregations and church fundraisers. Mangan Tayon was a program started from her own funds and with its success, donations are able to keep the program thriving.

At the age of 96, Connie continues to be a member of West Kauai United Methodist Church and helps in the collaboration with Kauai Independent Food Bank to help distribute food to seniors in her community. She is also still active with the Hapapepe Senior Center, where she has been a member since 2018, and she is active in the ILWU Pensioner’s Club, where she has been a club representative since 2013.

She is an inspiration that shows even in your 90’s you can continue to serve those in your community and make a lasting impact.

**Nominated by: Prisculla Badua, West Kauai United Methodist Church**



## 2023 Outstanding Older Americans Honoree

### Henrie Rose “Loke” Kauai



**Henrie Rose Kauai** is very passionate about and proud of her Hawaiian heritage. She takes every opportunity she can to help perpetuate the Hawaiian language and pass on cultural knowledge. For the past 11 years, through the Grandparent Program, she has volunteered at Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School, which is a Hawaiian language immersion school. She assists grades 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and even participates in weekly online classes to expand her own vocabulary and knowledge of the Hawaiian language to better serve the students.

In addition to helping students with the language part of school, she also helps them with music and mele. Henrie Rose teaches the students how to play ukulele, guitar and upright bass and leads them in songs and hula. She demonstrates the hula steps with her hands due to injuries suffered in a terrible car crash in 1977, which nearly ended her life. She was expected to be permanently paralyzed, but through perseverance, determination and hard work she was able to walk again and do many of her own activities of daily living.

The accident that left Henrie Rose with lifelong challenges also made her aware of the mobility and accessibility challenges of others in the community. She now tries to teach others about these challenges so as a community we can all be more aware and mindful of the struggles of others.

Henrie Rose is a volunteer with RSVP and helps with several different programs. She is a driver for the delivery of produce boxes to needy seniors. She is a caller with the telephone reassurance program, calling isolated and/or vulnerable seniors to provide social contact and lend a friendly ear 3 times a week. Once a month, she, and other RSVP volunteers, play music at the Department of Motor Vehicles to help make the wait a little less painful. And she also volunteers at the Kauai Ocean Discovery Center educating people about ocean conservation and sustainability.

Henrie Rose is a member of the Lihue Senior Center, offering to teach interested seniors Olelo Hawaii. She is a member of Soka Gakkai International – USA, attending monthly meetings and occasionally acting as emcee and is a member of Alu Like, teaching new songs to other members and playing music to welcome visitors from the cruise ships at Nawiliwili Harbor.

Prior to retiring Henrie Rose was a professional entertainer, owner of a restaurant and catering business and a traveling Karaoke DJ.

**Nominated by: J. Keokina Kane, Alu Like and Anne Miyamoto, Foster Grandparent Program**

## 2023 Outstanding Older Americans Honoree

### Edith "Edie" Ignacio-Neumiller



**Edith "Edie" Ignacio Neumiller** is very community minded and seems to have energy to spare when it comes to volunteering for and promoting causes she believes in. Edie was very involved in volunteering while she was employed but has really ramped up her volunteering efforts since retiring from the County of Kauai's Department of Water.

Edie has been involved with the Zonta Club since 2011 on the local, state and national level. She has held the office of President for the local chapter twice, been on the nominating committee for the State level and the Area 1 Director on the national level. She is very passionate about Zonta's mission of empowering women through service and advocacy, with such programs and initiatives as, Denim Day, Zonta International's 16 Days of Activism, Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women, the Mai Movement, Ameila Earhart Day, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls and the Red Dress exhibit to name a few.

Edie is also currently on the Committee on the Status of Women on the local and State level, supporting issues relating to women and girls. Along with this she is presently involved with Catholic Charities as a Leadership Council Member, supporting the organizations various programs targeting seniors, homelessness and affordable housing, economic justice and the safety and well-being of children and youth.

Edie was also the Director for the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce for 5 years and she is a huge social media advocate for the Kauai Fashion Weekend that showcases local Hawaii designers and couture fashions.

Edie is truly a role model for volunteerism and for being an advocate for the greater good of the community.

**Nominated by: Melody Lopez, Catholic Charities Hawaii**



## 2023 Outstanding Older Americans Honoree

### Bruce Barraclough



**Bruce Barraclough** worked as a physicist in the areas of Space and Planetary Physics. He served as a Lieutenant and as a Mission Pilot in the Civil Air Patrol from 2016-2017, all while also volunteering at the Hall of Compassion at the Lawai International Center (88 shrines) as head of maintenance. Bruce's background in Space and Planetary Physics explains a lot about his cogent suggestions and his interest in exploring the planet as well as the micro-world of plant development.

Bruce completed the Docent Training Course and Plant Identification for the National Tropical Botanical Garden and has served as Docent in both the Allerton Gardens and the McBryde Gardens since 2018. At the National Tropical Botanical Gardens, he takes visitors on tours through the

gardens, communicating to them the mission of NTBG, the elements of design, historical value of the different installations within Allerton Gardens, and the importance of plants in our daily living.

After completing the training course and utilizing his personal experience from years of farming locally, he then went on to complete a semester of a Botany Course and 50 hours of volunteer service to be certified as a Kaua'i Master Gardener Intern. He continues to pledge those hours yearly to maintain his certification.

Bruce joined the Master Gardener Program in 2021 and quickly became an incredible asset to the program. He participated in existing programs, but also developed and implemented new programs to educate the group and the community. Bruce initiated, planned, and implemented the first training for the Master Gardener Program at the two Gardens in Poipu. Bruce's efforts helped achieve a record number of volunteers in this year's Master Gardener cohort. He also helped revive the outreach booth at the Puhi Farmers Market, during the challenging times of the pandemic, which is one of the main conduits that is used to provide public outreach to those who stop by the booth to seek answers to their gardening issues.

Bruce was unanimously elected to be on the Board of Directors of the Kauai Master Gardener program as the Director of Docents and Docent Training. Through this position he looks for opportunities for current Master Gardeners to serve as docents at various gardens around the island and sets up tours so that their interns and certified members can become more familiarized with volunteer opportunities at some of the amazing gardens on island.

Bruce provides the public with education on many cultural and botanical wonders of Kauai, through his continued service with the Master Gardener Program, National Tropical Botanical Gardens and Lawai International Center he will be able to fill gaps in the community's knowledge and help build important local organizations.

**Nominated by: Dr. Patricia Fallbeck and Dr. Thomas Timmons, Kauai Master Gardeners**

## 2023 Outstanding Older Americans Honoree

### Henry "Curt" Colby



**Henry "Curt" Colby** has dedicated the past 20 years to coaching kids and adults at all levels from swim lessons to national competitions. Being a caring, compassionate, and dedicated leader, he is known for going above and beyond the normal scope of his job and responsibilities as a head coach. It is because of Coach Curt that Swim Kauai Aquatics is Kauai's largest USA Swimming-affiliated club, serving nearly 100 kids, providing them with a high-quality competitive swim program.

Year-round, rain or shine, Coach Curt works tirelessly to develop the technical skills and mental fortitude of his swimmers. He has led the year-round team to record breaking swims and extraordinary accomplishments at the State Level, including five finals in the State of Hawaii Championship Ranking, team record holders, Regionals, Sectionals, and future championship qualifiers. He carried the team through Covid with Safe Protocols and provided a sport to the extended community. Curt is always willing to share his knowledge and experience and has been instrumental in building high-performing and supportive swimmers on Kauai.

Previously, he was the Secretary for Hawaiian Swimming. Currently, he is on the governance board for Hawaiian Swimming, director of a free survival swim program through Hawaii Academy Foundation, and a board member with Kauai Lifeguard Association.

Henry's support, encouragement and wisdom has empowered countless young swimmers directly and helped them cultivate a multitude of achievements both in and out of the pool.

**Nominated by: Glenn and Doreen Tanaka**



## 2023 Outstanding Older Americans Honoree

### Virginia Cruzada



**Virginia Cruzada** worked for many years in the field of education as a teacher and librarian. After retirement she continued to work in education as a substitute teacher for King Kaumuali'i Elementary School. She is also a support person at the school for English Language Learners. According to Principal Jason Yoshida, "She has been instrumental in the advancement of our ELL program and has played a vital role in encouraging, educating and communicating with our ELL students and families here in Hanamaulu.

She also served our school and students with after school tutoring support and was instrumental in connecting our ELL families with resources and support."

Virginia is very proud of her Filipino heritage and is involved in many community organizations promoting the Filipino culture. She is one of the founders of the Kauai Visayan Club and chaired the International Costume Ball for a number of years. She also held the office of Assistant Secretary for 4 years. In addition she has been involved in the Kauai Filipino Community Council and was chairperson for the Miss Kauai Filipina Scholarship Pageant in 2019.

Virginia has also earned a number of awards. In 2016 she won the Hawaii State Legislature Award for volunteerism. In 2018 the Congress of Visayan Organizations presented her with the Lapu-lapu award in the field of education and in 2019 she won a leadership award through the Kauai Visayan Club.

Virginia is a very active member of Immaculate Conception Church. She serves on the music ministry team on Wednesdays and Sundays, assists the pastor as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council and is currently the chairperson of the Immaculate Conception Church Filipino Catholic Club.

The consensus of all who know Virginia personally seems to be she is ethical, generous, a strong leader and tireless.

**Nominated by: Angel Acorda, Immaculate Conception Church Filipino Catholic Club**

