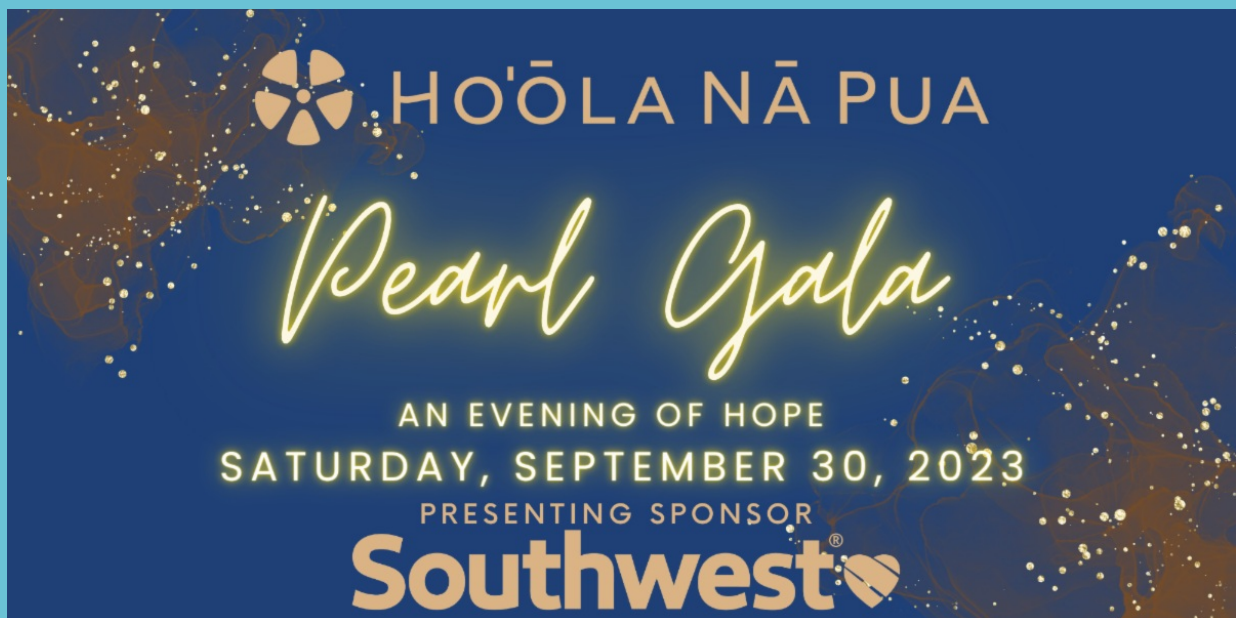


# September Newsletter



## THIS WEEKEND



This Saturday, September 30th, the Four Seasons Resort O'ahu at Ko Olina will be hosting Ho'ōla Nā Pua's biggest fundraiser of the year, our **8th ANNUAL PEARL GALA**.

Here's a sneak peak at the evening:

5:00 PM  
*Registration*

5:30 PM

*Cocktails & Entertainment*

*Music: Kainani Kahaunaele and Friends*

6:30 PM

*Dinner*

*Music: Wehilei and Wailau Ryder*

7:30 PM

*Inspiring Program & Live Auction*

*Emcees: Kainoa Carlson & Mileka Lincoln*

*Auctioneer: Eric Schiff*

10:00 PM

*Dancing & Afterparty*

*Music: Chardonnay*

*DJ Romeo from iHeartRadio*

You haven't missed your chance to be a part of this inspiring evening.

Click the link below to tune into the Gala, **LIVE!**

[WATCH THE GALA LIVE](#)

Please join us in shining the light.

**#ShineTheLight #NightOfHope #HoolaNaPua**

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### **‘Ohana Resource Fair at Lahaina Civic**

August 31, 2023

Dr. Jamee Miller, Executive Director, and Tammy Bitanga, Interim Director of Programs, represented Ho‘ōla Nā Pua at the Lahaina ‘Ohana Resource Fair. This event brought together a wide range of service providers to offer resources to families directly affected by the fires. Ho‘ōla Nā Pua held a welcoming space for people to talk story, participate in hands-on activities, and learn tools to reduce stress as they move forward in their recovery.



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## First Lady Green's Visit to Pearl Haven

### September 2023

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to First Lady Jaime Green for her recent visit to Pearl Haven. First Lady spent the morning touring the facility and later spent time with the youth, connecting over lunch. First Lady is set to receive our Advocacy Award at our upcoming Pearl Gala, recognizing her remarkable dedication to Hawai'i's keiki. We are truly grateful for First Lady's continued support of Ho'ōla Nā Pua.



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## 47th Annual Honolulu Intertribal Pow Wow

### September 9, 2023 - September 10, 2023

Tammy Bitanga lead a team of volunteers at our educational information table at this years Intertribal Pow Wow hosted by Bishop Museum. Along with

sharing information about our Hōkū Program, they invited youth and adults to participate in a creative outlet. Creating slime, that we oversee with our Hōkū Programs as well, not only fosters persistence but also serves as a means to develop and apply essential coping skills.



## HLTA's 44th Annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk

Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association donated funds to local nonprofit organizations with money raised during this year's Visitor Industry Charity Walk. HLTA awarded funding to Ho'ōla Nā Pua at a check presentation at The Moani at International Marketplace, attended by Alana Anderson, Events Manager. Ho'ōla Nā Pua was chosen because of the positive impact our organization is making in our community.



# Pearl Haven Update

**A note from our Program Director...**



*Dear Pearl Haven Supporters and Family,*

*As the summer of 2023 comes to a close, we reflect back on all of the program growth we have seen over the past few months. Our new clinical director, Leslie Filsinger, joined us in May and has really worked with our staff on enhancing our clinical programming to keep up with the growing and changing needs of our youth in our care. Leslie brings more than 30 years of clinical experience with deep roots in trauma work from a relational standpoint.*

*As many of you know, our youth who have experienced complex trauma often have profound fractures and wounds in their ability to connect with themselves and others. The relational work that Pearl Haven provides to our youth as a foundation of all we do, lays the pathway to long term healing and the basic ability to participate in therapeutic work. As our Pearl Haven leadership team has been fine tuning the daily programming to best meet the needs of our youth and has created a rhythm of academic, social, recreational, therapeutic and expressive arts activities for the kids to participate in seven days a week. We believe this model to be a blend of experiences and opportunities in a day that support continuously meets the sensory, developmental and mental health needs of our youth.*

*Thank you for your continued support of our programs and our youth!*

*Mahalo!*

*Elizabeth Porter  
Program Director, Pearl Haven*

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## Introducing our Clinical Director, Leslie Filsinger

### Meet Our Clinical Director **Leslie Filsinger, LPC**

Leslie joined Pearl Haven on Monday, April 10th and began on site work on May 1st. Leslie comes to us with more than 30 years of clinical experience in residential and academic settings, as well as private practice. She has most recently lived in Arizona where she was the Clinical Director of Spring Ridge Academy, a girls program designed to help girls with mental health conditions and their academic needs.

Leslie is committed to helping the youth of Hawaii and Pearl Haven find their paths to healing and a sense of safety where they can grow and develop into healthier lives. She has specialized expertise in attachment, building trusting spaces and helping staff grow develop their clinical skills.

We are excited to have Leslie as a part of our leadership team at Pearl Haven.



[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Pearl Haven  
and to receive a copy of our booklet,  
Two Years in Review.



HO'OLA NĀ PUA

*Pearl Haven*  
Two Years in Review



Would you like to contribute to the  
O'ahu Programs Amazon Gift Registry?  
Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view the items needed.



## October Education Webinars

Wednesday's 4:00 - 5:00 p.m

Aloha! Let's join together and raise awareness to the reality of Sexual Exploitation. Check out the list of upcoming events where we will host live, free, public webinars.

### October 4th - CSEC: An Overview

Myth vs reality, trafficking in Hawai'i, risk vs protective factors, identification and response.

### October 11th - CSEC: Trauma Informed Response

Checklists and hotlines serve a purpose, trafficking and trauma go hand-in-hand.

Our response needs to meet survivors where they are.

### October 18th - Online Safety

We'll take a look at some of the dangers of the internet and some tips and considerations to stay safe online.

### October 25th - Practical Ways to Fight Sex Trafficking Today

You might not be able to end trafficking today, but you can do something to fight it! We will provide some action steps.

**For more information, please contact  
Eric Madden at [eric.madden@hoolanapua.org](mailto:eric.madden@hoolanapua.org)**

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