



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Ka Makana Ali'i Hosts Ola Ka 'Ī Ewa on Saturday,
Feb. 22 to Celebrate Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i**

The community is invited to enjoy entertainment, games, ha'i 'ōlelo (Hawaiian language speech competition), and more at the gathering place in Kapolei

KAPOLEI, HI (February 19, 2025) — Ka Makana Ali'i is pleased to host Ola Ka 'Ī Ewa on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to celebrate Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, or Hawaiian Language Month. Ola Ka 'Ī Ewa invites all community members, Hawaiian language speakers, and learners of all ages to a fun-filled day at the gathering place in Kapolei.

No'eau Designers and Kanaeokana, together with Native Hawaiian organizations, will showcase the Hawaiian language within the West O'ahu community. Ola Ka 'Ī Ewa will celebrate 'ōlelo Hawai'i through entertainment, games, ho'okūkū ha'i 'ōlelo (Hawaiian language speech competition), shopping, dining, and fun for the entire 'ohana.

"Ka Makana Ali'i is honored to again host Ola Ka 'Ī Ewa at the Center to celebrate Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i," said Stephanie England, general manager at Ka Makana Ali'i. "As a Center that is home to many Native Hawaiian owned and operated businesses, we are grateful to be a place where our community can learn, speak and celebrate the indigenous language."

This year, Ola Ka 'Ī Ewa will honor and be dedicated to the late Kumu Hula Lāhela Igarta, an icon in the Honouliuli community who served the lāhui and made profound advancements for the Hawaiian people through her work as a kumu hula, a kumu kaiaipuni and as a beloved 'anakē. Coming from a family rich in Hawaiian music and hula, dancing and mele were a part of Kumu Lāhela's life from birth and this became the *kahua* or foundation of her life.

Through 'Ilima Hula Studio with Kumu Louise and Luka Kaleiki, Kumu Lāhela's passion for hula was ignited and she decided during her first class at the age of 7 that she would teach school and teach hula on the weekends. Kumu Lāhela continued on this path toward 'ōlelo Hawai'i, mele and hula throughout her life studying under Kumu Hula Sam Bernard of Hālau Kaulu Laka

and later became an 'ōlapa of Nā Mamo o Pu'uanahulu. This led to many long years of study and the honor of 'ūniki with Kumu Hula Sonny Ching, and starting her own halau — Hālau Nā Mamo o 'Upa'ika'uaua.

Her contributions to the lāhui are many, but serving as a kumu mele for Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Waiau for many years and educating 'ōlapa hula ma ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i are chief among them. Kumu Hula Lāhela Igarta's original compositions have created a body of mele hula dedicated to the moku of Honouliuli and the 'Ewa region, many of which were performed at last year's Ola Ka 'Ī 'Ewa.

This year, her 'ohana and 'ohana hula from Hālau Nā Mamo o Pu'uanahulu and Hālau Nā Mamo o 'Upa'ika'uaua will offer the opening oli and mele for Ola ka 'Ī 'Ewa. The public is invited to enjoy more performances by Pūnana Leo Hawaiian Language Preschool, Paoakalani Hula School with Kumu Kalani Hiapo, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Waiau, INPEACE: Keiki Steps, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Mā'ilikūkahi, Ho'okūkū 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Laureates, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kapolei, and Ka Waihona o ka Na'auao. For more information, visit <https://www.mahinaolelohawaii.org/>.

Visit our website at www.kamakanaalii.com for more details about upcoming promotions. For the latest news and updates, follow Ka Makana Ali'i on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, all with profile name @kamakanaalii. For media inquiries and on-property approval, please contact alyssa.amasol@finnpartners.com.

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About Ka Makana Ali'i

Ka Makana Ali'i offers residents and visitors a family-friendly, mixed-use center in the heart of Hawai'i's fastest growing community. The 750,000-square-foot Macy's-anchored super-regional center features more than 100 exciting stores, restaurants, a state-of-the-art Consolidated Theatres and the state's first Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton located on property. The newest development, The Grove at Ka Makana Ali'i, creates an additional 109,000 square feet of space with lifestyle retailers, eateries and services, such as 24 Hour Fitness, Foodland Farms, Straub Clinic and Urgent Care, and PetSmart. Serving as the premier gathering place in Kapolei, Ka Makana Ali'i fulfills the shopping and dining needs of the ever-expanding community. Its convenient location offers excellent highway access, ample parking and public transportation for shoppers. Ka Makana Ali'i is owned by Kapolei Hawaii Property Company, LLC, a joint venture between DeBartolo Development and OPTrust. Through an innovative partnership with Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Ka Makana Ali'i will financially support programs benefiting Native Hawaiian interests statewide for decades to come. For more information, please visit www.kamakanaalii.com.

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