

LIVE + WORK + INVEST

# Kapolei

+ magazine

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SHIRLEY SWINNEY

## CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SHIRLEY SWINNEY

*Cultural and Community Leader*

Hāpai Pōhaku means carrying stones. Hāpai Pōhaku describes how our ancestors did their work by relying on each other to help carry the stones. My people built heiau, heat imu, made weapons, and fulfilled kuleana through hāpai pōhaku. All my life I've been inspired by those who continue the stone-carrying culture of my ancestors.

When I arrived in Kapolei in 2000, I was amongst a large group of Hawaiian homesteaders settling in this developing place. We wanted to be part of growing this new community. We needed a sense of this place as many of us knew very little or nothing at all about Kapolei's history and culture. It was when Shad Kane introduced us to Pu'uokapolei that we were enlightened. He shared stories and pointed out tangible artifacts that evidenced a profound and hearty history of Hawaiian leadership and traditions, plantation life and WWII military presence. In learning this history and significance of Kapolei, I became connected and grounded to my place here. This helped me solidify my identity as a kanaka in this new place and inspired my aloha and commitment to service within this new community.

Uncle Shad has since done something reminiscent of the old ways of passing on stones. He passed on the pōhaku of stewardship at Pu'uokapolei to Miki'ala Lidstone who today leads the efforts to maintain this significant cultural and historic site.

Hāpai Pōhaku describes people coming together to work toward a common goal.



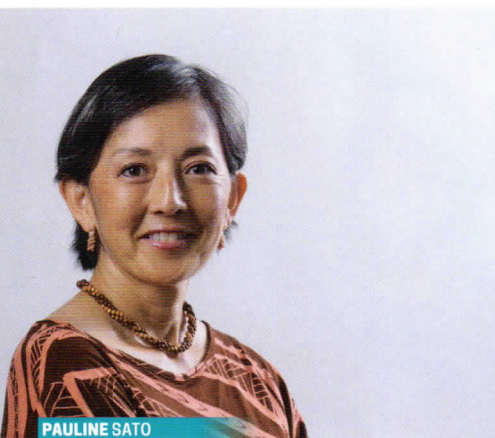
In 2008, this concept was adopted by myself and a team of Kapolei homesteaders who envisioned a long line of people passing heavy stones from hand to hand. We kept this vision to inspire us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. We saw this as building a foundation for a modern day pu'u, so to speak. Importantly, we saw it as a way to carry our heritage forward.

Hāpai Pōhaku is the logo for the nonprofit organization responsible for the planning and construction of a facility that would be a gathering place and hub for community

services. Hāpai Pōhaku is how the Kapolei Heritage Center came to be. Just as others before us, we look to pass the pōhaku of stewardship at Kapolei Heritage Center to the next generation of Hawaiians.

I'm honored to be considered someone who has played a key role in the development of Kapolei and West O'ahu. But really, I'm just someone who carries stones and continues to be inspired by others who do the same.





PAULINE SATO

## ENVIRONMENT PAULINE SATO

*Executive & Program Director,  
Mālama Learning Center*

Although most people may place me in the environment sector, the work that we do at the Mālama Learning Center, and what I have been doing for my entire career, has melded multiple sectors including conservation, education, culture, community, health and wellness, and social justice. I believe that our lives cannot be divided into categories because everything is interconnected. For example, how can we protect our environment if people don't care? How can we expect people to care if they don't understand how nature works and their relationship with it, or how nature is connected to their culture? How can we educate children if they don't go to school regularly, or if their teachers have less time to teach because of student behavior manifested by struggles at home? And how can students learn if their basic needs for shelter, food, and safety are not addressed adequately?

Joined by my colleagues who also recognized the intersection of sectors, we created, nearly 20 years ago, Mālama Hawai'i, a network of individuals and organizations holding the vision that Hawai'i is a place where the land and sea are cared for and communities are healthy and safe for all people. Mālama Learning Center, formed in 2004, grew out of Mālama Hawai'i to focus on communities of West O'ahu using environmental education as a strategy, technique, and platform.

West O'ahu is a beautiful place with a strong sense of cultural history and communities grounded to the land and



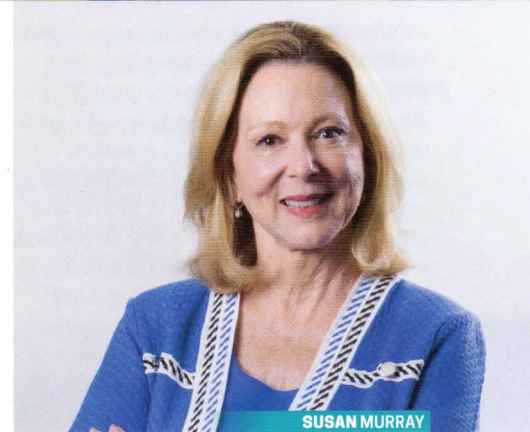
sea. However, it is also troubled with numerous "quality of life" issues that we must address. We can do this by becoming environmentally literate. That means that we are informed, lifelong learners who value Hawai'i's uniqueness, practice environmental stewardship, and live sustainably. We know where our fresh water, food and energy come from, and where our wastes go. We understand the natural and cultural history of where we live and act in ways to preserve what is special and unique. We make daily choices to positively affect the environment and our wellbeing. Perhaps most importantly, environmentally literate people think critically. We learn to ask questions and develop answers that lead to positive action. We are motivated, empowered, and committed to fulfill our kuleana (rights and responsibility).

Through environmental education and action, I believe people and places can heal and become restored. And that is why I do what I do for West O'ahu and Hawai'i nei.

## HEALTHCARE SUSAN MURRAY

*Senior Vice President,  
Chief Operating Officer,  
The Queen's Medical Center - West Oahu*

I moved to West O'ahu five years ago when I joined Queen's to lead the renovation of The Queen's Medical Center - West O'ahu. When we opened over four years ago, we brought sorely needed medical services to the fast growing West O'ahu community. Population growth has meant that we are



SUSAN MURRAY

constantly expanding services to respond to the demand. For example, we opened a pediatric after hours care center and will soon open a family care center to meet the needs of the working community. We also do outreach work with schools and businesses to provide education and screenings. Emergency services are in high demand in the community, and while Queen's West has the second busiest emergency department on Oahu (Queen's Punchbowl is number 1), we have outgrown our space.

We fully expect demand for healthcare services to grow along with the population, so we are currently planning for more physicians, more inpatient beds, and a larger emergency department. As prevention is also a part of our healthcare services, we are planning more healthy living programs, which have proven to be popular with residents. Our challenge is to keep pace with the community's needs for health care services closer to home. Our goal is to provide the services that will lessen patients' need to drive downtown