

At Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union ...

# Owners Count.

SPRING 2025 HCFCU NEWSLETTER



Photo: The KVIKS Media Team filming at the Hawaii Island Chef Challenge with special guests (from L-R with leis): Pomaika'i Bartolome, Former Executive Assistant to the Hawaii County Mayor Mitch Roth, Former Hawaii County Mayor Mitch Roth, Chef Sam Choy, Chef Mahana Beamer.



Photos: From L-R: KVIKS photographer, Kama Paulo-Galsote, from Waiakea High School, KVIKS photographer, Florelaine Gonzales, KVIKS team member, Reana Lagronio with KGMB's Keahi Tucker at the Merrie Monarch Festival

*Join us for  
Membership  
Appreciation  
Week*

**MAY 5-9, 2025**



**RSVP Today!**

**"PURSUE YOUR  
PASSION AND  
STAY CURIOUS—  
THIS FIELD IS  
CONSTANTLY  
EVOLVING."**

—Luke Eclipse-Ujano, KVIKS Media

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### Media Moguls in the Making

HCFCU Member Profile  
highlights KVIKS Media and  
their mission to provide path-  
ways to prosperity for Hawaii  
Island students.

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### Spring Savings

Spring into financial fitness  
with our guide to boosting  
your savings.

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Community**  
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in Trust,  
Committed  
to *You*.

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Membership  
requirements apply.

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 **SAVE THE DATES: MAY 5 -9**

# 88th Annual Membership Meeting & Member Appreciation Week



## Celebrating You!

Join us for *Member Appreciation Week* at our branches! We're happy to show our gratitude to each cherished member of our ohana with a week-long celebration.

► Throughout the week, we're bringing the spirit of appreciation to your local branch with great prizes and giveaways. It's our way of saying mahalo for your continued support and trust in us. Whether you're a long-time member or new to our ohana, we want to make sure you feel valued and appreciated.

Our branches will be adorned with festive decorations to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. You'll have the opportunity to connect with our friendly staff, who are eager to celebrate with you. We believe that our members are the heart of our community, and this event is dedicated to honoring each and every one of you.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details as we finalize the plans. We look forward to making this Member Appreciation Event a memorable experience for every member of the Hawaii Community FCU family. Let's come together to celebrate the spirit of ohana and the strong bonds that unite us.



Visit one of our branches or use this QR code to enter to win the **\$880 grand prize**. QR code valid between May 5-9, 2025\* ■

\*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Must be an HCFCU member to enter. Visit [hicommfcu.com](http://hicommfcu.com) for complete drawing rules.

## Annual Membership Business Meeting

**SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025**

► This year's **Annual Membership Business Meeting** will be held on May 10, 2025 at 10:00 am at our Kaloko Branch Training Room.



If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by using this QR code. Seating is limited.

## Positively Passionate about Workplace Culture

HCFCU is excited to announce Sonia Jazmin as its new Human Resources Manager. With extensive experience in human resources, Sonia brings a strong background in recruitment & retention, employee training & development, and benefits administration to her new role.



Sonia Jazmin

► **Sonia joins HCFCU from Ali'i Health Center**, where she built the HR department from the ground up, created onboarding programs, and managed everything from recruitment to compliance. Prior to that, she served as Vice President of Human Resources & Administration at Water and Power Community Credit Union, where she led HR operations

across multiple departments, implemented performance management programs, and championed employee engagement initiatives.

"We're thrilled to have Sonia join the HCFCU ohana," said Tricia Buskirk, CEO and President of HCFCU. "Her experience in human resources and passion for developing positive workplace culture will help us continue to support and grow our incredible team."

Originally from Delano, California, Sonia moved to Los Angeles to pursue a college degree, earning a bachelor's in business administration from California State University,

Dominguez Hills. A lifelong learner and advocate for professional development, she is also a member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and Professionals in Human Resources Association (PIHRA).

In addition to her professional work, Sonia serves as a board member for the Donkey Mill Art Center. She is also an avid traveler, having spent a month exploring China, Greece, and the Philip-

*"Her experience in human resources and passion for developing positive workplace culture will help us continue to support and grow our incredible team."*

—Tricia Buskirk, President & CEO

ines, and visiting over 35 states across the U.S. On her spare time, she enjoys exploring the islands and helping her brother with his coffee farm.

HCFCU is excited to welcome Sonia to the team and looks forward to the expertise and leadership she brings to the organization. ■

## Holiday Schedule

HCFCU will be closed on the following days;



Monday, May 26

Memorial Day

Thursday, June 19

Juneteenth National Independence Day

Friday, July 4

Independence Day



# Giddy Up and Save!

**Celebrate  
Youth Month  
in April!**

## EARN \$5

### Youth Member in April.\*

Ask about our fun activities and prizes for your keiki\*. Every deposit into a youth account and new youth account opened is an automatic entry to win one of our grand prizes\*.

### Grand Prizes\*

**0-3 yrs**

FUNLIO Elephant Baby Rocking Horse

**4-6 yrs**

PLAYFULMINDS™ 29-Inch-Tall Rocking Horse with Animated Tail and Mouth

**7-12 yrs**

Kodak™ Printomatic Full-Color Instant Print Digital Camera Gift Bundle

**13-18 yrs**

Bumpboxx® Bluetooth Boombox Ultra Plus

## Ask us how!



**Hawaii Community**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



\*Referral cards can be picked up from any of our branches. Must use provided referral card. Must be an existing member to refer a new youth member. Referring member must have established membership prior to April 1, 2025. Referred youth must qualify for membership. A new youth member is considered anyone 18 years of age or younger who establishes new membership with Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union. Parents, legal guardians or an adult may be required to hold joint membership with the youth member. Reward of \$5 will be deposited into the appropriate accounts no later than May 31, 2025. Due to privacy policies we cannot release any referral information. Referral promotion only valid for youth accounts opened between April 1 and April 30, 2025. Prizes while supplies last. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Visit [www.hicommfcu.com](http://www.hicommfcu.com) for official contest rules and details on how to submit alternative entry into the contest. One entry, per member, per day from April 1-30, 2025. Must be 18 years of age or under and make a minimum deposit of \$5 to establish a Youth Share Account and provide full legal name, date of birth, social security number and other personal information. FUNLIO, Bumpboxx, PLAYFULMINDS and KODAK are all registered trademarks and not participating in or sponsoring this promotion.

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



KVIKS broadcast camera operators, Kai Bowlin (left) and Noumea Gating (right)



00:40/04:30



### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

**Luke Eclipse-Ujano, KVIKS Media**

# Pathways to Prosperity

**For some, technology is just a tool—for Luke Eclipse-Ujano it's a bridge.** A bridge between students and opportunities, education and innovation, passion and profession. Whether he's guiding students through the fast-paced world of digital media, advocating for financial literacy, or serving on HCFCU's Board of Directors, his work is rooted in a single mission: to create meaningful pathways for the next generation.



► **Born and raised in Hawaii,** Luke has been immersed in the world of technology since graduating from Hilo High School. He started his career as a Computer Technician and Media Club Specialist at Hilo Intermediate School before returning to his alma mater in 2013. By 2015, he became Tech Coordinator, leading efforts to integrate digital learning tools and expand opportunities for students in media production. A strong advocate for financial literacy, Luke played a key role in helping establish the Hilo High Student Credit Union, working closely with HCFCU's IT and branch personnel to launch the student-run facility. While his role has evolved over the years, his belief in empowering students through real-world learning experiences remains steadfast.



Through KVIKS Media, Luke has helped students develop technical skills in videography, photography, and broadcasting—skills they use to livestream athletic events, cover special performances, and document important community moments. To ensure long-term support, he and a team of KVIKS Media

Photos, above. Left: Reana Lagronio handling the mic at the Merrie Monarch Festival Right: At broadcast control are Kylan Kaneko (left) and Rayden Rice (right).

*“Inspired by my own mentors, I wanted to be that same spark for others. Fourteen years later, I never imagined I’d be here — doing what I love alongside my students.”*

alumni and staff founded the KVIKS Media Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on sustaining and expanding the program. One of their proudest accomplishments? Producing a documentary on the History of the Aloha Shirt, which is now featured on Hawaiian Airlines flights to the mainland and beyond.

In addition to his work in education, Luke brings his expertise to HCFCU's Board of Directors, where he helps guide the credit union's technological strategies while learning valuable lessons in non-profit governance.

With a passion for storytelling and a heart for his community, Luke continues to inspire the next generation of creators and innovators. To support KVIKS Media and their efforts to secure production vehicles for their broadcast program, visit [kviks.org/](http://kviks.org/) or donate to learn more.

*Continued on page 8*



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## Q&A

**Q: What inspired you to pursue a career in technology and media?**

Growing up, I started a classroom newspaper, blending photography and writing, and discovered my love for video production in 6th grade.

In high school, I gained the skills and tools to pursue media and had the opportunity to compete in a video competition. After graduating from Hawaii Community College, my former media teacher offered me a job at Hilo Intermediate as a computer and media teacher. Inspired by my own mentors, I wanted to be that same spark for others. Fourteen years later, I never imagined I'd be here — doing what I love alongside my students.

**Q: How did you get involved in starting the Hilo High Student Credit Union, and why do you think student financial literacy is important?**

As Tech Coordinator, I was involved with the technical logistics and opening of the credit union. Personally, I saw the convenience of being able to deposit and withdraw money on campus and fully supported it. Many students don't have access to their own checking or savings accounts, and if I had learned financial literacy in high school, I would have managed my money much smarter. That's why I've always advocated for students to get involved—it's a skill that will benefit them for life.

**Q: KVIKS Media has grown significantly under your leadership. What are some of the most exciting projects your students have worked on?**

One of our biggest highlights is the *History of the Aloha Shirt* documentary, now featured on Hawaiian Airlines flights to the mainland and international destinations.

*"I've seen firsthand how HCFCU prioritizes financial literacy, accessibility, & member-focused services."*

We also broadcast sports for the BIIF, HHSAA, and Hawaii News Now's K5 channel. These projects give students invaluable hands-on experience while showcasing their talents to a wider audience.

**Q: What motivated you to join HCFCU's Board of Directors, and what have you learned from your experience so far?**

When HCFCU had an opening on their Board of Directors, Tyson, the Hilo branch manager, encouraged me to apply. As I was building my own organization with a board, I saw this as a great opportunity to learn more about nonprofit governance while contributing my expertise in technology. Serving on the board has been an honor—I've gained valuable insights into financial management, leadership, and community engagement, all of which have helped me strengthen the KVIKS Media Foundation as well.

**Q: If you had to describe HCFCU in one word, what would it be and why?**

"Community." From launching the Hilo SCU to serving as a Board Director, I've seen firsthand how HCFCU prioritizes financial literacy, accessibility, and member-focused services.

**Q: What advice would you give to students who are interested in digital media and technology careers?**

Pursue your passion and stay curious—this field is constantly evolving, so be open to learning and adapting. Take advantage of hands-on experiences through school programs like KVIKS Media, internships, or personal projects. Networking is key—connect with professionals, seek mentorship, and collaborate to expand your skills. Most importantly, find joy in storytelling and creativity—those elements will set you apart in this industry. ■





## Feed-A-Thon

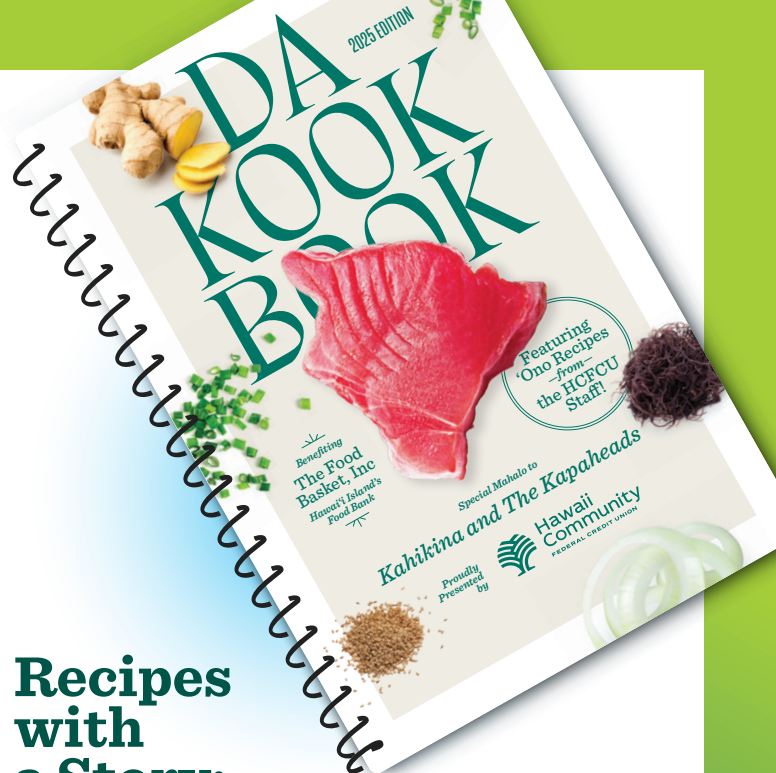
For many in our community, hunger is a part of their daily struggle and having the services of *The Food Basket* is their opportunity to have a meal for themselves and their families.

► **Hawaii Community FCU was proud to be a sponsor** of 24th Annual Feed-A-Thon to benefit the Food Basket and to have our six branch locations as collection sites for staff, members, and the community to make non-perishable food donations.

Staff from all branches and departments brought it to the table for an employee food drive during the five day Feed-A-Thon event donating monetary and food donations that equated to more than 3,000 lbs of food.

If The Food Basket was to fill its shelves to the brim, it would cost about \$300,000 a month. It doesn't have that kind of money and has been spending about \$50,000 a month to get what it can. With inflation, \$50,000 doesn't go as far as it used to with the prices of wholesale food going through the roof.

Every donation helps families keep food on the table. Financial donations are vital in continuing the operation of our island-wide services. The Food Basket has two food warehouses, one on each side of Hawaii Island. These warehouses store food donations, but they require refrigerators, freezers, electricity, and vehicles and gas to get the food delivered to those who need it most. ■



## Recipes with a Story: *Da Kookbook*

HCFCU is proud to support Kahikina from *KAPA Hawaiian FM* and his beloved project, *Da Kookbook*—a collection of recipes that celebrates the stories behind our favorite dishes while benefiting *The Food Basket* – Hawai'i Island's Food Bank.

► **Over the years, HCFCU has partnered with The Food Basket** to help combat food insecurity, raising more than \$124,000 to support local families in need. This year's edition of *Da Kookbook* is extra special, featuring recipes from HCFCU staff, each one carrying a story of tradition, ohana, and community.

The cookbook will soon be available for purchase at all HCFCU branches, as well as through The Food Basket website, [hawaiifoodbasket.org](http://hawaiifoodbasket.org), with proceeds directly supporting The Food Basket's mission to end hunger in Hawaii County.

Join us in these fundraising efforts! Whether you purchase *Da Kookbook* or donate to the ALOHA BOWL fundraiser, every contribution brings us closer to supporting vital healthcare and fighting hunger on Hawaii Island. ■



## ALOHA BOWL: Benefiting the Kona Hospital Foundation

► **HCFCU is hosting its inaugural ALOHA BOWL Charity Tournament to support the Kona Hospital Foundation.**

This fun-filled event is more than just a friendly competition amongst our staff—it's a chance to raise \$10,000 by April 30 to enhance healthcare services at Kona Community

Hospital. All proceeds will go toward funding critical medical technology, expanded services, and enhanced facilities. Our bowling teams are ready to roll! Stay tuned for the launch of our online donation platform, where you can help us reach our fundraising goal. ■



## *Spring into Savings:* A Fun & Family-Friendly Guide to Financial Fitness

Spring is a time of fresh beginnings, blooming opportunities, and, yes, a little financial fun! As winter's chill fades away, it's the perfect time to spring into action and set your money matters on the right track. Whether you're an individual looking to boost your savings or a family aiming to make budgeting a team sport, we've got a playful guide to help you march toward financial fitness.

### **Step 1: Kick Off Your Money Parade**

**Imagine your finances as a festive parade**—each dollar marching proudly, contributing to a spectacular display of financial strength! Start by setting a clear, achievable goal for the month. It could be something as simple as cutting out one unnecessary expense (bye-bye, daily fancy coffee!) or challenging your family to save a specific amount by the end of May.

**Fun Tip:** Create a “money marching band” chart on your fridge. Every time you hit a savings milestone, add a sticker to the chart. Watching your parade grow is both motivating and visually rewarding!



## MEMBER TIPS



### Step 2: Spring Forward with Savings

**March also signals the start of spring**, making it a great time to refresh your savings strategies. Think of your emergency fund as your personal financial garden. With regular care, it'll blossom into a robust safety net ready to weather any storm.

**Quick Challenge:** Set up an automatic transfer to your savings account each payday. Even small, consistent contributions can accumulate into a blooming fund that supports your family's future dreams.

### Step 3: Turn Budgeting into a Family Game

**Budgeting doesn't have to be a boring chore**—it can be an interactive game for the whole family! Turn the process into a friendly competition or a creative challenge that everyone can enjoy.

**Budget Bingo:** Create bingo cards with financial goals like “No Spending Day” or “Homemade Dinner Night.” Each time someone hits a goal, they mark off a square. The first one to complete a row wins a fun prize!

*By turning budgeting and saving into engaging, family-friendly activities, you'll not only improve your financial stability but also create cherished memories along the way.*

**Expense Treasure Hunt:** Involve your kids by challenging them to spot areas where you can save money. Whether it's finding discounts on groceries or coming up with creative alternatives for weekend entertainment, every bit of input counts.

These activities not only teach valuable money management skills but also make budgeting a bonding experience.

### Step 4: Celebrate Every Win

**No financial victory is too small to celebrate.**

Every dollar saved and every expense trimmed is a step toward greater financial freedom. Keep the momentum going by recognizing your progress. **Reward Idea:** At the end of May, treat yourself or the family to a fun, budget-friendly outing—maybe a picnic in the park or a movie night at home. Celebrations serve as a reminder that you're not just saving money; you're investing in a happier, more secure future.

### Spring Forward

As Spring unfolds, remember that financial fitness isn't about drastic overnight changes. It's about making small, fun, and consistent steps toward a healthier financial life. Embrace the spirit of the season—refresh, renew, and revitalize your approach to money management.

By turning budgeting and saving into engaging, family-friendly activities, you'll not only improve your financial stability but also create cherished memories along the way. So grab your financial playbook, rally your family, and let's march into a brighter, more secure future together! ■

**RELAY  
FOR LIFE**

Teaming up to make a difference.  
**JOIN US!**

When we rally together in the fight against cancer, we can accomplish anything.

**WHEN:** Saturday, July 19, 2025

5 pm–Midnight

**WHERE:** Francis Wong Stadium  
Hilo, Hawaii



At Hawaii  
Community FCU ...

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**MAY 5-9, 2025**

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