



# Kapaia Foundation

Contact us at: [kapaiafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:kapaiafoundation@gmail.com) or (808)639-3606

September 2025

Preserving and promoting the rich history of Kapaia Valley

Issue # 35

## Aysha Berry receives KAPAIA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



Lihu'e, HI September 2025 Kapaia Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of Kauai High School graduate, Aysha Berry, as recipient of its 2025 scholarship award.

The Kapaia Foundation Scholarship was created to recognize the dreams of sugar plantation era immigrants for the success of their descendants. Aysha's great great great grandparents arrived in Hawaii with dreams of peace and prosperity. They worked alongside each other in the sugar and pineapple plantations of Kaua'i and Oahu. Their hopes were not fulfilled in their lifetime, but generations later, their qualities of adventure, determination and resilience continue to transcend to their descendants, including Aysha Simone Berry.

Aysha's high school honors include National Honor Society Membership Pin, Key Club Silver Service, Officer of the Month, Diamond Distinguished Award and Graduation with Honors.

She participated in numerous activities, including Physics Club, Culture Club, Women Empowerment Club, Nature Club and Pride Club. She spent volunteer time with Band Wagon Music Center, Kauai High School Key Club and Japanese Club.

In addition, Aysha has extensive work experience. She has worked at a juice company, bakery, plant nursery and a neighborhood convenience store.

Aysha's character is best demonstrated with her involvement in Kauai High School's Cross-Country program, a sport she had limited experience in, but as in everything else she does, gave 110% and pushed herself to be the best that she could. Still, she was one of the slowest girls on the team and during the last meet of the 2023 season, a severe asthma attack forced Aysha to drop out of the race. Yet, her coaches and advisors awarded Aysha the prestigious Kauai High School Grit Award, based on the sheer grit, determination, perseverance and growth demonstrated by a cross-country team member. Aysha's willingness to participate in something new and challenging helped her realize that she is capable of more than she ever thought possible.

Kapaia Foundation is proud to play a small role in Aysha's life as she transitions from high school to college and a lifetime of fulfilling all her goals as well as the dreams of her great great great grandparents.

Aysha is enrolled in the Natural Resources College at University of California Berkeley where she is studying Environmental Science and Environmental Engineering.



### **Hawaii Visitor Industry Kaua'i Charity Walk distributes check to Kapaia Foundation**



*The Visitor Industry Charity Walk is one of Hawaii's largest fundraising events, supporting local nonprofits across the state. This year, the Kaua'i Charity Walk raised \$700,000 for our island. On August 7<sup>th</sup>, at Keoki's Paradise, representatives from more than 50 Kaua'i non-profit organizations gathered to receive generous funds from Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association Kaua'i Chapter. Mason Moriguchi accepted a check for Kapaia Foundation. The award will be used for repairs to the Kapaia Suspension Bridge. 8 years after a complete rebuild, in spite of regular maintenance, the bridge is in dire need of repair.*

*A special mahalo to Corporate Sponsor, SIGNart, for supporting Kapaia Foundation in countless ways, including partnering with Kapaia Foundation to fundraise for the Visitor Industry Charity Walk.*

### **Kapaia Swinging Bridge featured on Hiki NO**

An episode featuring the Kapaia Swinging Bridge was included in Hiki NO's PBS Hawaii Winter 2025 Compilation earlier this year. Ethan Lagundino, a student in Mr. Kevin Matsunaga's digital media class at Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School, researched, filmed and narrated the episode with the help of classmate Brennen Bernardo. To view Ethan and Brennen's excellent production of "Saving the Kapaia Swinging Bridge," visit

<https://youtu.be/crOXE875wSI?si=qJM42tBAOAltEx30>

Ethan, now a sophomore at Kauai High School, is the son of David & Dawn Lagundino. When not studying, he enjoys photographing nature.



*Ethan Lagundino*

# Mahalo to all Kapaia Foundation Members and Supporters

## Current Members

### Contributor

Bill & Mary Bran

Sean & Sheryll Doi

Mia & Roy Goo

Roxann Luttner

Cindra Manera

David & Nina Monasevitch

Mason & Tamra Moriguchi

Corlis Moritsugu

John & Jolene Ogle

Kimo St. John

Helen W. Smith

George & Rie Tsukamoto

### Sponsor

Ahana Family

Joanne Ahana

Malcolm & Rose Doi

Reginald Doi

Stephen Fujii

### Sponsor cont

Calvin & Arleen Fujita

Roy Inouye (In Memory of Myra Inouye)

David & Dawn Lagundino

Bonnie Lake

Janice Lillie

Allen Mizuno

Glenn Mizuno

Linda Moriarty

Russell & Christine Nonaka

Mel & Patsy Rapozo

David & Georgina Takemoto

Randal & Debbie Ihara Valenciano (In Memory of Muneo & Hatsuko Ihara, my paternal grandparents who were proprietors of Ihara Store in Kapaia)

Marisa Valenciano (In Memory of Grandpa Richard Ihara, born and raised in Kapaia)

Doreen Wataya

Donna Yano

JoAnn Yukimura

### Sustainer

ABG Properties Management Corp

### Benefactor

Bob & Michielle Looser

Laraine Moriguchi

### One Time Gift

Roland Pablo Family \$30

Cindy Shigematsu \$10

***Your membership makes our organization stronger. The stronger we are, the more we can do! Your support is appreciated. Membership is free. Just fill out and return the membership form.***

**Membership**...Includes public support listing, email announcements and open invitation to all meetings, events and activities. Benefactor membership...includes all of the above benefits, plus donor recognition at every opportunity (unless donor advises otherwise).

Kapaia Foundation membership is open to anyone wishing to support the intent and purpose of Kapaia Foundation. Kapaia Foundation is a purely voluntary association whose primary source of funding is through donations and grants. Kapaia Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religious affiliation, handicap, national origin, or other personal factor.

(PDF printable file attached)

**YES! I would like to preserve and promote the rich history of Kapaia Valley.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City State Zip**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Contributor Lifetime \$0 - \$99/yr donation**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sponsor Membership \$100-499/yr donation**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sustainer Membership \$500-999/yr donation**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Benefactor Membership \$1000+/yr donation**

\_\_\_\_\_ **One time gift donation**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Print, mail to Kapaia Foundation 4453 Laukini Rd. Lihu'e, HI 96766**

**Donation payment with credit card or check:**

cc Payment: \_\_\_ VISA                      \_\_\_ Mastercard

Acct # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 3 digit security # (located back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Kapaia Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit association. Your donation is tax deductible.**

