



**ISLAND MATTERS** Mufi Hannemann

# Women Inmates And A Tale Of Compassion

Readers of this column know that, from time to time, I like to call attention to the deeds of civic-minded people who perform “acts of aloha” with no expectation of recognition. So it is with Helen Nakano, founder of Hanafuda Hawai‘i, and Tammy Turcios, volunteer chaplain at the Women’s Community Correctional Center.

Hanafuda is a Japanese card game that’s a favorite among locals, and Helen’s group promotes it among novices and devotees alike. Last year, Helen was invited by Larson Medina, WCCC recreation specialist, to teach hanafuda to the inmates, an invitation she accepted

without hesitation. A team of self-described “aunties” — Helen plus Rosemary, Carol, Cathe, Julia and Lynn — met with an inmate group enrolled in a faith-based Total Life Recovery program run by Tammy.

Recalls Helen, “What we thought would be a couple of visits became a half-year project. We wanted to make sure they knew how to teach the more complicated rules, followed proper protocol and correctly pronounced the names of the cards. Total Life Recovery members then conducted practice sessions with other inmates. Finally, chaplain Tammy let them take the cards into their dorms and the



The recent 30th Na Po'e Pa'ahana Awards honored those in the hospitality industry. Pictured at the event are (from left) Manager of the Year finalist Crystal Sellona, the author, winner Claire Butler, finalist Kainoa Horcajo and Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Authority chairman Michael Jokovich.

PHOTO COURTESY HLTA

inmates caught on quickly.”

The game was a hit, so Tammy and her group organized

a tournament with more than 100 inmates participating. The finals festivities included signs,

fans, balloons and decorations of cherry blossom trees with hundreds of crepe paper blossoms, using whatever materials they could find. Tammy personally made the refreshments, neon-blue-colored mochi and sushi; loaned the group make-up from her collection; got permission for them to dress up in borrowed costumes; and made sure all 240 inmates went back to their dorms with a door prize.

Tammy has been with WCCC for 16 years. She’s affiliated with New Hope Christian Fellowship, but is responsible for worship services for all faiths and denominations, and ensures all ministers have the opportunity to counsel and hold

services. She is also a lay counselor, conducting the Total Life Recovery program three days a week.

Helen says of Tammy, “I observed her interact with not only her group, but with the prisoners, guards and WCCC staff. She is a platinum blonde with long tresses, a petite teenage figure, a sweet smile, but a steel spine. She alternates between telling everyone the rewards of good behavior and reminding them of the dire consequences of misbehavior. She dispenses tough love liberally, stroking and rewarding with treats like ramen noodle breaks. She is unbelievably effective in working with the inmates to get

**Home Is More Than A Place**

**Kīnā'Ole**  
ESTATE

**Senior Living with Kīnā'Ole**  
FEATURING

- Spacious, private suites
- Delicious meals
- Complete housekeeping services
- Personalized care services
- Enriching activities

Call Today for Available Tours

808-233-4455 | [kinaoleestate.net](http://kinaoleestate.net) | [f](#)/Kina-Ole-Estate

**VALENTINE'S DAY**  
*Specials!*  
**SAVE \$10**  
or  
**FREE DELIVERY**

**Give That Special Someone an Unexpected Surprise!**

*Watanabe Floral*

**FIRST PLACE — HAWAII'S BEST 2019**  
Awarded by the *Star Advertiser*

VOTED HAWAII'S BEST FLORIST FOR THE PAST 13 YEARS

Place your order for a Valentine's Day arrangement by January 31st and enjoy \$10 off! (No Promo code needed, price already reflects discount) You can sweeten the deal by opting for FREE delivery between February 10th - 12th.

**www.watanabefloral.com | (808) 832-9360 | Toll Free (888) 832-9360**



things done ... We need chaplain Tammies and her program in all our prisons, and even our schools."

#### Na Po'e Pa'ahana Honorees

My last column was a preview of Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association's honorees for the annual Na Po'e Pa'ahana Awards. This week, I'm delighted to present the winners in the top two categories.

Kirk Togashi of Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa was named Outstanding Lodging Employee of the Year.

Kirk has been a security officer at the Sheraton since 1996. He's touched countless lives with his kindness, helpfulness, and ability to connect with visitors in a way that makes them

feel as if they're old friends. During his tenure, he's saved lives, recovered lost property and shown guests true aloha. Kirk is an avid diver and fisherman who shares his passion with guests, even inviting them to his favorite spots to give them a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The community-spirited Kirk heads the Lāhainā Shore Casters Club, and teaches keiki to fish and protect the environment. He also helps coach and support his daughter's softball team.

Claire Butler of Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort was selected as Manager of the Year.

She has been with Hilton Hawaiian Village for 43 years, and director of housekeeping

for more than half that time. She is a testament to professionalism. Each day, she walks the campus to inspect room cleanliness and interact with the housekeepers. She makes a practice of recognizing her team with handwritten notes whenever she receives positive feedback from a guest and will often write more than 30 cards per week. Under her leadership, the housekeeping department received a 99.05 percent guest satisfaction score, an exceptional feat for a property the size of the Hilton.

Congratulations to all our Na Po'e Pa'ahana honorees. Visit [hawaiilodging.org](http://hawaiilodging.org) for a full list of winners.

[mufi@mufihannemann.com](mailto:mufi@mufihannemann.com)

## A study of emergency care involving victims of severe brain trauma is to be performed in this area.

The Queen's Medical Center Neuroscience Institute is conducting a research study to learn if either of two strategies for monitoring and treating patients with severe traumatic brain injury in the intensive care unit (ICU) is more likely to help them get better. Because head injury is a life threatening condition requiring immediate treatment, some patients will be enrolled without consent if a family member or representative is not rapidly available. Before the study starts, we will consult with the community. We welcome your feedback and questions. For more information or to decline participation in this study, please visit [boost3trial.org](http://boost3trial.org) or contact our study staff at:

**(808) 691-4428**

**Primary Investigator: Cherylee Chang, MD**

**Study Coordinator: Denise Dittrich**



**THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER**

Produced by **JNP** productions inc

# DREAM BIG!

A Postwar Success Story: The Nisei Soldiers of WWII

#### KIKU-TV Channels

- Over-The-Air: Channel 20.1
- Spectrum: Channel 9
- Hawaiian Telcom: Channel 20 or 1020
- DIRECTV: Channel 20
- Dish: Channel 20

### SPECIAL ONE-HOUR PRESENTATION ON KIKU-TV

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020 9:00-10:00PM**

**Encore Presentation: Sunday, February 2, 2020 11:30am – 12:30pm**

Presented by



**CENTRAL  
PACIFIC  
BANK**  
*Going Beyond.*



A locally produced, one-hour documentary highlighting the Nisei Soldiers' tremendous impact on Hawaii's post-war society, economy and politics. The accomplishments of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and MIS Military Intelligence Service will tell the story of their contribution to Hawaii's growth and success after WWII. Motivated, inspired and dreaming big, they helped make Hawaii a better place for their families.