



SENIOR SCOOP

July 2024 – Sept 2024

MEO

P&CC PRESIDENT

MARGARET CAMBRA

ADMINISTRATION
(808) 249-2990

TRANSPORTATION
(808) 877-7651

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT.
(808) 249-2970

MOLOKAI
(808) 553-3216

LANAI
(808) 565-6665

Kupuna Aloha Event Brings Joy to Grand Wailea

The annual Kupuna Aloha Event at the Grand Wailea Resort was a vibrant celebration of community, culture, and connection. Organized by Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) and the Maui County Council's Senior Coordinator (Rosemelynda Leano), this cherished gathering offered Maui's elders - the kupuna - a day to honor their wisdom, vitality, and aloha spirit. The resort's breathtaking grounds were transformed into a hub of festive activity. Floral arrangements, hula performances, and the soothing sounds of traditional Hawaiian music welcomed attendees as they arrived, each greeted with a warm smile and lei. Kupuna dressed in their finest aloha attire filled the venue with laughter and conversations and they reconnected with friends and met new ones.

The event featured a wide array of activities designed to celebrate and engage the kupuna. A lively hula showcase saw kupuna dancing with graceful movements, their joy radiating as they relived cherished cultural traditions and meeting with the many candidates running for office.

One of the highlights was a delicious buffet featuring local delicacies like fish, chicken, salad, fruits, and haupia. As kupuna shared their meals, they exchanged stories of the past and discussed their hopes for the future, reminding everyone present of the enduring strength and resilience of Maui's elders.

MEO CEO Debbie Cabebe shared heartfelt words during the program, emphasizing the importance of nurturing intergenerational bonds and recognizing the valuable contributions of kupuna to the island community. **“This event is a celebration of you - your wisdom, your guidance, and you're aloha,”** she said.

As the Kupuna Aloha Event concluded with an, expressing gratitude for the day's blessings. Attendees left with full hearts, lingering hugs, and promises to meet again next year, embodying the spirit of aloha that defines this special gathering.

The Kupuna Aloha Event stands as a testament to the power of community and the enduring bonds of love and respect. It is a day that reminds everyone of the vital role kupuna play in shaping and sustaining Maui's rich cultural heritage.

Kupuna Aloha Luncheon

Congratulations to Adele Rugg & Ruth Griffith



(Kupuna Advocates of the Year)

Ruth Griffith of Kaunoa Senior Services and a survivor of the Lahaina wildfires, and Adele Rugg, who only gets more active in the community with age, were honored as Kupuna Advocates of the Year at the 52nd Kupuna Aloha Luncheon on Saturday, July 27th at the Grand Wailea.

More than 600 kupuna packed the Haleakala Ballroom – the largest gathering of the event since the COVID-19 pandemic – to meet 20 candidates for office and representatives of a handful of organizations that support Kupuna, listen to the music of Kopa'a Tita, take home scores of door prizes, partake of lunch and recognize the two Kupuna Advocates of the Year.

The event was produced by Maui Economic Opportunity and hosted by the Maui County Planning & Coordinating Council, consisting of 45 senior clubs across the county.

Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke and Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen addressed the kupuna, many dressed in their finest, snapping selfies and enjoying the company of one another.

Bissen praised the Kupuna Advocates of the Year, “whose contributions have shaped the very fabric of our county, community and everyone who lives in our community.”

“Their tireless efforts have not only preserved the rich cultural heritage of our Maui Nui but have also moved us toward a brighter future, whether through their dedicated service or their deep love for this community,” he said. They have left a lasting, positive impact for each of us.

“Our kupuna embody the true essence of community spirit.”

Griffith is the Senior Services Administrator for Kaunoa Senior Services, a Maui County agency that provides meals, educational activities and companionship opportunities for kupuna. Born and raised in Lahaina, Griffith had to flee the wildfires of Aug 8. Her Front Street home was damaged, but she was able to return in February.

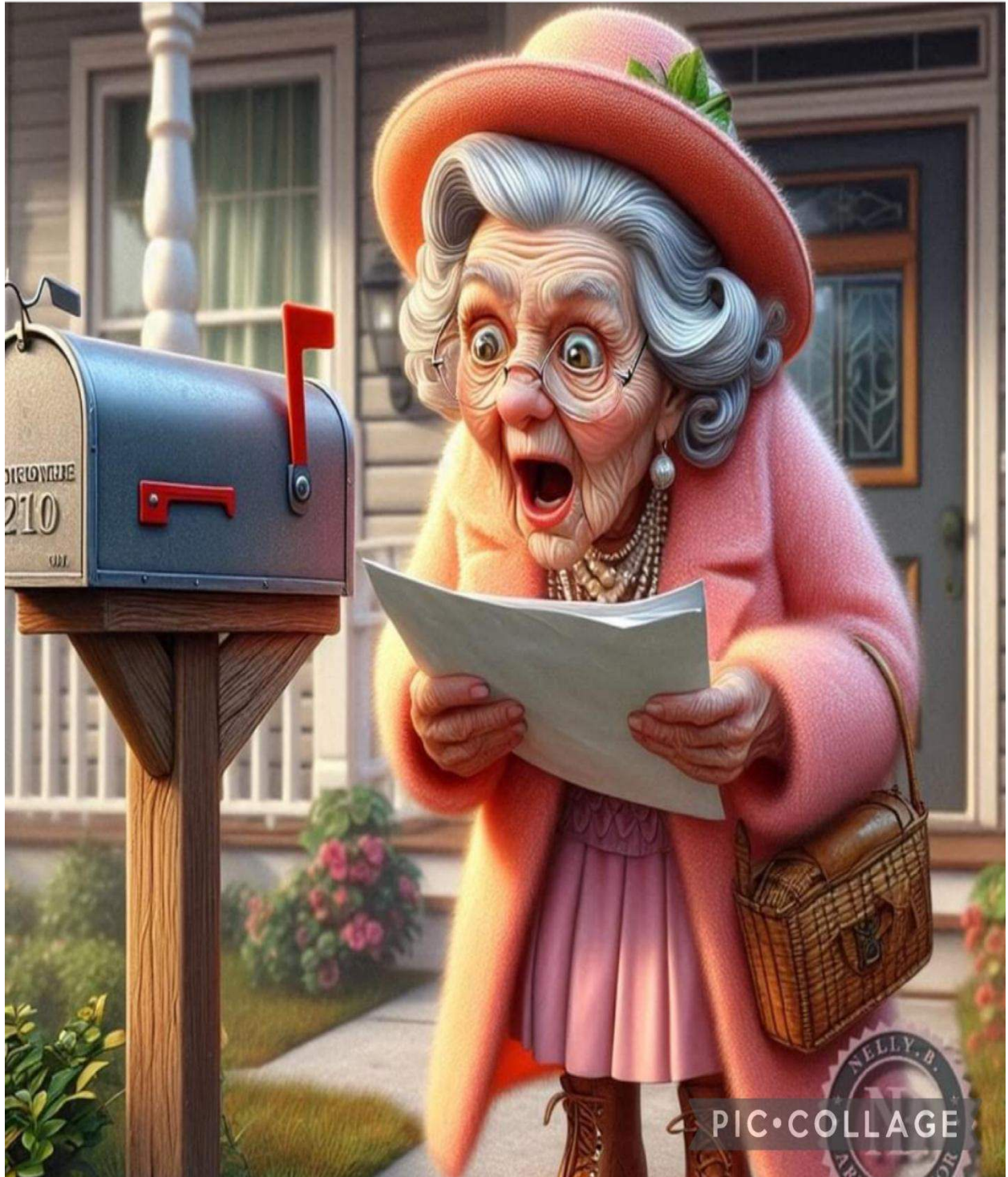
In the wake of the wildfires, Kaunoa staff led by Griffith mobilized to locate all participants in programs, including those who relocated out of the west side; restored Meals on Wheels service to all participants within two days; maintained a daily presence at the Disaster Recovery Center; and assisted clients with supplies, such as walkers, glasses, wheelchairs and beds in partnership with other agencies. “We lead by heart, we work for you because we love you so much,” said Griffith, in remarks that brought tears to her eyes and many in the audience.

During her introduction of Rugg, emcee Debbie Cabebe listed the more than a dozen organizations to which the honoree currently belongs: Board President of Maui Green & Beautiful; board member of MEO, Kihei Community Association and Kihei Canoe Club; “First State Coordinator” for the annual celebration recognizing her home state of Delaware; Queen Diva Dell-Luscious of the Red Hot Mamas of Maui. She also keeps an eye on South Maui parks as part of the Citizens’ Patrol and an eye out for nesting honu as a member of the Dawn Patrol.

In 2011, she was named Outstanding Older American.

Rugg moved to Maui in 1980 and worked as a legal Secretary with the National Transportation Safety Board investigating the Aloha 243 emergency landing, a construction secretary and an executive assistant to Council Member and Mayor Alan Arakawa. “I look out here and go “it takes a village. All of the Kupuna advocates are out here,” she said, pointing to the audience. “I am just honored to be here today because you 600 make it happen.”

I received the electricity bill. I think they billed me for sunlight, divine light, and the light at the end of the tunnel.



PIC•COLLAGE









Top 10 Must Haves For Senior Safety

Secure
your rugs
so they aren't
a trip hazard

1



2

Handrails on
stairwell



Install grab
bars in
bathroom

3

Have
good lighting
in entryways,
stairs, etc.

4



5

Grabbers help
reach items at
unsafe
distances



Install and
inspect smoke
alarms

6

7



Get a medical
alert system for
emergencies

8



Properly store
and organize
medications



9

Schedule
frequent visits
from neighbors
and family

Get non-skid
shower mats to
prevent slips

10



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Happy Retirement to:
Flor Andrion & Lorna Tagorda
You will surely be missed!!



United States

All the words listed are hidden vertically, horizontally or diagonally—in both directions. The letters that remain unused form a sentence from left to right.

O K L A H O M A M O N T A N A
T H E N L A W I S C O N S I N
V A M E A A M E C R G O A I C
I A L K D I B O S G E M R P N
R R M A R Y L A N D R R I O E
G B V N S O A I M A O E Z B W
I E L S R K M N D A Y V O A J
N R D A E O A I N D I A N A E
I H D S Y G R S R O I A A V R
A O E W I O I D C F I R O M S
A D M H L O E I R S I G A E E
O E C F N G X V I E S P R U Y
C I C I I E E U A M E A K H R
M S L C M H O O A N W T A A N
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ALABAMA
ALASKA
ARIZONA
ARKANSAS
COLORADO
DELAWARE
FLORIDA
GEORGIA
HAWAII
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
KANSAS
LOUISIANA
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MONTANA
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NEW JERSEY
NEW MEXICO
NEW YORK
OKLAHOMA
OREGON
RHODE ISLAND
VERMONT
VIRGINIA
WISCONSIN
WYOMING



May your day
be filled with
little joys,
warm cups of
coffee, and
moments
that make
your heart
smile.



@Lori
Maloy



Aloha For Kupuna



