



**Puna
Community
Medical Center
Foundation**

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July 2023

Aloha kākou!

Our time was well spent at the Revitalize Puna event earlier this month. We met with several interested local people and had productive discussions with some of the other community leaders and volunteers working to make Puna more resilient. There was a great deal of interest in our proposed medical center and many useful suggestions.

An impromptu survey at the event, designed to get some community input, emphasized several areas needed improvement in our economic resilience. Housing affordability was clearly the major concern. We at the PCMCF have recognized this issue and are working to find some solutions as well. Stay tuned!

We are proud to announce that we have added a Vice President to our Board: Darlene Viggiano PhD. Darlene is Faculty of the College of Mind-Body Medicine, at Saybrook University. She is an online therapist licensed in marriage and family counseling and a psycho-educator who is dedicated to helping adults grow psychologically and spiritually. She will have an important role in our plans as we have a great need in Puna for mental health services.

Additionally, we are very fortunate that Marlene Tebele has joined our board. Marlene has a great deal of experience with natural healing. She is passionate about coaching food-related wellness and is excited to work with our team at the Kipuka Garden particularly.

Speaking of the Kipuka Garden, we have officially renamed it in memory of Kumu Dane Sylva as this was his vision. We will continue to work toward his goal of building a space for healing plants, teaching, hula, and more. The Dane Silva Hawaiian Healing Center and Kipuka Gardens will continue to honor his legacy and we look forward to making a space for all to learn and heal.

We do need more volunteers to work in the gardens. At this time, anyone who is interested can come to our site on Mondays at 10 am to join Luana Jones, Marlene Tebele, and other local volunteers to work on the grounds and learn about some of these healing plants in the process. Our campus is located near mile marker 9 on Highway 130. We are just across the street from the water station.

Latest news: We have put in an application to lease 11.5 more acres adjacent to our 5.0 acres. This new acreage will be used for a sewage disposal plant and a large leach field for our complex. We will also use this acreage for a solar farm to power our complex and workplace housing in the future. We will be leasing this land from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and expect to hear back in the next few weeks.

Finally, we are expecting an updated report regarding the community needs that will be based on 2020 census data. Our prior report was outdated due to our changes in population and will assist us in determining staffing and building needs.

For more information and updates, please visit our website: [PCMCF.org](https://www.pcmcf.org) (the site is currently undergoing some updates – thank you for your patience)

Mahalo for your kokua,

The Board of the Puna Community Medical Center Foundation