



*For Hawaii's Families with Seriously Ill Children*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**News Release**

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Contact:

Alex Wereszczynskij, HUGS

(808) 380-6924 [alex@hugshawaii.org](mailto:alex@hugshawaii.org)

[Headshot Images](#)

## **HUGS Announces Two New Members to the Board of Directors**

HONOLULU – HUGS (Help Understanding & Group Support), a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Hawaii's families with seriously ill children, announced the addition of new members and the 2023 officers for its Board of Directors.

Newly elected Board members are:

- Kanani Kaopua, Sr. Vice President/Sr. Community Portfolio Manager for Hawaiian Properties, Ltd., where she oversees the annual operating and reserve budgets for medium to large scale association communities and trains new and senior association managers in areas of governance, finance, contracts, and communications. Kaopua is also Chapter President of CAI Hawaii and was most recently President of the HUGS Young Professional Committee, and was PBN's Hawaii 40 Under 40 Awardee in 2021.
- Gregory Charles Pietsch, is the Owner and Operator of Sunset Ranch Hawaii: a 27.44 acre ranch on the North Shore of Oahu with a mission of advancing land conservation and sustainability. Through Pietsch Properties LLC, Pietsch also advises on land conservation projects, manages a diverse portfolio of investments and real estate assets for a broad range of clients, and is the designer and developer of a comprehensive web-based financial software platform. Pietsch has 30 years of corporate finance and real estate experience and started his career with Ernst & Young. Pietsch's professional affiliations include the CFA Institute, American Society of Appraisers, Hi'ipaka, LLC (Manager), Haleakala Ranch (Outside Director) and the Historic Hawaii Foundation (Board Member).

The 2023 HUGS Officers of the Board of Directors are:

- President: **Ben Morgan**, VP, Customer Operations, Hawaiian Telcom
- Past-President: **Calvert Chipchase IV**, Partner, Cades Schutte, LLP
- President-elect: **Kanani Kealoha-Faleafine**, Sr. Manager, Loyalty and Partnerships, Hawaiian Airlines
- Vice President: **Julie Hirano Kaneko**, Director of Marketing & Communications, aio Media Group
- Vice President: **Charles Loomis**, Retired

3636 Kilauea Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Phone: (808) 732-4846 Fax: (808) 732-4881

[www.hugshawaii.org](http://www.hugshawaii.org) Email: [info@hugshawaii.org](mailto:info@hugshawaii.org)

- Vice President: **Kevin Yim**, VP, Marketing, FCH Enterprises
- Secretary: **Catha Combs, CPA**, Managing Director, Wikoff Combs & Co., LLC
- Treasurer: **JoAnn Lumsden, CPA**, Retired

The 2023 HUGS Board includes the following additional Directors:

- **Christian Chambers**, Partner, Lung Rose Voss & Wagnild
- **Ryan Chavoustie**, VP of Sales & Marketing, Island Energy Services, LLC
- **David Ching**, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management
- **Lauren Dawson, PhD**, Clinical Neuropsychologist, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialists, PLLC
- **Erin Kiriara**, Sr. VP, Rider Levett Bucknall
- **Patrick Klein**, Chief Revenue Officer, AIO Media Group
- **Iris Matsumoto**, Executive VP, Human Resources, First Hawaiian Bank
- **Terri Okada**, Sr. VP, Corporate Banking Division, Bank of Hawaii
- **Kirsten Pennaz**, RN, BSN, MBA, FACHE, Manager of Clinical Operations, Kapi`olani Medical Center for Women and Children
- **Jody Shiroma**, VP, Communications, PBS Hawaii
- **Robb Tanaka**, Director of Government Affairs & Planning, Hawaiian Electric Company
- **Franklin Tokioka II**, Chairman, Hawaiian Properties, Ltd.

“I’m delighted to welcome Kanani and Greg to the HUGS Board of Directors.” said Amy Morton-Sogi, HUGS Executive Director. “Their unique knowledge and passion for our mission will add invaluable experience, perspective, and skills to our Board. Both Kanani and Greg are inspiring leaders, and I’m confident they will strengthen our organization and help us to further our mission of supporting Hawaii’s families with a seriously ill child.”

### **About HUGS**

*HUGS’ (Help Understanding & Group Support) mission is to strengthen Hawaii’s families and improve their quality of life as they face the emotional and financial hardships of caring for a seriously ill child. Programs address the emotional, social, physical, and financial needs of the entire family and each family member; all programs and services are free of charge. Since 1982, HUGS has helped thousands of families with a seriously ill child, up to 21 years who suffer from a range of diverse illnesses, throughout the state. For more information, visit [www.hugshawaii.org](http://www.hugshawaii.org).*

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