



LUNALILO HOME

Caring for Kūpuna, Preserving a Legacy

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LUNALILO HOME NAMES DR. POKI‘I BALAZ INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Dedicated leader to guide Lunalilo Home through leadership transition, ensure continued execution of high-quality kūpuna care*

**HONOLULU** – Lunalilo Home announced Dr. Poki‘i Balaz will serve as Interim Executive Director of Lunalilo Home, fulfilling the mission and vision of King Lunalilo to serve Hawai‘i’s kūpuna. Dr. Balaz fills the leadership role of Dr. Diane Paloma, who stepped down as CEO of Lunalilo Home after accepting a new position as President and CEO of Hawaii Dental Service.



“Poki‘i is keenly aware of the unique needs of the kūpuna we serve and has been a critical part of our leadership team throughout the pandemic,” said **Sunshine Pualani Topping, Board of Trustees, Lunalilo Trust**. “We’re confident in her ability to guide Lunalilo Home forward and continue to provide the exceptional, compassionate care our kūpuna deserve.”

Formerly Lunalilo Home’s Director of Nursing Services, Dr. Balaz has firsthand experience serving Lunalilo Home’s beneficiaries through its residential services, respite care, adult day care and meals-to-go program. Made possible by her contributions, Lunalilo Home achieved a 100% COVID-19 vaccination rate for all residents and staff. Dr. Balaz is deeply passionate about serving kūpuna, those with Alzheimer’s and other related dementias, caregivers and underserved populations such as Native Hawaiians, and is a double board-certified family nurse practitioner.

“It’s my great honor and privilege to guide Lunalilo Home’s care for our kūpuna, as they are the backbone of our society and our lāhui,” said **Dr. Balaz**. “Through our many programs, we’re able to positively impact the lives of so many kūpuna and their families, and it’s a responsibility we do not take lightly.”

Named one of Hawai‘i’s “Women Who Mean Business,” Dr. Balaz was recognized for her leadership, work ethic, diligence and commitment to supporting Hawai‘i’s aging population. Dr. Balaz has served as a support group facilitator, ambassador and state champion for the Alzheimer’s Association Aloha

Chapter, taking on the role of Board Chair in July. She dedicates her time to many other community organizations, including Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing, Special Olympics and Savvy Caregiver. Dr. Balaz holds board appointments with Hawai'i Pacific Gerontological Society, The Caregiver Foundation and Best Buddies.

Born and raised on O'ahu, Dr. Balaz earned a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and an Executive Master's in Business Administration from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Shidler College of Business.

The search for Lunalilo Home's next CEO is already underway. The CEO will be responsible for implementing the strategic goals and objectives of the Trust, enabling the Board of Trustees to fulfill its governance function and providing direction and leadership toward the achievement of the Trust's mission, strategic plan, policies, goals and objectives set by the Board of Trustees.

The selection committee will accept applications for the CEO position through January 14, 2022. Interested individuals should send all applications via email to [executives@inkinen.com](mailto:executives@inkinen.com), addressed to Lunalilo Home CEO Search Committee, c/o Inkinen Executive Search.

### **About Lunalilo Home**

Founded more than 130 years ago, Lunalilo Home's vision is to be a nurturing and vibrant kauhale for all kūpuna. In fulfillment of the trust of King William Charles Lunalilo, the sixth reigning monarch of Hawai'i, the organization's mission is to perpetuate the legacy of King William Charles Lunalilo to honor, tend to and protect the well-being of elders. Lunalilo Home serves kūpuna through various efforts, including residential care, respite care, adult day care and its meal service program. Lunalilo Home provides residents with the highest quality of care and a vibrant kūpuna community, while respite care allows short-term, temporary care for families who need a reprieve from the daily caregiving routine. Kūpuna receive the health, nutritional, social and daily living support required through the King Lunalilo Adult Day Care Center. In an effort to provide seniors with local-style, nutritional meals, Lunalilo Home's Meals-to-Go offers meal pickup or delivery for seniors. The ali'i trust is located on five expansive, landscaped acres and situated on the western slopes of Koko Head in Hawai'i Kai.

### **Media Contact**

Catherine Coleman

(808) 265-0073

[catherine@bennetgroup.com](mailto:catherine@bennetgroup.com)