



LUNALILO HOME

Caring for Kūpuna, Preserving a Legacy

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**Media Contact**

Catherine Coleman

(808) 265-0073

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

**DR. POKI'I BALAZ SELECTED AS CLASS OF 2022-2023 OBAMA FOUNDATION  
SCHOLAR**

*Dr. Balaz is the first scholar from Hawai'i to participate in the program*

**HONOLULU** – The Obama Foundation announced that Lunalilo Home's chief policy and compliance officer Dr. Poki'i Balaz will be part of its fifth cohort of Obama Scholars, made up of 30 emerging leaders from around the world who will study at either Columbia University or the University of Chicago for the 2022-2023 academic year.



Dr. Balaz was chosen as one of two scholars from the United States and the first from Hawai'i to participate in the program. As a double-certified nurse practitioner, member of the Native Hawaiian Health Advisory Board and the Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs, and recipient of the Alzheimer's Association's Aloha Chapter Advocate of the Year Award, Dr. Balaz will collaborate with leaders from around the world on pressing social issues. Upon the program's completion, she will return to Lunalilo Home to find new ways to deliver high-quality and compassionate services for kūpuna and their families.

In line with the Foundation's vision to support the next generation of global leaders, the Obama Foundation Scholars program partners with the University of Chicago and Columbia to combine academic learnings with one-of-a-kind experiences led by the Obama Foundation. The program aims to empower emerging leaders with a proven commitment to service with the tools they need to make their efforts more effective and impactful upon their return home.



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“The Obama Scholars program provides students with the unique opportunity to give and gain insight into the work that fellow young leaders are driving in their communities, while speaking to the intersectionality of their efforts through collaboration,” said **Obama Foundation Chief Executive Officer Valerie Jarrett**. “We are eager to welcome the new cohort of Scholars to the Foundation family – a network of changemakers tirelessly working for a more equitable future.”

At Columbia University, 12 Obama Scholars will complete a nine-month residency with Columbia World Projects, an initiative that mobilizes the university’s faculty and researchers to work with governments, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and communities to create tangible solutions to real-world issues. This cohort will also participate in seminars, personal and professional development workshops, audited coursework, and other programming designed in consultation with the Foundation.

The Obama Foundation Scholars program is designed to inspire, empower, and connect emerging leaders with the tools they need to make their efforts more effective and impactful across their global communities. Since its inception in 2018, the program has served 125 young leaders from 55 countries. To learn more about the 2022-2023 cohort, please visit [obama.org/scholars](https://obama.org/scholars).

To learn more about Dr. Balaz and Lunalilo Home, visit [www.obama.org/scholars/#balaz](https://www.obama.org/scholars/#balaz) and [www.lunalilo.org](https://www.lunalilo.org).

### **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.