

## Features

### 'Papayas and Bitter Melons' is a slice of life

*Ups, downs of life focus of upbeat look at ohana power*

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The ladies of "Papayas and Bitter Melons: Tales of the Bitter and Sweet," will be at the Keauhou Beach Resort Kalani Kai Grill from 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 28, as part of La 'Ike Day at Kahalu'u Bay.

Lucy Gay, Puanani Burgess, Ho'oipo DeCambra, Karen Young, Karen Hackler-Director, and Grace Caligtan of Oahu describe themselves as "community builders/activists/teachers/healers/friends who dive together into a lifetime of memories and surface bearing stories.

"We then winnow through the layers of these stories in search of the truths of our lives."

"Stories feed the soul," said Hackler-Director.

"In telling and retelling and reflecting, we still have epiphanies about our parents and grandparents.

"Gems will pop up, and we'll have one more pearl to share,"

"They will have you laughing, reaching for Kleenex, and nodding your head in recognition with their stories of ohana, or family, and the communities where they grew up, live, love, and work," said event coordinators.

"Their stories on how they got through with less resonate and inspire in today's uncertain times."

"Our stories remind us of the joy and resiliency of the ohana and the human spirit. ... We are so grateful we had loved ones who helped us through the difficult times," Hackler-Director said.

A free lunch will be served from noon to 12:45 p.m. in the Kahalu'u Beach Pavilion. All are welcome.

The presentation is sponsored by The Kohala Center, Keauhou Beach Resort, Hawaii Tourism Authority, county Department of Research and Development, and Wailea Village Historic Preservation Community in collaboration with Lo'i Theatre.

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Storytellers, from left, Lucy Gay, Puanani Burgess, Ho'oipo DeCambra, Karen Young, Karen Hackler-Director and Grace Caligtan will share "Papayas and Bitter Melons: Tales of the Bitter and Sweet" at Kahalu Bay's La 'Ike Day on Sunday, June 28. The group also will appear from 7-8:30 p.m. on Friday, June 26, at Akiko's Buddhist B&B in Wailea. - Courtesy Photo