



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Heather Kihara
- Kelly Goodale
- Ann Hisanaga

### **Heather Kihara DVM**

Born and raised on the island of Oahu, Heather is blessed to be able to continue her career and follow her passions here in the islands. From a young age, everyone knew that she would become a veterinarian. She has always adopted and cared for animals and many locals remember her goat out in the lawn, and her dogs in parades as hula halau mascots. She enjoyed a great public school education at Leilehua High School and had wonderful teachers who fostered her love for agriculture and science. With those combined interests, veterinary medicine was a natural career choice. She received a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Colorado State University. After graduating, she returned home to Hawaii to join a very large and busy veterinary emergency hospital. From there, she has practiced at several hospitals until joining Hill's Pet Nutrition which has provided an amazing opportunity to visit almost every clinic in the state and become a more diverse part of the vet community. These connections have allowed Heather to become the current president of the Honolulu Veterinary Society and current president elect of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association.

At first Heather's involvement with CDH was to advise on first aid and safety protocols with the working dog teams. That changed dramatically when a highly energetic 8 month old terrier found her way to Heather's home! This dog is something else and we quickly realized she not only needed an enormous amount of basic obedience and behavior modification but potentially a job! Bear and Heather enjoyed their time at first just learning scent detection work (boxes will never be the same again) and then when introduced to the scent of rodents... Bear's inner terror (...oops I mean terrier) found its true calling!

While Heather and Bear fully enjoy being able to gather with friends, dance hula (Bear does go to class), and travel (Bear has also gone to the mainland), they do miss the days of the pandemic in which they could focus on dog training and gardening in order to social distance. Heather also likes to occasionally horseback ride and latin dance which she can not do with Bear in tow. Heather and Bear also share their household with several other dogs, who are all considered Heather's fur-children but would rather spend their time on the couch rather than participate in CDH.



## Kelly Goodale

- Wildlife Biologist for the O'ahu and Maui National Wildlife Refuge Complex since 2020
- M.S. in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo
- B.S. in Wildlife Sciences from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- Has worked in the conservation field within the Hawaiian archipelago since 2013
- Past employment includes:
  - Field Crew Lead for the Endangered Wildlife Management Program at Haleakalā National Park, she quickly fell in love with native birds and plants in Hawai'i.
  - Wildlife Biologist for Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge where she lived among 2 million seabirds.
- Diverse experience of seabird, waterbird, and shorebird management; predator control; conservation of remote and backcountry locations; sea turtle nest monitoring and management; and habitat restoration.
- Dog mom to Jupiter who has trained for avian botulism scent detection.

## Ann Hisanaga

- Born and raised in Hawaii
- College: Oregon State University
  - BS Accounting
  - MBA Finance
- Other certifications: Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Employment history:
  - 1989 KPMG Peat Marwick - Auditor
  - 1991 Queen's Medical Center – Accounting Manager
  - Queen's Health Systems – Financial Analyst
  - 2006 Waipahu Leeward Veterinary Clinic (helped with husband's partnership clinic)
  - 2012 Helped husband open his own veterinary hospital – Waipahu Waikele Pet Hospital
- Current job - Treasurer for:
  - Waipahu Waikele Pet Hospital
  - Wahiawa Pet Hospital
  - Makai Pet Hospital
  - Pet Specialists of Hawaii
  - Kailua Pet Hospital
  - Waipio Pet Hospital
- Past Board Member of Queen's Federal Credit Union
- Current board member of PHH Kokua Fund
- Started scent work during Covid with the help of a friend. Fell in love with the sport and now competing in AKC Scent Work trials at the Detective level.
- Helped to organize the first AKC Scent Work trial on Oahu in 2023.
- Currently trial secretary for the Scent Work trials on Oahu.
- Family – 2 sons and a daughter along with 5 dogs (3 mini Dachshunds and 2 Brittanys)



## SCIENCE ADVISORS

### **Sheila Conant**

Sheila's career in ecology and conservation in Hawai'i has spanned over 50 years. At the University of Hawai'i Mānoa, she served as the Chair of Zoology Department from 2001 to 2007, and as the Chair of the Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology (EECB) graduate specialization program from 1999 to 2001. As a researcher, she focused on Hawaiian birds, and has an extensive list of publications on their ecology, evolution, conservation and management. Sheila is also a Professor Emerita of UH, and her list of former graduate students includes many who are currently active and influential in the conservation of Hawai'i's wildlife.

In addition to her impressive academic career, Sheila is a long-time dog enthusiast. In the early 2000s when the use of conservation dogs was unheard of in Hawai'i, Sheila trained her Border Collies to do seabird detection, and later went on to conduct a few field surveys with them. Sheila has also participated in numerous dog sports including obedience, tracking, agility (with four dogs!), nose work, herding, and conformation. She has also served as a judge for tracking and obedience trials.

### **Keely Hassett**

Keely is from Hawai'i and has 10 years of experience working in natural resources management within the Hawaiian Islands. She received a BS in Marine Biology from the University of Oregon, where she studied seabirds, animal behavior, and oceanography. These classes translated well when she worked as a volunteer, Kupu member, and US Fish & Wildlife Service staff on Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. There she led a team on the eradication of *Verbesina*, an invasive plant, and assisted in efforts to minimize human-based food sources during a planned mouse eradication.

She was able to see CDH at work for the first time as a biological monitor shadowing one of the Yellow Crazy Ant detection dogs, as they surveyed the former infestation zone at Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge to confirm the eradication of the invasive ant species. Inspired, she took her dog Maui to a scent detection training session offered by CDH. Soon after, Maui became an invasive ungulate detection dog on Kaua'i when Keely started working with The Natural Conservancy's Kaua'i Terrestrial Program as a field technician. Maui was soon joined by Keely's second dog, Umbra, and together they shadowed senior detection/hunting dog Tako and her trainer Nicolai Barca.

Currently, Keely is back with the US FWS on O'ahu as a Wildlife Refuge Specialist for O'ahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge.



## **Julie Rivers**

Julie's experience in animal behavior and conservation spans more than 30 years. She has a BS in Biology with a focus on animal behavior. During her field research years, Julie studied seabirds, arctic wildlife from an oil drill platform, marine mammal behavior, distribution and acoustics in several ocean basins, and briefly worked with Koko the gorilla. Julie also worked for the state of Hawai'i, maintaining O'ahu's hiking trails and working to combat invasive species. For the last 20 years, Julie has worked as biologist with the federal government, overseeing programs that focus on the protection of vulnerable marine and terrestrial species, and regulatory compliance.

Julie's interest in scent detection started in 2017 when one of her Labrador Retrievers began to lose her eyesight and they began nose work classes. Both of her dogs enjoyed scent detection as a hobby from then on, turning their skills to amateur truffle hunting from 2018–2020 when they moved to Italy. When Julie returned to O'ahu in 2020, she and her dog Ula joined CDH as a volunteer scent detection team. They are avid hikers and have been actively searching for devil weed on Oahu for the past two years, and look forward to expanding into other projects with CDH.

## **OFFICERS**

- Lisa Kamae, President
- Renee Conner, Vice President
- CURRENTLY VACANT, Secretary
- Kyoko Johnson, Treasurer

### **Lisa Kamae – President**

Lisa was born and raised in Hawaii and graduated from Kamehameha Schools. She received a BBA in Finance from UH Manoa and an MS in Software Engineering from the University of California at Fullerton. During the day, she works in the IT department at Pearl Harbor, and at night she turns into a “Crazy Dog Lady.”

Learning about K9 agility, herding, chicken training, scent work, canine body language, animal communication, and K9 Search and Rescue, culminated in her participation in Conservation Dogs of Hawaii. She is very passionate about using Hawaii resources to solve Hawaii problems – she believes that CDH is a perfect solution in using local resources including dogs, personnel and volunteers, to help save Hawaii's resources.



## **Renee Conner – Vice President**

Renee's lifelong passion for dogs and the environment has shaped a journey that began in Pennsylvania. At just 14 years old, Renee immersed herself in a community canine training program, where she trained Schutzhund German Shepherds skilled in tracking, protection, and obedience. A highlight of her early career was traveling to Germany to train under a renowned Schutzhund breed master, where she gained expertise in temperament testing, breeding, and advanced Schutzhund techniques. Her efforts led to matching working dogs with U.S. search-and-rescue and law enforcement teams, including the acquisition of four Schutzhund III dogs that she brought to Pennsylvania for further training.

In the late 1970s, Renee moved to Hawaii with her four German Shepherds. During their four-month rabies quarantine on Oahu, Renee not only cared for her own dogs but also volunteered to support other dogs in quarantine, demonstrating her commitment to animal welfare.

Over the next 40 years, Renee balanced raising her family with a dynamic career in the construction industry. As the owner and operator of Hawaii's first woman-owned Pella Window distributorship, she broke barriers and was a charter member of Hawaii's Women in Construction organization, championing the growth of women in the field. Renee played a pivotal role in major projects across Hawaii, including historic restorations, delivering excellence on time and within budget.

While building a career, Renee's love for dogs never waned. She raised and trained 19 personal dogs, and most recently began scent detection training and competition. Renee is currently studying to become a Certified Nose Work Instructor® with National Association of Canine Scent Work. As she approached retirement, Renee partnered with CDH to address Hawaii's critical environmental challenges. She is currently training dogs in CDH's Little Fire Ant and Biosecurity programs.

Renee's journey reflects her dedication to improving the lives of dogs and advancing environmental conservation. Through her blend of passion, skill, and community commitment, Renee strives to leave a lasting impact on both education in the canine world and supporting the natural environment she treasures.

## **Kyoko Johnson – Treasurer, Founder**

Kyoko was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan, where she attended Seisen International School and the American School in Japan. College studies brought her to New York City, where she majored in photography at Parsons School of Design, after which she transitioned to a computer science career. After discovering surfing, she moved to



San Diego and then eventually to Hawaii, where she again switched careers. Her love of dogs came from volunteering for various dog rescue organizations and shelters on the island. Kyoko started training dogs and their people in 2008.

Her passion for scent detection began with a pet dog named Luka that didn't like normal dog activities such as fetch, swimming and playing with other dogs, but absolutely loved and gained confidence through "nose work." Since then, Kyoko has trained numerous pet dogs and handlers in scent detection, for both sport and conservation work.

Kyoko began her career as an ecological scent detection dog trainer and handler in 2012 through an Oahu wind farm's habitat conservation program, which utilized canines to locate endangered seabird and bat fatalities to measure environmental impact. She went on to train and handle dogs for various conservation projects including: a study at Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge which measured the efficacy of utilizing detection dogs to lower avian botulism-related mortality in koloa maoli, an endangered Hawaiian duck; and a project that utilized detector dogs to monitor the eradication effort of invasive yellow crazy ants, a species that caused great harm to seabirds at Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.

Kyoko initially founded the non-profit organization Parts Per Trillion Foundation in 2016 to pursue medical detection dog studies. She then registered the trade name Conservation Dogs of Hawaii in 2019 so that the organization may support wildlife conservation. Through CDH, Kyoko hopes to facilitate the wider use of conservation dogs in the Hawaiian islands to protect its precious resources.