



June 2022 Newsletter

News and Updates

Dear Carole,

It's been awhile since our last update and there have been lots of big changes at Nā Keiki O Emalia.

First, in April we bid farewell to Terri Erwin, our executive director for the past two years. Terri played a pivotal role building our organization to provide important support to grieving children and teens during the pandemic. She moved to Virginia to better support her mother's health. We miss Terri and wish her all the best!

The Board of Directors hired me to serve as the Interim Executive Director and I couldn't be more honored. I've lived on Maui for the past ten years and served on the Board since 2018. Recently, I served as the Outreach Director of EVERMORE which addresses bereavement policy nationwide.

I'm thrilled to work with Birgitte Golden who is our Operations Director. She comes to Nā Keiki O Emalia with a background in non-profit and business development, having held key positions at Maui Arts & Cultural Center and Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center. As a friend of Emalia Brown Guard and family, she is grateful to be a part of the NKOE team. She brings a great deal of experience and passion for our mission.

In addition to these changes, we have new and returning board members who I'm so grateful to for sharing their tremendous wisdom, experience and dedication. Read more about our board below.

Finally, we are honoring what would have been the 51st birthday of our namesake, Emalia, with a special offering for children and teens who have lost a loved one.

I look forward to meeting you either in person, by Zoom or by phone to share ideas about how we can work together to make sure those struggling with grief are supported.

Thank you for your commitment to Nā Keiki O Emalia.

Sincerely,

Carole Zoom
Interim Executive Director



Emalia's Birthday 2022

Grief is difficult for everyone but it's especially challenging for children. At Nā Keiki O Emalia we believe that no child should grieve alone.

Our Namesake Emalia

Nā Keiki O Emalia is named after Emalia Brown Guard, a much loved community leader on Maui, who would have turned 51 years old on June 19th. Her mother, Brooke Brown, activated friends, family, and community members to establish Nā Keiki O Emalia in her memory to offer free bereavement support services to children on Maui.

Sunday, June 19th

Nā Keiki will deliver care packages to grieving children and bereaved families across Maui. If you have or know of a grieving child or teen, you can register below for them to receive a special gift package.



Register a grieving child to receive toys, books & treats.

808-214-9832 or contact@nkoemali.org



Our facilitators are making a world of difference to kids on Maui.

Photo L to R:

Support group facilitators, Susan Brown, Brooke Brown, Wendy Milovina, and Steve Colflesh at Kahului Elementary in May 2022

Sign up for our grief support programs!

Nā Keiki O Emalia supports grieving children and their families. If you'd like to sign a grieving child up for support, please go **here**, call 808-214-9832 or contact@nkoemali.org.

We offer:

- care packages, toys, books, art supplies
- in-person support groups
- virtual support groups
- texting support for teens
- community education on grief

Operations Director Birgitte Golden

Birgitte Golden comes to Nā Keiki O Emalia with a background in non-profit and business development, having held key positions at Maui Arts & Cultural Center and Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center. Born and raised on Maui, Birgitte has a deep appreciation of Hawaii's unique culture and diversity. Birgitte can be reached at



Meet the Nā Keiki O Emalia Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President & Treasurer Laura Fortin

Vice President Caitlin Miller

Secretary Carri Markoulis

AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Zadoc W. Brown, III

Candice Carter

Jamie Clark

Marnie Masuda-Cleveland

Mercy Palmer



Laura Fortin
President and Treasurer

Laura moved to Maui in 2019 and brings many years of experience in finance, business operations and clinical systems to Nā Keiki O Emalia. Laura's husband David died suddenly in 2019. "It was hard to see my own grandchildren struggle, and I found there were limited resources for them. I discovered Nā Keiki O Emalia, and we connected on a lot of topics," Laura said. "I want to do some good for the kids of Maui."

[Learn more about Laura](#)



Caitlin Miller
Vice President

Caitlin attended a Nā Keiki O Emalia Facilitator Training in 2020, just before Covid. Then she joined the board in January 2022. She is ready to help move Nā Keiki O Emalia's mission work forward.

"I'm excited because the potential of our organization is huge," she said. "We want to bring awareness and light to adults who impact children who are grieving. As a society, we don't do a very good job communicating and interacting with others in their grief."

[Learn more about Caitlin](#)



Zadoc Brown III
Board Member

Zadoc has been with Nā Keiki O Emalia from the beginning. His sister, Emalia, is the namesake for the group. "It was founded by my mother to honor my sister."

"We are helping further the organization to help kids with a very tough situation."

[Learn more about Zadoc](#)

Nā Keiki O Emalia | 808-214-9832 | contact@nkoemaui.org | nkoemaui.org

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