



## **Waiwai Collective Launches Coworking and Signature Event Space at Kalukalu at 1624 Partnership Signifies a Shared Vision for Economic Transformation**

**For Immediate Release** - September 19, 2024 (*Kapaa, Kauai*) – Waiwai Collective, a group of Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs who share kuleana and a passion for uplifting the lahui will make its Kauai debut this September, activating a new coworking and signature event space at Kalukalu at 1624 in partnership with Kaua'i Federal Credit Union.

[Waiwai Collective](#) has seen the extraordinary power of physical community when people come together with purpose and aloha. Ka Waiwai is a call to action for the lahui to come together and dream up ideas of exchange and abundance that prioritize the quality of relationships and the balance between people and the 'āina.

At the core of Ka Waiwai is the belief that traditional Hawaiian ways of thinking and doing to create abundance and value on islands can be repurposed in a contemporary context.

“This is possible only if we create the space,” says Waiwai Collective co-founder [Mahina Paishon](#), “and build the relationships to work collectively and creatively. We will learn from and build upon Kauai’s ancestral foundation of innovation and ingenuity to create new systems of wealth and abundance.”

Waiwai, Paishon adds, is a perpetual concept. “We come in service to amplify the skill sets of our people. Our responsibility to one another. This is not just a business or passion project – we are leveling up, arm in arm, with people who want healing and transformation for 'āina and their communities, through the vehicle of entrepreneurship, business and economic development.”

“Waiwai Collective and Kalukalu at 1624 share a vision conceived with the purchase of the space,” says Sean Kaley, Interim CEO, Kauai Federal Credit Union. “Kalukalu at 1624 does not feel like a financial institution. We wanted to be more open to the community. We knew we weren’t going to do it alone. Waiwai was an inspiration and the synergy of this partnership will bring an exciting vision for economic transformation to life.”

Paishon led community listening and learning sessions on Kauai in 2023, helping to shape Kalukalu’s mission to steward a cooperative economy that honors community, culture and climate. [The name](#) Kalukalu is derived from a type of sedge grass that historically grew abundantly in the area around Kapaa. It symbolizes the credit union’s intention to return Kauai to an era of abundance, in harmony with nature, at 1624 Kuhio Highway. Waiwai Collective and Kaua’i FCU are applying the innovative work of [‘Āina Aloha Economic Futures](#) as a springboard for Kauai-centered economic development.

“The health of the land is our wealth,” says Paishon. “If we do this work with joy and intention, we can be a model for other regions.”

Starting in November, Waiwai Collective will offer individual co-working spaces (part-time and unlimited), day passes, space rentals, seasonally themed and signature events, guest speakers and talk story sessions, art shows, live music, individual and corporate membership packages, corporate sponsorships, fostering local entrepreneurship to create a collaborative networking eco-system in partnership with the credit union.

“We are excited about this partnership,” Kaley adds, “activating the space with a shared intention to see our island thrive.”



W A I W A I C O L L E C T I V E

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#### About Kalukalu at 1624

Kalukalu at 1624 is an economic resilience center founded by Kauai Federal Credit Union to steward a cooperative economy that honors community, culture and climate. A restoration of the iconic Otsuka furniture building in Kapaa, it will serve as a hub for the community and investment in housing stability, small business innovation and entrepreneurship and non-profit capacity building.

#### About Kaua'i Federal Credit Union

About Kaua'i Federal Credit Union: In 1947, 12 founding families pooled resources to create Kaua'i T&C Federal Credit Union. Today, as a credit union with 7400 members and \$169 million in assets, Kaua'i FCU reinvests profits back into the community to create a resilient, thriving local economy. Through partnerships with the County of Kauai and Aloha United Way, programs such as Coronavirus Rent and Utilities Assistance (CRUA), Rent Relief and Housing Program (RRHAP), Paycheck Protection (PPP), Small Business Boost and Rise to Work, Kauai FCU has deployed over \$46.4 million in support of the community.

#### About Waiwai Collective

Waiwai Collective is a group of Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs who share kuleana and a passion for uplifting the lāhui. Through their work, they have seen the extraordinary power of physical community when people come together with purpose and aloha. Ka Waiwai is a call to action for the lāhui kanaka to come together and dream up ideas of exchange and abundance that prioritize the quality of relationships and the balance between people and the 'āina.

#### A note on diacritical markings:

Kaua'i Federal Credit Union recognizes the importance of diacritical markings of the (modern) Hawaiian language, including the 'okina (') or glottal stop and the kahakō (ō) or macron. These markings are essential for preserving the language and culture of Hawaii. Diacritical markings are omitted throughout this release to ensure information renders correctly in online media channels.