

A portrait of an elderly woman with short, curly white hair. She is wearing a white t-shirt with the text "Malama O..." visible at the bottom. She is adorned with a vibrant green lei made of leaves and a yellow flower tucked behind her ear. The background is a lush tropical setting with large green ferns and reddish-brown leaves.

René Siracusa

Left the world a Better Place
Through
Her Actions

René

Shared her money with others who needed it instead

Apparently, she felt her shack and junker car were more than enough.

So gruff, so generous, and if you could gain her respect, such a wonderful friend

She has done everything out of love for humanity, animals, plants and her love for community.

René



René was a:

- Community Activist
- Environmental Defender
- Board Officer, Founder and Grant Writer for many non-profits
- Gardener, Farmer
- Beautifier, Restorer
- Pet Advocate
- Synagogue Supporter

Quote from René 2006 MOP Report

“Planning for the future can take many forms and we jump in wherever we see an opening. We ALL want clean air and water, right livelihood, peace on earth and healthy educated people. The big question is: **how to get there?**. The **planning process** gives us opportunities to work out the **road map to tomorrow** as a **community**”

René 's Roles

- Member of the Big Island Invasive Species Committee, the Coqui Working Group, the Hawaii County Planning Commission, Chair of the 2010 Redistricting Commission, and Board Member Puna Community Medical Center.
- Past President and co-founder of Puna Outdoor Circle, President and founder Malama O Puna, past president Puna Friends of the Parks, founding member Pahoa Weed & Seed, past Board member Friends of Pahoa Library, past V-P Malamalama Waldorf School, Treasurer Puna Malama Pono.

Malama O Puna

- Founded in 2000 as an offshoot of the Puna Outdoor Circle
- Received a land donation in Nanawale Estates and hoped to nurture it as an arboretum, restored native forest, education center
- Served as a vessel for many, many grants benefitting the environment and community

MOP Motto

Preserving Hawai'i Precious Natural Heritage

Value Our Native Species:

Plant Them and Protect Them



- Our purpose is to assure critical habitat and open space for future generations through education and hands-on projects

For Example Pahoa Springtime Jam

“We act as their fiscal agent, even though it has nothing to do with the environment.

- Provides local craftspeople with sales venue,
- Non-profits can outreach and raise some money,
- There is music all day long and dancing in the streets.

We do this because it’s fun!”

(MOP Annual Report 2006. 6 yr sponsor)

MOP Projects Over the Past

- **Advocacy:** Geothermal development impacts, protection of Mango Grove, need for county arborist, public space fund, better grubbing and grading ordinance, climate change, protecting coral reefs from sunscreen
- **Community Beautification:** Pahoa Park, Lava Tree State Park, Roundabout (now led by MainStreet Pahoa Assn. & Jordan Trudel)

Direct Action

- Hands on: battling invasive species: coqui, fire ant, miconia, albizia, red mangrove
- Restoration Projects:
Keauohana and Hale'pua Forest Reserves

Land Gift

- The Arboretum Parcel was donated in 2019 to the charter school Kua o Ka Lā, which had lost its campus to the lava eruption in Kapaho. This 9.5 acre parcel was valued by the county at \$61,000.
- Donating it to the school, which can use it as a field site, matches MOP's goals of restoration, education, and community support.

Where To Now?

- MOP is currently hosting several important grants for the Puna community to assist with pandemic response and lava recovery
- We will continue ongoing restoration projects
- We have made a transition to digital bookkeeping/record keeping and staff assistance. Our financial report is available upon member request following this program.
- Our office building will continue to serve as a community meeting and education resource

Let's Hear From You

- What do our members want MOP to do?
- Are you able to help?
- Please submit your responses via the Chat on this Zoom meeting or send us an email to malamaopuna@yahoo.com with subject line: recommendations of MOP's Future