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Ka Makana Ali'i's Football Camp Raises Nearly \$5,500 for Kapolei High School, Gave Local Keiki an Opportunity to Learn From Pro Football Hall of Fame Safety Ronnie Lott

More than 260 local keiki ages 7 through 14 participated in the free, 2 ½- hour camp at Kapolei High School on July 13

KAPOLEI, HI (July 14, 2023) — As part of its ongoing commitment to the community, Ka Makana Ali'i hosted a free Football Camp featuring Pro Football Hall of Fame Safety Ronnie Lott on Thursday, July 13 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Kapolei High School Football Complex. The 2 ½hour camp focused on fundamentals and sportsmanship with local keiki ages 7 through 14. Online registration for Ka Makana Ali'i's Football Camp filled up within 12 minutes, with a waitlist of 100 keiki. In total, the camp hosted 268 local keiki.

This was the fourth Ka Makana Ali'i Football Camp that brought an NFL Pro Football Hall of Famer to west O'ahu. The Center held its camp in 2018, 2019, and 2022 with Jerry Rice and 2023 with Ronnie Lott. It is one of more than 150 free events the Center for West O'ahu holds annually.

"We are honored to provide our community with the rare opportunity to learn from one of the NFL's all-time best players — Ronnie Lott — at our Football Camp," said Stephanie England, general manager at Ka Makana Ali'i. "The Football Camp not only provided an exceptional educational experience for our young athletes, but supported local, small businesses and helped Kapolei High School raise awareness and funds for its upcoming L.A. road trip. We are so grateful for our sponsors, partners, Kapolei High School, Coach Hernandez and Mr. Lott."

In addition to hosting the camp and bringing Ronnie Lott to the island, Ka Makana Ali'i presented a \$5,000 check to Kapolei High School to help send the Hurricanes to California to play nationally-ranked Calabasas High School Coyotes on Sept. 1. Through public awareness,

donations, and concession sales to Football Camp spectators, the free Football Camp helped raise nearly \$5,500 to send students, coaches and staff to the six-day L.A. Road Trip 2023.

To close Ka Makana Ali'i's Football Camp, Kapolei High School head coach Darren Hernandez and Ronnie Lott awarded keiki with an autographed football. Awards went to Hazel Dayton (hardest working player), Zayvior Paris (most outstanding defense), Jesse George (most outstanding offense), Jayden Delos Santos (most outstanding overall), and PJ Freitas (most inspirational coach).

"Ka Makana Ali'i has been great every year that we have had this camp," Hernandez said. "They donate a check to Kapolei Athletics and we're just very grateful. We coach the camp for the love of the sport, but the fact that Ka Makana Ali'i not only brings in a celebrity player, they also make a donation to us — that's just gravy on the rice, as they say. It makes it all fun and worthwhile."

Since 2016, Ka Makana Ali'i and Kapolei High School have worked together on several community events, including three previous football camps featuring Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice, homecoming parades and graduations.

Known for his hard-hitting style and passion, Lott played in the NFL for 14 seasons — 10 with the San Francisco 49ers where he won four Super Bowl titles — and was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. Lott, who lives in Cupertino, Calif., is the founder and president of All Stars Helping Kids, a non-profit organization that has helped create opportunities in education, health and life skills for disadvantaged youth for more than 26 years. He manages \$2.4 billion in private-equity investments through his venture capitalist firm and has been praised by *The USA Today* as "one of the most successful athletes at making the transition to business." He also advises professional athletes who are making a transition to the business world.

Photos available to download at the links below:

- Courtesy Grant Shishido
- <u>Courtesy Micah Roemmling</u>

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About Ka Makana Ali'i

Ka Makana Ali'i offers residents and visitors a family-friendly, mixed-use center in the heart of Hawai'i's fastest-growing community. The 750,000-square-foot Macy's-anchored center features more than 100 exciting stores, restaurants, a state-of-the-art Consolidated Theatres and the state's first Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton located on property. The newest development, The Grove at Ka Makana Ali'i, creates an additional 109,000 square feet of space with lifestyle retailers, eateries and services, such as 24 Hour Fitness, Foodland Farms, Straub Clinic and Urgent Care, and PetSmart. Serving as the premier gathering place in Kapolei, Ka Makana Ali'i fulfills the shopping and dining needs of the ever-expanding community. Its convenient location offers excellent highway access, ample parking and public transportation for shoppers. Through an innovative partnership with Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Ka Makana Ali'i will financially support programs benefiting Native Hawaiian interests statewide for decades to come. For more information, please visit <u>http://www.kamakanaalii.com/</u>.

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