Aloha kākou,

In 2011, the Founding Directors of Hau’oli Mau Loa Foundation, Hans Bertram-Nothnagel and Wayne Pitluck, created a plan to ensure the long-term future of the Foundation. This plan was designed so that the history and genealogy of the Foundation were clearly documented. It also sought to codify the deeply held values and practices that developed over time, first by the Founder, Helga Gläsel-Hollenback, and then by the Founding Directors. With thoughtful vision, the plan set in motion steps to expand the board, transition the two Founding Directors, and ensure that new board members were ably prepared to take on the governing role of the Foundation’s board within the context of its history, mission and values.

The plan Hans and Wayne developed has reached a new milestone as of the end of May. Hans has officially transitioned from his role as Founding Director. And while saying aloha to Hans from this role is bittersweet, filled with both gratitude and emotion, we find comfort in knowing that just like when Wayne transitioned from his role as Founding Director in 2019, Hans will continue to be actively engaged in the life of the Foundation as both mentor and counselor.

In reflecting on his more than 30 years of service to the Foundation Hans offered these thoughts.

“Not surprisingly, leaving the Foundation’s Board after three decades, triggers many memories and emotions for me that will take me some time to sort through. But two of them stand out: admiration and gratitude.

Admiration for each and every one of the dedicated and passionate people who day in, day out do the incredibly challenging but impactful work that the Foundation’s partners over those 30 years have been and are engaged in.

And deep gratitude to Helga for creating this opportunity to begin with, and to the Foundation team, both internal and external, and to our partners for having made these years such a joyful experience.”

As Hans completes this transition, the Foundation is excited to welcome Anim Steel to the board. Born in Ghana, Anim grew up in West Africa and Washington, D.C. He currently lives in Brooklyn, New York. He is the co-founder of the Real Food Generation, which harnesses the power of youth and universities to build a fair and sustainable food system. Prior to Real Food Generation, Anim led national initiatives at The Food Project in Boston, consulted with Economic Development Assistance Consortium, and developed employment training programs at the Bowery Residents Committee. Anim has spent time in Hawai’i over the years and has been deeply influenced by people he has gotten to know and work he has learned about. As Anim has been increasing his understanding of the Foundation’s work in preparation for joining the board, he offered this thought.

“It is so meaningful to me to support the kind of deeply partnering, trust-based philanthropy that has made such a big difference in my own work. I am proud to be upholding that ethic through Hau’oli Mau Loa Foundation and our relationships.”

For all of you who have worked with Hans over the years, I know you join me in thinking it is just not possible to summarize his indelible work with the Foundation over these many, many years. So, I merely ask you to please join all of us at the Foundation in sending mahalo piha and a hui hou to Hans. And, we hope you will also offer your aloha to Anim as he becomes a part of this growing Foundation team.

Me ka ha‘aha’a,

Janis Reischmann
Executive Director