



SPEAKER SESSIONS

HAWAII SUITES (1ST FLOOR)

THE 9TH ANNUAL HAWAII CANNABIS EXPO SPEAKERS/PANEL DISCUSSION
JANUARY 30 & 31 - FEBRUARY 1, 2026 - BLAISDELL

Saturday

January 31st, 2026



The Dawning of the Age of Cannabis Nursing

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Cannabis Nurses are on the Way! Cannabis nursing is poised to become an essential specialty as healthcare systems increasingly recognize cannabinoid therapies for symptom management, patient education, and harm reduction. As legalization, research, and clinical guidelines expand, cannabis nurses will play a critical role in bridging evidence- based medicine with safe, compassionate patient care.

Keeping your Body's THC Factory (the ECS) Healthy-- With or Without Cannabis
(Sunday, February 1, 2026) 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

The ECS “Endo Cannabinoid System” and practical ways to support it.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani

Registered Nurse. Cannabis Nurse Educator

Credentials. RN, BSN

Affiliations. American Cannabis Nurses Association. Cannabis Nurses Network. Society of Cannabis Clinicians

Wendy Gibson-Viviani is a Registered Nurse and cannabis nurse educator with more than four decades of healthcare experience. Her work focuses on patient education, harm reduction, and the integration of cannabinoid therapies into compassionate care models. Wendy has been active in healthcare advocacy and cannabis education in Hawai'i for many years and continues to support nurses and clinicians navigating this evolving field.



The Last Prisoner Project

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Panel Participants:

Mary Bailey

Co-Founder and Managing Director
The Last Prisoner Project

Rick DeLisi

Founder
DeLisioso

The Last Prisoner Project is a non-profit organization founded on the belief that no one should remain incarcerated for cannabis offenses—an activity that is no longer a crime in many US states. The Last Prisoner Project is dedicated to setting them free through legal intervention, public education, and advocacy.



Mary Bailey is a dedicated community organizer and social justice advocate. As managing director & co-founder of the criminal justice reform non-profit, Last Prisoner Project, Mary leads development efforts and cultivates community partnerships that enable Last Prisoner Project to fight for the release of cannabis prisoners and support them as they rebuild their lives. Her dedication to this mission has bolstered LPP's legal & reentry program, which has saved over 350 years of

prison time, provided \$9M in legal services, passed 10 record clearance laws, and distributed over \$3.8M to constituents through direct grants, commissary funds, and other financial support. Before co-founding Last Prisoner Project, she was the CEO of Alpha Agency, a Hawai'i-based production company specializing in creating events that inspire positive social change through music, education, and community engagement.

Mary received the High Times Dope Award and the High Times list of the Top 100 Most Influential People in the Cannabis Industry, the Advocate of the Year Award from Benzinga, the Top 100 Most Influential People for Activism by Cannabis Global Times, 40 under 40 from Cannabis Now Magazine, and serves as a SXSW Mentor



Rick DeLisi is a founder, brand builder, and cannabis reform advocate committed to turning lived experience into impact. As the force behind DeLisioso, he blends culture, quality, and social justice—using the brand to support restorative justice, community reinvestment, and a more equitable cannabis industry.



Made in Hawai'i

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Discussion on the value of promoting Hawai'i produced cannabis. Potential future growth strategies and re-establishing Hawai'i as a global cannabis brand.

Panel Participants:

Moderator: Will Espero

Former Hawai'i State Senator

Della Au Belatti

State Representative. District 24
State of Hawai'i

Karlyn Laulusa

Chief Executive Officer
Noa Botanicals

Mary Jane Oatman

Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer
Indigenous Cannabis Industry Association
Publisher. THC Magazine

Will Grinnell

Legacy Grower and Founder
Deep Green Genetics. Maui
Co-Founder. Maui Cannabis Guild



Will Espero served as a state senator for the 19th district of the State of Hawai'i from 2002 until 2018.



Karlyn Laulusa is the first Native Hawaiian-Samoan woman to lead a company in Hawai'i's cannabis industry. Her expertise spans retail, food service and medical cannabis, focusing on team empowerment and cultural authenticity.



Mary Jane Oatman is an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe and descendant of the Delaware Tribe and proud mother of three beautiful people. She is the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer Indigenous Cannabis Industry Association Publisher. THC Magazine



Della Au Belatti proudly serves House District 24 Chair of Health and Homeless Committee Elected in 2006, Representative



Will Grinnell is a legacy grower and founder with more than four decades of experience spanning the music and cannabis industries. He founded Origins Music International in 1992 and worked as a tour manager and agent for internationally recognized artists before shifting his focus fully to cannabis cultivation. After relocating to Maui in 2010, Will founded Sticky Finger Seeds and helped co-found Deep Green Agency, later developing

Deep Green Genetics. He is also a co founder and former president of the Maui Cannabis Guild, supporting advocacy, education, and community driven cannabis reform in Hawai'i.



**Hemp & Cannabis: New Laws and
the Emerging 2026 Agenda**

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Panel Participants:

Moderator - Nikos Leverenz

President, Board of Directors

Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i

Aaron Nichols

Head of Marketing and Brand Development

O'ahu Dispensary and Provisions

Aaron Zeeman

Legacy Grower and Founder

Big Island Genetics

Author. The Hemp Ritual Handbook

Rob Bramlett

Director of Education

Rare Cannabinoid Company

Deep dive into the new laws surrounding Hemp and Cannabis products in Hawai'i.

Followed by a Q and A.



Nikos Leverenz is President of the Board of Directors for the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i. He works at the intersection of public policy, advocacy, and education, focusing on responsible cannabis reform and harm reduction. Nikos has played a key role in legislative engagement and public dialogue around cannabis policy in Hawai'i, bringing clarity and balance to complex regulatory conversations.



Aaron Nichols is an award-winning brand strategist and creative director with over 17 years of experience building and scaling brands in highly regulated industries, including cannabis and hemp. He has led successful branding, packaging, and go-to-market strategies for dispensaries, product manufacturers, and emerging wellness companies nationwide. Aaron is known for creating compliant, consumer-focused

designs that drive growth without sacrificing authenticity. His work helps cannabis brands stand out, stay legal, and win long-term loyalty.



Aaron "Professor Potgrower" Zeeman is a Hawai'i-based cannabis activist, breeder, and educator with over 30 years of experience preserving authentic Hawaiian genetics. He is the founder of Big Island Genetics and a longtime vendor and speaker at the Hawai'i Cannabis Expo. Aaron is the author of **The Hemp Ritual Handbook**, a culturally grounded exploration of cannabis rituals, history, and lived experience. He is widely known for advocating pono, community-driven cannabis and keeping Hawai'i cannabis local.



Rob Bramlett - Director of Education - Rare Cannabinoid Company

Since 2020, Rob has worked tirelessly as Director of Education for Rare Cannabinoid Company, one of the largest exporters of Hawaiian grown hemp in the world. His main duties include educating consumers, policymakers, industry, and medical professionals across the country about the emerging science of hemp and cannabinoids. His work is helping to translate complex research into actionable insights for the ever-changing cannabis landscape. With a retail presence in over 25 states, Rare Cannabinoid Company is recognized as a leading innovator in cannabinoid education and product development in the hemp space.



HEMP 101
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

James Johnson – Active Duty Rx (ADRx)

An informational session focused on the beneficial medical applications of hemp. This presentation covers foundational hemp education, therapeutic use cases, and practical considerations for patients, veterans, and communities navigating the evolving plant landscape.

Sunday

February 1st, 2026



Healing Through Cannabis

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Panel Participants:

Moderator: Dale Rosenfeld

Kupuna. Medical Advocate and Educator

Michal Cohen

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Psychotherapist and Mindfulness Guide

Credentials. LCSW

Loretta Black

Native Hawaiian Farmer and Herbalist

Cancer Survivor

Hansel Aquino

MMA Fighter

Cancer Survivor and Cannabis Advocate

Gen Lakalaka-Manupuna

Farm Owner and Operator

H and H Cannabis Farm. Humboldt and Hawai'i

An examination of experiences, beliefs and methods to incorporate into one's healing journey through plant medicine.



Dale Rosenfeld was an early adopter of cannabis, consuming since 1969, and received 329 card in the first year they were issued in Hawai'i. She has utilized cannabis for sleep and depression for 50+ years, and discusses it with other Kupuna frequently. Dale ran the first Cannabis Conference on Kauai in 2019 and continues to share Conscious Cannabis Conversations in person and on Zoom.



Loretta Black, also known as “**Lolo Pakalolo**,” is a Native Hawaiian farmer and herbalist, and a **21-year cancer survivor** (Stage I uterine cancer). A mother of four and grandmother to three, Loretta has been crafting her own plant-based medicine for over a decade. For the past 11 years, she has used cannabis to help manage pain and support appetite, while dedicating recent years to researching cannabis strains — learning what works, what doesn’t, and how plant medicine can be used intentionally for healing and wellness.

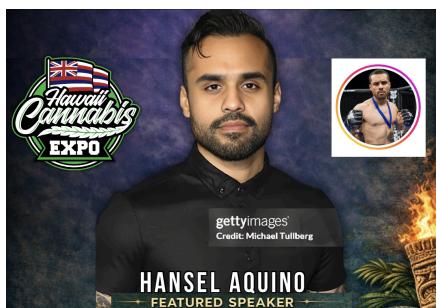


Michal Cohen, LCSW, is a psychotherapist, mindfulness guide, and psychedelic guide with over two decades of clinical experience. She is the founder of a private psychotherapy practice based in Hawai'i, where she supports adults healing anxiety, grief, and adult ADHD. Her work is grounded in trauma informed, somatic, and mindfulness based care through a harm reduction lens.

A graduate of Columbia University School of Social Work, her approach is strongly influenced by Compassionate Inquiry and the teachings of Dr. Gabor Maté. Within her practice, Michal integrates cannabis as a therapeutic support for select clients to help manage symptoms and deepen emotional awareness. She also offers guided psychedelic journeys with cannabis, rooted in intention, safety, and ethical clinical care.

Cannabis has been an important part of Michal’s own mental health and healing journey, informing her belief in its potential when used with care, respect, and conscious

choice. She is also the co-host of *Living the Green*, a podcast exploring cannabis, consciousness, and healing.



Hansel Aquino is a MMA fighter, cancer survivor, actor, and cannabis advocate whose journey is defined by resilience and purpose. After overcoming cancer, he made a historic return to competition, winning his first fight back with a world-record six-second knockout, one of the fastest finishes ever recorded. Outside the cage, Hansel is a highly successful social media creator known for his viral, comedic skits that entertain millions while also inspiring others through authenticity and motivation.

He is also a passionate cannabis advocate, using his platform to help remove the negative stigma surrounding the plant, while sharing how it played a vital role in his cancer recovery and continues to support his healing, pain management, and athletic recovery. Through fighting, film, and content creation, Hansel continues to turn adversity into impact and inspiration.



This Female Owned Farm was Established in 1998. H&H (Humboldt & Hawai'i) Cannabis Farm is recognized all over as the “Sugar Bag”.

Gen Lakalaka-Manupuna

Gen Lakalaka-Manupuna is a Hawai'i based farm owner and legacy cultivator with more than two decades of experience in cannabis agriculture. She is the owner

and operator of H and H Cannabis Farm, with roots in both Humboldt County and Hawai'i. Gen is widely respected for her cultivation knowledge, mentorship of women farmers, and commitment to community driven agriculture. Her work bridges legacy growing practices with long term stewardship, supporting both quality production and farmer sustainability.



Optimize Your Harvest

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Panel Participant:

Lance Lambert

Chief Marketing Officer

Grove Bags

Best practices and procedures on how to maximize the quality of your harvest.

Lance Lambert has spent years cultivating brands and telling stories, formerly in the mainstream digital media and marketing space with companies like Scripps and AutoTrader.com prior to making the jump to the legal cannabis industry. Since a shift in late 2013, Lance has helped build big-name industry brands like WeedMaps, The Cannabist, and GreenBroz. He has had a strong focus on marketing and business development, taking these brands global. Along the way he has established a substantial cannabis-specific network around the world.

Lance more recently brought his varied knowledge and passion-first attitude to Grove Bags, where he's been tasked with growing the company's footprint with an eye toward moving into emerging markets around the globe. As a cancer survivor having grown up in Northern California, he has seen firsthand and embraced the benefits of cannabis, making it an integral part of a healthy lifestyle. Having spent the past several years speaking at expos and conventions, he enjoys connecting with others interested in the different facets this blossoming industry has to offer.



The Grow Show: Everyone Knows You're HI Podcast

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Panel Participants:

Erik Yoshimoto. Uncle Erik. Co host of Everyone Knows You're HI.

Kalei Ka'ana'ana. The Grow Guru. Co host of Everyone Knows You're HI.

Sit down with the Grow Guru and Uncle Erik as they interview the winners of the Aloha Open. Discussion will cover strains, strategy and growing methods.

methods.



Kalei Ka'ana'ana is a Hawai'i based farmer, educator, and podcast co host known as The Grow Guru. He specializes in traditional Hawaiian farming practices and cannabis cultivation, blending generations of land based knowledge with modern growing techniques. Through Everyone Knows You're HI, Kalei shares practical cultivation insight, plant science education, and community driven perspectives focused on sustainability, stewardship, and pono growing.



Erik Yoshimoto is a podcaster, producer, and media creator focused on culture, conversation, and community storytelling. He is the co host of Everyone Knows You're HI, host of Voices from the Planet, and founder of the Come Together Podcast Network. Erik's work centers thoughtful dialogue with growers, creatives, and advocates, highlighting lived experience and the voices shaping Hawai'i's cannabis community.

SUMMARY:

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Mary Jane Oatman – Executive Director/COO, Indigenous Cannabis Industry Association

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Will Grinnell – Legacy Grower, Deep Green Genetics, Maui

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Hansel Aquino – MMA fighter, Cancer Survivor

Gen Lakalaka-Manupuna – Farm Owner and Operator, H&H Cannabis Farm

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