



## PROOF POSITIVE

# A Group Devoted To Kaka'ako

By Sherry Goya, executive director of Kaka'ako Improvement Association

**K**aka'ako Improvement Association was formed in August 1987 to unite Kaka'ako in an effort to make it a dynamic place in which to live, work, play and conduct business, while also being a watch dog over Hawai'i Community Development Authority, which the state Legislature created in 1976.

The HCDA website states, "Upon the HCDA's creation, the Legislature designated the Kaka'ako area of Honolulu as the Authority's first Community Development District. Lawmakers recognized Kaka'ako was severely underdeveloped and underutilized, relative to its central location near urban Honolulu. They foresaw the area's potential and opened the door to tremendous opportunities in providing more housing, parks, open areas, as well as



Kaka'ako Improvement Association holds membership meetings and networking events for those who want to keep Kaka'ako a community-minded neighborhood. PHOTOS COURTESY KAKA'AKO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

new commercial and industrial space near the downtown core."

Membership over the past 33 years has increased and decreased with the change in the scenery, as stores come and go, buildings are torn down and new ones take their place, as well as with the arrival of more residents entering the

12-member board dedicated to communicate with its members on a regular basis.

Since 2007, KIA has had eight golf tournaments and awarded a total of \$86,000 to those in Kaka'ako whose donation monies assisted in improving their facilities or services, most recently Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center and KCAA Muriel Preschool, both KIA members. The 2020 golf tournament had to be canceled but will return July 23, 2021, at Hawai'i Prince Golf Club.

With all the changes in Kaka'ako, KIA is looking to expand its membership with those who work, live or play in the area, especially those who want to learn or contribute to making Kaka'ako a place for all.

Visit [kia-hawaii.org](http://kia-hawaii.org) for the membership application and more information.



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