



Breani Kobayashi

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HAWAII RISE FOUNDATION

Kobayashi, a seasoned hospitality professional, now oversees Hawaii Rise Foundation's mission is to create opportunities for vulnerable, or moderate and low-income families, children and kupuna by providing educational services, programs and support. She is also the general manager of Soul Community Planet, or SCP, Hilo Hotel.

Describe your leadership style in three words. Collaborative, encouraging, transparent.

Describe your top accomplishment and/or a difficult decision or major change you made as a leader this past year. How did it impact your business? The Pareto Principle is a concept that states that 80% of outcomes result from 20% of all causes for any given event. A major change I made this past year was really underscoring the importance of exerting my energy on the 20% of things that I felt were most responsible for success and really focusing on that 20% to improve results. We all only have a certain amount of time in a day and a certain amount of energy to give. Focusing on the top 20% helps me to determine where focus has to be centered in order to get work done more effectively and efficiently. We all struggle at times to find the balance but this major change has really helped me to identify where I can make the greatest impact, in both my personal and professional life.



What volunteer efforts are you most proud of? I love working with the Youth Challenge Cadets in Hilo. We help to teach them how to write resumes, how to prepare for interviews, how to open bank accounts and teach them about financial literacy. We do vision board activities and talk about healthy relationships and connect with these youth in an open and honest way. Each year, I feel more privileged and honored to learn about these youth and about their struggles. I am inspired by their stories and even more inspired by their resilience. I am most proud of them and their efforts to be better people.

What is your best piece of advice for future leaders? Give. Give from your heart. ... and not because you can gain or receive something back. Give willingly and generously when you can. It doesn't need to be monetary. It can be knowledge. It can be time. It can be presence. ... It can be through listening, but giving is an act of grace, and we need more grace in this world.

“Give. Give from your heart. ... and not because you can gain or receive something back.”

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