

An aerial photograph of a Hawaiian island. In the center, a prominent, jagged mountain peak rises above the island's green vegetation. The water around the island is a vibrant turquoise, transitioning to a deep blue as it extends into the open ocean. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The overall scene is bright and scenic.

# APTA Hawaii District Ambassadors

Creating Strength and Positive Change for the physical therapy profession in Hawaii through communication, networking, and advocacy throughout the islands





# District Ambassadors Coordinator: Meynard Enriquez PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT

- Public Relations Chair APTA Hawaii
- 2021 APTA Centennial Scholar
- MPT California State University Northridge
- DPT AT Still University
- Regis University Fellowship in OMPT
- Faculty: Hawaii Pacific University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, Regis University Orthopedic Residency Program



# Stephanie Vanhoff PT, DPT

## Big Island - Kealakekua

- Stephanie has been a PT for 15 years, & made Hawai'i Island her home in 2014. She opened Mauka Movement, a small PT clinic in Kealakekua in 2019 to enhance her rural community. She loves to help older adults with balance problems become more empowered, confident, strong & capable as they age. She has also wanted to create a network of PTs/PTAs on the Big Island for years to reinforce her belief that our profession will be stronger together. She is excited to take part in the District Ambassador program, & be an advocate for Hawai'i PTs. Stephanie is looking forward to meeting & working with our island's physical therapy professionals!





# Malia Tallett PT, DPT, TPS

## Big Island - Hilo

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I, Malia Tallett, PT, DPT, TPS, am a native Hawaiian Doctor of Physical Therapy and sole owner of Ke Ola Kino Physical Therapy, LLC in Hilo, HI. Besides operating my outpatient clinic and working with patients, I am a Board of Director Member of a number of different organizations in Hilo: SHPDA for Hawai'i Island, SHCC for the State of Hawai'i, Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, and Hawai'i First Federal Credit Union. I have been working on developing my own foundation named Ho'oikaika Kino Foundation with the goal of providing access to rehab services for community members who are unable to do so. I have recently entered into the education realm within my profession working as an adjunct for Hawai'i Pacific University in their Doctor of Physical Therapy program. It has been quite an interesting experience. Outside of my career goals, I am a single mother of a pre-teen and teenager emphasizing the importance of education, worldly views, and understanding all aspects of our community with self sustainability perspectives.







## Lydia Hunter PT, DPT Maui - Kihei

**Lydia Hunter** grew up in Kansas City, MO before attending undergrad at the University of Arkansas and PT school at the University of Illinois at Chicago. During her undergrad, she was able to work with the university's sports medicine team in Track and Field, where she developed a passion for rehabilitation. She fell in love with the islands while completing an internship on Kaua'i during her last year of PT school. She is now working with Venture Physical Therapy, splitting her caseload between Maui and Lana'i treating primarily orthopedic, but with a diverse caseload on Lana'i. When she is not in the clinic, she enjoys the beach, hiking, playing volleyball, discovering the best happy hour, and reading a good book.





# Abel Corona PT, DPT, OCS

## Maui – Up Country

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Abel's passion for physical therapy has grown tremendously during his career and a major influence has been the positive impact therapy has on people's lives. It was his mom, a speech language pathologist, who introduced him to the occupation of physical therapy. She taught him the value of serving others every day and how it is possible to accomplish this with a rewarding career.

Abel earned his Bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sports Science from Texas Tech University in 2013 and a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from South College in 2019. He went on to complete the Regis University Residency in Orthopedic Physical Therapy in 2020.

Abel continues to pursue further educational opportunities to increase his skills as a physical therapist. He wants to continue to help people get back to the things they love using a team approach that emphasizes setting achievable and meaningful goals, utilizing therapeutic exercise, and open communication. Abel moved to Maui in 2021 and enjoys golf, pickle-ball, snorkeling in the ocean, and exploring upcountry.



## Deborah Weber PT, MPT, PRPC Oahu - Honolulu

Deborah received her Bachelor's in Exercise Sports Science from The University of Florida in 1997, where she was named a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. She then went on to earn her Master's of Physical Therapy from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1999. After graduation, she completed a Maternal and Child Health Fellowship at UNC-Chapel Hill and later pursued extensive training in Pelvic Therapy and Women's Health. After many years of specialization, Deborah achieved her Pelvic Rehabilitation Practitioner Certification in 2022, the highest level of certification available to practitioners specializing in pelvic health and the first PRPC practitioner in the state of Hawaii.

With 25 years of experience, Deborah offers a broad set of skills in the areas of Pelvic Floor Dysfunction, Women's Health, Acute-Inpatient Care, General Orthopedics, Maternal and Child Health, Neonatal and Pediatric Care, and Private Practice. She has worked at premier institutes both in Hawaii and on the mainland including Duke University Hospital System, Adventist Health Castle, Hawaii Pacific Health Pali Momi and PT for Women. Deborah draws on the principles of yoga- and pilates-based therapeutic exercise, as well as her background in competitive endurance sports and exercise science, to design comprehensive rehab programs which help her patients (from pediatrics, peripartum, perimenopause and elite female athletes of all ages) to reach their personal and physical goals. When she is not working with patients, Deborah enjoys cycling, running, hiking and spending time with her family of four children. She also volunteers with Oahu Search and Rescue and leads Girls Ride Hawaii, an all-women's cycling group on Oahu.



# Tara Ito PT, DPT

## Oahu - Honolulu

“Hello, my name is Tara Ito, and I will be serving as one of the District Ambassadors. I was born and raised on Oahu, where I am currently working as a physical therapist at Core Sports Physical Therapy and Orthopedic Rehabilitation. Previously, I was the former Hawaii Core Ambassador for the APTA Student Assembly, finalist of the Centennial Scholars program for APTA Hawaii, and president/representative for other various clubs/organizations during PT school. Although I am a newer physical therapist, I look forward to using my past leadership experiences to help our APTA Hawaii chapter grow.”







# Dane Chambers PT, DPT

## Kauai - Koloa

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Dane Chambers graduated from the Pacific University with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy in 2014, and his bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from Centenary College. During college, Dane competed as an NCAA division 1 swimmer and discovered his passion for bringing health to underserved communities locally and internationally. Dane brings 15 years of healthcare experience from acute care, orthopedic surgery, pediatrics, aquatic therapy, wound care, neuro, geriatrics, ICU, rural medicine, and home care. Dane is a lifelong learner that believes in being culturally sensitive while delivering evidence-based care. Dane has a special interest in treating surfers and exploring further education in cutting-edge interventions to optimize human potential. Dane completed his Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency at Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

In his spare time, Dane manages an organic farm, recognizing the importance of locally sourced quality food to support quality of life and maximize healing. Dane also spends his free time practicing yoga with a focus on spinal mobilization and body awareness. Dane is an avid surfer and remains devoted to understanding the demands of waves of consequence to protect the body from trauma and injury.