



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2026

Women's Fund of Hawai'i in partnership with HOMA presents a screening of Making Waves Films LLC's award-winning documentary, *Before the Moon Falls*

Sunday, April 26, 2pm*

at Honolulu Museum's Doris Duke Theater 900 S Beretania St, Honolulu

Tickets on sale at: <https://honolulumuseum.org/events/before-the-moon-falls-dn5q>

*Panel discussion with cast, crew, and community representatives to follow. Table with local resources.

2025, 101 minutes Official trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0sXPYGRGhs>

Content consideration: This film contains references to mental illness, sexual abuse, suicide, and violence. Viewer discretion is advised. Appropriate for ages 15 and up.

Women's Fund of Hawai'i in partnership with HOMA presents a showing of Making Waves Films LLC's new film *Before The Moon Falls*, about Samoan writer Sia Figiel. The moving and beautifully crafted documentary made its U.S. premiere and won *Best Made in Hawai'i Feature* at the Fall 2025 Hawai'i International Film Festival (HIFF), "*... a profound meditation on the fragile line between creativity and madness*" and "*... an outstanding example of Hawai'i storytelling at its most personal, urgent, and artful ...*" - 2025 Hawai'i International Film Festival Made in Hawai'i Jury.

Synopsis

In May 2024, news of a murder in the Polynesian nation of Samoa rocked the Pacific. The perpetrator—Sia Figiel—was a trailblazing novelist and poet who earned international acclaim for being the first to write about the difficult realities Samoan girls and women face. The victim was her friend, who was also a poet and a retired University of Hawai'i professor Dr. Caroline Sinavaiana-Gabbard. This film was a portrait of Sia Figiel eight years in the making when the murder happened. Now it offers an in-depth and thought-provoking look at Sia's journey leading up to the tragedy, illuminating the complexities of inconsistently treated mental illness and the devastating toll it can exact on individuals, families and entire communities.

Following the film there will be a panel discussion about Sia's story and the unique challenges that girls and women face with mental health and sexual abuse. Featured speakers include:

- **Kimberlee Bassford**, producer and director, is an independent documentary filmmaker from Hawai'i, who advances equality and social justice by spotlighting stories of girls and women of color, Asian American and Pacific Islander cultural identity, and mental health.
- **Noelani Sagapolutele, LCSW** is the founder of Wa'a Collective.
- **Luafata M. Simanu-Klutz, PhD**, is a retired associate professor of Samoan Language and Literatures, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.



- **Llasmín Chaine**, Executive Director at the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, is a licensed social worker who has over 25 years of experience in the fields of social work, mental health, education, public health, and child development. She is also an instructor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health and has previous professional experience working at the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC), and the Hawaii Department of Health – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (DOH – CAMHD).
- **Elisabeth Case**, Moderator, is the Executive Director of Women's Fund of Hawai'i. WFH believes in the power of storytelling, and if some women are suffering more than others, their families and their communities are also suffering.

There will be information discussed as well as a table of local resources available. April is recognized as both **National Child Abuse Prevention Month** and **Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)**. These dual designations focus on raising awareness, preventing violence, educating the public on consent, and supporting survivors of abuse.

Making Waves Film LLC is a multiple-year-grantee of Women's Fund of Hawai'i. WFH granted funds in Fall 2025 for the "Before the Moon Falls" community engagement campaign to support island-wide screening events directly with women's organizations and community organizations to support ongoing community education efforts regarding survivor advocacy and sexual violence prevention. www.BeforeTheMoonFallsMovie.com

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For more information, contact: Women's Fund of Hawai'i

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About Women's Fund of Hawaii

Women's Fund of Hawai'i (WFH) is the only grantmaking foundation dedicated to exclusively funding programs supporting women and girls in Hawai'i. WFH is focused on social change around a wide range of issues such as self-sufficiency, safety, health and wellness, substance abuse, homelessness, trafficking, incarceration, sexual orientation, inadequate childcare and sports inequalities, and creates positive impact statewide by giving grants to innovative, robust, grassroots programs that empower women and girls. WFH takes particular interest, all things being equal, in programs that serve Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women and girls, because these two groups fare disproportionately worse than others on many measures.

Visit Women's Fund of Hawai'i website <http://womensfundsouthhawaii.org> for more information or follow on social at [@womensfundsouthhawaii](https://www.facebook.com/WFHawaii) or on our Facebook, www.facebook.com/WFHawaii