OUTREACH PORTFOLIO

Ola Compass is a care-navigation ecosystem for acquired brain injury survivors and the people who care for them connecting education, advocacy, technology, and community into one trusted place to turn.

Welcome to Ola Compass

Navigate Care. Restoring Life. | *Outreach Portfolio*

Aloha,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Ola Compass and the mission that inspires this work. This portfolio is an invitation to know who Ola Compass is, why it exists, the values that guide the work, and the vision being built for the future.

I deeply value your interest, your partnership, and your willingness to join in creating meaningful change.

Together, no one should have to face the journey of acquired brain injury without ongoing, dependable support.

Mahalo Nui,

Ponialoha Kapeliela
Founder & CEO | Ola Compass
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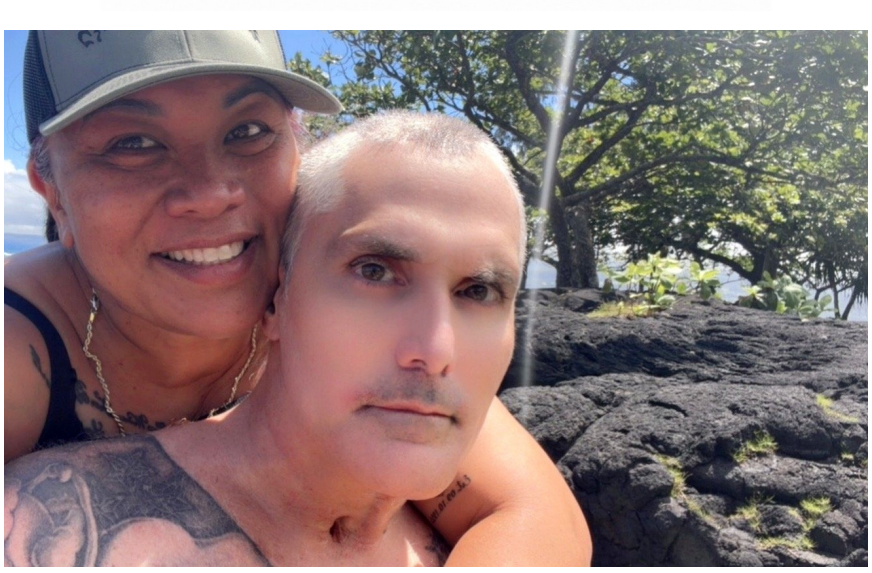
Why Ola Compass Exists

Ola Compass was born from lived experience, unwavering faith in Heavenly Father, and a deep commitment to helping acquired brain injury survivors and the families and caregivers who support them navigate a significant life change.

As a full-time caregiver and advocate, the journey of seeking answers, resources, and support revealed how difficult and overwhelming the acquired brain injury path can be, not only for survivors but also for the people who love and care for them.

Ola Compass exists to create trusted guidance, compassionate support, and practical solutions that help survivors, families, and caregivers move forward with hope, greater confidence, and clearer direction.

The stories that follow share the personal experience that inspired Ola Compass and continue to shape the heart, purpose, and vision behind everything being built.



“While love alone cannot heal every injury, it can inspire hope, strengthen perseverance, and become the catalyst for something far greater than we ever imagined.”

Jesse's Story

Jesse is the inspiration behind Ola Compass.

An acquired brain injury changed the course of his life in an instant, bringing challenges that neither of us could have imagined. What followed was a journey of learning, adapting, grieving, persevering, and discovering what it truly means to care for someone you love every single day.

Today, Jesse's communication is limited, and he requires comprehensive daily care. We do not fully know how much he understands, but I choose to believe that love reaches places words never can. I continue to speak to him, encourage him, pray with him, and remind him every day that he is deeply loved.

Living this journey firsthand revealed just how difficult it can be to navigate healthcare systems, coordinate care, locate reliable resources, understand available services, and find meaningful support. Too often, families and caregivers find themselves navigating this journey without the guidance, support, or resources they need, while carrying the emotional, physical, and financial responsibilities of caregiving.

As Jesse's caregiver, I experienced these struggles personally. Every doctor's appointment. Every hospital stay. Every therapy session. Every sleepless night. Every question. Every setback. Every small victory. Every moment spent advocating for him opened my eyes to the enormous challenges families and caregivers face after an acquired brain injury.

I realized that countless families and caregivers were asking the same questions I was asking, facing the same roadblocks, and searching for the same hope.

That realization became the foundation for Ola Compass.

Ola Compass was created so that individuals living with acquired brain injury and the families and caregivers who walk beside them would not have to navigate this journey without guided support.

Because of Jesse, I learned that caregiving is about far more than meeting physical needs. It is about preserving dignity, protecting hope, believing in possibilities, and never allowing someone to feel forgotten or unworthy of fighting for.

Every resource we hope to build, every partnership we pursue, every educational tool we create, every innovation we develop, and every life we hope to impact traces back to one person.

Jesse.

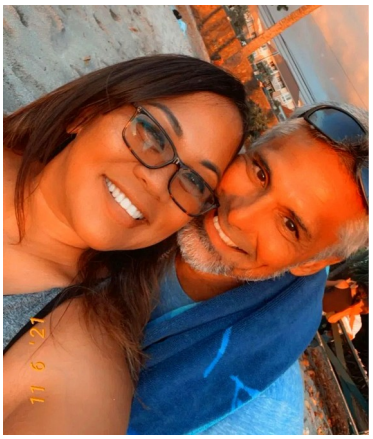
His story is not defined solely by tragedy. It is also defined by resilience, unconditional love, deep faith, even in uncertainty, and the countless lives his journey will touch through Ola Compass.

Through this journey, Jesse continues to shape the vision and mission of Ola Compass.

One life changed forever, and through that journey, a vision was born to help countless others navigate theirs.

Founder's Story

Every founder's story begins somewhere else. Mine begins with Jesse.



Aloha, my name is Ponialoha, and I am the founder of Ola Compass.

Before anything else, I am a mom, a Lola (Filipino for Grandma), and Jesse's lifetime partner.

Looking back, I can see that every season of my life was quietly preparing me for this one.

For more than thirty-five years, I have had the privilege of working in Hawai'i's hospitality industry, and today, I continue to do so full-time. Throughout my career, I have welcomed people to my island, helping them feel a sense of belonging on unfamiliar ground, while guiding them through the beauty, culture, and the spirit of Hawai'i.

I never imagined those same skills of providing comfort, guidance, and reassurance would one day become the foundation for one of the most personal and meaningful journeys of my life.

When I'm not traveling for work, my focus is on caring for Jesse because my work often takes me away for several days at a time. I'm deeply grateful for the support system that we have. While I'm away, Jesse's auntie Gail, his mom Cathy, and our neighbor/caregiver Jim play an important role in his care. Their love, generosity, and unwavering commitment have been an incredible blessing and a reminder that caregiving is not meant to be carried out alone.

I've always had a heart to help others. I never imagined that my calling to serve would one day take the form of caregiving.

Caregiving has taught me things no career ever could. The hardest part isn't what most people imagine. It isn't the physical tasks, though there are many. It's learning how to connect in ways beyond words. It's learning to understand his needs through the quiet cues he shares: his pain, sadness, joy, excitement, anxiety, hunger, and the many emotions that words can no longer express.

There are so many days I wonder if I'm getting it right. Does he know how much he is cherished? Can he feel how deeply he is loved? Those questions have taught me that communication goes far beyond words and that love has a way of filling the spaces where words fall short. More than anything, I pray that my presence brings him comfort and helps him feel safe, seen, and deeply loved.

Those realizations changed me. They also changed the way I approached Jesse's recovery. Instead of measuring progress only by what we could see or hear, I began looking for every opportunity to help him heal, connect, and experience the best quality of life possible.

There was a moment after Jesse was released from the care facility when the reality of our new life truly set in. For the previous 11 months, it had often taken six to eight trained professionals to safely care for him. I remember asking myself, *How am I ever going to do what six to eight trained professionals have been doing… all by myself?*

That's when I realized I had two choices. I could either let fear overwhelm me and give up, or I could place my trust in the One who had carried me this far, our Lord and Savior.

I chose to trust Him. And He has been faithful ever since.

The Lord came through in ways I could never have imagined, blessing me with supernatural strength and patience I didn't know I possessed. Since then, every day He continues to fill me up, and on the days I feel I have nothing left to give, He pours out an abundance of grace upon me.

That journey led me into a world I never expected to navigate. It became a determined pursuit of answers, resources, therapies, and new possibilities. As I met with doctors, specialists, care coordinators, social workers, and other healthcare professionals, I was trying to understand not only Jesse's injury, but what he truly needed to give him the best opportunity for recovery.

With every answer we found, new questions emerged. It became clear that while the medical team could stabilize Jesse, manage his symptoms, and provide the best care available, there was no treatment that could simply heal the damage to his brain. We didn't have access to the advanced therapies or specialized rehabilitation programs I hoped might help maximize his recovery. If the answers weren't here, I was determined to find them.

Then came one of the hardest moments of our journey. During his recovery, Jesse became combative, a challenge experienced by many acquired brain injury survivors. At the very time he needed continued rehabilitation the most, his therapy came to an end. And when I went looking for what came next, I found the same answer everywhere I turned: the rehabilitation resources and specialized therapies Jesse needed simply weren't available to us here in Hawai‘i.

In that moment, I couldn't help but feel that the system had failed him.

As the months went by, more gaps began to emerge. With every gap I discovered, I began to ask myself:

“What are the leading rehabilitation centers doing that we aren't doing here in Hawai‘i? Why? What therapies, technologies, and innovations are helping survivors elsewhere? And more importantly, what would it take to bring those opportunities home?”

As I continued searching and praying for direction, I felt a gentle prompting of a still, small voice saying,

“Stop thinking about it. Stop talking about it. Be about it.”

For weeks, those words echoed in my heart. They kept resurfacing in ways I couldn't ignore. It wasn't until later that I realized it was Heavenly Father speaking to me. He wasn't asking me to have everything figured out. He was asking me to trust Him, step out in faith, and allow His plan to unfold in His perfect timing.

I didn't have a blueprint. I didn't have all the resources, the connections, or a clear roadmap. What I did have was lived experience, an unwavering desire to help other families, and the conviction that there had to be a better way to navigate life after an acquired brain injury in Hawai‘i.

What began as a search for answers for Jesse slowly became something much bigger. I realized that many of the challenges we faced were not unique to us. Across Hawai‘i, families were searching for the same guidance, the same support, and the same hope. That realization became the foundation upon which Ola Compass was built.

Every step of this journey has shaped not only who I have become, but also the heart of what Ola Compass strives to be. The lessons learned through heartbreak, hope, perseverance, and faith continue to guide every decision we make and every person we have the privilege to serve.

People often ask me why I started Ola Compass.

The answer is simple.

I started it because I know what it feels like to leave a hospital carrying more questions than answers.

I know what it feels like to search for resources that don't exist, to wonder if you're doing enough, and to carry the weight of making impossible decisions for someone you love.

No family should have to navigate that journey alone.

Ola Compass was born from our story, but it was never meant to be only about us.

It exists for every survivor searching for hope, every caregiver searching for guidance, and every family longing for peace and understanding as they face a new life of uncertainty.

If our journey has taught me anything, it's this:

Sometimes healing doesn't begin when all the answers are found.

Sometimes healing begins the moment someone finally knows they don't have to walk the journey alone.

That is the heart of Ola Compass.

And as long as God continues to open doors, I'll keep walking through them, helping other families find hope, direction, and the courage to take the next step.

We can't change what happened. But together, we can change what happens next.

The Story Behind the Ola Compass Logo

The name Ola Compass came to me shortly after I embraced that first prompting. I hadn't been searching for it or brainstorming possibilities. It simply came to me, and I believe it was another gentle prompting from Heavenly Father.

The word *Ola* represented everything I hoped this journey would represent, life, healing, recovery, and hope. A compass represented exactly what so many survivors, families, and caregivers are searching for: trusted guidance through unfamiliar territory. Together, the name captured the heart of what I felt called to build.

The Ola Compass logo is more than a design. It is a visual story of life, love, resilience, guidance, and faith in Heavenly Father.

The name Ola Compass reflects the heart of the mission. In Hawaiian, ola speaks to life, health, healing, recovery, well-being, survival, and the ability to thrive. The compass represents guidance, direction, and navigation through one of life's most difficult journeys.

At the center of the logo is the ʻIo, representing Jesse, the inspiration behind Ola Compass. Jesse's middle name, ʻIolani, means “Royal Hawk” or “Hawk of the Heavens.” The ʻIo is endemic to Hawaiʻi and today is found naturally only on the Island of Hawaiʻi. It symbolizes strength, courage, vision, resilience, and the determination to rise above adversity.

Within the ʻIo eye is a heart, representing Ponialoha, whose name means “crown of love” or “anointed love.” The heart symbolizes the love, devotion, compassion, and unwavering commitment first shown to Jesse and now extended to the heart of caregiving and the mission of Ola Compass.

The compass serves as a symbol of guidance and direction, reflecting the role of Ola Compass in helping acquired brain injury survivors, families, and caregivers navigate complex healthcare systems, resources, decisions, and life's changing circumstances with greater clarity and confidence.

At the center of the compass rests the thorn crown, representing Heavenly Father, who is the true guide and navigator of Ola Compass. The crown serves as a reminder that every decision, every step, and every purpose of the organization is centered on His wisdom, His sovereignty, and His direction.

Surrounding these elements are two indigenous Hawaiian plants: the ʻŌhiʻa Lehua blossom and the ʻUhaloa plant. Together, they represent resilience, healing, hope, rootedness, and the ability to flourish even through life's greatest challenges. They also honor Hawaiʻi, where the vision for Ola Compass was born, while reflecting the belief that beauty, strength, and healing can emerge from even the most difficult circumstances.

Together, the ʻIo, heart, compass, thorn crown, and native Hawaiian plants tell a unified story of survivors, caregivers, faith, healing, resilience, and hope. Each element reminds us that no one should have to walk the journey of acquired brain injury without compassionate guidance and support.

The Ola Compass logo is more than a brand mark. It reflects the organization's mission and calling: to stand in the gap for acquired brain injury survivors, families, and caregivers by providing trusted guidance, compassionate support, practical resources, and enduring hope. Through every step of the journey, Ola Compass seeks to help others navigate care while restoring life.

Mission Statement

At Ola Compass, our mission is to empower acquired brain injury survivors, along with the families and caregivers who support them, to achieve the highest possible level of independence, dignity, and quality of life through trusted resources, education, innovative technology, advocacy, and compassionate support.

Vision Statement

Our vision is a Hawai‘i where every acquired brain injury survivor, family, and caregiver belongs to a connected, empowered community: one where no one navigates this journey in isolation, today or in the years ahead.

Core Values

Faith

We anchor every decision in trust in Heavenly Father, finding strength, direction, and hope in Him through every season of this work.

Compassion

We lead with empathy, kindness, patience, and genuine care for every survivor, family member, and caregiver we serve.

Integrity

We act with honesty, accountability, and a commitment to doing what is right, even when it is difficult.

Dignity

We believe every survivor deserves to be treated with dignity, value, and respect at every stage of the journey.

Advocacy

We stand in the gap for survivors, families, and caregivers by helping amplify needs, remove barriers, and pursue better pathways of support.

Innovation

We embrace creative thinking, technology, and practical solutions that improve access, navigation, and quality of life.

Service

We are called to serve with humility, excellence, and a heart that puts people before process.

Transparency

We value clear communication, trust, and openness in the way we build relationships and carry out our work.

Meaningful Connection

We believe healing, hope, and resilience are strengthened through trusted relationships, community support, and shared understanding.

Operating Principles

- Listen first.
- Lead with truth.
- Never overpromise.
- Leave no stone unturned.
- Seek evidence before making assumptions.
- Choose progress over perfection.

Brand Promise

Ola Compass promises this: no matter where you are in the acquired brain injury journey, you will be met with honesty, treated with dignity, and guided with compassion. Because that is what navigating care means at Ola Compass.

Our Guiding Philosophy

The greatest impact we leave is not measured by what people think of us, but by how people feel because of us. If every person who crosses our path leaves feeling seen, heard, respected, and a little less alone than when they arrived, then we have fulfilled our purpose. We believe compassion, dignity, honesty, and genuine human connection create the kind of impact that lasts long after the conversation ends.

Standing in the Gap

At Ola Compass, one of the convictions that guides our work is the calling to stand in the gap. Standing in the gap means stepping forward on behalf of those who are unable to voice their opinions or ideas, who are overwhelmed and vulnerable, or unable to navigate this journey. This is where Ola Compass comes into place, with a commitment to advocate, intercede, support, and help protect the dignity and well-being of acquired brain injury survivors, families, and caregivers.

Where We Are Now & Next Steps

Ola Compass is in its earliest chapter. Right now, we are not a finished program with all the answers. We are actively researching, listening, and learning alongside the very community we exist to serve.

We began as an LLC, not a nonprofit, on purpose. Before making decisions about what to build, we wanted to first understand what is actually needed and where it is needed most throughout Hawai‘i. That means real conversations with survivors, caregivers, and families about what has been hardest to find or figure out. It means sitting down with local hospitals, facilities, and medical professionals to understand what's already being done well, and where the gaps remain. And it means studying organizations and facilities in the continental US to learn what they offer that we don't yet have here, so we can work to bring it home.

We don't have every answer yet. What we do have is a commitment to find them, honestly and transparently, and to bring back real solutions rather than assumptions.

Here's how you can be part of this next step:

- If you're a survivor, caregiver, or family member, you've lived a journey that many people will never fully understand. Your experiences carry wisdom that no textbook, research study, or clinical expertise can replace. We'd be honored to listen to your story because your voice will help shape a future where no one has to navigate the journey of acquired brain injury alone.
- If you're a healthcare professional, rehabilitation provider, healthcare facility, complementary or integrative healthcare provider, nonprofit organization, government agency, or community organization serving Hawai‘i, thank you for the care, compassion, and dedication you bring to our community every day. We'd welcome the chance to learn from your experience, hear your perspective, and better understand where you see opportunities to strengthen care, improve collaboration, and expand support for acquired brain injury survivors and their families throughout Hawai‘i.
- If you're part of an organization outside Hawai‘i that has been serving acquired brain injury survivors and their families, you walked this road before us. We honor the work you've done and the lives you've touched. If you're willing, we'd be grateful to learn from your experience, especially what has made the greatest difference in the lives of the people you serve, so that we can better serve the people of Hawai‘i.

Every conversation, every shared experience, and every lesson learned brings us one step closer to building something that truly reflects the needs of Hawai‘i's acquired brain injury community. When the time is right, those voices will help guide the next chapter of Ola Compass, which we hope will include establishing a nonprofit foundation.

Until then, we will continue to listen with humility, learn with purpose, and move forward with compassion. We'd be honored if you joined us on this journey.

Ola Compass LLC. ● Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Portfolio

Navigate Care. Restoring Life.

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