

PROFILES IN SERVICE

ASHLEY LEHUALANI KIERKIEWICZ

NACo Board Member
Council Member
County of Hawai'i, Hawai'i

Number of years active in NACo: Two

Years in public service: Four

Occupation: Public servant, changemaker and mother

Education: Bachelor's in Political Science, University of Hawai'i-Hilo

The hardest thing I've ever done: Organizing emergency response initiatives during a volcanic eruption and the COVID pandemic.

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: The Dalai Lama, Coco Chanel and Catherine the Great.

A dream I have is to: Serve in the U.S. Congress.

You'd be surprised to learn that I: Used to have my own radio show – "Teen Talk with Ashley" – during high school.

My favorite way to relax is: Surf, go to the beach with my kids and read a good book.

I'm most proud of: Activating a network of 40+ Resilience Hubs throughout Hawai'i Island



KIERKIEWICZ

to support community connection, economic development and disaster response.

Every morning I read: What's happening in the world via the Apple News app.

My favorite meal is: Lox and bagel with all the fixings.

My pet peeve is: When there is no follow-through on a commitment.

My motto is: Life is too short to never see what you're capable of. Train, build, create and obsess.

The last book I read was: "Principles: Life & Work," by Ray Dalio

My favorite movie is: "Tommy Boy"

My favorite music is: Anything I can dance to!

My favorite U.S. president is: Hawai'i Boy, Barack Obama.

My county is a NACo member because: Relationships across the country are invaluable and it is incredible to share an island's perspective at a national level to influence public policy.

GET TO KNOW...

Benzie County, Michigan

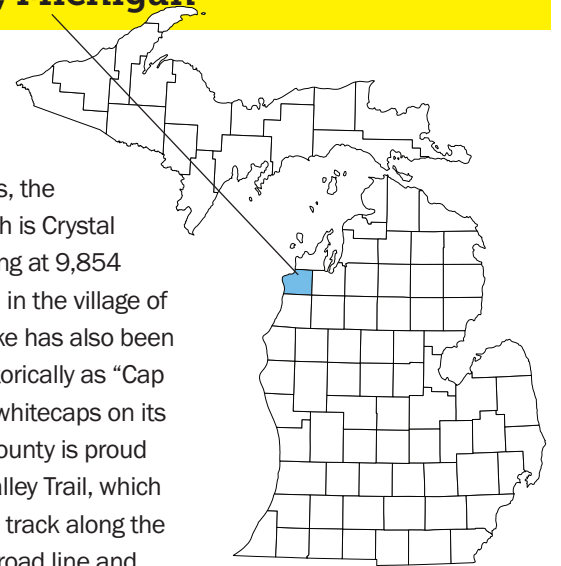
Welcome, Benzie County, Michigan

Benzie County, Mich. was created in 1863 as Unszigobee County and was later renamed for the French phrase "Riviere Aux Bec-Scies," or "river of saw-bills [ducks]." Measuring roughly 361 square miles, Benzie is the smallest county in Michigan and has only one traffic signal – and it's part-time. According to the 2020 census, the county's population is 17,970. In all, 304 residents live in the county seat of Beulah.

Over 36 percent of the county is publicly owned land, including the national park Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, which is known for its scalable Dune Climb and was named "the most beautiful place in America" by ABC's "Good Morning America."

Benzie County features more than 100 lakes, the largest of which is Crystal Lake, measuring at 9,854 acres. Located in the village of Beulah, the lake has also been referred to historically as "Cap Lake," for the whitecaps on its surface. The county is proud of its Betsie Valley Trail, which was formerly a track along the Ann Arbor Railroad line and has since been turned into a spot for hiking, skiing and biking.

The Michigan Legacy Art Park, a 30-acre sculpture trail, is also located in the county. The park was created in 1995 by artist David Barr, who wanted to create an expression of Michigan's history through art with nature as a material. Gateway to Black Eden, a steel



sculpture created by Detroit artist M. Saffell Gardner, intended to reflect the African American lake resort experience in America prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, will be the park's newest artwork in its permanent collection when it's installed this year.

"Get to Know" features new NACo member counties.



THE MOST ADVENTUROUS THING I'VE EVER DONE IS:

A month of surfing and exploring Indonesia.



BEHIND THE SEAL

BEAUFORT COUNTY, S.C.

Beaufort County, S.C., which is made up of 68 islands, was established in 1769.

The county's seal features a live oak, for the distinctive tree the South is known for

a boat to represent the county's natural resources and marine ecology

a fish for the importance of the seafood industry to the county and an image of a home to highlight Lowcountry architecture.



Blue and green were chosen as the colors to represent the county's waterways, marshes and maritime forests.

Would you like to see your county seal featured? Contact Meredith Moran at mmoran@naco.org.