



William (Bill) Hannafin Austin

DEC 12, 1950 - SEP 30, 2025



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 4
Media	Page 5



William (Bill) Hannafin Austin

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William (Bill) H. Austin, 74, of Kurtistown, Hawaii, passed away peacefully at home on September 30, 2025, surrounded by family and friends after a battle with lung cancer.

Born on December 12, 1950, in Easton, Maryland, to Nancy and Herbert Austin, Bill was the youngest of six children. He lived a vibrant, full life deeply rooted in nature, recovery, family, and the Hawaiian land he came to love and call home.

An avid horticulturist, Bill cultivated rare palms and anthuriums with care and joy, turning his gardens into living works of art. Bill was also a devoted breeder and handler of Brittany spaniels, raising generations of dogs with warmth and pride. He greatly enjoyed spending endless days bird hunting with them on Mauna Kea, his magical mountain. He also found great joy in body surfing, earning several awards, and remaining closely tied to the ocean throughout his life.

For more than 31 years, Bill was an active and compassionate presence in the Alcoholics Anonymous community in Hilo, where he mentored and guided many through their recovery journeys. He was known for his calm voice of reason, quiet strength, and a quick wit that brought laughter and light to those around him. His sense of humor and positivity never faded, even in his final days.

Bill is survived by his daughter, Maya Davis, and his grandchildren, Sheldon and Delainey Pierce, of Fort Worth, Texas. He is also survived by his beloved life partner, Nong Elkins, of Kurtistown, Hawaii, with whom he shared many joyful years, and by her children and grandchildren of Las Vegas, Nevada, all of whom he loved as his own. He is further survived by his siblings Nancy Jane Reed, Jack Austin, and Bobbie Brittingham, all of Maryland.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Nancy and Herbert Austin, and his brothers, H. Rieman Austin and Walter F. Austin II. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.



Tribute Wall

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Silvia Robinson shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



October 4 at 6:53 AM

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Silvia Robinson shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Bill was a shining light during an incredibly difficult time in my life. I can't put into words how much he meant to me. My father died of alcoholism in 2019, and Bill helped me to work through that difficult transition. He reminded me to focus on remaining hopeful that life was working out as it should. He always welcomed me in his home, and made me sandwiches when I was too distraught to eat. I love you Bill. You are missed, and will always be remembered by me for your honesty and kindness ❤️ This is a picture from one of the road trips we went on with a group of friends. He definitely knew how to make us laugh. What a great smile:)Silvia



October 4 at 6:49 AM



Media

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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William (Bill) by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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