

## ***The Legend of Kona the L.O.V.E. Dog*** ***This is her origin story***

Legend has it that a great and sudden storm nearly capsized a canoe full of tourists off the Kona coast of The Big Island of Hawaii. Everyone was swept into the raging waters — except for Captain A.J.'s rescue bulldog, Kona. Maybe because of her low center of gravity, or maybe it was fate, she managed to stay in the canoe. She was safe, but all seven human passengers were in the water, including two tourists who had treated her poorly earlier on land. They had kicked her when the captain wasn't looking. They didn't like the idea of a mangy dog sharing space with them in the boat.



As the wind whipped, a lightning bolt lashed out at the canoe. At that exact moment, the bright sun broke through the dark clouds and a rainbow, guided by Ānuehue, the Hawaiian Rainbow Goddess (also the Hawaiian word for rainbow), hit the canoe at the exact same time as the lightning. Amazingly, the canoe was not damaged and Kona wasn't hurt! Kona's mangy coat was bathed with bright reflections of the colors of the rainbow, the sea, and even the nearby land. The energy from the lightening sealed those colors into Kona's fur, permanently turning her coat into a beautiful, shiny representation of the love and kindness that was inside her.

Filled and covered with that energy and disregarding her own safety, she dove into the water to help the captain get everyone back into the canoe — starting with the two men who had previously treated her poorly! Bulldogs can't swim, but miraculously, Kona swam! Kona and the captain rescued every single person from the water. Right after the last person was rescued, the storm ceased and a gentle breeze guided a wave to escort them to shore.

Kona the L.O.V.E. Dog saved everyone by Learning of their need, Opening her heart to them, even those who didn't deserve it, and disregarding her own safe position to Volunteer to heroically become the solution they needed. Her story now serves to Empower others to act selflessly, bravely and lovingly towards the people around them. Learning, Opening her heart, Volunteering and Empowering equals L.O.V.E.

At the end of every rainbow there is supposed to be a pot of gold, but in Hawaii, it is said that at the ends of Hawaii's many rainbows, there is Kona, tirelessly spreading love and the Aloha Spirit with everyone she meets.

Would you like to become Kona's friend? She's looking for people like you to help her make a difference throughout the world. All you have to do is take the L.O.V.E. Is The Answer pledge and treat everyone you meet with love and kindness, just like Kona!

***The L.O.V.E. Is The Answer pledge:*** *I pledge to LEARN about the people in my community, to unconditionally OPEN my heart to their needs as if they were all immediate family members, to VOLUNTEER to be part of the solution in their lives during both good and challenging times, and to EMPOWER everyone I meet to do the same as if our lives depended on each other.*