

KATIE (BROSS) SETTLEMIER



Eastside Big Island coastline on the Red Road

Once I graduated from high school I attended LCC for two years. After about a year of working for a local health club in Longview I was asked by Joe Hill, a member, if I would be interested in working for First Federal Savings and Loan. I gladly accepted the offer and spent the next 12 years employed there. Then in 1984 we moved to Vancouver, WA, where we lived for 30 years. I worked in various jobs both in Vancouver and Portland until I retired in 2011.

While working at First Federal I married my current husband Doug Settlemier in 1974 and had two children, Chad (1975) and Chelsie (1979). Chad is married to Jasna, they've resided in Portland for the past 10 years. Chelsie is with her significant other Josh of 21 years. Chelsie and Josh graduated from The University of Hawaii at Hilo, and are now living on our farm with their boys, Eden 11, Sage 9 and Finn 5. They're cute little island boys with very blond hair. They stand out here for sure. They're the reason we're living here in Hawaii.

Three years before we moved to the Big Island we bought 8 acres of land in a little city on the east side of Hawaii Island named Pahoehoe.

With the help of Chad, Chelsie and Josh all living on the island, we developed a cacao farm, and are raising roughly 75 trees. We also grow timber bamboo used for building purposes. Our Cacao trees will take approximately 10 years to fully mature, we're currently 8 years in at this point. In time we'll sell the pods to local chocolatiers who are in the business of producing chocolate bars and various other cacao confections.

In addition to the farm, we bought a house on an acre of land in a small town near Pahoa named Keaau, where we currently live. The landscaping keeps us busy beyond our wildest imagination, as we have a year round growing season here in Hawaii. We're raising lilikoi, bananas, pineapple, mango, papaya, guava, avocado, lichee, lemon, lime, tangerine, 8 coconut trees, and 65 various palms. We work in the yard 365 days a year mowing and maintaining to keep it from going back to the jungle. No beach time for us for sure!!

In time we'll decide if Hawaii is our forever home, or we might possibly move back to the mainland to retire. Only time, lava flows, extreme heat and hurricanes will tell.

Aloha