



Kōke'e Connections

Hui o Laka Membership Newsletter

MARCH 2022

Looking Back on 2021

2021 was a tough year, as we scrambled to get the Kōke'e Natural History Museum back on track and open seven days a week by May. It took all the organization's energy to get the momentum going again and at times it was painful. Tourism is the mainstay of the Museum's operation, with about 75% of the foot traffic, and it returned with a bang by June. Poised for reopening to tourists, Hui o Laka took advantage of the state park's mandatory business closure during the second quarter of 2020 to renovate. As a result, we had time to think about what the Museum should be offering to our customers and opening the interior space for social distancing. Our most popular exhibits are the shell display, geology, Wai'ale'ale rain gauge, Laka, sandalwood, and CCC Camp storyboards.

We paid attention to providing better hiking information and park amenities to visitors outside the Museum available 24/7. They are using it! Hiking inclined visitors are different today. They use apps on their phones to navigate and choose their trail options. That works most places, but not here at Kōke'e. Google maps are inaccurate for Kōke'e State Parks and visitors get lost. Unless maps are saved to the phone's drive, internet apps cannot be called up in most of the park. Checking in at the museum display provides the orientation and backup for park visitors. We continue to add to and upgrade the information, including quick reference maps of the State Campground and Cabins.

What we can't be is a full-time park concierge service. We are not park rangers nor have the authority to act on behalf of State Parks. Hui o Laka and Kōke'e Museum are not authorized to sell park admissions, camping permits, arrange for your lodging at the state cabins, or go through the complete list of trails in the park for each visitor. Instead, our small staff has museum visitors to greet and gift shop purchases to process. The Museum is a bustling place with 100 to 200 customers a day. We are open weekdays from 11 am to 3 pm and on weekends from 10:30 am and 4 pm, 365 days a year.

Museum visitors are the best people! We appreciate our customers! They wear their masks, use the sanitizer at the front door, and flow well within the Museum. If you have not been back to the Museum since early 2020, come in and see the changes, check out the book titles and gift selection, and meet the staff. We have fresh faces in the Museum: Kyle Kiyotsuka, Kapua Janai, and Mary Kate Patterson.

Kyle hails from Kalaheo and enjoys the daily parade of museum visitors. He is a published author and is currently working on two manuscripts. As part of his work, he is heading up our social media platforms. Kapua is an avid outdoors person and loves Kōke'e.



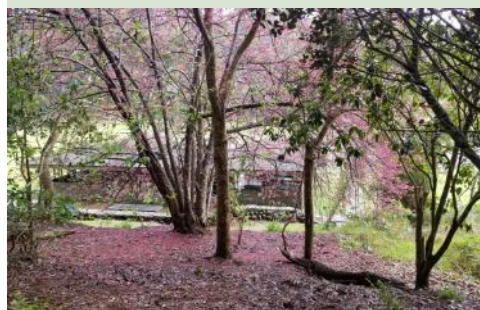
Her book of poems and reflections is a best seller in the Museum. Mary Kate wears two hats as a sales associate and has taken over Rosalind Thompson's membership duties. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and Master of Arts in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management, she will be starting the task of inventorying and creating accession records for the collections in our exhibits and archive.

Meet our Camp Manager

The CCC Camp has a manager! Myranda "Wai" Kuapahi is a former Hui o Laka trustee and festival volunteer and has a work history in the hotel, hospital, and tour industries that aligns with what we are trying to accomplish. In addition, she has a long family history associated with Kōke'e, with her grandparents living next to Kawaikō'i Stream, which is now a campground. As a Kekaha Sugar Co. ditchman, her great-grandfather Gregorio Ticala was one of the keys to the success of the remarkable Kōke'e irrigation system. Wai looks forward to happy future guests at the CCC Camp.



Kokee Shorts



Sakura Season at Koke'e

February was ablaze in color as one by one cherry blossoms appear. This year, the unseasonably warm weather started the process in January. Visitors had both peach and cherry blossoms to enjoy.



Yep, That's a Mountain Lion

The John Bandman family donated a collection of mounted game animals to Hui o Laka. He was a major volunteer for Kōke'e trails. They now grace the Mess Hall. Shown here are four of the crew from Pono Pacific it took to hang the mount on the wall. We put them to work when they get rained out from their projects protecting native species.

Aloha Rosalind

Trustees Billi Smith and Kay Koike threw a tea party for the recently retired Rosalind Thompson. Everyone got a chance to wish Rosalind a fond aloha



and meet the new museum staff in the festive party held in the CCC Camp Mess Hall which was certainly large enough for social distancing!

Reflections from Kōke'e

We learn a lot about our visitors behind the counter at the museum. Many are well educated and respectful. Unfortunately, many park visitors, residents and tourists alike, see our natural world as an amusement park attraction to meet unrealistic and selfish expectations.

As a park visitor, be a good guest and be mindful of your impact on a fragile environment. Be aware that our forests contain a large population of endemic and threatened species and your activities can disrupt them and hasten their extinction. Pack out what you pack in. Stay on marked trails. Clean your shoes and clothing before hiking in a new area. Be safe and conscious of the everyday dangers of being in the wilderness.

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We answer many questions frequently and we offer some observations here:

- 1)** Remember that all park visitors are required to pay an admission fee at one of the machines located at Waimea Canyon, Pu'u Hina Hina, Kalalau, and Pu'u o Kila Lookouts. Visitors need to bring credit cards for this purpose. Hawai'i residents do not have to pay the fee but will need valid identification to prove residency. The "ticket" should be displayed on your dash and isn't good for admission at the museum or a free drink at the Lodge.
- 2)** There are public restrooms at Waimea Canyon Lookout, Pu'u ka Pele Campgrounds, Pu'u Hinahina Lookout, Kōke'e State Park Headquarters stone pavilion, Kōke'e Campground, and Kalalau Lookout. It might be wise to bring your own toilet paper and trash bag as the park facilities are serviced once a day and visitor numbers are overwhelming on some days.
- 3)** The park doesn't have recycling receptacles. Most towns do have dropoffs if you hold on to your recyclable plastic, aluminum cans and glass bottles.
- 4)** Please let someone know your itinerary for an emergency backup when hiking and camping in remote areas. Expect that your cell phone could be useless in pockets of the island that you might be headed in. Kōke'e Museum sells two good maps, one for the island and another for the Kōke'e area. Please download online trail maps to the hard drive with an available cellphone or Wi-Fi service at your hotel. Pay attention to the advice of local residents and weather reports.
- 5)** Popular trails are popular because they have the best payoff. Remote and less frequented routes may be fun, but they

also require more safety considerations.

6) All camping on State property requires permits from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, which is only open on weekdays. Please check Hawaii.gov for official trail and camping information and permit applications. All camping must be in designated camp areas. Camping in vehicles on public land is currently not legal on Kaua'i. The photo below is illegal.



7) Maps of the Kōke'e Park campgrounds and the Kōke'e State Cabin area are located on the bulletin board outside the Museum. You are welcome to photograph the trail information that is posted but remember that the trails are not maintained. This wilderness park has hazards, including mud, slippery clay, erosion, fallen trees, and flash flooding, especially after a storm.

8) If you are fearful of heights or have young children, do not hike on "rim" or "ridge" trails. Stay behind guardrails that front drops of thousands of feet.

9) There is no trail to Kalalau Beach from Kōke'e. Visit hawaii.gov for Kalalau Trail information IN ADVANCE of your visit.

10) Do not take your street vehicles on dirt roads. If your vehicle needs repairs or fuel do not drive up to Kōke'e. Make sure you have your car key with you at all times. Towing service will require most of your day. You will need to stay near your vehicle, or the towing company may arrive and leave. 1-800 number operators usually have no idea of geography, so note all landmarks.

11) Do not drink water directly from open streams. Instead, stay hydrated by taking plenty of water with you on a hike. The water at Park Headquarters is potable, but there is no bottle refill station or free filtered water. Swim in streams at your own risk and certainly not if you have cuts or wounds.

12) There is no shoulder to speak of on the highway past the horseshoe turn. There are bicycles, pedestrians, cars, and large trucks trying to use the same narrow strip of pavement. Do not park partially in the road on any blind curve. Do not stop on a blind curve and wave people around you.

CCC Camp News

Since reopening the camp to overnight accommodations in June 2020, we were limited to the two cabins with standalone kitchens/bathrooms. The Governor's special emergency orders restricted the use of state properties and mandated employee vaccinations and testing compliance. As we go into 2022, our biggest challenge will be reopening the barracks. Significant changes have to be made to make sure they are safe for our employees and camp guests. Like the Museum, Hui o Laka has turned everything upside down. We are visualizing respectful customers for the 1935 vintage structures that are willing to participate within the parameters of Covid related restrictions.

We will no longer accommodate large groups of people. The bunkhouses have remained closed because they contain shared spaces used by unrelated groups: restrooms, hallways, and mess hall. The kitchen creates the most significant roadblock to reopening.

The camp initially revolved around a military-style mess, a cafeteria-type operation. It was an efficient space that provided three meals a day for one hundred or more people daily. Until 2020, we allowed multiple users in the kitchen space. Sometimes that was a good thing. Other times, it was chaos with gas burners left on, grease everywhere, dishes left in the sink, and overflowing garbage.

We are looking at reopening Barracks C with limited use of the mess hall and no use of the kitchen. A menu of premade food options will be offered to guests with a beverage bar and microwave oven. The Kōke'e Lodge at the bottom of the driveway provides breakfast and lunch options. The number of people in a family or group would be limited to 16 people. They must fit within the configuration of the three private rooms and bunkroom in Barracks C. There are other camps at Kōke'e that larger groups can use. The mess hall will be closed for sanitation during the day at set periods between mealtimes and overnight. We are improving our outdoor gathering area with a barbecue and seating. If you want a kitchen to prepare meals, the two cabins are still your only option.

Only registered guests are allowed on the camp's grounds. We have six visitor parking spaces for the entire camp. Barracks B will remain closed until 2023. Prices and reservation dates for the Barracks C will not be ready until May 2022.

Park News

Kōke'e Plum Lovers Rejoice!

We hope to have a new grove of Methley plums available for picking in five or six years. Most of the plum trees at Kōke'e are old, neglected orchards that produce fewer and smaller fruit. Summer plum picking is a special memory of Kōke'e for many long-time residents. Hui o Laka strives to perpetuate the annual July harvest for residents and park visitors by this project. The plum trees are not aggressive and do not spread by seed, unlike many plantings.

A long, unused chipped stone terrace at the CCC Camp is to be cleared by machine and hand of gingers, grass, cypress tree trunks, and blackberry and readied for about 50 small trees that have been patiently waiting for a home. Mark Stoutemyer, Corteva Agrisciences Hawai'i Research Center Lead, cultivated the trees from cuttings. Over the past three years, he has tried various methods and times in the annual cycle to determine the optimum success rate for producing new trees. As a result, Hui o Laka and Corteva are learning more about this variety of Japanese plum.

We thank Mark Stoutemyer for his



Two year old plum trees, just 2 feet tall, showing their first fruit in July. To the right, are a collage of images showing the daunting task of clearing an overgrown terrace.

enthusiasm and dedication and Laurie Yoshida, Corteva Hawai'i Communications Manager, for her support.

The terrace clearing is funded by Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Hawai'i Visitors & Convention Bureau, and Kaua'i Visitors Bureau. Corteva Agrisciences provides the expertise in planting, weed matting, and initial nutrients to get the orchard trees in the ground. The remaining trees are to be

planted around the camp and other areas in the park. We hope to have some available in the late fall for leaseholders to plant. In the future, the new orchard will provide a service project venue to promote volunteerism in the park.

Additionally, the project is supported by Hui o Laka, Kōke'e Resource Conservation Program, and State Parks. The result is one more piece of the CCC Camp to be restored.

Eō e Emalani i Alaka'i



Hui o Laka trustees with newly named Queen in September. From left to right: Myranda Kuapahi, board president Billi Smith, Pualiliimaikalani Rossi, and board secretary Kay Koike.

The challenges of holding live events since 2020 is real. Amid the unknowns of the pandemic in 2020, we dealt with Hawai'i Tourism Authority contract reports for 2019 and rewrites for our 2020 projects. Hui o Laka cancelled our family forest education fair, Banana Poka 2020, usually held at the end of May. Eō e Emalani 2020 went virtual and can still be viewed on YouTube if you missed it. HTA funding was not

offered in 2021. After some thought, we decided to make another virtual offering for Eō e Emalani with raised funds from the community. We had hoped to launch it in January, but things are moving along at their own pace. Filming was completed last week.

Our Queen is well suited for her role this year. An Hawaiian Studies assistant professor at Kaua'i Community College, Pualiliimaikalani Rossi did her dissertation on Queen Emma. As a child, she performed at the very first Eō e Emalani! Pua's court is a family affair. Her parents are supporting her. Mark Rossi is playing Kaluahi, the reluctant guide, and Haunani Rossi is the Queen's lady-in-waiting.

Taking advantage of the medium of film, we are telling the story of the Queen's trek to the Alaka'i that began on January 26, 1871. Searching through historical documents and newspapers in English and Hawaiian, Pua has discovered a revealing account of how remarkable Queen Emma was. Her

spirit and love is a positive example for today's generation. Six hālau support Pua in telling this story through the place names along her route.

A flyer will be sent out soon announcing the launch date of the video and include all the supporters, performers, cash sponsors, and donors in our online fundraising auction held in January.

Mahalo goes out to trustee Lorraine Wichman and her team for spearheading the Emalani fundraising.



Pua Rossi and her oldest son take in the view at Pohaku Hula.

Hui o Laka Membership

Patron Members

Mahalo Mahalo Mahalo

Many businesses fell by the wayside during the economic crisis brought on by Covid. We have survived and that is remarkable. We owe much of our success to our members and community. So many went out of their way to support us. Being in the middle of a park on the far end of the island, we are easy to forget. Even words of encouragement buoyed our staff when success seemed impossible. We apologize for not communicating on a regular basis, as it took all our energy in 2021 to get to this point where we can breathe and plan for a future again.

Membership is vital to our organization and during these tough times has been a lifeline. Listed here are memberships at the patron level or higher from November 1, 2020 to February 28, 2022.

BECOME A MEMBER

- ___ \$12 Maile Student
- ___ \$25 Mokihana Individual
- ___ \$50 Hāpu'u Family
- ___ \$75 'Ōhi'a
- ___ \$100 Koa Patron
- ___ \$250 'Iliahi Patron
- ___ \$500 Kauila Patron
- ___ \$1000 Lama Patron

Donations

- ___ Unrestricted
- ___ Endowment Fund
- ___ In honor/memory of

___ Other (describe) _____

Fill out contact information so we can send a receipt for your tax records:

Name _____

Email _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone: _____

Newsletter will be sent by email.

Check ___ if you prefer to have newsletter in print form, mailed to you.

Pay online at kokee.org or by personal check mailed to Hui o Laka, P.O. Box 100, Kekaha, Hawai'i 96752. Credit card payments can be made by phone. (808) 335-9975.

Lama Member

Michael Bill
Sandy Howatt

Kauila Members

Thomas King, Jr.
Kōke'e Lodge
Chipper & Hauoli Wichman

'Iliahi Members

Sharee Anderson
Pam Dohrman
Jessie Hill
Danita Martinez
Thomas Mendes
Laura Nishek
Robert & Diana Piety
Wayne & Kathy Richardson
Billi Smith & Scott Topp
Kanani Stickland
Marc Ventura, AIA
Charles & Jeanne Wichman
Martha Yent

Koa Members

Adrienne Alapa
Jalee Balonick
Lucille Barales Ceuevorst
Cheryl Bechard
Jennifer & Eric Blouin
Liedeke Bulder
Kelly Capuano
Tim CashDollar
Katie & Jim Cassel
Debby Chaffin
Allison Chuang
Dr. Kapono Chong-Hanssen
Elvrine Chow
Cindy Combs
Emmy Coprivizo
Brian Cronwell
Seth Dennis
Marina Drummer
Diane Faye & Greg Hawk
Jeremiah Felsen
Annette Fernandez-Ventura
Colette Ferris
Jill Finn
Lisa Fleming
Susan Ferrell
Vernon & Lynn Fu
Clyde Furumoto
Deanne Gonzalez
Frank Hay & Karen Gally
Malia Heiser
Sandy Howatt
Tiare Johnson
Otak Jump
Andy Kass & 'Ohana
James Keach
Janelle Kienow
Janet Killerman
John Kutzer
BreeAnna Lasher
Marissa Lilo
John Mahi
Julie Mai

Mai Love Designs
Leslie Martin
Patric McClanahan
Jill McIntire
Tim & Cathy McKenna
Donna Miller
Owen Moe
Mariah Moises
Edwin Nakaya
Mary Neudorfer
Patsy Nitta
Kenneth Ogilvie
John & Mary Osorio
Leah & Patrick Pereira
Patrick & Jacqueline Powaser
Thomas Reveley
Wayne & Katherine Richardson
Rene Rosendahl
Adam Roversi
Scott Rowland
Ginger Saiki
Teresa Sakai
Michael & Cheryl Shintani
Cheryl Stiglmeier
Andrew Sutton
The Ladies of Ka Waikahe
Lani Mālie
Chris & Devi Town
Tom & Olga Van Dis
Gene Walder
David & Sherry Walker
Melinda Walker
Jodi Webb
Wendy Wichman
Jonathan Wichman
Lorraine & Tony Wichman
Victoria & Randy Wichman
Gaylord & Carol Wilcox
Ron & Laura Wiley

In Memory of Curly Carswell

Beryl Blaich
Patsy Sheehan
Frank O. Hay

In Memory of C. Dudley & Dora Broadbent Pratt

Joan Pratt

In Honor of Joan Pratt

Time & Jill Pratt
Sarah Quinn

In Honor of Tim & Jill Pratt

Charles & Deborah Pratt

In honor of

David & Carol Pratt
Tim & Jill Pratt

Grants

\$3,000 Takenaka Kaua'i
Cultural and Environmental
Fund of the Hawai'i
Community Foundation

\$10,000 ARPA NonProfit
Recovery Grant from the
County of Kaua'i

\$10,000 EHW Broadbent
Foundation (2020/2021)

\$2000 Waimakua
Foundation (Mary S. Rice)

\$1000 Waimakua
Foundation (2020/2021)

\$5,000 S.W. Wilcox Trust

Restricted Gifts

Charles & Leilani
Christensen

Gift of \$150,000 to provide a
first-class exhibit on Ni'ihau
shell lei.

Unrestricted Gifts

Sales Force Towers
Joan Pratt
Diane & Robert Kinzic
Mariam Miller
Chris Faye Birthday Online
Fundraiser
Rob's Good Times Grill

Endowment Fund Gifts

David Pratt
Joan Pratt

New Picnic Tables for the CCC Camp

Garden Island Motorcycle
Club
Kipu Forge, Ted Shanks &
'Ohana
The Ladies of Ka Waikahe
Lani Mālie

New Dryers for CCC Camp

Kikiaola Land Co, Ltd.

WiFi Installation at Kōke'e Museum

\$3,500 Elsie H. Wilcox Trust
Roger Jacobs, DSI
Kōke'e State Parks crew

Plum Orchard Project

\$2,000 Corteva
Agrisciences
\$12,000 Community
Enrichment Program 2022
Hawai'i Tourism Authority,
Hawai'i Visitors &
Convention Bureau, and
Kaua'i Visitors Bureau.
Bertram Almeida, Oma'o
Productions

Kōkua Kōke'e Volunteers

Team Rubicon Kaua'i
The Ladies of Ka Waikahe
Lani Mālie
Boys & Girls Club
Kōke'e Resource
Conservation Program