



Kōke'e Connections

Hui o Laka Membership Newsletter

August 2022

Capital Campaign for the Kōke'e CCC Camp

Hui o Laka is asking you for your support in our 2022 Campaign to make repairs and upgrade the Kōke'e Civilian Conservation Corps Camp to reopen the complex fully for public use again. We cannot do this alone.

The camp is an 87-year-old, nine-building complex and, although not fully open to the public yet, will be hosting organizations such as the Kaua'i Search & Rescue (KSAR), Stanford University, and Leadership Kaua'i later this summer and fall. In addition, we assist State Parks in providing interpretation and improvements around Kōke'e Park Headquarters. In addition, as lessors of State Park-owned properties, Hui o Laka encourages park visitors, residents, and tourists to use our museum and enjoy camp stays. Our two cabins have become very popular with guests looking for a quiet retreat. The mess hall is no longer included with any overnight stays and is now available as an additional site for meetings and retreats for a fee. There is almost no parking available at the camp so it is not suitable for large gatherings where parking is needed.

In our endeavors, Team Rubicon, based in Kaua'i, has partnered with us to provide resources and assistance to our small staff during one of many workdays. This year projects including replacing a wooden wheelchair ramp, stair case, painting picnic tables and refurbishing our flagpole. Construction materials were provided by Unlimited Construction Co. We are blessed and hope to include more partners and supporters such as you in this project. As a nonprofit, we offer letters accepting donations of goods, services, and funds for charity purposes.

Hui o Laka, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was organized in 1954 to operate the Kōke'e Natural History Museum that opened in 1953. The museum was the brainchild of the Territorial Parks Superintendent Joe Souza as an educational amenity for Kōke'e Park visitors. Since the 90s, Hui o Laka has been renovating and operating the CCC Camp.

The Civilian Conservation Corps Camp opened in 1935. It was owned and operated by the Territory of Hawai'i with funding from the United States Department of the Interior under President Roosevelt's most significant make-work project during the Great Depression. The camp at Kōke'e housed 100 men between 17 and 25 years of age and paid \$1 a day. The program sent most of their wages home to their parents. In addition, they received uniforms and three-square meals a day. Besides planting trees for watershed purposes and improving park infrastructure, the participants learned skills and discipline that served them long after their time at camp.

After the CCC program was disbanded nationwide in 1942, the site served as a base for the U.S. Army during World War II, the Hawai'i Air National Guard in the 1950s, the U.S. Job Corps in the 1960s, and the Youth Conservation Corps during the 1970s. Following that, the camp languished until adopted by Hui o Laka in the 1990s. Listed on the National and Hawai'i State Registers of Historic Places in 1998, the Kōke'e Civilian Conservation Camp complex continues down to the highway, with the bottom portion used by State Parks. Only three buildings didn't survive to the present day, making it the most intact CCC-era camp in Hawai'i.

Upcoming projects include addition of a bathroom and kitchenette in barracks C, upgraded waterheating, new low flow toilets and a stainless steel sink for the mess hall kitchen, electrical wiring for laundry facilities, porch repairs on the two cabins and Admin buildings, roofing, and painting. We even have plans to reconstruct what used to be the recreation building in the future.

As a start to our funding, we have an SBA loan to help us with non-volunteer expenses and seed money for potential grant funding.

See photographs on next page.



Programs

Tentative Schedule & Activities

August Event

Kōke'e Forest Awareness Day

Thursday, August 25 from 10am to 2pm on the lawn adjacent to the Kōke'e Museum. Featured will be the Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee and Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project.

September Event

Hui o Laka Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, September 11 from noon to 3pm at the Kōke'e Civilian Conservation Corps Camp. Lunch will be served. RSVP 808-335-9975 or info@kokee.org.

December Event

Wreath Making Workshop

Saturday, December 3

Two seatings at 10am and 1pm.

Cost for the workshop is \$35 (\$20 for Hui o Laka Members). You must RSVP at 808 335-9975 or email info@kokee.org to guarantee a spot. Cypress, redwood, china fir, pinecones and jute are provided. Bring embellishments to make the creation uniquely your own. Suggest bringing clippers or heavy shears, appropriate outdoor clothing, folding chair and/or mat, and brown bag lunch. Young children need to have someone minding them. Check-in at the Kōke'e Natural History Museum at least 15 minutes before the workshop for your workshop



Park Entrance Fee Reminder

A reminder to our members that Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks are charging fees for parking at any of the four lookouts: \$10 to park plus \$5 per person using a credit card. Residents with Hawai'i ID can visit for FREE by picking up a day pass from Pu'u Hinahina and Waimea Canyon lookout attendants. Remember to leave your day pass or payment slip on your car's dash! For other information regarding our parks please visit <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dsp/>. The park fee does not give anyone free entrance to the museum. Donations at the door are important to us.

Team Rubicon to the Rescue

July 23 was a red letter day for the CCC Camp. Community members, retired military and enlisted navy personel came together to make a difference! Mahalo to Kimi Blaum, Team Rubicon metro administrator for Kaua'i.



The vintage flagpole was lowered for sanding and painting. Old tables and a stage were enthusiastically dismantled.



Hui o Laka Projects



The preparations for these projects was intensive. Unlimited Construction donated lumber and carpenters their skills for the exterior repairs. Picnic tables were painted!



Facelift for the Museum

Kōke'e Museum turns 70 in 2023. At its core is a World War II building that is holding up well. We have the before, primer coat, and after photos below.



Ricky Skerik of Quality Painting provided the Kōke'e Museum, from roof to foundation, a new coat of paint. Ricky can answer just about any visitor question after his three weeks with us.

Volunteers Garden CCC Camp

The CCC Camp's hydrangeas are looking a little more alive thanks to volunteers Christa & Marc McCleod. The McCleod are repeat guests at the CCC Camp and wanted to give a little back during their stay. They also got to show their daughter what it means to malama 'aina. Mahalo for your hard work!

If you are interested in volunteering for Hui o Laka, please contact Chris by email: director@kokee.org. Weeding and pruning are important to keeping the museum, Nature Trail and CCC Camp in beautiful shape.



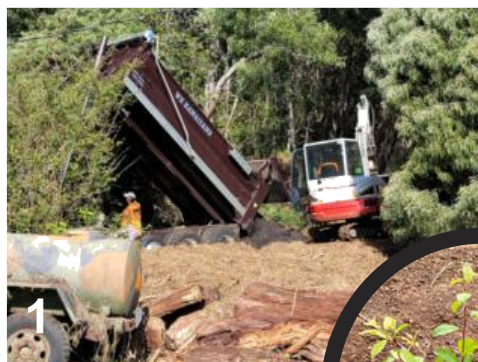
Kōke'e Plum Project

The month of July means the beginning of the yearly plum picking season in Kōke'e. Plum picking and trout fishing have been an annual summer activity for decades. Plums were first introduced to Hawai'i by Dr. Harold Lyon of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association. He received five varieties from the US Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry and planted them on the slopes of Mauna Kea in Nauhi Gulch on June 13, 1926. One of these varieties was the Methley Plum from South Africa. Around 1930, cuttings from the Methley Plum made their way to Kaua'i and into the hands of forester A.J. MacDonald. With the help of the Civilian Conservation Corps, plum trees were planted along Kōke'e's trails and roads and in the CCC's experimental fruit orchards between 1933 and 1941. An estimated 18,000 plum trees were planted in Kōke'e.

Methley plums are a variety of Japanese plum, *Prunus salicina* "Methley," that was introduced to Kōke'e Park in the 1920s. An accidental cross between Japanese and American plum varieties found in South Africa, Methley are vigorous, disease resistant, tolerate heat, and need only a short winter dormancy period. They are more than suitable for 3,000 to 4,000-foot elevation at Kōke'e.

To perpetuate the annual July harvest for residents and park visitors, Hui o Laka organized the planting of a new orchard. Over this past Easter weekend, clearing of a long unused, chipped stone terrace at the CCC Camp took place for the small trees waiting patiently for a home. Yellow ginger, blackberry, and kikiyu grass choked the terrace. During the removal, Brandon Kanei and Bertram Almeida uncovered 18 cypress and 12 rotting koa tree trunks. A mini excavator with a mowing attachment hauled to Kōke'e by Kikiaola Construction Company did the majority of the initial clearing. The old steep service road to the terrace and CCC Camp was graded and applied with cold plane hauled up by RW Palama & Sons. Many thanks to Bertram Almeida for coordinating this part of the project. State Parks assisted with access to the site and advice as the clearing proceeded. This phase was supported by funding provided by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and the Kaua'i Chapter of the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau.

Mark Stoutemyer, Corteva Agrisciences Hawai'i Research Center Lead, cultivated



In the center is one of the new methley trees. Captions: 1. Unloading cold plane on the old CCC Camp service road; 2. A perfect first planting day with a soft drizzle; 3. First planting crew from Corteva; and 4. Second planting crew. Bottom: Agronomists Joel and Justin demonstrate unpotting plum starts.

the trees from cuttings at the CCC Camp. He experimented with various propagation methods and periods in the plum tree's 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 unique variety of plum that does so well at Kōke'e. Corteva Agronomists kept the young trees watered and weeded during the dry months. Hui o Laka and Kōke'e Resource Conservation Program staff applied herbicide on ginger and blackberry.

Laurie Yoshida, Corteva Agriscience Hawai'i Communications Manager, organized two planting days for their workforce working out of Kekaha and Waimea. 100 trees were planted during the two mornings. Corteva Agrisciences provided funding to support the new plantings: weed matting, tools, fertilizer, and donated more than 250 volunteer hours!

In the future, the new orchard will provide a service project venue to promote volunteerism in the park. Hui o Laka is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It operates the Kōke'e Natural History Museum & Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Kōke'e.



A Recipe to try with your plums!

A Lei of Recipes is a cookbook published by the Kaua'i Association for Family and Community Education compiling a variety of recipes from local families. Here is a recipe specifically to preserve your hard-won Kōke'e plums or even store bought.

Preserved Kōke'e Plums

- 1 gallon ripe plums, peeled
- 1/2 cup Hawaiian salt
- 2 to 2 1/2 cup raw sugar
- 1 cup boiled water, cooled

Combine salt, sugar, and water. Pour over peeled plums in a gallon jar and refrigerate 5 to 15 days. Drain and dry in hot sun for 4 to 8 days. You may also dry in a very low heat in the oven (175 degrees F). The proportion of salt to sugar may be from 1 part salt to 2 to 5 parts of sugar depending on the flavor desired.

Another Preservation Method:

Dissolve Hawaiian salt in boiling water. Cool. Pour over peeled plums in a gallon jar and soak for 2 days in the refrigerator. Drain the liquid. Dry in the hot sun for 1 week. Dissolve sugar in boiling water and cool. Pour over the dried plums and soak for 2 days. Drain the liquid and dry for 1 week in the hot sun. The oven could be used for drying the plums.

Hui o Laka Membership

Membership is vital to our organization and during these tough times has been a lifeline. Funds from memberships and donations go towards fulfilling our mission. They help match grant and contracted services contracts, provide materials for volunteer projects, and fund exhibits and improvements to the museum and CCC Camp. In this issue you see the impact of volunteers on preserving the CCC Camp and adding a new public resource to Kōke'e State Park.

Listed here are memberships at the patron level or higher from March 1, 2022 to July 30, 2022.

Lama Member

Sandy Howatt

Kauila Member

Timothy King, Jr.

'Iliahi Members

Elizabeth Piccard

Thomas Mendes

Dave & Sherry Walker

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:

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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.

Koa Members

Jessica Stewart Schilling
Katie & Jim Cassel
Mary Weckback
Thomas Meadows
Miriam Miller
Ferris Family Farm
Elvrine Chow
Debby Chaffin
Mr. Martie Law
Frank Hay & Karen Gally
Kate Bunnell
Kimberly Blaum
Donna Miller
Annette Fernandez-Ventura
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Leah & Patrick Pereira
Tim & Cathy McKenna
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Ms. Jan Marie Joufflas
Leadership Kaua'i
Tamara Manipon

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Edith Fukutomi
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In Memory of Joan Pratt

Frank O. Hay
Laurita Turner
Eileen & Robert Bull
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In Memory of Daniel Oliveira

Frank O. Hay

In Memory of Earl Hunter

Frank O. Hay

Donation of Coffee Maker

Mary Weckback

Donation of Sinclair Prints for Resale in the Museum

Bebe Nicholas

Donation of Construction Materials

Unlimited Construction Services

Kōkua Kōke'e Volunteers

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

7.23.2022

Workday Participants

(Incomplete list)
Dan Abadilla

Kim Blaum
Kelly Capuano
Kaelin Capuano
Damion Childers
Roger Jensen
Nikolas Haniotakis
Mark Hill
Montre Hisham
Jake Landeros
Jesse Parra
Melanie Valencia
Brianna Sunada

Emalani Video Sponsors

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Marc Ventura, AIA, LLC
Williams Construction, LLC
Julie Wirtz

Emalani Silent Auction Donors

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Troy Carney
Princeville Ranch Adventures
Blue Dolphin Charters
Salty Wahine
Kalaheo Cafe & Coffee Company
Brennecke's Beach Broiler
Nukumoi Surf Co.
Kintaro's
YWCA Kaua'i
Kaua'i Kookie Company
Outfitters Kaua'i
Angela & Kim Headley
Habitat for Humanity
ReStore
JO2 Restaurant
Grand Hyatt Resort & Spa
Aloha 'Aina Juice Cafe
Heidi Lee
LUSH Salon
The Beach House Restaurant
National Tropical Botanical Gardens
Kukuilono Golf Course
Aloha Exchange
Hukilau Lanai
Lihue Nail Salon
The Wine Shop
Auli'i Luau

Mark's Place
Patrice Pendarvis
Malie Organics
Banana Patch Studio
Po'ipu Bay Golf Course
Po'ipu Bay Golf Course
Kaua'i Juice Co
Lawa'i Beach Resort
Kipu Ranch Adventures
Kaua'i Backcountry Adventures
Last Moon dba
Maka Imports
Thomas Wynde
Royal Sonesta Kaua'i
Holoholo Charters
Westin Princeville
Ocean Resort Villas
Debra Waugh
Tire Warehouse
Mark & Jesse White
Kilohana Estate Tours
Ficklin Vineyards
(Madera Port Works)
Kaua'i ATV & Koloa Zipline
Kaua'i Beer Co.

Trustees and staff were saddened to learn of the loss of longtime supporter and patron of Hui o Laka, Joan Pratt. A member of the Broadbent family with deep roots on Kaua'i, Joan had a great love for their cabin at Kōke'e as well as the activities of Hui o Laka. She and her brother David have been firm believers in Hui o Laka's Endowment Fund. Because of their foresight, the fund is growing and will one day be a great source of security for the organization.

We also want to acknowledge the recent passing of another patron of Hui o Laka, Timothy King, Jr. His philanthropy supported many Kaua'i cultural institutions including Hui o Laka.

Earl Hunter lived life to the gusto and was a recent Hui o Laka Trustee and Kōke'e Leaseholder.

To their families, we wish them well with the spirit and healing of Kōke'e.

Our newsletter is available by email. Contact us at: members@kokee.org for a free subscription or, better yet, become a member and we work on keeping up your information annually. Already a member or subscriber? Don't forget to notify us if your contact information changes.