



Kōke'e Connections

Hui o Laka Membership Newsletter

September 2023

Historic Preservation Program at the CCC Camp

Hui o Laka hosted a training workshop, "Maintenance & Repair of Historic Buildings," on September 8 & 9 at the Kōke'e Civilian Conservation Corp Camp. Participants with a range of ages and levels of skill worked together to assess buildings at the camp with hands-on basic repairs for old plantation-style buildings. The teams were offered six-light window glazing, wood epoxy techniques, and batten replacement tips. Students learned the ten standards in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards & Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Working safely was a critical element of the workshop.

Instructors were Kiersten Faulkner, executive director, and Andrea Nandoskar, program manager & logistics lead for Historic Hawai'i Foundation; Alan Shintani, president and Robin Ho, the Safety and Health Manager at Alan Shintani, Inc. on O'ahu; Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Region Preservation Partnership & History Program Manager in the National Park Service Pacific West Regional Office in San Francisco, California; Joseph Kaiama and Cheyne Naeole from the preservation crew of the Kalaupapa National Historic Park on Moloka'i; Lawai'a Naihe founder and executive director of Ho'ākeolapono Trades Academy & Institute on Kaua'i; Barbara Shideler

Principal and historical architect with MASON on O'ahu; and Lucien Swerdloff former program coordinator and instructor in Historic Preservation and the Computer Aided Design programs at Clatsop Community College in Astoria, Oregon.

The Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Kōke'e was built in 1935 as part of a nationwide voluntary government work relief program from 1933 to 1942 for unemployed, unmarried men ages 17 to 28. The CCC program gave the Territory's Board of Agriculture and Forestry a tremendous boost to accomplish forest management and natural resources conservation objectives on Kaua'i. The Kōke'e Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, one of the most complete of the remaining camps, was listed on the Hawai'i State and National Registers of Historic Places in late 1996.

The workshop was an excellent experience for participants, and the Administration building gained significant improvements, with ten windows reglazed and siding battens replaced on one side of the kitchen area. Hui o Laka is grateful for this valuable attention and assistance from the Historic Hawai'i Foundation and its partners! For more information: www.historichawaii.org



Capital Improvements Projects at the Kōke'e Civilian Conservations Corps Camp

In 2022, Hui o Laka organized several interior and exterior improvements to reopen the camp's group stay portion, including the Barracks and Mess Hall. Hui o Laka Trustee Neil Navratil installed a kitchenette following a new business plan to make Barracks C, already with partitioned rooms and a small bunkroom, fully functional. The final touches, including a 220 line for an electric range, completed the kitchen in August.

Commercial-size on-demand gas water heaters replaced two undersized solar water heating systems in December. It required upgrading the gas delivery system with a larger tank and meters by Steve's Plumbing and Hawai'i Gas. Our electrician Jon Henkel and his son Andrew Evans followed up by disconnecting the solar panels and other improvements throughout the buildings this year.

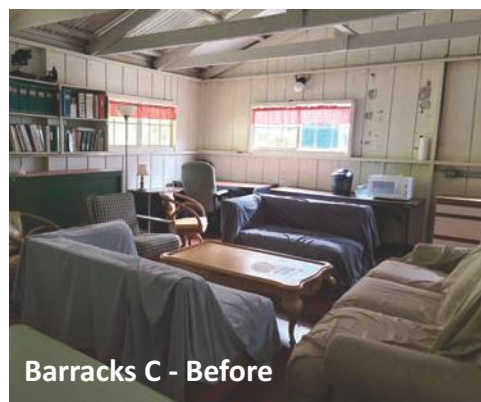
Hui o Laka upgraded furnishings in the three large buildings with hotel-level sanitation protocols. Group use of the barracks is increasing, and our guests are very pleased and are making plans for future stays.

Our major challenge in 2023 has been reroofing the nine original buildings in the complex under Hui o Laka's care. Quality Painting Repairs reroofed the three smaller buildings this spring. State Parks provided the materials to reroof the three barracks, which are 1080 square feet each. The roof on Barracks C is in the process of replacement. We are seeking further funds to install the roofs over A and B. Donations to Hui o Laka are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

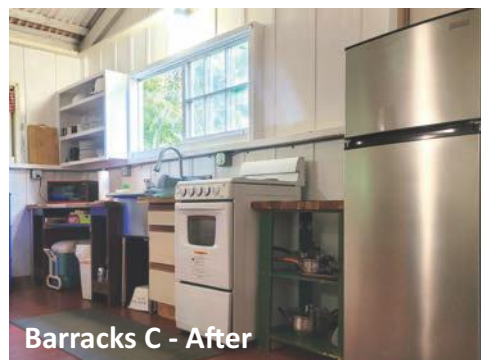
Nearly 90 year old wood building need a lot of TLC. We still have many needs, including replacing a rusting galvanized sink in the Mess Hall Kitchen and carpentry repairs throughout the camp, including porches. The future wish list is constructing replacement wood window and door screens for the buildings now that mosquitos are residents at Kōke'e.

We will post a list of CCC Camp Improvement funders, in-kind providers, and volunteers starting mid-October on our website: www.kokee.org

Photographs of camp construction projects - *Top right:* before and after images of Barracks C kitchen area. A once underutilized entrance with hand-me down couches, broken desks and chairs, and unnecessary storage was turned into a functional space with a kitchen and dining room. Barracks C is now a stand alone unit for smaller groups or individual use. *Below:* installation of gas lines and delivery of a 499 propane tank in September 2022. The tank provides service to both Barracks B and C as well as tying into the Mess Hall. *To the right:* reroofing Orchard, Admin, and Mokihana Buildings in January through May 2023. Both Orchard and Admin were actively leaking. Now that the work is done we hope to get some help painting the three buildings.



Barracks C - Before



Barracks C - After



Kōke'e Museum Anniversary

Kōke'e Museum celebrates its 70th Anniversary. In July of 1952, Ruth Knudsen Hanner hosted Kōke'e Park ranger Joe Souza and his wife to a dinner party with her visiting cousin Isabel Faye. Joe mentioned a recent trip to Yosemite National Park and how impressed he was with park amenities there. The talk turned to improvements that would show off one of the Territory's oldest wilderness parks. Ruth and Isabel spent half the year in their youth at Kōke'e with their families, escaping the summer heat at Kekaha. They learned much from the native Hawaiian cowboys accompanying the families and loved the unique flora and fauna that was abundant then. Together, they planned how to form a "museum of natural history" and penciled their resolve on an envelope.

Ruth engaged the Kaua'i Historical Society to help her with the Museum, and in committee, the plans evolved into exhibits. Meanwhile, Joe gained support from the legislature to improve Kōke'e Park with a museum and lodge for park visitors. Two abandoned Army barracks from 'Awa'awapuhi were relocated and refurbished at Park Headquarters.

The Kōke'e Natural History Museum opened on November 28, 1953. The following year, Kaua'i Historical Society turned the fledgling museum over to the newly formed Hui o Laka. Seventy years later, the Museum still provides park visitors with information about the area's unique flora and fauna, geology, and the history of Kōke'e.

Part of its celebration will include small gifts to museum visitors during the Thanksgiving weekend while supplies last. Mahalo to our supporters, past and present!

Hui o Laka Staff News

We have bid aloha to some staff and have fresh faces. Kyle Kiyotsuka has been with us since 2021 as a sales associate and left us recently to get his third book ready for publication. Kapua Janai joined the museum staff in 2021 and continues as a sales associate.

Mavis Aiu has joined the Museum as shop manager. Gradually, she is relieving the executive director, Chris Faye, of this critical role she took on in 2020 when the Museum reopened. We are still seeking at least one more part-time sales associate. It is a demanding but rewarding job. The commute is fantastic, and museum visitors are the best!

Steering the CCC Camp is Myranda "Wai" Kuapahi, now in her second year. Lorraine Wichman recently joined us to assist with Development, which includes fundraising and volunteers. Michelle Hookano is our administration assistant and oversees Hui o Laka's membership and donations. She has been with Hui o Laka for two decades.

CCC Camp Reservations

<https://www.kokee.org/index.php?ccc-camp-staying-at> for a calendar, accommodation descriptions, camp rules, and suggestions on what to bring. All forms needed for your reservations are downloadable and payments can be made with PayPal. For more information, 808-335-9975 or cccamp@kokee.org (Hui o Laka members receive 10% on camp stays.)

Red Flag Warnings

With the recent wildfire disaster on Maui, we want to remind all those visiting Kōke'e to use extreme caution during windy, dry conditions known as Red Flag Days. Camping and using cookfires outside of designated areas is prohibited. Motorized vehicles can easily catch dry grasses on fires and should remain on paved roads.

Something new for Kōke'e is our local electric company turning off power to an area when brush fires occur near powerlines or if high winds could down the lines. There have been two occurrences of intentional outages in less than a month. One shut-off was for over 20 hours during the height of a Red Flag Warning, and the other for just a few hours during a small brush fire on Waimea Canyon Drive. There can be little or no notice of outages by electric provider KIUC. Sign up for alerts from the County of Kaua'i and follow the County and KIUC on social media for the latest information.

<https://www.facebook.com/CountyofKauai>
<https://www.facebook.com/KauaiCoop>

For tips on preventing wildfires and fireproofing your home or cabin, visit the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization website: www.hawaiiwildfire.org

Membership Information

Our website was updated earlier this year to include Paypal payments.
<https://www.kokee.org/index.php?kokee-membership-donations>



Save the Date!

Sunday, October 15, 2023

Annual Hui o Laka

Membership Meeting

CCC Camp at Kōke'e

All paid-up members of Hui o Laka are invited to attend the meeting to elect new board members. Memberships can be paid that day. Lunch is at noon, with the meeting to follow at 1 p.m. Shop before the meeting and show your membership card at the Museum for an additional 5% discount (usually 10%) on any purchase.

Sunday, November 19, 2023

White Tent Event for Museum Members and Friends

CCC Camp at Kōke'e

Invitation-only event from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Capital Campaign launch with a silent auction. Memberships will be available. Show your membership card (or payment receipt) at the Museum for an additional 5% discount (usually 10%) on any purchase.

Thanksgiving Weekend, November 23-26, 2023

70th Anniversary Open House

Kōke'e Natural History Museum

Thanksgiving Day 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday (weekday hours) 10:30 a.m. to 3:30

Saturday and Sunday (weekend hours) 10:30 to 4 p.m.

Show your membership card at the Museum for an additional 5% discount (usually 10%) on any purchase.

Saturday, December 2, 2023

Wreath Making Workshop

CCC Camp at Kōke'e

Reservations are needed for the classes offered at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Please bring clippers and additional decorations to make a wreath or two. Cost is \$35. Paid-up members \$25 (membership discounts don't apply to class cost.)

Monday, December 25, 2023

Christmas Day

Kōke'e Natural History Museum

Holiday Hours 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Keep up on the latest information at the Museum on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/KokeeMuseumNew/>

Reasons to Become a Member

What do I get by being a member of Hui o Laka? Besides the satisfaction of providing support for the museum and CCC Camp operations, our members receive a discount on gift shop purchases and stays at the CCC Camp. Occasionally, special events occur where additional discounts are available to members at the museum shop.

How vital are membership support and gift-giving? During the recent Covid shutdown of State Parks and the recovery period in 2020, membership funds were the stopgap to keep the organization staffed and pay our bills, which didn't stop. During that time, staff and trustees were allowed to apply

for Cares Act Funding to sustain the administration. End-of-year donations made by many of our members paid for the museum's new exhibits and exterior painting. Often, when applying for grants and other forms of support, as a nonprofit, we have to match the funds received with cash or in-kind services. Unrestricted donations from our members to Hui o Laka allow for this.

To all our members, past, present, and in the future, Hui o Laka appreciates your giving. It isn't always visible, like a new roof or freshly painted building, but your funds are precious and used to strengthen and support what we offer to park visitors daily.



Oshibana
Bookmarks

BECOME A MEMBER

- ☐ \$12 Maile Student
- ☐ \$25 Mokihana - Individual
- ☐ \$50 Hāpu'u - Family
- ☐ \$75 'Ōhi'a - Sustaining
- ☐ \$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.

Kōke'e Museum News

Museum exhibits provide a taste of what is under the surface of our special place and open minds to what visiting Kōke'e is all about. It has a unique history, as with any site of continued use during the centuries. Many of the gift shop's offerings support and embrace the exhibits. Books provide in-depth information and differing points of view about the history and culture of our island and state. Although we don't have every book in print about Hawai'i in the shop, we curate what is available for both our local readers and those visiting.

What better way to protect your books than a bookmark? The Friends of Waimea Library and Hui o Laka have collaborated to provide some of the unique bookmarks available for purchase. Each bookmark and notecard is a unique piece of art in the tradition of "Oshibana," which means to paint a picture with natural elements—the art of pressing flowers to preserve their beauty dates back to 16th-century Japan. The partnership started when the Waimea Library closed for a second time for more repairs and upgrades. The Friends had no way of selling their crafts to the public and turned to the museum for an outlet. Half the money goes towards funds collected for Waimea Public Library and the other half for Hui o Laka.

We have a small selection of artwork available for purchase as well. We carry an expanded selection of prints by famed Hawaii Island artist Dietrich Varez, photographs of native birds by Randy Bartlett, notecards by wildlife painter D.K. Hayes, nature artist Chloe Selarque, and Isabella Sinclair. We also have a small selection of iconic Kōke'e scenes by Patrice Pendarvis.

A selection of gifts in the shop celebrates the creativity of recycling and reuse of wasteful human activity, including ocean debris and glass. Some support local farm product producers and vulnerable Pacific Island economies by offering their products to our visitors. Our products tell stories about sustainability and celebrate creativity. All shop proceeds support the museum and Hui o Laka.

