



Kōke'e Connections

Hui o Laka Membership Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2024

Summer Wildfires



View from Waimea Canyon Drive showing billowing smoke framing Kaumakani.

Photo: Chris Faye

Two fires this summer closed off transportation arteries, one after another, and affected park visitor traffic. The first was the Hanapēpē Heights brushfire that swept from the housing area through old sugar fields and pasture and jumped the highway to threaten the entire village of Kaumakani. The only reported residential damage was one shed on the edge of Kaumakani Village. Equipment operated by Alouin Farms saved the scenic and venerable Methodist Church on the northern edge of Kaumakani.

Highway closure lasted about eight hours, catching the homeward-bound rush hour traffic unawares. A lengthy power outage and mandatory evacuation at Kaumakani were necessary. Kōke'e, Kekaha, and some of Waimea were out of power for the duration. Many businesses faced power and communication issues, unable to reopen the next day. KIUC managed to replace poles burnt in just a short time following the extinguishing of the fire.

A short week later, a deliberately set fire above the lower section of Kōke'e Road started in the early evening, allowing an entire night to gather steam before helicopters could be utilized. At first, only Kōke'e Road was closed, and a full day of whipping winds allowed the fire to spread in spots towards Waimea Canyon Drive. Both roads were closed at about noon, with only traffic allowed to leave and not return. By evening, all access to and from Kōke'e

was closed. DLNR's enforcement officers made wellness checks on parties who remained in the park. They were far from danger but short on any information.

Hui o Laka was hosting a teen group from the mainland. Their travel goal was to learn about resilience, and they certainly were thrown into it as they hadn't stocked up on food before their arrival. It was too late to shop as their plane was late on arrival. They learned how to make palatable food using canned goods with assistance from Hui o Laka staff and practiced water conservation plus a power outage for over 12 hours. They were camping, but instead of tents, they had comfortable beds and roofs over their heads. The first thing the group did when the road opened late the next day was visit a Waimea grocery store – no more canned food for them.

A third fire occurred at Pu'u ka Pele (too close to home) and damaged water lines in the area. The power outage caused by a burned pole was an inconvenience. The affected water tank and line repairs were more severe as it took about three weeks to fully restore service to the Pu'u ka Pele and Makaha Ridge area, compromising late summer plans for area leaseholders.



Visitor traffic and fire fighters mix as the fire approaches Waimea Canyon Drive.

Photo: Klayton Kubo

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Annual Meeting

Hui o Laka's 70th Anniversary Membership Meeting 1 pm. Preceded by lunch at Noon. Silent Auction, drawings. RSVP. Civilian Conservation Corps Camp

Thursday, November 28, 2024

Thanksgiving Holiday Hours

10:30 am to 1 pm

Kōke'e Museum will be open shortened hours to allow staff to enjoy part of the holiday.

Saturday, December 7, 2024

Wreath Making Workshop

Two classes 10 am and 1 pm.

Civilian Conservation Corps Camp. \$45 (\$35 members). Reservations required. Christmas greens will be provided. Participants can bring their own scissors and clippers as well as embellishments for their wreaths. Bring layered clothing as the class is held outdoors.

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Christmas Day Holiday Hours

11 am to 2 pm

Kōke'e Museum will be open shortened hours to allow staff to enjoy part of the holiday.

For more information and to reserve space call (808) 335-9975 or email info@kokee.org.

Kōke'e Museum Hours

Weekdays, 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

Weekends, 10:30 am-4:00 pm

A Trail Map is available outside on the front porch 24 hours a day to plan hikes.

Keep up on the latest information at the Museum and Kōke'e -

Website

Kokee.org

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/KokeeMuseumNew/>

Instagram

[/kokeemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/kokeemuseum)

Staying at the CCC Camp

Hui o Laka is so thankful to those who have been on the ride with us over the years to renovate the nearly 90-year-old facility. Recently, new roofs for so many large buildings were a daunting task. The work will never end, but we can now focus on attracting more customers interested in retreats and the serenity Kōke'e provides from the complexities and hustle of everyday life.

The complex has two standalone cabins, two barracks, a mess hall, and an administration building, home of Hui o Laka's offices, and a grassy rectangle, the quad, that anchors the complex.

We partner with many organizations and groups in planning their stays, whether they live on Kaua'i or elsewhere. Below are the faces of some of the groups using the camp this summer.



Three-time returnees at the CCC Camp, Wolfpack Cycle Team members as top finishers and winners in both the male and female overall categories at the 2024 Pedal to the Meadow.



Cane Fire Men's Soccer Club spent a weekend in comradery to bid a final aloha to one of their teammates, Aaron. L-R: Blake, Sam, Kana, Daniel, Pablo, Jess, Aaron, Dominic, Haley, Keita, and Juanito.



The University of Hawai'i John A Burns School of Medicine (JOBSOM) held a bonding retreat at the camp. The group included Ericka Noel, Travis Hong, Darcy Tokunaga, Nikki Ooka, Nicole Hada, Kennedy Tamashiro, Heather Zimmerman, Zackary Kon, Sachi Mendoza-Yamamoto, and Melia Takakusagi.

Hui o Laka Capital Campaign

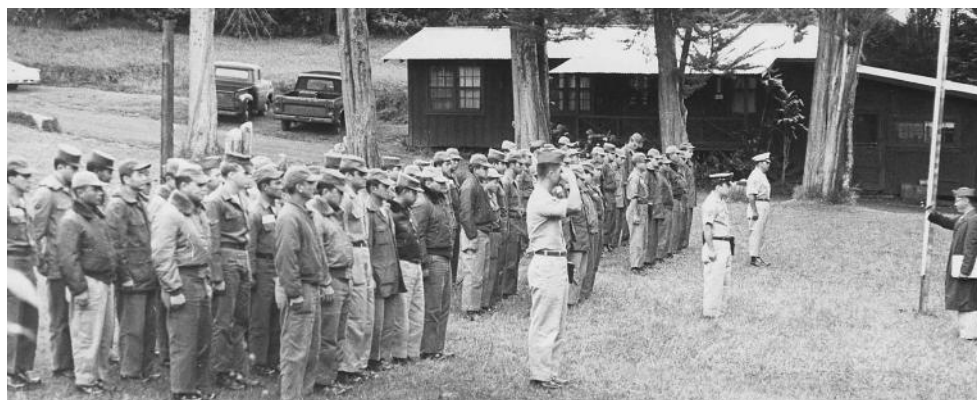
Our administrative building's front porch has been on the repair list for years. Being where we are, we often wait for someone to commit to the work. Instead, with this project, we have a person ready to go and not the funds. The need has escalated now as our insurance company has it on the list of requirements to maintain our policy in good standing. It is a reasonably large project involving replacing one side of the porch from the foundation to the 4 x 4" vertical roof supports and staircases. Hui o Laka must use lumber of the original size to maintain its historic character. Besides its porch, the admin building also needs exterior painting, which requires a few minor repairs and a lot of patching and painting.

We also have our two cabins on the upgrade list. They have seen little attention in the past decade. The executive cottage (Orchard) behind the admin building requires minor repairs, patching, and interior and exterior painting. The interior drop ceilings, all made with modern wood, have extensive termite damage. The termites are gone but have left their mark and are an eyesore. The larger foreman's cabin (Mokihana) needs exterior painting but has more problematic issues as its terrace appears to be slipping down the mountain. Parts of the porch foundation are well off the ground now.

Although we budgeted and stayed within budget for the most part, we still have a portion of one last barrack remaining due to a snafu in measuring that caused us to run out of State Park-provided roofing materials on Barracks A. We ended up having to pay for the materials to finish A. So now we must make up for the loss of money and two-thirds of Barracks B material and labor, which now need funding. We would also like to reroof the small "California cooler" standalone food-safe building behind the mess in that final roofing project. It looks like it still sports its original roof. Saving the building's roof will give us a good location for a backup power source in the future.

The historic camp, on its own, is a special place. Keeping up the maintenance provides a safe place to host retreats and educational opportunities. All in all, we are looking at about \$100,000 in 2025. In the past, we have received support from charitable trusts and foundations, land legislative grants in aid. Mostly we have received donations large and small from our members! Hui o Laka is all of us. Those wishing to donate to the last of these capital projects may mail a donation to Hui o Laka, P.O. Box 100, Kekaha, HI 96752. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please refer to your tax advisor for any tax information regarding your donation. The camp is vital for an immersive Kōke'e experience. Hui o Laka's only restrictions are based on the use of and respect shown for the historic property and not based on who uses it.

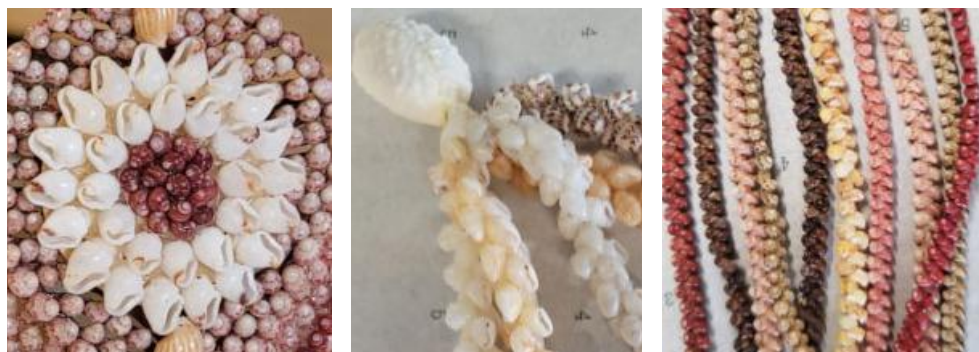
Also, remember that if any person or group is looking for service projects, there are always landscaping and painting projects around the camp. We can easily find small and large projects to accommodate skills and time restraints.



Hawai'i Air National Guard made the CCC Camp their headquarters at Kōke'e following the war. Note the admin building in the background. Photo: Hawai'i State Parks

Lei Pūpū o Ni 'ihau

Kōke'e Natural History Museum received an impressive collection thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the late Leila and Charles Christensen. The task was to acquire traditional shell lei of every color, type of shell, and style of stringing practiced by our Ni'ihau neighbors. What a glorious addition to the beloved seashell collection already on display. Charlie Baker guided us in the selection of lei. Alan Schlien just completed the display case in teak and koa woods. More information on the exhibit and lei will be provided as we complete the exhibit.



A sneak peak of the Christensen Collection for our members.



Farewell to Longtime Hui o Laka Supporters

Kaua'i has lost some major friends and patrons this year. Hui o Laka reflects on and celebrates their contributions to our corner of the Island that meant so much to them and their 'ōhana. Kōke'e Natural History Museum has always been a community museum, and its initial support came from the fact that Kaua'i families spent Kōke'e summers in the cool mountains.

Marilyn "Peeper" Wade Weakly

The board and staff of Hui o Laka are saddened by the passing of one of our long-retired employees at the museum. Marilyn grew up in Waimea and saw the dedication to community firsthand as the daughter of beloved Dr. Wade. After marrying and raising a family on the mainland, she returned to Waimea and involved herself in community work, becoming one of the cheerful faces of Kōke'e Museum. One delight of anyone working there is to see old friends from far-off places on the Island as they show off Kōke'e to visiting friends and family. She knew everyone!

Charlie Wichman

A true kama'aina and keiki o ka 'āina, Charlie grew an impressive law career in Honolulu, but his heart was always on Kaua'i. His charity extended to protecting and preserving unique places, including Limahuli Gardens and its umbrella organization, the National Tropical Botanic Gardens, Kaua'i Museum, and Kōke'e Natural History Museum. He and his wife Jean resided at Tantulus' Round Top Drive

on 'Oahu because it reminded him of Rice Flats in Kōke'e Camp Lots, where he spent summers growing up. In retirement, he and his wife Jeanne spent a great deal of time between 'Oahu, Hā'ena, and Kōke'e. Besides his support as a member, donations from the Wichman/Goodale family's Waimakua Foundation provided Hui o Laka funding for vital projects that enhanced public education at both the museum and camp.

David Pratt

This November, his loss will be felt as Hui o Laka holds its first annual meeting at Kōke'e without his presence. He is the last of a trio of Pratt siblings (Dudley Pratt and Joan Pratt) who provided decades of solid support as Hui o Laka grew and thrived, always taking a keen interest in our activities and challenges. The Pratts were part of the Broadbent family that built a cabin in the Pu'u ka Pele Forest Reserve area at Ka'ana, leased to the County in the years following the end of the Knudsen lease. David's career at Grove Farm Company spanned the sugar operations to its transformation into a development company. He sat on numerous community boards and was influential in supporting health care and the Island's nonprofit sector. Seeing his sons take over his philanthropic pursuits and heading the EHW Broadbent and SW Wilcox Foundations is heartening.

New in the Gift Shop

We have a diverse customer base visiting our museum. Although we try to find locally made products, customers do have to be aware that manufacturing products isn't possible in the Islands. Still, there are a lot of local designers creating products. They may be sewn or assembled here or manufactured elsewhere to their specifications to be sold here. Very little is made 100% in Hawai'i. There is most likely one or more things in a product not made in Hawai'i, whether the container, some ingredients, or the mass production needed to keep the prices reasonable, such as a book or sticker.

There is a new series of games created by a company in Kapa'a, a line of fun socks from Kōloa, an array of stickers designed by artists from Hawai'i, and many fun things for keiki and adults. Come and check it out.

The newest products in our State Park souvenir series are walking stick tokens, patches, and a 500-piece puzzle featuring Waimea Canyon. No, none are made in Hawai'i, but they are exclusively ours!

The museum gift shop is in line to receive Linda Paik Moriarty's new book, *Lei Ni'ihau*, published by U.H. Press, which will be available soon after it arrives in their warehouse. Do not be confused with her first long-in-print book, *Ni'ihau Shell Leis*, which is now officially out of print. The new book focuses on the makers and the culture surrounding this specialty art from our sister Island.

Hui o Laka Membership Meeting

To all our members in good standing, please join us at the CCC Camp on Sunday, November 10, for our annual membership meeting. It is a special meeting celebrating Hui o Laka's 70th anniversary of service to the parks at Kōke'e. Make it a day! Spend the morning visiting the museum, hiking, enjoying the scenic drive, or seeing the paving improvements between mile markers 11 and 14. Lunch will precede the meeting at noon. The meeting is at 1 pm. Parking is limited but available at the camp. As a bonus to those who attend, there will be a silent auction with two gift baskets and prize drawings for some of the fun new products at the shop during the meeting. The gift basket auction will end after the meeting. Executive Director Chris Faye will tour the camp's renovations after the meeting. There is an additional discount for members in the museum shop that day of 15% whether you attend the meeting or not. Please have your membership card

Reasons to Become a Member

Members provide support and put a face to who we serve as a nonprofit. To focus on what our mission is and enhance it to the best of our ability has been the goal these past four years. This was due to the support of our members and staff and trustees working together to keep the fires burning during a rough time for all small businesses.

We share our patron and higher level members in this list covering memberships from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024. We apologize if we missed anyone or have mistakes.

Patron – Koa members

Robert & Paige Moura
Debby Chaffin
Elvrine Zeevat Chow
Ferris Family Farm
Miriam Miller
Kristin Tandal
Mary Neudorffer
Steven Jennings
Wolfpack HI - Josh Gallardo
Jennifer Acoba
Frank Harwood
Terrie & Jimmy Johnson
Yvonne Hosaka
Teresa Sakai
David Hayes
Katie Beer
Michael Porter -
Mike's Yestertoy
Kristine & Errol McGowan
Tom & Olga Van Dis
Jennifer & Eric Blouin
Dottie Perry
Jan Marie Jouffous
Andrew Kass & Family
Anne & Rob Hvizdak
Kay Koike
Pat Nitta
Lisa Fleming

Patron Members – ‘Iliahi

David & Sherry Walker
Tim & Cathy McKenna
Karen & Conrad Schmidt
Kokee Lodge

Patron Members – Kauila

Frank Hay & Karen Gally
Sandy Howatt

In Memory of Diane “Willi” Guslander Faye

John Goodman
Linda Baldwin
Dr. Binney & Mary Williamson
Bonnie Lake
Family of Willi Faye

Unrestricted Donations

Anonymous
Wayne J. Rapozo -
Kama aina Fund
Hawaii's Hearts
Joellen & Belvin
Doebbert Family
Frank Harwood
PayPal Giving Fund

Capital Campaign Donations

KIUC Charitable Foundation

Kaua‘i Visitors Bureau sponsored Popup Makeke Donors at the Grand Hyatt

Regency Resort in Po‘ipu
Polina Podrecka
Na Hula Arts - Laura Wolfgang
Tiki Pets - Cindy Pungan
Stephanie Deng
County of Kaua‘i
Scrappy Designs -
Diane Castillo
Joeddy Aki-Sugai
Janath Designs
Hawaiian Gourmet Gifts
Heather Busse
Jill Alquiza
Ke Naholoholo - Amber Mikala
Kaua‘i Candle Company
Norallyn Hasegawa
Auntie Lilikoi
Irene Leilani Bright

Hui o Laka’s 990 IRS Annual Filings are available on Guidestar.com.

Mahalo to all those that chose Hui o Laka as one of their charities this year as well as community support through anonymous donations at the museum door and active membership in Hui o Laka.

Program Support for Hui o Laka

Hui o Laka was one of a handful of Kaua‘i nonprofits selected for Hawai‘i Tourism Authority’s (HTA) Community Stewardship Program. It is a first-time program in HTA’s regenerative tourism initiative. Hui o Laka is receiving Foundational Support Assistance to revamp and improve our digital presence, and filling in some of the exhibit gaps in the museum. Besides the technical support from respected consultants chosen for the program, there will be video content and assistance in planning social media output and the ability to reach out to current, former, and potentially new park visitors by providing content for Hui o Laka’s new website which we will unveil early next year.

Over 54,000 visitors use the current website, which is old and difficult for staff to update. The vision is to be able to prepare park visitors for the outdoor experiences at Kōke‘e, share the unique story of Kōke‘e virtually and at the museum, and provide an immersive retreat experience at the CCC Camp. Everyone in the program is benefiting from mentorship and training in marketing and branding. No matter how old an organization is, there is always room for improvement!



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 mail 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.