HUI O LAKA KŌKE'E museum

Kōke'e Connections

Hui o Laka Membership Newsletter

AUGUST 2019

A radiant Sharalani Bucasas portrayed Queen Emma in 2018. Above right is her sister accepting Ho'okupu from representatives from Daughters of Hawai'i. Photos by Kay Koike.

Commemorating Queen Emma

Eō e Emalani i Alaka'i will be held Saturday, October 12 from 9am to 4pm at Kanaloahuluhulu Meadow in Kōke'e State Park. Lesah Vierra Merritt has been announced as our Queen Emma for 2019. She is the daughter of Tommy and the late Helene Vierra and manager of Safeway Līhu'e.

The event begins at 9am with KNUI & Friends followed by Nick Castillo. The Queen rides into the meadow at 11am and the formal program begins with ho'okupu and performances from hālau across the state in commemoration of Queen Emma's 1871 trek into the Alaka'i. The event is made possible by Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Hui o Laka and our local business community.

Event Kōkua

Hui o Laka is a very small organization putting on a very large event. We need community support to continue.We offer event sponsors logo placements on the t-shirts and programs for a tax deductible $500. For smaller amount, a listing is provided in the program. We need commitments by September 1.

We are looking for volunteers to help with setup and tear down. Set up begins on Friday morning at 8am with the event furnishings coming down from the CCC Camp to the Meadow. There are a lot of tents to set up and the more people the easier the work. We offer lunch for our volunteers and throughout the day there are things to set up so if you can't make the morning, let us know as there is work in the afternoon as we adjust things to suit the Queen and hālau that come to practice.

Saturday afternoon at about 4:15pm, when the Queen departs, we start to tear down the food booth, take down tents, and fold tables and chairs. Everything has to be cleaned up by dark including litter and horse poop!

For attendees: Two tents are set up with seating on either side of the queen. One is for kupuna – so kids and others, let your tutu use the benches and make sure there is an aisle for people to safely pass through. The other tent is reserved, paid seating at $25 per person. Please RSVP in advance by calling Hui o Laka 335-9975.

A reminder, pop up tents are not allowed near the performance area and must be set up only in designated areas that don't block the view of seated audience or be in the way of aisle and the corridor where the Queen enters. Last year, a number of tents showed up in inappropriate places. This year tents will not be allowed behind the kupuna and Queen's tents and this includes chairs that block the walking areas. This is for safety reasons.

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 8, 2019

Annual Membership Meeting

12am Lunch / 1pm Meeting.

Please join us for our annual meeting at the Kōke'e CCC Camp. Call to confirm your attendance 808 335-9975 x.2 or email: info@kokee.org. Join us for lunch before the Annual Meeting at noon. You must be a member to attend the meeting or can become one on the day of the meeting. Parking for the event will be at the camp on the lawn.

Saturday, October 12, 2019

31st Annual
Eō e Emalani i Alaka'i

9am to 4pm.

Live music and dance all day in Kanaloahuluhulu Meadow in Kokee State Park. Queen Emma enters the Meadow at 11am. Crafts, history, forest information, children's games, snack shop, and silent auction. No Admission. Limited parking. Funded in part by Hawai'i Tourism and Hui o Laka.

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Wreath Making Workshop

10am to 2pm.

Put on your winter clothes and celebrate an annual tradition using fragrant pines and evergreens planted at Kōke'e decades before. Meet at Museum to check-in. $10 for materials. (Non-members $25) Bring decorations such as ribbons and ornaments to personalize your wreath plus clippers and any other tools you prefer to use. Chairs and mats for your comfort are suggested. Bring your own bag lunch. RSVP 808 335-9975 or email: info@kokee.org.

Hui o Laka'ʻs office during paving. It was an adventure for staff.

First day of ticket machines and who do we find working there? Member and volunteer Christine Matsumoto!

Photos from the June 16-18 wild fire that burned 2,100 acres below the junction of Kōkeʻe Road and Waimea Canyon Drive. Both roads were closed on the 17th. Left: orange and red lehua in bloom.

Kōkeʻe & Waimea Canyon State Parks News

Popular discussions of late!

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During Hui o Laka'ʻs fiscal year June 2018-May 2019, Kōkeʻe Natural History Museum saw 93,273 visitors in the museum. It was a significant number over the previous year'ʻs 72,552. Even with May's paving blocking parking areas, that is a big impact. For our staff, the reality is dealing with an average of 256 daily visitors.

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No longer do customers have to dodge craters in the driveway in front of Kōkeʻe Natural History Museum. The long overdue paving is done and included the CCC Camp driveway. The paving didn't include the parking area in front of the stone pavilion. The contractor was Earthworks Pacific.

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Earthworks Pacific also made some improvements at Pu'u Hina Hina Lookout parking area. Additional stalls were completed, and the very large craters there were filled and paved over.

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Paid parking at major lookouts: Starting in July, State Parks put in parking ticket dispensers at Waimea Canyon, Pu'u Hina Hina, Kalalau and Pu'u o Kila lookouts. The tickets are for all vehicles using the parking lots but any one ticket on your dash covers all the lots for the day. The payment is only through the machines which take credit and debit cards. No cash. ALL HAWAII RESIDENTS do not have to pay to park with a valid ID. There is enforcement from 8am to 4pm. As to all the nuances of the paid parking, we don't have the answers. Since it is new, it takes some time to iron all that out. Please call or look up information from DLNR State Parks at hawaii.gov. The funds will be going into an account for State Parks, but not specifically for Kōkeʻe. These parking ticket machines have been in use in other State Parks around the State. Mainland visitors are used to paying to visit parks so there have been no noticeable negative comments regarding those at Kōkeʻe.

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Although it would be convenient for park users, Kōkeʻe Museum nor the Kōkeʻe Lodge can provide camping permits or take payments for parking at the lookout areas. All campers need to camp in the designated areas on their permits obtained ahead of time. Camping at trailheads and in the forests overnight is prohibited. Campfires should also be in designated areas.

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Please be very careful driving along the corridors with roadside canyon lookouts during the middle of the day. Many park visitors including tour operators are now parking at these limited venues wherever they can. This includes leaving their vehicles in the road. Please drive slowly and be prepared to stop. Basically, from about 8 miles up, after the hairpin turn, to just past the State Parks Headquarters and mile marker 16 at the ʻAwaʻawapuhi trailhead. Some of these parking areas are on turns with little visibility.

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If you want more news, more often. Visit our Facebook site - Hui o Laka/Kokee Museum.

Photos by Chris Faye with exception of bottom fire photo from County of Kauaʻi Facebook page/KIUC.

The Dreaded Rapid ʻŌhiʻa Death is now on 4 Islands

In our March newsletter we shared information about rapid ʻōhiʻa death (ROD). Up until then it had been mostly confined to Hawaiʻi Island with a few trees discovered on Kauaʻi. Now it is the four major islands, Hawaiʻi, Kauaʻi, Oʻahu, and now Maui.

This is a fungus that is spread by beetles boring in trees and wounds to the trees. Not only ʻōhiʻa, but also koa wilt is another fungus that enters trees through the roots and wounds. Both can be spread by people and animals disturbing the forests. This applies especially to hikers, hunters, and forest plant collectors. If you don't take it seriously, not only will the ʻōhiʻa and koa trees die, but also the understory plants that depend on these trees including maile and mokihana. ROD has wiped out substantial forests on Hawaiʻi very quickly and it will take all of us to do our part to prevent spreading the disease further, giving researchers time for solutions to be found.

Basic sanitation needs to occur to prevent both these fungi from spreading, especially with those moving between forested areas. Please stay on trails. Native plants evolved without many threats and need to be left undisturbed to thrive.

Please visit the Kauaʻi Invasive Species Council's website to keep informed about invasive plants, animals, and other threats. For more info: www.RapidOhia-Death.org

Banana Poka Recap!

Despite the challenges this year with our annual event occuring in the middle of paving the driveway and park headquarter's parking lots, we had a good turnout for the May 26 festival. The really uplifting part was that about 60 kids attended! Both Hui o Laka and Storybook Theatre had costumes and they were all in use. Everyone was remarking that they had never seen so many kids ever in the 30 years of the event. The ice cream bar was wiped out! The musicians were surrounded by birds flying around them for several hours.

We were wondering if this year would be the last "Banana Poka RoundUp!" We have been so successful at gathering the vines for the past 30 years that they are scarce! The only large vines were inaccessible on steep banks or down in the middle of thickets of blackberries. But we had determined volunteers scouring the forests and by the end of Saturday there was enough material for people to make baskets. Kōkeʻe Conservation Resource Program cut 50 guava walking sticks for the event and all were purchased and decorated! We may need to have another 30 more years dedicated to eliminating guava from Kōkeʻe.

"The Garden Island Newspaper" photographer Dennis Fujimoto suggested we call the Sunday event the "Kōkeʻe Family Forest Fair." Maybe we should just have the "RoundUp!" on Saturday to collect the invasive pest plant materials for crafts the next day. Photographers Mike Teruya and Liz Hahn also caught a lot of the frenetic bird activity and the crowing contest.

We would like to thank exhibitors that not only brought informative exhibits to the event but also kid's activities. A big mahalo to the donors of activities, artwork, and gifts for our silent auction. The event isn't a fundraiser for Hui o Laka but actually an educational event supported by purchases at the event which was also supported in large part by the County of Kauaʻi through Hawaiʻi Tourism Authority.

Hui o Laka Membership

Membership is very important to our organization. Here Memberships at the patron level or higher from February 1, 2019 to July 31, 2019.

Patron Members ($100 and above)

Martha Yent
Matthew Vidaurri
Wayne & Jean Souza
Tom Mendes
Sacred Hearts Academy
Thomas King
Clyde Furumoto
Rebecca Dietzel
A & K Lockwood
David & Sherry Walker
Antone Silva
Craig Wisen
Thomas Timmons
Patsy Sheehan
Stephen Northcutt
Jessie Hill
Tim & Cathy McKenna
Rob & Mary Hawkins
Darrick Peleras
Heiuonalani Wyeth
Patrick & Leah Periera
Ronnie Castro
Lynn & Vernon Fu
Judy Miyashiro
Puna Dawson

In Memory of Marsha Erickson

Anonymous
Sylvia Thacker

If you don't see your name here or find it misspelled, let us know. The cut off date was July 31 for this newsletter.

How to Find Us!

By Phone:
Hui o Laka business office and CCC Camp Reservations 808-335-9975
Kōke'e Museum (direct) 808-335-3353
Executive Director 808-639-5270 (cell)
Email: info@kokee.org
Web: www.kokee.org

Capturing a rainbow over Waipo'o Falls from Waimea Canyon lookout. Photo by Chris Faye.

MEMBERSHIP

__ **$12 Maile Student**
__ **$25 Mokihana Individual**
__ **$50 Ha'upu Family**
__ **$75 'Ohi'a**
__ **$100 Koa Patron**
__ **$250 Kauila Patron**
__ **$500 'Iliau 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_____
_____

Newsletter will be sent by email. Check___ if you need to have newsletter 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 payment can be made by phone. Use the direct phone to the Museum Gift Shop (808) 335-3353. All other inquiries, (808) 335-9975 or info@kokee.org.

Banana Poka Roundup!

30th Year!

Family Forest Fun!

Sponsored by Hui o Laka, Koke'e Natural History Museum, County of Kaua'i and Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Mahalo to everyone that makes this wonderful event happen at the Koke'e CCC Camp, Koke'e State Park Nearly all the Banana Poka have been rounded up!

Aloha Exchange
Anahola Granola
Aunty Lilikoi
Banana Patch Studio
Bernardo Lizzarraga
Blue Dolphin Charters
Boynton Photography - Sue Boynton
Nick Castillo
Katie Cassel & 'Ohana
Creative 'Ohana
DLNR - Division of State Parks
DLNR - DOFAW~NARS
Earthworks Pacific
FM97
Da Sound Man - Raymond Duarte
Dennis Fujimoto
Garden Island RC & D Forestry Committee
Garden Isle Portable Toilets
Garden Island Security
Darryl Gonzales & Greg Nobriga
Liz Hahn
Habitat – Restore
Hawaii.com
Hui o Laka Board of Trustees
Hui o Laka Volunteers
Island Adventures
Kalaheo Steak & Ribs
Kaua'i Art & Framing
Kaua'i ATV
Kaua'i Backcountry Adventures
Kaua'i Beer Company
Kaua'i Chocolate
Kaua'i Coffee
Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project
Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee
Kaua'i Shores
Keoki's Paradise
Kikiaola Land Co. Ltd
Kintaro's
Kipu Ranch Adventures
Kokua Koke'e
Koke'e Leaseholders Association
Koke'e Natural History Museum Staff
Koke'e Resource Conservation Program
Koloa Rum
KONG Radio Group
Kuapahi 'Ohana
Kukuiolono Golf Course
Lappert's Coffee
Lihue Nail Salon
Lush Salon
Maka Imports
Malie Organics
Mark White Fishing Lures
Midweek Kaua'i
'O'iwi - John Mahi, Bronson Aiwohi & Kawai'ola Yaris
Linda Oshiro
Outfitter's Kaua'i
Patrice Pendarvis
Pizzetta Koloa Town
Poipu Bay Golf Club
Russell da Rooster
Safeway
Save Our Shearwaters
Scents of Aloha
Sheraton Kaua'i
Cheryl & Michael Shintani
Skyline Eco Adventures
Storybook Theatre of Hawai'i
Diane Sumida
Mike Teruya
The Blue Orchid
The Garden Island Newspaper
The Wine Shop
Tire Warehouse
Paul Togioka
Ventures Associates
Veronica Jewelry
Waimea Theatre
Walmart
Sharron Weber
WKB&PA
Wrangler's Steakhouse
Diane Wry
YWCA
We appologize if we have missed anyone!

Visit www.kokee.org and Koke'e Museum's facebook page