



The Hāna Cultural Center

Proudly Presents...

"Nā Leo O Ka Hale Wai Wai"

(Voices of the Treasure House)

Newsletter 2006

Hāna, Maui



Front row (left to right): John Park, Joe "Tevi" Kahaleuahi, Adam "Jackie" Kaiwi. Back row: Herman Nelson, Francis Starkey, Randolph "Randy" Smith, William "Kobae" Starkey. Location: Kipahulu Ranch stable. Date: unknown but probably late 1950s or early 1960s. Photographer: unknown (possibly Sam Chong). Donor: Sam Chong in 1995.

Kipahulu Memories

By Ward Mardfin

In June 1961, I first arrive in Hāna from Darien, Connecticut with my friend, John Woodbridge, whose father is a business associate of Sam Pryor. We are to spend the summer in the Kipahulu Plantation House and have the use of Pryor's green jeep. I am 17 years old, between junior and senior year in high school, and on my own for the first time. William Kobae Starkey, Kipahulu Ranch foreman, is supposed to be in charge of us but he lives in Wakiu (Hāna) and we are 15 miles away.

As the sun sets on the day we move in, a mid-thirtyish Hawaiian man with short curly hair and a very wiry body comes over and introduces himself - Jackie Kaiwi, he lives right next door with his large family. He is a cowboy. Jackie tells me the story of a Hawaiian mo'o that can take the form of a man and can do bad things. I have some difficulty understanding it all, but it is fascinating.

We make friends with two of Jackie's sons, Paul and Leroy, and with Randy and Nani Smith's children, Ronald, Lorraine, and MargyAnn. The Smith's live in the house on the other side of the Kaiwi's. Leroy is a little younger but the other four are aged 13 to 15. John and I are almost all the haoles in Kipahulu except for Mr. William Rost who came out from Pennsylvania during World War II, married a Hawaiian woman and raised a family.

During the next four weeks, Paul and Ronald are very patient with me as I constantly ask them to repeat themselves and speak more slowly. Finally(!), I start to be able to understand pidgin.

A few evenings a week, up to eight of us pile into the jeep and drive into Hāna. Sometimes it is to watch the volleyball games in the Park; sometimes it is to see a movie at the Theater. On a sunny weekend we might watch the men play baseball or dive off Hāna wharf into the blue waters of Hāna Bay. Then we all get in the jeep for the windy drive back home to Kipahulu.

Most of the men in Kipahulu work for the Ranch as Cowboys. Uncle Herman Nelson's family has the home on the makai side of the road across from the Ranch stables. Joe and his wife, Anna, live in a yellow wooden house on the makai side of the road but 100 yards closer to Hāna just past the small wooden St. Paul's Catholic Church. John Park lives halfway to Hāna.

TO BE CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.....

Hāna Cultural Center

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Aloha, My name is Irene Pavao. For the past 5 years, I have been a trustee here at the Hana Cultural Center. I now serve as the President of the Board of Directors. My Ohana (family) has lived in Lower Nahiku for the past 6 generations. I have lived in Hana for 17 years and I work as

the Branch Manager at the Hana Public and School Library.

This year we have truly seen many wonderful things happen here at the Hana Cultural Center. One has been an increase in inquiries and requests for the material in our archives room. Our archive contains more than 5000 photos, hundreds of artifacts from the Hana area and many interesting books. Please come and explore the past through our historical exhibits in the museum, courthouse, and on the grounds of the Cultural Center.

Here are just a few things that happened this past year, new displays in the museum and the courthouse- Visitors and local residents have enjoyed the photos and history of East Maui Music exhibit and also the exhibit of April 1, 1946 Tsunami (Big Wave) that hit the Hana area. One of our Upcoming exhibitions for 2006 will be "Plantation Days".

Summer Aloha Fridays-Every Friday afternoon this past summer the Cultural Center provided Hawaiian cultural activities such as lei making, ukulele playing and hula dancing for visitors and local residents held under our Hale Mua (eating house).

Our oral history project, "Kupuna Tell Me a Story" continued with interviews taking place from Keanae to Kaupo. Through the Maui Visitors Bureau, we were very fortunate to have a display at the Kahului Airport for 6 months about our "History of East Maui Music" exhibition.

Our yearly Ho'olaule'a (festival) held on the Cultural Center grounds was a great success. Its theme was the History of East Maui Music and featured local songs and groups including professional singer Pekelo Cosma. The theme for this year's Ho'olaule'a is going to be the history of East Maui's food.

As President of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation to Meiling Rossi, for all her hard work and dedication. Her leadership with her staff and professionalism in all that she does is always coupled with a friendly smile. She is always ready to help you out in any way possible.

On behalf of the board of directors, trustees, and staff we would like to thank all our member donors, benefactors and volunteers for your continuing support in helping us to fulfill our mission: to collect, organize, describe, preserve, research, make available, interpret, and disseminate the history of the district of Hana.

The future existence of the Hana Cultural Center depends on the support from Life Members, Annual Members and Donors. Any support is greatly appreciated. Please come visit, talk story and stay awhile here at the Cultural Center here in Hana, Maui.

Mahalo!



Meiling Rossi

HCC'S "Directors"



Leinaala Estrella

We are pleased to announce the New Directors of The Hana Cultural Center. Leinaala & Meiling are both born and raised in Hana. Today, they are raising their own families and feel lucky to be in Hana. These ladies feel very fortunate to be in a position to make a difference in assuring that the history of Hana will be preserved for the future generations and also share it with people from around the world.

They both bring their unique ideas to the Center and together they make a great team. We look forward to the many programs and projects they will bring to the Hana Cultural Center.

Mission Statement:

Collect, organize, describe, preserve, research, make available, interpret & disseminate the history of the district of Hana.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Irene Pavao- President
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The Hana Cultural Center is a not for profit organization and is exempt from federal tax under section 501,c.(3) of the IRS Code.

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Members:

\$20

Lifemembers:

\$250

Support and become a member today.

Members receive a 10% discount from our Giftshop.

Thank You
Howard Manaois
&
Arnold Lono
for maintaining the
grounds of our center.



Kīpahulu Memories Continued...

The cowboys' work is hard but they often are laughing telling stories. I watch them spraying the fields with a poison to keep the weeds under control. To do this they pull a big tanker with long black hoses sticking out. The cowboys walk the land using the hoses to spray the weeds. Sometimes I help by clearing the hoses as they get tangled in the scrub bushes. One day, we were eating lunch in the fields out of the PAKINA??? round nested metal lunch holders that had the rice in the bottom container and stew or corned beef and onion in the top so the juices did not make the rice soggy until it was time to eat. Cold coffee was in mayonnaise jars. Jackie picks a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch red "berry" from one of the small plants growing in the field. He hands it to me and tells me it is a little Chinese tomato and to try it. Like a fool, I put it in my mouth and bit down on it.

Instantly my mouth was on fire and I dived for the coffee jar. Joe, John, Herman, and Jackie were rolling on the ground in laughter as this city boy from the East Coast had his first encounter with a chili pepper.

Jackie tells me how they drive the cattle to the Ulupalakua feedlots. In the old days, they herded the cattle down the old trail at night under the light of the full moon. During the day they would catch up on some sleep but mostly have to stay in the saddle and keep the cattle from wandering off and mixing with other cattle along the way. It took four nights with stops at Kaupō, Nu'u, Kanaio, and finally Ulupalakua. They ate hard poi that they had to bring with them. After delivering the cattle, they turned their horses around and got back to Kīpahulu in one day. They just let the horses follow the trail back home while the cowboys slept in the saddles with their heads resting on the pommels. Every once in a while a horse would snort or sneeze waking them up for a few minutes.

Jackie also talks of the old days when Wada Store in Kīpahulu sold liquor and food supplies to serve the community and about the time that the bank in Kīpahulu was robbed. He remembers going into the deserted sugar mill to eat some of the molasses that still remained.

The old green two-room schoolhouse closed in 1960 but Japanese men from the other side of Maui would camp there for a weekend of fishing. In the summer of 1962, I stayed in the school for almost six weeks. After that, Francis "Blue" Lono wanted me to stay in Hāna with his family; his wife, Anna, was Joe Kahaleuahi's daughter. So on August 3, I left Kīpahulu to live with Blue Lono in Hāna.

MUSEUM EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

"East Maui Plantation Days"

Opening December 2005 and running until November 11th 2006

"Hale Noa Pili Mai-Coming Together Through the Sleeping House"

Opening January 9th 2006 - August 12th 2006

"Storied Places of East Maui"

Opening June 23, 2006 running through December 2006

"The History of Food in East Maui"

Opening November 18th 2006 running through June 2007

Aloha Friday Continues.....

Our Aloha Friday Demonstration Program will start once again in January 2006. Every Friday up until May 26, 2006 The Hana Cultural Center will have a local artisan share their gifted talents with anyone interested in learning. From Lauhala & Coconut weaving to Leimaking and Ukulele lessons, this will be a chance for you to learn and treasure your own creations. Classes start at 12pm and will run until 4pm, every Friday. Hope to see you all there.

Hana Cultural Center would like to Thank the past Board of Trustees for dedicating their time while serving our organization.

Bill Chang
Neta Hanchett-Ching
Coila Eade
Helen-Ann Mahadocon



CONGRATULATIONS ROCKY & MEILING

Big Parties are a way of life here on East Maui. Graduation, baby's first birthday, death and marriage are celebrated Hawaiian style with an eye to kokua or help the celebrations honoree. On May 13 2006, a special cultural event taking place in East Maui will be the wedding of our own Meiling Rossi to Rocky Hoopai.

In ancient times, the Hawaiian people would gather together to celebrate auspicious occasions with a feast. Hawaiians believed that it was important to honor their gods and to seek their fellowship, help or pardon. They believed that prosperity should be shared with family and friends. This celebration was called 'aha'aina meaning gathering ('aha) for a meal ('aina). Referring to these celebrations as lu'au came much later in 1856 (Pukui-Elbert Hawaiian Dictionary, 1971). Lu'au, in Hawaiian, means the young edible leaves of the taro plant. These leaves were traditionally used to wrap food that was placed in an imu (underground oven).

Meiling and Rocky have been together more than a decade and have three, beautiful, keiki-Justice, Puna and Jadelyn. In ancient Hawaii marriage as we know it today did not exist. There were strict restrictions on eating but almost none on love relationships except in the highest classes. For commoners sleeping together under the same kapa bed cover meant you were married. The traditional ceremony known as ho'ao romantically meaning "stay until the dawn." Ho'ao was a taboo or sacred ritual performed only for the Hawaiian chiefly class or ali'i in order to produce children of a known lineage. It also refers to the night of the day called Huna, eleventh night of the month, when the ho'ao nuptials took place. The Hawaiians' casual approach to relationships did not produce a romantic paradise. There

are many tales of jealous lovers and unrequited loves in Hawaiian myths and legends as well as tales of undying love.

The missionaries and immigrants who came to Hawaii brought with them their cultures, beliefs and customs. Ka'ahumanu and Keopuolani, the two ali'i who brought about the overthrow of the eating restrictions, eventually embraced Christianity and gave up the concept of plural marriage and young husbands. Many Hawaiians followed their example. Immigrants from Japan, China, Portugal and the Philippines came to work the plantations. With inter-ethnic marriages, various wedding customs became commonplace.

Rocky & Meiling's wedding will be a blend of multi-ethnic traditions to show respect for all families, ancestors and cultures ensuring luck, prosperity and happiness.

Best wishes and blessings to Meiling and Rocky from

Leinaala

&

The Board of Trustees



1922 view of Kīpahulu town



Ho'olaule'a 2005 "History of East Maui Music"

Our "History of East Maui Music" Ho'olaule'a and museum exhibition featured entertainment from up and coming performers like Shandi Ho'opai to seasoned professionals like Leokane and Slack Key artist Pekelo Cosmo. Hāna is still a place that there is live music and dance at all our parties. We celebrated this rich music heritage all day.

In 2006 our Ho'olaule'a will delve into our culinary roots with the theme "The History of East Maui Food".

Save the date

Saturday November 18, 2006



Fawn Burns
performs her original
song "Smiles".



Arnold Lono
opens a coconut to
share with guest.



Baby Kailena Lono
gets a lesson on
how to make a
coconut basket by
JT Sanders.



**Aunty Jo Helekahi
& Sina Fournier**
share a smile
after performing
at our 7th annual
Ho'olaule'a.

MAHALO to all our donors for supporting our 7th annual event. Our 2005 Ho'olaule'a was a success.

Hāna Music Trivia Quiz

1. Born at Mu'ole'a. This hula dancer and composer co-wrote the classic "He'eia". Important for being one of the kumu hula who participated in the mock "Trial of Hula" in Honolulu in the early 20th century. Hula was found "Not Guilty"

A. Babes Hanchett



2. A member of the Hāna Maui Serenaders,. One of the most influential kumu hula living in Hāna during the 20th century whose family has the largest hula halau in Hāna today.

B. Lydia Maunahina
Dusson



3. A Hāna born singer who received standing ovations around the world for both "Ahi Wela" and "Vesti La Giubba"



C. Clara Tolentino

4. Carrying on the traditional "kanikapila" this singer and musician lived in a hale on the shores of Kakahipueo (Hāna Bay) at the end of the 20th century and held nightly jam sessions.



D. John Pi'ilani
Watkins

5. This kumu hula grew up in Kipahulu and later founded Waikiki's Kodak Hula Show.



E. Joseph Villiarimo

6. Founding member of the Hāna Cultural Center and the singing group "Na Leo O' Hāna "



F. Tandy Mackenzie

7. Multi talented, Hāna resident who composed "Hāna Chant" and many other Hāna inspired songs.



G. Libby Keanini

8. Born in Hāna, this hula dancer taught the child movie star, Shirley Temple, to hula for the screen.



H. Louise Akeo

Hāna Baseball

By Jackie Kahula

Seals, Imua, Raiders, Cubs; these are all names that still echo around the bases of Hāna Ball Park. Hāna is a baseball town. Interest in baseball boomed in 1946 when Paul Fagan, the owner of the Hotel Hana Maui and the Hana Ranch, brought his Pacific Coast Professional League Team to Hāna for spring training. The team's name was the San Francisco Seals and in those days the boys would get together and listen to the games broadcast from the mainland over the radio.

What was perhaps, the first ball field, "the beach", was located where the Sea Ranch cottages are today. Home plate was on the Nahiku side. First base was mauka, 2nd base was Kaupo side and 3rd base was makai. Many a long home run ball was lost in the ocean. The ball field was moved from the beach to its current location before 1930. There was even a field in Keanae where the Civilian Conservation Corps, housed at what is now the YMCA, would play.

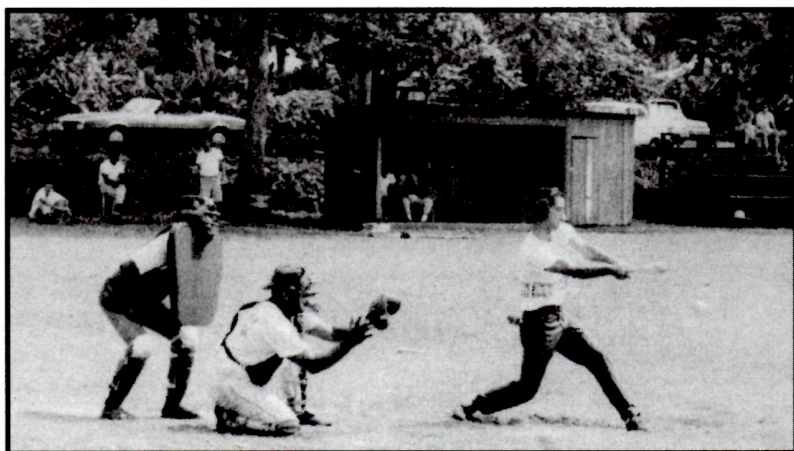
The "camps" of workers' housing would break down along ethnic lines; so were the teams. There was a Hawaiian team, a Filipino team, a Japanese team. Keanae had a multi-ethnic team. Each team was self-sponsored. The guys would pick a name and then buy t-shirts on which they would spray paint or stencil their team name. Gloves and balls were special ordered through Hana Ranch Store or Hasegawas. Games were played after church on Sundays with special games on Saturdays.

After the plantations closed and the Ranch and Hotel built, Paul Fagan sponsored an athletic program for Hāna town. Fagan appointed as athletic director, Edwin Jojo Nakashima, who was working at the Hana Federal Credit Union for him. Eddie stayed on for more than a decade after marrying local girl, Helen Motooka. The teams would travel to Wailuku and sometimes off island to Lana'i and Moloka'i. In the late 1960s, Al Burkes was hired as athletic director and the head of the Credit Union. He stayed on for only five years and left rather unexpectedly under suspicious circumstances.

The Cultural Center's Vice President, Jackie Kahula, played all the positions but is best remembered as a catcher. He would catch for William Tau-a who was one of the top pitchers and hitters in the league. James Pu Sr. was another excellent pitcher; while 3rd baseman Samuel Kalalau Jr. and Sam Akoi II would hit 'em out of the park on occasion.

In the late 1970s, regular baseball left and was replaced by softball: both mountain pitch and slow pitch. But the tradition continues.

Today there are six community teams in Hāna and there have been up to eight. In 2005, Hāna hosted its 26th annual Labor Day Softball Tournament. It is one of the oldest tournaments on Maui. The Hāna teams host the event on a rotating basis and send invitations throughout the islands. The 2005 tournament was hosted by the Keanae Bruddahs and won by the Duck Fat Club a combined Keanae and Wailuku team. No Bricks, a Ho'opai-Paman team from Hāna came in second. The 2006 Tournament is to be hosted by Sam Aina's Wolfpacks.



Baseball Game in Hana Ballpark — 1964 or 1965
Boy Hanchett swats a liner.



Baseball Awards -1964 or 1965
Hana Bay Pavillion
Foreground: Jackie Kahula and Chabby Phillips
Insert on lower left: Ward Mardfin and
Bobby Motooka



TOP PHOTO:

Hana Ranch Raiders Team. Photo taken at Hana Ball Park (Hana School in background). Circa 1947. Donated by Hanky Eharis.

Back Row (L to R): Herman Nakabayashi, Jackson Kahula, Hanky Eharis, Leichi Higashiguchi, David Aikau, Clarence Nakahashi, John Eharis, Roland Eharis, Modesto Fontanilla, Shiro Fujikawa, Masao Motooka, David Hema, Kunio Fuji, Yoshito Kinoshito, Dan Atay, Joe Estrella (Manager).

Next Row to front (L to R): Roland Chang, Francis Eharis, George Higashiguchi, Enos Pu, John Helekahi, Elijah Mailou, Eddie Pu, Joe Manaois, Ben Helekahi, Albert Pu, Danny Pu, Freddie Pu.

Front Row: Alfred Huewaa, Everett Chong.

At rear: Girl beside car is Elaine Motooka; Girl sitting on wall is Mary Redo Estrella, Girl standing next to her is Chris Eharis Villiarimo.



LEFT PHOTO:

First Hana Seals Team. Photo possibly taken at the Old Wailuku Gym. Circa 1947.

Back Row (L to R): Paul Fagan, Hideo Ibara, Clifford Clark, Les Medeiros, Sr., "Trigger", Duke Pahukoa, John Medeiros.

Next to Back Row: Masao Motooka, Henry Kahula, Tomashi Sumida, Harold Tanaka, George Pila, Yoshito Kinoshita, John Akana.

Next Row to front: Johnny Eharis, Clarence Nakahashi, Shiro Fujikawa, John Hanchett, Sr., Roland Eharis, Modesto Fontanilla.

Front Row: ("mascots") ? Plunkett, unknown.

At rear in audience: Bob Butterfield, Harry Malaikini (?), Charlotte Butterfield, Babes Hanchett, 3 unknowns, Josephine Medeiros, unknown.

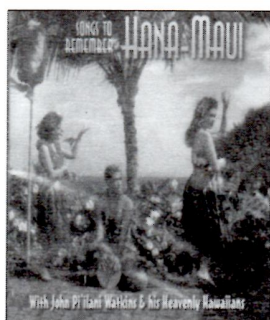
Hāna Music Trivia Quiz Answers
1-B, 2-C, 3-F, 4-E, 5-H, 6-A, 7-D, 8-G

John Pi'ilani Watkins

Acclaimed kumu hula and prolific composer, John Pi'ilani Watkins, was born on December 24, 1928 in 'Ewa, Oahu. He began training in hula at the age of 10 with his grandmother. It was the music that brought John into hula. When he first heard Hawaiian chants he thought it was so beautiful that he wanted to learn. His grandmother wanted him to learn kahiko because he was the next in line to be the caretaker of Kamehameha's body. He was to learn the chant that would allow him to cross to the other side and rub the king's body with oils. John's mother was a very strong Christian and grew afraid for him and forced his grandmother to stop the lessons. John never learned the kahiko ways but became a master of modern hula.

After high school John came to Hāna on a vacation. Hāna was the birthplace of his father and John had family in Waikalooa. This move was the start of his composing and popularity as a songwriter. He got a job training the dancers at the Hotel Hana Maui and stayed in Hāna for seven years. John was a kind and gentle kumu hula. He taught his young students not only hula but tap and ballroom dancing, as well. He lived with the Malaikini family. It was actually John's mother who wrote the song "Waikalooa" to thank the Malaikini's for their hospitality. Many of John's songs are about places in East Maui. "He would go out for a walk and come back with a song." Among his reknown songs are "Hāna Chant", "Ulupalakua", "Me Ka Nani Ao Kaupo".

John Pi'ilani Watkins passed on at the age of 54, February 25, 1983 in Honolulu. Cord Records has recently issued a 12 song CD "Songs To Remember -Hana Maui" with eight of John's mele hula compositions that were originally on 78 rpm by 49th State.



"Songs to Remember: Hana-Maui" CD

These original recordings are a hauntingly beautiful treasure chest of 1950's Hawaiian melody. They were discovered deep in the vaults of the 49th State Hawaii Record Company featuring acclaimed Kumu Hula and prolific composer John Pi'ilani Watkins and his legacy of beautiful original mele hula compositions that he wrote and recorded. Watkins was a gifted performer whose talents included: chanter, dancer, teacher, composer, musician, choreographer, and recording artist.



2005 Scholars

Congratulations to all our recipients who have applied and especially to those who have received awards towards higher education. We would like to send our "Aloha" and wish them the best in pursuing their dreams. Never forget where you came from and the people of Hāna.

2005 Scholars

Ruston Barczy: who is attending Northern Arizona State University. He received a \$500 scholarship in memory of the late Rebecca Eyester.

Edward JB Kekiwi: who now attends Maui Community College. Edward received a \$1000 scholarship from The Hāna Cultural Center.

Kaimana Cabebe: who attends University Hawaii Hilo. Kaimana received a \$1000 scholarship from The Hāna Cultural Center.

Edmund Oliveira: who is now attending Southern Oregon University. Edmund received a \$1000 scholarship from The Hāna Cultural Center.

Noela Oliveira: who is attending Southern Oregon University. Noela received a \$1000 scholarship from The Hāna Cultural Center.

Pumehana Park: also attending Southern Oregon University. Pumehana received a \$1000 scholarship from The Hāna Cultural Center.



Volunteers

"Mahalo for your Kokua"

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And most of
all to the
Board of Trustees.



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*Thank You for all your support throughout
the year.*

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GOT DESIGNING IDEAS?

From the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC to our own Hāna Cultural Center & Museum, it is a fact of museum life that the gift shop is a big part of fiscal survival. We are looking for design ideas for an addition to the Hale Waiwai to move the gift shop into it's own adjacent room. The Center's exhibition space is small to begin with and we would like your ideas so that we can maintain the integrity of the museum. Please send us your design ideas. Either e-mail at hccm@aloha.net or mail at PO Box 27, Hāna, HI 96713. MAHALO!

Volunteer of the Year... "Cee Elbert"



Cee volunteers every Mondays from 9:30am - 2:30pm in the museum. The Staff and Board of Trustees would like to extend a sincere *Mahalo* for your services.

ULU QUILT 2005 WINNER

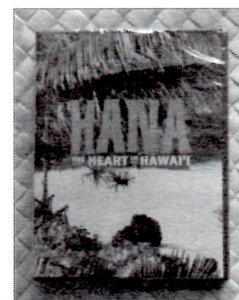
On December 1st, Cheimi Powell of Hana pulled the winning quilt ticket. A handstitched bottle green Ulu (breadfruit) design quilt. Lucky winner was, Francis Kalaola of Hana, Maui.

A special thanks to all who have contributed towards our quilt fundraiser & most of all to Francis.



"DRIVING THE HANA COAST" DVD

Take a video drive along Maui's Famous Hana Coast with this lively 60-minute video. Set to great original Hawaiian music, you'll see and experience all the waterfalls, fresh water pools, bamboo rainforests, colorful exotic flowers, tropical scenery and more that makes this stretch of Maui's rugged wind ward coast the world most beautiful drive. (Available at the HCC Giftshop).



Hana

"The Heart of Hawaii"

DVD available at The Hana Cultural Center Giftshop for \$20.



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Kūpuna Tell-Me-A-Story Project

The Hāna Cultural Center is in the process of videotaping our Kūpuna for our oral history project funded primarily by the County of Maui. Since the last Newsletter we have interviewed the people and events listed below. If you are a Kūpuna living in East Maui and have a story to tell about life in the past, please contact us so we can record and preserve your memories for all time.

The original videotapes are protected in our Archives. In the future we hope to develop thematic videos for sharing with the wider community (especially the youth of Hāna). We are anticipating themes such as "school life", "raising a family", "working in East Maui", "World War II in Hāna", etc.

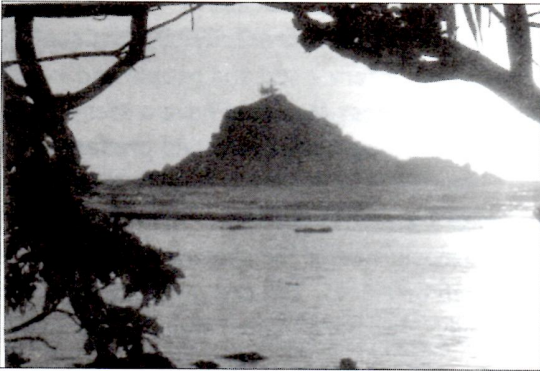
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HONOR OUR VETS

The Hana Cultural Center is trying to put together a record of all present and former residents of East Maui (Ke'anae to Kaupō) who have served in the military forces of the United States. We want to be able to recognize and honor our veterans whether they served in peacetime or during military conflicts. If you or someone you know are from East Maui and served in the U.S. military, please forward information to us at the Hana Cultural Center. An example is shown on the top row below. Any special information such as awards or medals earned, places served, specialty title or MOS, etc. are also welcomed.

Name	Branch	Active Duty Dates	Rank	Any wartime service	Any other information
<u>Ward Mardfin</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>Aug 65 - May 68</u>	<u>Sgt (E5)</u>	<u>Vietnam 5/67-5/68</u>	<u>Intelligence Agent</u>
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Leho'ula and Ka Iwi o Pele~Wahi Pana o Hāna~Storied Places of Hāna



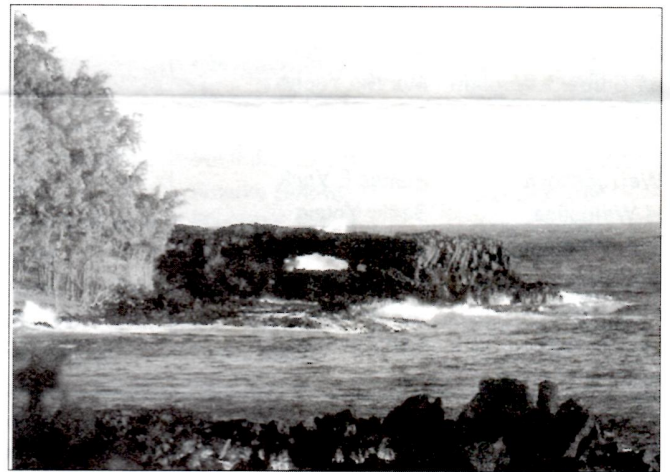
Over the years names and places sometimes get lost or changed as land changes hands and use. Recently, two very important historical sites were sold to Oprah Winfrey. Leho'ula and Ka Iwi o Pele. Archaeologist Maria Orr notes Leho'ula has the remnants of the first fishpond in the Hawaiian Islands as well as evidence of a heiau (temple) where the large hau tree now grows. She believes that there are quite a few graves dotting the cliffs of Ka Iwi o Pele. Both these wahi pana are rich in mythological and historical lure.

Leho'ula was named by the fishing god Kū'ula. He and his wife, Hinapukaia, lived at Leho'ula which is in the Aleamai District. There they built the first fish pond in all Hawaii. Their son was 'Ai'ai who later became famous for making fishing stations (ko'a lawaia) in the sea throughout the islands. One of the tools that Kū'ula gave to his son before he left this world was the shell called Leho'ula. Leho means cowry shell and ula means red. This is the rare and highly prized cowry after which the area is named.

One of the most famous stories of Leho'ula is about Ko'ona, the eel. During the days of 'Ai'ai and his parents there was a large puhi (eel) who came from Moloka'i to live in a sea cave near Leho'ula. The eel came to steal from Kū'ula's fishponds. Kū'ula asked 'Ai'ai to come up with a solution for eliminating this troublesome eel. 'Ai'ai came up with the idea of placing a hook attached to a long hau rope at the front of the eel's cave entrance. The plan was that when the eel took the hook, 'Ai'ai would signal the people at Haneo'o and Hāmoa to pull at one end of the rope and the people near Leho'ula to pull at their end. A tugging contest began. Even though there were fewer people manning the rope at the Leho'ula end they landed the puhi on the pahoe-hoe stones of the beach. The eel struggled mightily and did not die until 'Ai'ai killed it with three ala stones. The head was cut off and cooked in the imu. The other remains of the puhi can still be seen today near the shore. The bones of the jaw with its mouth wide open and the backbone, about 30 feet long, can be seen in the stone formations at Leho'ula.

Right above Leho'ula is the ridge, Ka Iwi o Pele -the bones of Pele. There are many stories about the volcano goddess and the ridge. It was here that the mortal Pele fought with her sister Namakaokaha'i the ocean goddess. Namakaokaha'i had followed Pele from Tahiti. She was angry with Pele, and flooded all the fire pits that Pele created in the Hawaiian Islands. Finally they fought. Pele was torn apart. Her mortal body was killed in Haleakala. Pele's and her sister Hi'iakaikapoliopole's iwi (bones) were scattered through the crater and the hill at Aleamae named Ka Iwi o Pele. Pele's spirit was set free, and without a mortal body she became a goddess. She flew to the Big Island and created a fire pit in Kilauea Caldera. (Halema'uma'u) Where her fires still flame to this day.

It is important to remember and use the old names because without them the community loses important information about its body and soul. Leho'ula and Ka Iwi o Pele are just two of the many wahi pana that will be in the Cultural Center's Exhibition opening June 23, 2006.



(Photos were taken by Marina Seek of Germany)

A.C.T.

Accounting~Consulting~Tax

Antoinette C. Troxell

Certified Public Accountant

PO BOX 416

Hana, HI 96713

Phone: 248-8416

Fax: 248-7640

E-mail: actcpa@wave.hicv.net

