

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

AUGUST (AUKAKE) 2005

Website: www.huilimakokua.com.

Next Meeting. (a) The next monthly meeting will be our potluck picnic at Ventura Pier on August 20th starting at 11 am. Ventura Pier is located close to Holiday Inn at Fwy 101 and California Street. Bring chairs and your favorite picnic food to share. The club will furnish rice, service, drinks and canopy for shade, but bring sunscreen. If you are interested in biking, bring your bike or you can rent one at the pier. If you are interested in fishing, bring your fishing gear or **Ron** will have some extra tackle along with bait for the fishing derby. No license is required when fishing from the pier. Bring your music instrument so we can jam; or bring swim suit. Free parking is available across the freeway (Thompson Blvd and Ash St) which has a connecting pedestrian bridge over the freeway. Pay parking is available closer to the pier, under the bridge. In lieu of paying for a day's parking, a lifetime "Golden Age Passport" is available for \$10 at the Channel Island National Park Visitor Center (open daily from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm) at the end of Spinnaker Drive at Ventura Harbor for senior citizens (62 and over). Golden Age Passport holders are entitled to park free at the Ventura Pier (I also used mine for entry to the Grand Canyon). Members from the Hawaiian Clubs in Santa Barbara and San Fernando Valley (Ohana Kakou) have been invited to attend this picnic. (b) At next month's meeting we will hold elections for new officers.

Past Meeting. (a) At our potluck dinner on July 9th, we had our 2nd annual **Johnny Del Gado** Papale (Hat) contest which was won by **Juanita Pendergrass** (see picture in our website photo galley). **Kay Paisley** made the award presentation. We also had a blackjack contest conducted by **Ron Wong**, with the help of **Gerry Wong** and **John Eckhart**. The blackjack family award was won by **John & Lita Eckhart**, 2nd place went to **Travis & Celeste Harrelson**, and 3rd place went to **Mike & Kay Nakamura**. Single winners were **Trudy Cook** (guest), **Laurie Gregory**, and **Mario Castroni**. But everyone took home prizes. Because we will have a fishing derby at our picnic in August, **Ron** also gave an interesting and informative talk on fishing.

Membership News. (a) **Gerry and Gwen Wong** received an award from the American Red Cross for long term, voluntary, dedicated duty. (b) The Ukulele Club of Ventura County (**Juanita** is lead singer) will be performing at the Ventura County Fair on August 9 from 12 noon to 1 pm at the Pepsi Community Stage. Admittance to the Fair is free to seniors (62 and over) on this day only. Following the Ukulele group at 1 pm on the Grandstand is country legendary singer **Mel Tillis**. A Hula halau (**Juanita** and **Celeste** are members) will perform from 1:30 at the Pepsi Community Stage. Incidentally, the Fair will run from August 3 – 14.

Hawaii Sports. (a) On Sep 3 UH football team plays the defending champion USC in Honolulu. ESPN will telecast it starting 4 pm. **Matt Leinart** is USC's returning Heisman Trophy quarterback. It will be interesting to see how USC does without Assistant Coach **Norm Chow**, a graduate from Punahou High School. (b) **Michelle Wie** will appear on **Dave Letterman's** show on Monday, August 8th and then on "Good Morning America" on Tuesday, August 9th.

Hawaiian/Local Tidbits. (a) I went on a two week vacation to Honolulu and had a wonderful time. I rented a car but the traffic was terrible in Honolulu during rush hour and the one way streets added to my confusion. I did a quick check and found out that Hawaii's population is 1.26 million and there are 700,000 registered vehicles there. The cost for a bus ride in Honolulu is \$2. Seniors with medicare cards pay \$1. The bus system in Honolulu is one of the best in the nation. Perhaps a rail transit system is in order to ease on traffic congestion which would raise the sales tax from its current 4% (yep, it's only 4% there versus our 7.25% in Ventura). Hey, I just got my Hawaii ID Card. This card allows holders to receive discounts (kamaaina rates) at some of the activities in Hawaii instead of paying the inflated tourist rates. You can get this ID card from the state office building located at the corner of Punchbowl and King Streets (across the street from the library). I had to show my birth certificate, social security card, and have a Hawaii address and phone number. I got to the office just before the 2 pm closing. I grew up in Hawaii but I just hiked the 760-foot Diamond Head summit for the first time after being encouraged by my sons, **Dean** and **Shawn** and daughter-in-law, **Rachel**. Gee I was so proud of myself but **Kay** also made the hike carrying her big old purse so I guess it is not such a big deal. As an aside, did you know that 22% of Americans say

that Hawaii is their favorite U.S. vacation destination versus 19% who say they list New York as their favorite spot? (b) I visited the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center and saw a one-hour hula class being taught for free. There were about 150 dancers, most of them from Japan. In one hour they learned to dance to a song (Sweet Lei Mokihana). Hula dancing is becoming very popular in Japan and it is estimated that there are over 400,000 dancers there and growing. Ukulele is also attracting more Japanese players every day. (c) Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is being studied for closure in order to save money. The Shipyard employs about 5,000 combined civilian and military personnel and has been in existence since 1908. What a blow to the economy if it closes. (d) E Hula Mau, Southern California's Eleventh Annual Hula & Chant Competition will be held over Labor Day Weekend, September 2, 3, & 4, 2005 at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center - Terrace Theater, 300 East Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach CA 90802. Paid admission. (e) The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals just ruled that the Kamehameha Schools cannot continue its "Hawaiians-only" admission policy. The Kamehameha Schools is preparing a response and will probably appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn this recent ruling. Stay tuned.

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Day to day Wisdom

Maybe God wanted us to meet the wrong people before meeting the right one so that when we finally meet the right person, we will know how to be grateful for that gift.

Maybe when the door of happiness closes, another opens, but often times we look so long at the closed door that we don't see the one which has been opened for us.

Maybe the best kind of friend is the kind you can sit on a porch and swing with, never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.

Maybe it is true that we don't know what we've got until we lose it, but it is also true that we don't know what we've been missing until it arrives.

Don't go for looks; they can deceive. Don't go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright. Find the one that makes your heart smile.

There are moments in life when you miss someone so much that you just want to pick them from your dreams and hug them for real. Dream what you want to dream; go where you want to go; be what you want to be, because you have only one life and one chance to do all the things you want to do.

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, enough hope to make you happy.

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.

Love begins with a smile, grows with a kiss and ends with a tear.

The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past, you can't go on well in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. Live your life so that when you die,

you are the one smiling and everyone around you is crying.