

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

Website: www.huilimakokua.com.

Next Meeting. (a) **Instead of a regular meeting, the club will be organizing a trip to the Welburn Gourd Farm located in Fallbrook, California.** The Farm is 170 miles from Ventura and is about a 3 hour drive. The scheduled trip will be held on April 26 and is being organized by **Dirk Boon**. If you are interested in going on this trip please contact **Dirk** at (805) 647-7225 or email: cyacook@sbcglobal.net. After buying the gourd, the club will set aside a couple of meetings when those gourds can be made into ipus. Anyway, **Dirk** will be able to provide more information so contact him. (b) Be ready for a Spring Picnic to be held on May 10 at the Camino Real Park in Ventura. More information will be provided in next month's newsletter.

Past Meeting. A big mahalo to **Jim and Dorene Tsukida** for an enjoyable and informative afternoon. They both talked about the time they spent in the American-Japanese relocation camps during World War II and the impact that experience had on their families. Their talk sparked a lot of soul searching about this "dark" time in US history and was an eye opener for many of us.

Membership News. (a) The board approved new members **Harvard & Helen Horiuchi** of Camarillo. They moved into the area less than a year ago. Welcome **Harvard and Helen!** (b) It was so nice to see **Gerry, Steven, Cindy, and Devon Wong** at our last meeting. They flew down from Fremont (near San Jose) primarily to attend our meeting. As most of you know, **Gerry** moved in with his son, **Steven**, and his family last year. Nice seeing all of you.

Miscellaneous. (a) The Ukulele Club of Ventura County, under the leadership of **Kaimana Pendergrass**, will be attending the Hayward Ukulele Festival held on April 6. Good luck gang! (b) The world's most popular and prestigious hula competition, Merrie Monarch Festival, will be held on April 20-26, 2014 at the **Afook Chinen Civic Auditorium** on the Big Island, Hawaii. Tickets are very difficult to get so don't bother going unless you already have a ticket in hand.

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Mike's Rambling Corner

1. The Hawaiian movie, "Haumana" was shown at the Edwards Theater in Camarillo on February 24. What an outstanding evening! Not only was the movie terrific but **Captain Debbie Pezzini** organized a kanikapila before the movie started. During the kanikapila, **Kumu Sylvia Edgar** led the informal session of ukulele players, singers, and hula dancers to entertain the crowd. **Debbie** was responsible for arranging the movie to be shown in Camarillo and had to get a minimum of 100 ticket sold 2 weeks before the movie was to be shown. The Hawaii Club went on record to buy up whatever shortfall there was to hit the 100 mark, but that proved unnecessary since over 160 tickets were eventually sold for the performance. Congratulations to

Debbie and **Sylvia** for jobs well done! Incidentally, **Sylvia's** father, **Ben Wright**, is one of a founding members of our Hawaii Club which was organized 50 years ago.

2. One of my favorite snacks is spam musubi. This is a popular dish in Hawaii. Every year there is a spam festival in Hawaii where cooks compete for prizes for different spam recipes. This year's "Spam Jam" will take place on May 3, 2014 in Waikiki. Everybody knows that Hawaii consumes more spam (per capita) than any other state. However, Guam consumes even more than Hawaii. Now I read where South Korea is buying a lot of this product. Spam was introduced to Korea shortly after the Korean War. I guess an ono plate lunch for me would consist of rice, 3 slices of spam, fried eggs, and kim chee. A little birdie told me that **Noelani Gregory** received a spam lunch box for her birthday in February. **Noelani** actually loves spam musubi more than I do.

3. I recently had to renew my driver's license so I googled "DMV" to find out what changes have been made in the past several years since I last took the written test. I came across "DMV Hawaii." I was surprised to see where there is serious pressure from one individual to have him take the test in the Hawaiian language. He makes a good point by saying that **Hawaiian** is actually one of the **state's two official languages**, recognized by the state's constitution, and used in "official ceremonies and state events." **Daniel Anthony** asked: "Why would we create schools to have children spend 12 years in the Hawaiian language if they could not, in turn, take that and apply it in the same state that funds the school?" **Anthony** has gone to court in order to take his written test in Hawaiian. In case you are wondering, this young man speaks perfect English. Anyway, Hawaii, as well as California, allows driving tests to be taken in many different foreign languages. Interesting.

4. According to the annual INRIX Traffic Scorecard, Los Angeles had the worse traffic gridlock in the nation for 2013. Drivers wasted an average of 64 hours in traffic in 2013. Surprisingly, Honolulu was second on the list with residents averaging 60 hours in traffic during the year, an 18% increase over 2012. The rest of the 2013 top five cities for worst traffic were San Francisco, Austin (Texas), and New York City.

5. My favorite beverage is hot tea. But I love a hot cup of coffee in the morning. The price of Kona coffee may be going up because tiny beetles that damages coffee beans were found in Kona. These coffee berry borers come from Africa. The females burrow into the fruit to lay their eggs, causing damage that can make the beans worthless. The beetles are dark brown and about the size of a sesame seed. Unless these beetles can be eradicated, the price of Kona Coffee may be going up.

6. The world's largest telescope is now being built atop Mauna Kea (Big Island). The size of the telescope will be 30 meters wide or about three times larger than the most powerful optical telescope in use now. The scheduled completion date? Don't hold your breath – it is 2022.

7. Jurassic World, the fourth of Steven Spielberg's movie, started filming on Oahu and Kauai. The first movie was filmed over 20 years ago.

8. **Dennis Kamakahi** was recently diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. He was admitted to the Queens Medical Center in Honolulu because of pneumonia when the doctors found his cancer. **Kamakahi** is a grammy-winning guitarist/singer who wrote over 500 songs, including **Bill Pendergrass**' favorite – "Kokee." Stay strong, healthy and keep writing those beautiful songs!