

# HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 2016

Website: [www.huilimakoua.com](http://www.huilimakoua.com).

**Next Club Activity.** We will be having a pre-summer potluck picnic to be held on **Saturday, June 11, starting at noon at the Camino Real Park in Ventura** (next to the tennis court). **Darrin Ching** has again offered to cook the tri-tip. The park is located at 4298 Dean Drive, Ventura 93003 behind Lowe's Hardware Store. The club is furnishing the tri-tip, rice, plates, cups, and utensils so please bring a potluck dish to share. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on, umbrella or sunscreen for protection, games to play, and musical instruments to kanikapila (jam).

**Past Meeting.** We didn't have a meeting in May so let's make up for it by having fun at the picnic this month.

**Membership News.** A sad note to pass on. Former club president **Gerry Wong** passed away in his sleep on May 18. **Gerry** lived with his son, **Steven**, daughter-in-law, **Cindy**, and grandson, **Devin**, in Fremont, California. **Steven** brought **Gerry** to say hello to some of us who performed at a Ukulele Festival in Hayward (adjoining city to Fremont), on April 24. **Gerry** was in his wheelchair, smiling and waving to us as we exited the backstage of the auditorium. Rest in peace **Gerry** as you join your wife, **Gwen**, in the final chapter of your life. We will miss you.

**Hawaii Sports.** (a). How many of you know the name **Tua Tagovailoa**? Well, **Tua** is a junior quarterback at St. Louis High School (**Ron Wong** and my alma mater) in Honolulu. He was recruited by all the major football colleges and last month he committed to play at the University of Alabama (the defending NCAA champion) even though he still has one more season to play in high school. He has been heralded as one of the best quarterbacks to come out of Hawaii and is being compared to **Marcus Mariota**. Quarterback **Mariota** (also from St Louis High School) was the Heisman Trophy winner from University of Oregon in 2014 and is currently playing in the National Football League for the Tennessee Titans. **Mariota** is the only Heisman Trophy winner from Hawaii. Anyway, now 17 year old **Tua Tagovailoa** is being compared to **Mariota**. (b) A separate but related to the previous story is an interesting side note. Former UH Head Coach **June Jones** was a very successful coach at UH but he left to coach at SMU in Texas and later resigned his position. **Jones** now lives in Hawaii and applied for his former Head coaching job at UH earlier this year but was not selected. **Jones** has since decided to be the offensive coordinator at Kapolei High School in Oahu because he saw a tremendous potential in a freshman quarterback at that school. **Jones** wanted to help this young QB reach his potential. The young QB's name? **Taulia Tagovailoa**. Yep, he is the younger brother of **Tua Tagovailoa** from St. Louis High School. I will be following these two brothers this coming football season. (c) As an added note, I saw the headline in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser that the new UH Football Head Coach (**Nick Rolovich**) made an offer to an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Utah student. I wonder why he doesn't make an offer to **Taulia Tagovailoa**.

**Hawaiian Tidbits.** (a) The Aloha Festival at Northridge Park will be held on June 4-5 from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm at Northridge Park, 10058 Reseda Blvd, 91324, Northridge, CA. Free entertainment (music and dancing from the islands of Hawaii, Tahiti, and Samoa), free parking, and free children activities. Enjoy the delicious food and shop the boutiques from the islands. (b) Hawaii's tourism industry received a boost as Virgin America started daily flights between Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and Honolulu International Airport on May 5. Additional

flights between LAX and Kahului, Maui will begin on June 14<sup>th</sup>. I sure hope this means cheaper air fare between Hawaii and LAX. (c) On average, each person in Hawaii consumes five cans of spam per year. Seven million cans of spam are sold in Hawaii every year, making the state Hormel's #1 market for spam. The Waikiki Spam Jam was held on April 30, 2016 to celebrate Hawaii's continuing love affair with the canned meat. According to a census report, the best place to get your spam musubi in Hawaii is from a 7-Eleven Store. I personally get my spam fix by eating breakfast at McDonald's when visiting the islands. (d) This school year, the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) implemented a U.S. Department of Agriculture pilot program at seven public schools, which will allow all students at those schools to receive free meal service. The program, called the Community Eligibility Provision, allows a school district, a group of schools or a single school to serve free meals to everyone even if they do not qualify for the free or reduced lunch reimbursement. The typical cost of lunches at K-8 is \$2.50. I remember paying 15 cents for lunch in elementary school during my days. (e) The Alondra Park Hoolaulea will be held on July 16 and 17 at Lawndale, California from 9:30 am to 5 pm. There will be continuous Polynesian entertainment, arts & crafts, games, island style foods, drawings, prizes and free health screening.

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### **Mike's Rambling Corner.**

1. While eating breakfast and listening to the radio recently, I was surprised to learn that the State of Colorado, one of a few states legally selling recreational marijuana, collected more in taxes from the sale of marijuana than it collected from the sale of alcohol. Much of the taxes collected from the sale of marijuana went to help support the schools – a positive thing. However, there are some complicated differences between state and federal laws regarding the sale of “pakalolo.”
2. What is the Hawaii State Flower? State Bird? State Fish? State Mammal? State tree? Give up? OK the answers are flower = hibiscus, bird = nene, fish = humuhumunukunukuapuaa, mammal = humpback whale, and tree = kukui. More difficult than the above questions are, what are the national (US) flower, fish, etc? The answers are flower = rose, bird = bald eagle, fish = striped bass (proposed), mammal = bison, and the tree = oak tree.
3. Many hotels, shopping centers and attractions on the Las Vegas Strip offer giant free self-parking garages. However, beginning in June 2016 MGM resorts will charge select parking fees at all its Strip resorts (Mandalay Bay, Delano, Luxor, Excalibur, Monte Carlo, New York-New York, Vdara, Aria, Bellagio, The Mirage and MGM Grand). In downtown, there are lots of huge self-parking garages too. However, it has become more common to pay to park in them, unless you're staying at or patronizing the resort. Sometimes you'll discover a security person manning the entrance. Usually they'll wave you right through. But don't be surprised if you are asked to roll down your window (Smile for the camera!), show ID or open your trunk. That happens. And on busy weekends or holidays, you may have to wait in line before you can drive in.
4. The Camarillo Arts Council will offer free outdoor summer concerts at the Constitution Park, corner of Carmen Drive and Paseo Camarillo. Program includes **Rod Stewart** Tribute on June 4, **George Strait** Tribute on July 9, **Jimmy Buffett** Tribute on August 20, and **Elvis** Tribute on September 10. All the programs start at 7:30 pm, bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. Donations accepted.