

# HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

## HAPPY EASTER!

In trying to translate Happy Easter into Hawaiian, I consulted two dictionaries written by Mary Kawena Pukui, Samuel H. Elbert and Esther T. Mookini. The copyright of the first was 1975 which included Ms. Mookini as a contributor. The second dictionary had 1992 as the copyright from University of Hawaii Press and just Ms. Mookini and Mr. Elbert as contributors.

Here's what I found: "Easter. Ka la I ala hou ai ka Haku (Protestant); Pakoa (Catholic)"

"happy. hau'oli"

So... "HAU'OLI PAKOA" to you Catholics and

"HAU'OLI KA LA I ALA HOU AI KA HAKU" to you Protestants.

(I'm Protestant, but when it comes to the Hawaiian language, I prefer to be Catholic.)

To those of you of other religions, enjoy the festivities of spring, with the colorful Easter eggs, bunny rabbits, flowers, and chocolate which are symbolic of new life. (I don't think chocolate symbolizes new life, but dark chocolate is an anti-oxidant.)

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## Hui Lima Kokua Newsletter, April 2021

By Kay Nakamura

Greetings, I was asked to write a short autobiography so here I go.

I was born and raised in Okinawa, Japan. Okinawa is a prefecture of Japan (like California is a state of the U. S.). Okinawa was under the control of the United States for most of the time I lived there. World War II ended in 1945 and the U. S. occupied Okinawa from 1945 until 1972 whereas the rest of Japan was only occupied until 1952.

As for me, luckily I was born in Motobu, Okinawa, a town located about 50 miles north of the main city. I was still a child when the U. S. military invaded Okinawa in 1945. I was the oldest of 7 children (4 girls and 3 boys). Much of the Battle of Okinawa took place in the south. During the fierce battle, 12,000 Americans, 100,000 Japanese soldiers and 150,000 Okinawan civilians died. About ¼ of the Okinawan population died, many by suicide. The fighting took place in the South, away from where I lived.

After I finished high school, I moved to the city (south) to find work. I found a job working for the U. S. Army as a “local national” in 1964 in the accounting department. I couldn’t speak English and had to learn “on the job” and by taking night classes. I worked for the U. S. Army from 1964 until 1967. During that time my highest pay was \$.50 (50 cents) an hour. The workers from the Philippines were making about double our salary and the American civilians were making much more.

At one of my earlier jobs, I met Mike Nakamura at my working place (Finance Office). Mike watched me bowl in an office league and felt I needed help. He invited me to go bowling with him and his friends on Saturday mornings followed by \$.35 breakfast at the VFW Club. During the weeknights Mike would take me to the American Civilian Club (Lady night would be free meal for ladies, or \$1 steak night, etc.). Mike told me how beautiful Hawaii was and he convinced me to get married and move there. I already knew a little about Hawaii after watching the “Blue Hawaii” movie. When Mike’s 5 year contract in Okinawa was over, he had to relocate back to the states. Instead of going back to Hawaii where he had return rights to a job at Fort Shafter, he applied for jobs in the west coast. Fortunately, Mike got a job at Oxnard Air Force Base in Camarillo in 1968. Camarillo, population of 16,000 at that time, was a great place to live, work and raise a family. We bought a house and have lived here for over 50 years.

We have two sons. When both boys were going to school, I got my Adult Education certificate then attended Oxnard College where I got my AA degree. Then I got a job at Point Mugu as an Accounting Technician. After working a total of 20 years for the Federal Government I retired in June 2001.

Mike and I have 2 sons and one grand daughter. My hobbies include hula dancing, playing the ukulele and tending my garden. Due to COVID-19 we have not traveled anywhere and have limited our shopping to necessities close to home during the past year. We are also involved in meeting and dealing with friends on Zoom. We have been fully vaccinated and will soon be ready to venture out more often.

Take care and “A Hui Hou!”