

HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB

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(SEPTEMBER)

I'm back from the Aloha State and had a wonderful time with "ohana" (family). There were two one-year-old birthday parties a week apart. (Is it a Hawaiian or Asian tradition to make a big deal of a baby turning one?) As usual, there was a lot of "kaukau" (food, but kaukau is not a real Hawaiian word) at the "ho'olaule'a" (celebration). Even though the two different families hosted the events and provided all the food, everyone invited came with something to share. There's nothing like a Hawaiian "luau" (feast) with so many different kinds of ethnic foods. New to me were poi donuts shaped in a ring of connected balls which could easily be broken off and shared. Another dessert called "u-be" was a small, bite-sized shortbread shell filled with a taro and cream cheese filling. Both were so "ono" (delicious). Since we're talking about food, I'm sorry to report that Char Hung Sut, which I mentioned in August's newsletter, no longer exists. I also failed to mention Liliha Bakery, which now has a location at Macy's in the Ala Moana Shopping Center, has great food plus the best coco puffs (small cream puffs with various fillings). After eating so much, one can only say, "Ma-ana!" (I'm full!)

Grocery shopping was literally an eye-opener. "Ekahi lemi" (One lemon) was 99 cents; "ekahi pe a" (one avocado pear), \$3.99; "ke'oke'o a nu'i (white and large) peach, \$4.99 each. Even locally grown fruits and vegetables were expensive. "Ekahi Hayden manako" (One Hayden mango) was \$3.99.

To get from one market to another was a challenge. Oahu traffic is like being in Los Angeles, only worse. There are fewer lanes in Hawaii and the freeway and street signs are either hard to follow or faded to the point of being unreadable. In addition, many street names in Hawaii start with the letter

“K” as in Kamehameha Highway, Kalanianaʻole Highway, and Keeaumoku Street to name a few. I pity “malihini” (strangers, newcomers). By the time they read the long names, they’ve already driven past it. And stopping to ask for directions can be a problem. Islanders give directions by saying, “Go mauka” (towards the mountains) or “go ewa” (west), “makai” (towards the ocean) or Diamond Head (east). Thank God for technology and smart phones with GPS (Global Positioning System). Also, downtown Honolulu has one-way streets which make it difficult for someone who’s not used to driving in heavy traffic. And parking is always a problem. Even if you find a spot, the space allotted for each car is smaller than those in CA.

So it’s good to be home in Ventura which is much less populated than Honolulu. I have ohana in Hawaii, but closer ohana, my “kamali’i (children) “a” (and) “mo’opu’na” (grandchildren), all live in California.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention 29-year-old surfing champion Carissa Moore of Hawaii who won the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics recently. Also, congratulations to the Honolulu Little League baseball team who ranked third in the national finals less than a week ago in Pennsylvania. Hawaii does produce excellent athletes. Why? My theory is that the year-round warm weather allows people to practice their sport year round, whereas in certain parts of continental United States, snow and frigid weather are not conducive to practicing.

Continue to stay safe and healthy. The board of Hui Lima Kokua decided we will not be meeting as a club in September or October. We will keep you posted. Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend.

“A hui hou” (Goodbye),

Lynette Inouye, corresponding secretary

LLinouye@gmail.com, / (805) 758-7387