

# HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

IUNE 2022

Once again athletes associated with Hawaii have made national news. Mahalo\* to the University of Hawaii men's volleyball for winning the national championship by defeating Long Beach State on Apelila 23, 2022.

University of Oklahoma women's softball team placed first nationally, thanks to Hauula, Hawaii, native Joselyn Alo. The Sooners defeated the University of Central Florida on Po'alima (Friday), Mei 27, 8-0; and on Po'aono (Saturday), the 28<sup>th</sup>, 7-1. Her dad who was at the game, gave the shaka sign.

Also, UCLA women's softball coach Kelly Keiko Inouye Perez, flashed the sign during one of their recent games. Although she was born in Los Angeles, she must have Hawaiian roots. She is American and SriLankan.

Ever wonder how the "hang loose" or shaka sign got started? Breanna Forgione of the University of Scranton, wrote "The Hawaiian History Behind the Shaka Sign." A Hawaiian named Hamana Kalili from Laie lost his three middle fingers as a result of a work-related accident at a sugar mill. Because of this tragedy, he could no longer keep his job at the mill. Instead he took a job with the sugar mill's train that ran from Sunset Beach to Kaaawa. Children would frequently jump on the train to ride from town to town. Part of Kalili's job was to make sure kids would keep off the train. When he wasn't looking, the kids would mock him and signal to each other with the hang loose sign.

The shaka sign became popular throughout the world, especially among surfers during the 1960's. This gesture conveys the "Aloha Spirit" of friendship, compassion and peace.

\*Mahalo means thank you and also congratulations

Most of you will get this on Mei 30. Enjoy the weekend, but don't forget to pause and remember those who gave their lives in various wars. Some of you may have relatives who died during the Civil War in the 1860's, during WWI, definitely during WWII, the Korean conflict, Vietnam, the Gulf War and Afghanistan. Because of them we in the United States of America enjoy the freedoms we have today.

But with freedom comes responsibility. We must not abuse our liberty as we have seen in recent days. An 18-year-old young man bought two assault rifles and killed 19 ten-year-old children and two teachers who were trying to protect them. How tragic! Let's continue to uphold the town of Uvalde, Texas, in our thoughts and prayers.

On a lighter note, Po'aono, Iune 11, is our first in-person gathering since Pepelua'li (February) 2020, at Hunan Garden Chinese Restaurant in Oxnard at 11:30 AM. 1621 N. Oxnard Blvd. (805) 988-9395.

E hele mai! (Come!)

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Mele la Hanau to Iune birthday celebrants: John DuBose, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ;  
Ron Wong, the 18<sup>th</sup>; and Kay Nakamura, the 23<sup>rd</sup>.