



# HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER - Kekemapa 2022

## Ventura Hawaii Club Newsletter - December 2022

### Calendar & Upcoming Events

**KEKEMAPA** | December

7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

**10 - Hui Lima Club Meeting -**

**Christmas Program**

25 - Christmas Day

31 - New Year's Eve

### Hui Lima Meeting Location

Club House of the Bonaventure  
10949 Telegraph Road  
Ventura, CA 93004

### Christmas Program: Saturday, December 10, 11am - 1pm

Get ready for our Christmas program! This time we'll be sharing our aloha with the residents of the Bonaventure. Estelle Ichino will be our guest performer and has put together a holiday program for all of us to enjoy. Estelle is a past member of the Hawaiian Club and a talented hula dancer, ukulele player, and singer. Hui members are welcome to join Estelle in the performance, or support in the audience!

After the show, the Hui will have our own Christmas luncheon in the Club House. **Lynette Inouye** will do the honors of providing a ham for us, and the rest of us can contribute a side dish or dessert to accompany the main course.

Schedule: **11a-12p** Performance for Bonaventure Residents  
**12p - 1p** Hui Christmas Potluck

Perhaps plan on arriving a few minutes early to drop off your dish in the Club House, and then one of our Hui members can direct you to the performance area. If preferred, you are welcome to remain in the Club House to help set up during the performance. Mahalo to those who helped with last month's lovely Thanksgiving setting, and to **Leandra Castroni** for her festive and creative centerpieces!

### "Go for Broke!"

It is the 81st year since the attack on Pearl Harbor. It hit everyone hard, and in a multitude of ways. However, in the wake of this tragedy, one of the most famous and highly respected U.S. Military units was formed: the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Hawai'i's own Japanese Americans composed two-thirds of the 442nd Regiment including Daniel K. Inouye, whose careers in both the military and later politics would bring the highest of accolades.

Though Japanese Americans were initially banned from joining the U.S. Armed Forces, their dedication, perseverance, and sharp skill impressed military officials. Eventually, the U.S. War Department formed the all-Nisei combat team (2nd generation; American-born sons of Japanese immigrants). In February 1943, President Roosevelt activated the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, but they were only allowed to serve in the European theater.

Their official motto was "Go for broke!", a pidgin slang phrase borrowed from gambling. It means to put everything on the line to win, which translated most meaningfully in the war effort. These soldiers gave it their all to fight for a country that largely, at the time, did not support them.

To this day, the 442nd Regiment is the most highly decorated unit of their size and tenure in U.S. Military history. Among other incredible honors, Daniel K. Inouye himself received the Medal of Honor and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Collectively, the 18,000 men who served in the 442nd earned at least 4,000 Purple Hearts, 21 Medals of Honor, and 7 Presidential Unit Citations. It is with deep respect and incredible honor that we remember these brave soldiers.

### Aloha `Oe, Until We Meet Again

**Juanita "Kaimana" Pendergrass**, a 50 year member of the Hui Lima Kokua Club passed away on November 16, 2022 due to complications from Alzheimer's / Dementia. She is survived by her husband and Hui member, Bill; daughters Linda and Laurie; son, Larry; and many grand children and great grandchildren. As an active member of the Hawaii Club, Kaimana chaired many Luau events. She was also the leader of the Ukulele Club of Ventura County for 22 years. She was laid to rest at the Ivy Lawn Cemetery in Ventura.

Memorial service was held for Kaimana on November 22 at the Boyko & Reardon Mortuary in Ventura. Many were in attendance at the services, including club members of the Hui - **Mike & Kay Nakamura, Len & Paulette Peterson, Al Beridon, and Ruth Betts**. Live music (ukulele, singing, and hula) and meals from Q & Q Hawaiian BBQ Restaurant were provided. Kaimana will be dearly missed.



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### Hawaiians in the News

**Daniel Ho Inducted into the Asian Hall of Fame** - Six-time Grammy winning music artist and producer Daniel Ho was inducted to the Asian Hall of Fame mid-November this year. Ho is of Chinese heritage, but Daniel was born and raised near Honolulu. He is well-known for his talents on `ukulele and a variety of other instruments, including slack-key guitar. At 54, Ho has released 18 solo albums and produced more than 50 recordings in numerous collaborative efforts. In his career, Daniel has also received three Nā Hōkū Hanohano awards and fifteen Hawai`i Music Awards. It's no wonder *Ukulele Magazine* refers to him as "Hawaii's greatest contemporary musical ambassador" and "one of the most prolific and successful musicians Hawaii has ever produced."

**Reigning 2022 Miss Aloha Hula is the New Face of Nike's N7 Campaign** - Pi`ikea Kekīhenelehuawewehiiekau`ōnohi Lopes is the first kānaka `ōiwi (Native Hawaiian) featured in Nike's specialty N7 collection, which celebrates indigenous people and communities. Pi`ikea Lopes was crowned Miss Aloha Hula in this year's Merrie Monarch Festival, and completed her undergrad studies in `ōlelo Hawai`i (Hawaiian language) at University of Hawai`i Mānoa. She is now working on her Master's degree in teaching.

**The Wind and the Reckoning** - Released in early November of this year, this internationally acclaimed movie recounts the clash between Native Hawaiians and the new governments in 1893, just after the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and amidst the leprosy outbreak. Families were separated and shipped off to isolated colonies, such as Kalaupapa on Moloka`i. Local cowboy Ko`olau, his wife Pi`ilani, and their son Kalei are ensnared in these tragic events and rebel against the provisional government to fight the separation and destruction of Native Hawaiian families. This movie is based on true events from the memoirs of Pi`ilani. By casting Hawaiian actors and having nearly 80% of the dialogue in `ōlelo Hawai`i (Hawaiian language), filmmakers made a deliberate effort to pay tribute to the story's roots.

### "Mele Kalikimaka"

*Origins of the famous Hawaiian Christmas song*

This Hawaiian holiday staple was originally penned in 1949 by R. Alex Anderson. A Honolulu native, Anderson was a popular composer of the musical genre "hapa haole", which features Hawaiian themed music but with mostly English lyrics.

The idea for "Mele Kalikimaka" was inspired by a coworker of Anderson's, who noted that there weren't any original Hawaiian Christmas songs, only ones that were adapted from English or other countries' music. Bing Crosby, who happened to be Anderson's golfing buddy, recorded "Mele Kalikimaka" with the Andrews Sisters and included it on the flip side of his *White Christmas* album in 1950. The rest is history!

Since then, the song has been covered by numerous artists, but personally, nothing hits best like the original.

MELE  
KALIKIMAKA



Have a beautiful & Merry Christmas!

If you have a December / Kekemapa birthday, we wish you ...

HAU'OLI  
LĀ HĀNAU !

May you have a wonderful birthday celebration that is solely yours and not smooshed in with the holidays! 😊

**Hope to see you at our Christmas Program, Saturday, December 10, 11a-1p!**

**Comments, Corrections, Questions, Suggestions?** Feel free to reach out and let me know if you have suggestions for future newsletters, or corrections / comments on previous ones. Leah Kammeyer, [LKammeyer@gmail.com](mailto:LKammeyer@gmail.com), (805) 469-9230