



HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER - Pepeluali 2023

Ventura Hawaii Club Newsletter - February 2023

Calendar & Upcoming Events

Pepeluali | February

2 - Groundhog's Day

11 - Hui Lima Club Meeting & ELECTIONS! Please RSVP.

12 - Super Bowl

14 - Valentine's Day

20 - Presidents Day

22 - Ash Wednesday

Hui Lima Meeting Location

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

HUI ELECTIONS: Next Meeting, [February 11th, 11a - 1p](#)

It's time for our Hui Elections! Board Member Elections and Installation will both take place at our February meeting.

For this occasion, the Hui is providing a mini plate lunch from Q & Q! Please RSVP by Tuesday, Feb. 7 to Mike Nakamura, monakamura@aol.com, (805) 482-1740.

There is still time to volunteer for a board position. Again, the current candidates are:

- President - Darrin Ching
- Treasurer - *Open*
- 1st Vice President - Mike Nakamura
- 2nd Vice President - Leandra & Mario Castroni
- Recording Secretary - *Open*
- Corresponding Secretary - Leah Kammeyer

The term served will be from February 2023 through September 2024. The other two positions, *Adviser* and *Hospitality Chair* are appointed by the Board.

If you are interested in being a candidate and holding a board position, please email / text / call Leah Kammeyer (805) 469-9230, LKammeyer@gmail.com.

Survey Says...

Mahalo nui loa, *thank you very much* for participating in the survey distributed at the last meeting. Below you can see the actual responses, but here's an overview of what resonates within our group.

Two things we all definitely love - FRIENDS & FOOD !! Many of us love the socializing and ono dishes each meeting provides. There is definitely an interest in doing more activities, Hawaiian culture-related or otherwise.

I received 11 survey papers back; here are the responses. I grouped some together due to their similarity. The number next to a response indicates how many times it was mentioned. Some questions were either left unanswered or people were satisfied; those are recorded as N/A.

What do you enjoy about the Hui?

- People/social/fellowship/ visiting (9)
- Food / Potluck (7)
- Culture (1)
- Stories / History Shared (1)

What are you looking to get out of the Hui /

What would you like to see more of?

- Learning Hawaiian Culture, Traditions, Hawaiian-related things (3)
- Food Demos / Recipe Sharing/ Cuisine (3)
- Hawaiian Crafts (2)
- Trips, e.g., art museums, gardens, boat fishing (2)
- Games, e.g., Mahjong, Bonko (2)
- Increased Meeting Attendance (1)
- Community Outreach (1)
- (Become) Closer to spouse (1)
- Babies (1)
- N/A (2)

What would you like to see less of?

- Long-winded meetings (1)
- Less talk, more doing (1)
- N/A (8)

What topics would you like to see in the newsletter?

- People's biographies (1)
- Same thing in last 3 newsletters (1)
- News about Hawai'i (1)
- History of the Club (1)
- N/A (6)

Any other comments/suggestions for the Hui?

- Play for folks (1)
- Background music at lunch (1)
- N/A (9)



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“The Eddie” Returns After 7 Years!

For the first time since 2016, The Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational known as *The Eddie* was finally held last month. The event is rather rare; in its 34 year existence, it’s only been held 10 times since. The contest, held at Waimea Bay in North Shore, O`ahu, requires waves to be consistently larger than 40 feet on its face. After the January 11th date was canceled due to weather, *The Eddie* was a go for January 22nd.

Out of 40 invitees, 27-year-old Luke Shepardson won, scoring 89.1 out of 90 points and beating two-time world champion John John Florence. The contestants were a mix of professional and local legends, competing in front of a crowd of 60,000. Like the competition’s namesake, Shepardson is also a lifeguard hailing from North Shore. In fact, he was on duty throughout the contest and competed in heats during his breaks. He needed permission from his supervisor to compete, and even after accepting his award, he dutifully hurried back to his lifeguard tower to finish his shift.

The Eddie is a tribute to the great Eddie Aikau, from North Shore and the first lifeguard at Waimea Bay, credited with saving over 500 people. He was also an incredible award-winning surfer, known for surfing the *big waves*. In 1973, his younger brother Clyde won the Duke Kahanamoku Invitational and Eddie followed suit in 1977. Tragically, Eddie passed away in 1978 at only 31 years. Aikau was part of the Polynesian Voyaging Society’s crew on the *Hōkūle`a*, reenacting the ancient Polynesian migration between the Hawaiian and Tahitian islands. The double-hulled canoe developed a leak and capsized south of Moloka`i. Eddie took his surfboard and paddled toward Lāna`i in an attempt to get help. The U.S. Coast Guard was actually able to rescue the crew, but sadly, Eddie was never recovered. The Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational was created in his honor, and fittingly, his brother Clyde now supervises the event.

Pepeluali (February) is Mahina ‘Ōlelo Hawai`i - Hawaiian Language Month

Since 2013, February has been celebrated as Hawaiian Language Month. *Mahina* means month (also, moon; tying in the common observation of moon and month cycles), and *‘Ōlelo Hawai`i* of course referring to the Hawaiian Language.

The Hawaiian language itself was banned from the Kingdom in 1896 after the provisional government’s takeover of Hawai`i. Since then, there have been two significant attempts to revive Hawaiian culture. The first renaissance occurred during King Kawika (David) Kalākaua’s reign, as he made efforts to bring back Hawaiian culture, language, and unity. The Hawaiian national anthem, “Hawai`i Pono`i” was penned by King Kalākaua. Despite his efforts, he was outdone by the colonizers who were buying up land and becoming more and more influential in Hawai`i. ‘Ōlelo Hawai`i was often discouraged from the mainstream in favor of English.

In the 1970s, Hawai`i experienced their second renaissance with a renewed interest in Hawaiian culture, music, hula, crafts, ‘Ōlelo Hawai`i, Pidgin, and Hawaiian Studies. Since then, the Hawaiian language has bounced back from near extinction. In an article from *Maui Now*, CEO Kūhiō Lewis of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement indicates that there were fewer than 50 `ōpio (youth, young ones) fluent in ‘Ōlelo Hawai`i just forty years ago, and today over 3,000 students are enrolled in Hawaiian immersion schools, more than 8,000 study Hawaiian at university level, and more than 26,000 people identify as Hawaiian language speakers.

Pepeluali became recognized as Mahina ‘Ōlelo Hawai`i to keep this momentum going. Organizations like the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement will host various events and fairs to celebrate throughout the month to encourage community involvement and future generations of Hawaiian speakers.



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Iconic Aloha License Plate to Retire



There is no clear timeline yet, but the iconic Aloha license plate is set to phase out.

The Aloha plate with the rainbow design first appeared in 1991. New designs are still in the early phases, and it may even take years before the change happens.

What would you choose as a new design?

A big **E KOMO MAI** - Welcome to our newest members, **Carolyn & Bruce Tabor**! We are so excited to have you, & look forward to getting to know you both.

In addition to new members, we love having guests visit as well. **Leandra & Mario Castroni** brought their daughter, **Michele** last month. I personally am sad I missed this because I used to dance hula with her! Ah well, another time, eh?



Happy Birthday to (my) Mama Adele & any other February Birthdays!

Last club meeting, we collected birthdays on the sign-in sheet so we can give monthly shout-outs.

If you missed this, please let me know when your birth month is so we can celebrate everyone!

Hau'oli lā Aloha

Happy Valentine's Day!

Hope to see you at our February Luncheon & Hui Club Elections, Saturday, 2/11, 11a-1p!
Don't forget to RSVP by Tuesday, Feb. 7 for plate lunch!

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, (805) 469-9230