



# HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER - Iulai & `Aukake 2023

Hawaii Club of Ventura County Newsletter - July & August 2023

## Calendar & Upcoming Events

### **`Aukake | August**

- 12 - Hui Lima Club Meeting
- 17 - Special Bonaventure Event (volunteers needed)
- 18 - Statehood / Admissions Day

### Hui Lima Meeting Location

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

## [Next Club Meeting: Saturday, August 12th, 11a-1p. "Blast from the Past"](#)

Aloha kākou! Mahalo for your patience with the newsletter this time. As you can see, the July & August newsletters have been combined, but future newsletters will continue to come out each month.

**Our August meeting is potluck and our program is a "Blast from the Past"!** We are asking each person to bring something from 'back in the day' - could be a yearbook, a photo, or any kind of artifact that may have an interesting story or just demonstrates how times have changed. Each person will be given about 2 minutes to share a little bit about their artifact. Can be Hawaiian-related, or just something from your (or your family's) past.

Our July meeting had a smaller but fun crowd - we played some rounds of Bingo and won some cool prizes! June was an impressive gathering with our Father's Day kanikapila. We had quite a few special guests, whom we hope to see again! Big thanks to **President Darrin Ching** for his amazing tri-tip, and everyone for their delicious sides. Mahalo nui e **Leandra Castroni** for the "Pele's Hair" plant craft as well! Such a talented group we are. 😊

## Club Dues Announcement

Beginning **October 1st, 2023**, dues for the Hui will be increased to the following:

- Single - \$20
- Family - \$30

For any questions regarding membership, please contact Mike Nakamura, 805-482-1740 or [monakamura@aol.com](mailto:monakamura@aol.com).

## Special Bonaventure Request

The Bonaventure is having a special "Spotlight Event" that is Hawaiian themed, and they requested our help with some Hawaiian music and dancing.

This event takes place **Thursday, August 17** from **3p-4p**. If you are interested in participating, please contact **Leah** via text, call, or email by Monday, 8/7; (805) 469-9230 or [LKammeyer@gmail.com](mailto:LKammeyer@gmail.com). If you have a musician or a dancer in mind from outside the Hui, they are welcome, too!

We hope to get some great participation, as this is part of our kuleana (responsibility) to the Bonaventure for allowing us to use their club house for free. Mahalo! 🌺👏

## Queen Lili`uokalani's Royal Standard Returns Home

The Queen's royal standard received a heartfelt welcome as it returned home after 130 years. On July 24, 2023, Queen Lili`uokalani's personal flag was delivered ceremoniously to Washington Place, where she had resided, was arrested, and even confined to after her imprisonment in `Iolani Palace. To underline the significance even more, this was the flag that flew over `Iolani Palace as the Hawaiian Kingdom was overthrown in January 1873.



The flag had nearly been auctioned off in New York, but thanks to the estates of two Hawaiian-based philanthropists, a deal was brokered to obtain the flag. The sale also included Colonel John Soper's personal letters and documents specifically of the overthrow of the Queen; Soper was chosen by Sanford Dole to lead the armed troops in the overthrow, in the case of a violent resistance. Eight years ago, descendants of Soper sold the standard and the 'Soper letters' to Robert Benson, who had put them up for auction in New York. The artifacts were retrieved from Benson for \$60,000.

Queen Lili`uokalani's standard was on display for just that Monday, July 24th. It was led in with a blessing and a procession. It will join other Hawaiian standards in the State Archives, with the hope that it and other flags will be restored one day.



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### Hawai`i Statehood Day

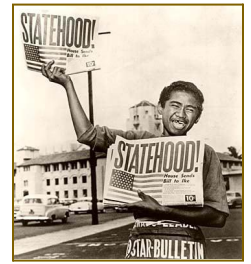


In 2023, Statehood Day for Hawai`i will be observed on August 18th. Every third Friday in August, Statehood Day, or Admissions Day, is observed to commemorate Hawai`i's admittance into the Union.

The Statehood bills for Hawai`i were introduced to the U.S. Congress as early as 1919 by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana`ole. In 1959, Congress finally approved the statehood bill, the Hawai`i Admissions Act, which was later followed by 94% of Hawaiian residents in support of statehood. On August 21st, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the proclamation making Hawai`i

the 50th state. Approximately 140,000 votes were cast and less than 8,000 rejected the Admissions Act of 1959.

However, there is some controversy over Statehood Day because of the sensitive nature of the Hawaiian sovereignty movement. Many Native Hawaiians and people with full or part Hawaiian blood believe that the United States illegally acquired Hawai`i and therefore Hawai`i is not a U.S. state. The Hawai`i sovereignty movement is a grassroots political and cultural campaign to reestablish Hawai`i as an independent nation out of desire for self-determination and self-governance. In 2006, a small group organized by State Senator Sam Slom met at Iolani Palace to celebrate the anniversary of Statehood. A larger group of people, including but not limited to Native Hawaiians organized a protest. The Native Hawaiian group felt that `Iolani Palace was an inappropriate location for celebrating this statehood. The Palace is a deeply meaningful place for Hawaiians as the former home of the last monarchy, and especially that Hawai`i's last royalty, Queen Lili`uokalani was kept under house arrest following her overthrow on January 17, 1893. The Hawai`i Sovereignty movement views both the overthrow of the monarchy and annexation of Hawai`i as illegal. The movement advocates have recognized the problems among native communities which involve homelessness, poverty, economic marginalization and the downfall of native traditions to the lack of native governance.



Today, Statehood Day is quietly observed by the state of Hawai`i, and most state offices and schools in Hawai`i are closed. In the past, President Eisenhower's signature making Hawai`i a state was cause for celebration, but because of the tensions surrounding this holiday, there are more subdued observances rather than major celebrations.

### Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards

Have you heard of the Nā Hōkū Awards? The Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards are similar to the Grammy Awards in recognizing the works in the music industry, except the awards are specifically for music in Hawaiian. Nā Hōkū Hanohano means "Stars of Distinction" in Hawaiian, hōkū meaning "star", and hanohano meaning "glorious". The awards were founded in 1978 by a radio personality for a radio station that focused on traditional Hawaiian music. Winners for the awards are selected by members of a non-profit organization of Hawai`i Academy of Recording Arts that was founded in 1982. The awards take place in May.



There are general categories, such as Album of the Year, Single of the Year, Song of the Year, Female Vocalist of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year amongst others. The Genre spans a few categories such as Island Music, Slack Key, Ukulele Album, Christmas, Comedy, Hip Hop Album, to name a few. Formal judging categories include Haku Mele; songs or chant primarily in Hawaiian language, Hawaiian Language performance; best performance in Hawaiian language, Engineering award; best technical achievement, and International Album of the year; performed by non-U.S. performer whose tracks are at least 75% in Hawaiian language or style.

At this 46th annual ceremony, one of the big winners was Hawaiian recording artist and kumu hula Natalie Ai Kamau`u, which is almost no surprise. Kamau`u has won 13 awards in the past. Yet again, she took home Female Vocalist of the Year, her sixth win. She and her husband also took home Song of the Year, Hawaiian Single of the Year, and Hawaiian Music Video of the Year. Their song "[No Waimea Kealoha](#)" pays homage to the couple's residence in the uplands of Waimea. Ukulele virtuoso Taimane won Favorite Entertainer of the year, the only award determined by public vote. Taimane's "[Pipeline Daughter](#)" and Kris Fuchigami's "[Always Be There](#)" both won Instrumental Composition of the year. You may have heard of Kris Fuchigami who, back in May, held a workshop and performance at Anacapa Ukulele in Ventura!



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## Hau`oli lā Hānau e Duke Kahanamoku!



Hawaiian legend Duke Kahanamoku was born in Honolulu on August 24, 1890. Born as the first in a family of nine children, Duke Paoa Kahinu Mokoe Hulikohola Kahanamoku would grow up to live a life of epic proportions, most notably as the “Father of Surfing”.

By 1911, Duke was making the world his stage. He broke three freestyle world records by 4.6 seconds in Honolulu Harbor. The following year, he won two Olympic medals in Stockholm; he set the record in the 100 meter freestyle with gold, but also won silver with the U.S. freestyle relay. In his lifetime, he won a total of five Olympic medals, three of which were gold. To even further his international fame, he is credited with introducing modern surfing to Australia, New Zealand, and back here on both coasts, the Atlantic and mainland Pacific, especially in Southern California.

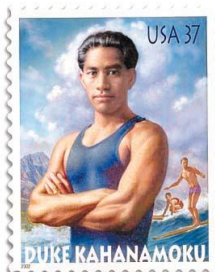
For some time, Duke lived in Los Angeles and was in about 30 Hollywood movies. It was also during this time in the 1920s that his influence made Southern California the premier surf and swim spot. Duke was even a life-saving hero in 1925 when a 40' yacht overturned in Corona del Mar amid massive waves and swells. He and his friends witnessed the tragedy as it happened and jumped into action. With his surfboard, Duke was able to save eight passengers, and his friends another four. Sadly, five passengers passed away. However, Duke's efforts were highly praised and even called “superhuman” as he ferried back and forth from wreck to shore to save who he could. He was nicknamed “The Great American Hero” and “The Great Human Fish”.

After his time in California, “The Duke” returned to Hawai`i. He needed a “real” job, but felt he had no skill outside of the water. He was thrilled when the head of Union Oil offered him a job, saying “he’s not too proud to pump gas.” He ended up running two Union Oil service stations, one of them formerly on the corner of Nu`uanu and Pauoa Roads. This didn’t last long, though, as Duke ended up serving as Sheriff of Honolulu, elected in 1935 and re-elected for 13 terms! In 1940, he married Nadine Alexander, a dance instructor from Cleveland, OH who had been relocated to Honolulu.

Duke's latter years still rewarded him with fame. In 1964, he was an official guest at the Tokyo Olympics. In 1965, he was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame, and in 1966, the Surfing Hall of Fame - making him the first person ever to be inducted into both.

In 1968, Duke Kahanamoku passed away of a heart attack at the age of 77. His funeral service was held at Waikīkī Beach, and drew thousands of people, including politicians, celebrities, surfers, paddlers, and of course family and friends, and others who admired The Duke. His ashes were taken out to sea on a canoe, the *Leilani*, by Outrigger Canoe Club members with whom Duke had led in the 1940s.

Even posthumously, Duke is still remembered fondly. He was inducted into the Olympic Hall of Fame in 1984. In 1990, the famous bronze statue on Waikīkī Beach was installed at the centennial of his birth, and has since been constantly adorned with leis from his admirers. On August 24, 2002, the Postal Service even issued a 37¢ Commemorative Stamp of Duke in Honolulu.



Back in 1960, just after Hawai`i became a U.S. state, Duke had been appointed as Hawai`i's Official Ambassador of Aloha, and what a fitting title it was. In addition to his superhuman physical feats, he had a generous heart and an exemplary spirit of aloha.

His personal philosophy, known as Duke's Creed of Aloha is as follows: *“In Hawai`i we greet friends, loved ones or strangers with aloha, which means with love. Aloha is the key word to the universal spirit of real hospitality, which make Hawai`i renowned as the world's center of understanding and fellowship. Try meeting or leaving people with aloha. You'll be surprised by their reaction. I believe it and it is my creed. Aloha to you, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku.”*

It's no wonder he has always been internationally admired as an incredible athlete and person.







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### SPAM had a birthday, too!

This year marks the 86th birthday of SPAM! The canned pork product was officially introduced as SPAM on July 5th, 1937 by the Hormel Foods Corporation. In the mid-1930s, the original product was just “Spiced Ham” as seen in the picture, but in 1937 came the rebranding to SPAM. On the heels of the Great Depression years, the idea was to create an easy and affordable protein that also had an extended shelf life. Other sources say it was to help increase sales of pork shoulder. SPAM contains six ingredients - pork with ham, salt, water, potato, sugar, and sodium nitrate. Ken Daigneau, brother of Hormel Foods VP, came up with the name in a contest and won \$100. Hormel seems to have kept the official meaning under wraps, but some say the name was shortened from “spiced ham”.



Of course, it was during WWII that SPAM largely became a household name. It became a vital staple for the soldiers’ diet since it was a non-perishable source of protein and easy to deliver. Over one million pounds of SPAM were consumed by Allied forces, and even in later years, the former Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev credited SPAM with saving the Russian army during the war. Of course, not everyone actually enjoyed SPAM; many service personnel had written to Hormel complaining about being served SPAM meal after meal.

The U.S. occupations in various areas during the war also introduced SPAM into the local cuisines of Hawai`i, Guam, Philippines, and Okinawa, to name a few. Today, Hawai`i is the largest consumer of SPAM per capita in the U.S., with 7 million cans bought every year. Internationally, Guam and South Korea are also top contenders for SPAM consumption.

Today, there are quite a few different varieties of SPAM. I personally counted nine distinct flavors on their website, including Maple, Teriyaki, and Turkey Spam, to name a few. Other varieties include Spam Lite with less fat and sodium, and a single serve option.

Loved or detested, SPAM continues to be celebrated and enjoyed to this day. Waikīkī holds an annual SPAM Jam festival in/around the month of April, and did you know there is a SPAM museum in Minnesota? Whether you’re out and about or at home, there’s plenty of ways to enjoy SPAM!



A big WELCOME to our newest Hui Lima Kokua club members:

**Barbara Moore**

**Deby Tygell**

We’re so happy you’re with us, and look forward to getting to know more about you!

To our Iulai and `Aukake birthdays

**Tom Fraser (July)**  
**Arlene Fraser (August)**



We hope you enjoy/ed your celebrations and wish you many more happy birthdays!

***Hope to see you at our August gathering, Saturday, August 12th, 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