



HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER - Kepakemapa 2023

Hawaii Club of Ventura County Newsletter - September 2023

Calendar & Upcoming Events

Kepakemapa | September

Hawaiian History Month

- 2 - Queen Lili'uokalani's Birthday
- 4 - Labor Day
- 9 - Hui Lima Club Meeting
- 11 - Patriot Day

[Hui Lima Meeting Location](#)

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

[Next Meeting: Saturday, September 9, 11a-1p](#)

Aloha mai kākou! Our next Hui meeting is 9/9, and is potluck. Our program is Hawaiian Jeopardy, perfect for Hawaiian History Month!

Be sure to sharpen your knowledge of all things Hawaiian to compete in this friendly game, hosted by **Lianne Frame**.

Prizes will be ready for the winners!



Kepakemapa (September) is Hawaiian History Month!



Hawaiian History Month is a newer observation, just started in 2020 by the Hawai'i Pono`ī Coalition. September was chosen to honor Hawai'i's last Queen and Monarch Lili'uokalani in the month of her birth.

In addition to honoring the last queen, Hawaiian History Month

aims to share the rich history and promote the legacy of the kānaka maoli, or native Hawaiians.

The Hawai'i Pono`ī Coalition hosts in-person and virtual events throughout the month of September to educate and celebrate Queen Lili'u, the `āina, and Hawaiian history.

Our Hearts are with Lāhainā

It has been about a month since the wildfire devastation in Maui, proclaimed the deadliest wildfire in U.S. history for 100 years.

Many of us know at least someone who has been affected by this tragedy. The Hui Board Members are discussing a couple of options to show our support for Lāhainā, as there will be continued need to help rebuild and restore.

In the meantime, if you so feel compelled and are looking for ways to help, you may want to consider the following organizations:

Maui Strong / Hawai'i Community Foundation:

<https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/strengthening/Maui-strong-fund>

Maui Food Bank: <https://mauifoodbank.org>

Maui Rapid Response: <https://mauirapidresponse.org>

Of course, there is no obligation; we are only providing some of the options that we consider legitimate.



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Hau`oli Lā Hānau, Queen Lili`uokalani



Queen Lili`uokalani was born Lydia Lili`u Loloku Walania Wehiwehi Kamaka`eha in Honolulu on September 2, 1838. Her birth parents were Analea Keohokālole and Caesar Kapa`akea, but through the practice of hānai (informal adoption, fostering, nurturing), she was adopted into the family of High Chief Abner Kuho`oheihēpahu Pākī and High Chiefess Laura Kanaholo Kōnia.

An aside: These two were the parents of Bernice Pauahi Pākī, who by marriage became Bernice Pauahi Bishop. That means Queen Lili`u was hānai sister to Bernice Pauahi Bishop! The Bishop Museum was a dedication to the late Bernice by her husband, Charles Reed Bishop.

Anyway, it was in 1877 when King Kalākaua chose his sister as heir-apparent that he changed her name from Lydia Lili`u to Lili`uokalani.

Instead of reiterating the commonly known details of the fate of Queen Lili`uokalani and the Hawaiian Kingdom, let's take a look at the incredible and prolific passion for music she possessed, both for pleasure and purpose.

Queen Lili`u loved music and was a trained singer, choir director, and organist. In her lifetime, she composed over 150 mele (Hawaiian songs and chants). She even composed "The Queen's Jubilee" in honor of the golden anniversary of Queen Victoria in 1887, an event which she also attended.

Other notable mele she composed include "He Mele Lāhui Hawai`i" which means 'Song of the Hawaiian Nation'. King Kamehameha V commissioned its composition to replace "E Ola Ke Ali`i Ke Akua" as their national anthem. The latter was basically "God Save the Queen" and Kamehameha V did not feel that it truly spoke for the Hawaiian people. Queen Lili`u's "He Mele Lāhui Hawai`i" served as the Hawaiian Kingdom's national anthem for ten years. It was then replaced by her brother King Kalākaua's own composition "Hawai`i Pono`ī", which was then adopted as the Hawaiian national anthem, and remains today as the state song.

Like King Kalākaua, Queen Lili`uokalani was keenly interested in preserving Hawaiian culture and serving her people. In 1889, King Kalākaua had the *Kumulipo* printed in pamphlet form and distributed to make it more widely available to the kānaka maoli. The *Kumulipo* is the Hawaiian creation story that is an over 2,000 line chant. While imprisoned in `Iolani Palace in 1895, Queen Lili`uokalani translated the entire chant into English in a preservation effort, since the occupation of Hawai`i was attempting to erase the Hawaiian language and culture. Eventually this translation was published in 1897, and republished years later in 1978 by Pueo Press.

One of her most famous and enduring songs is "Aloha `Oe (Farewell to Thee)". This was originally intended as a mele ho`iipoipo, or love song. Its melody originated in 1877 on a visit to the family ranch of Colonel Boyd, a military official under the Kingdom of Hawai`i. As then-Princess Lili`uokalani and party were leaving, she had witnessed a tender farewell between Boyd and a young Hawaiian woman. When Lili`u returned home, she penned the words and the song was published in 1884. With the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893, the mele eventually became culturally symbolic as a poignant farewell between the Queen and her kingdom, as well as the people and their `āina, or land.

Music was also her solace through difficult and tragic times, and said that even when she was denied an instrument to play with, she would continue to compose on paper with the aid of her voice. In fact, her mele became an instrumental (no pun intended) tool to keep communications with the kānaka maoli of Hawai`i during her imprisonment.

While imprisoned in `Iolani Palace, Queen Lili`uokalani was only granted the company of her lady-in-waiting, Mrs. Eveline Wilson; otherwise no visitors and of course, no contact with the people of her Kingdom, and no news from the outside. However, news was smuggled to Queen Lili`u via the newspapers that wrapped flowers gifted to her by her supporters. Eveline Wilson's son, Johnny played a big role in bringing these gifts to her. Her captors paid no mind because these papers were in Hawaiian. But it was through these newspapers that Queen Lili`uokalani wrote mele carrying messages urging the people to persist; this is how the Queen and her people held their forbidden conversations. She never signed her name to these mele, but the people knew these were the words of their queen. It was only in recent years did the general population realize that the overthrow of the Kingdom was not a quiet concession of power, but that there were fervent conversations of resistance between Queen Lili`uokalani and her people.

Lili`uokalani became Queen in 1891. She was deposed from the throne in 1893, and in 1895, she was arrested and charged with treason, accused of aiding an attempt by Hawaiian Royalists to restore the monarchy's power. Her original sentence, a fine of \$5,000 and five years of hard labor was commuted to imprisonment for eight months in a room in `Iolani Palace. After this, she was under house arrest for five months at Washington Place, her private residence.



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Queen Lili'uokalani. cont'd:

Once released from house arrest, she did not stop fighting for her people. She traveled to Washington, D.C. to lobby against the annexation of Hawai'i by the U.S. Back home, two groups, Hui Aloha `Āina and Hui Kulai`āina organized a mass anti-annexation petition and would eventually send delegates to support Queen Lili`u in D.C. In fact, this lobbying was a successful effort, as they convinced many to vote against annexation. However, in 1898, with the onset of the Spanish-American War, their efforts were reversed as pro-annexation forces won over Congress with the argument that the Hawaiian Islands would be a valuable station in the Pacific, as this war was also being fought in the Philippines.

For the rest of her years, Queen Lili`uokalani would continue to fight for Native Hawaiians' right to their land and their sovereignty.

On November 11, 1917 at 8:30am, Queen Lili`uokalani passed away at her Washington Place residence. Her royal standard was raised over Washington Place to signal her passing. The bells tolled 79 times at Kawaiaha`o Church, one for each year of her life. In the tradition of Hawaiian royalty, she was not removed from her home until midnight. After, she laid in state at Kawaiaha`o Church for the public. On November 18, she received a state funeral in the throne room of `Iolani Palace. A youth choir sang "Aloha `Oe" as she was transported from the palace up Nu`uanu Avenue to the Royal Mausoleum of Mauna `Ala for entombment. Along the way, the crowds joined in the song as the funeral procession moved through. Their last and beloved Hawaiian monarch was gone.

Queen Lili`uokalani left behind an incredible legacy through her work, music, and advocacy for the kānaka maoli. She will forever be Hawai`i's Queen.



Upcoming Local Events:

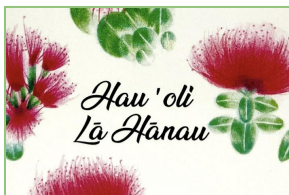
- Saturday, 10/14 & Sunday, 10/15 - **Feather Lei Workshops**, Camarillo (info included via email or hard copy)
- Saturday, 10/14, 4p - 6p - **Kanikapila & `Uke Jam with Lorien Sanders & Da Band**, Camarillo (info included via email or hard copy)
- Saturday, 10/21, 11a-3p - [Ventura County's 150th Anniversary Celebration](#), Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula

HAU`OLI LĀ HĀNAU

to our Kepakemapa birthday:

Lynette Inouye

Have a beautiful day and enjoy your celebrations!



A big **E Komo Mai** -

Welcome to our newest members,
"Queenie" Emperatriz Pinedo-Ortiz & Luis Ortiz



We look forward to getting to know you and are so happy you joined us!

Did you know ...

Hui Lima Kokua has a website??

<https://HuiLimaKokua.com/>

You can find out info for upcoming meetings, archives of the newsletters, and even photos of past events!



Hope to see you at our next meeting, Saturday, September 9th, 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, (805) 469-9230