



HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER - Nowemapa 2023

Hawaii Club of Ventura County Newsletter - November 2023

Calendar & Upcoming Events

Nowemapa | November

5 - Daylight Savings Time Ends

11 - Veterans Day

Hui Lima Club Meeting

23 - Thanksgiving

28 - Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Independence

[Hui Lima Meeting Location](#)

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

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

The next Hui meeting is our Thanksgiving celebration. So far, **Lynette Inouye** will provide the turkey and **Max Hannum** is bringing mashed potatoes, brussel sprouts, and elote corn. The rest of us can bring other accommodating sides or desserts.



Reminder...

We are always looking for people to volunteer their talent, `ike (knowledge), or anything Hawaiian-related to share for future programs.

It can be a presentation on a topic, a person, tradition; it can also be a game, demo or craft, etc.

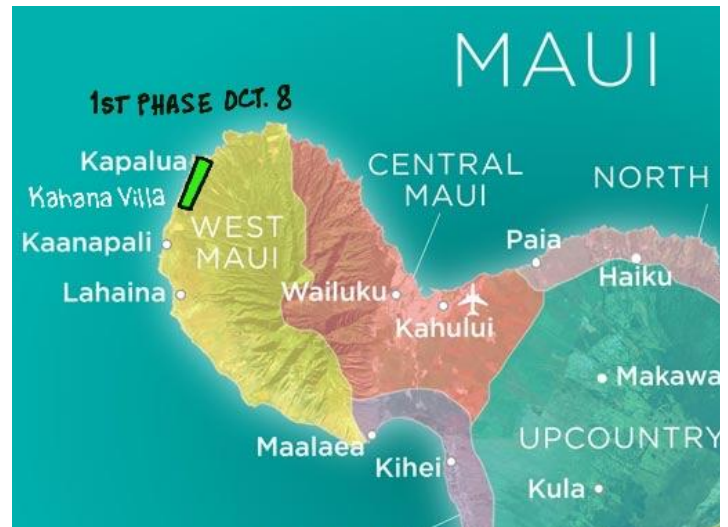
Please reach out to **Leah** LKammeyer@gmail.com, or text/call 805-469-9230 with your ideas. Mahalo!

Lāhainā 3 Months Later

Though we may not hear too much about it in our mainland news, Lāhainā is still struggling to get back on her feet after August's wildfires. Hawai'i Governor Josh Green reopened West Maui for tourism on October 8th, despite many protests from locals and Native Hawaiians. The latter groups plead that it is too soon and Lāhainā and the upper western side need time to heal. Others feel that tourism is the way to get money flow back into the area and jumpstart the recovery process.

After consulting with his Lāhainā recovery team and others, Mayor Richard Bissen decided to modify the governor's decision and open the area to tourism in phases. Some areas did reopen October 8th in the first phase, along the northwestern coast from the Ritz-Carlton Kapalua to Kahana Villa. Since November 1st, all sections of West Maui are reopen, except for burnt-out sections of historic Lāhainā.

West Maui has a long way to go for recovery. If you so feel compelled to help or continue to help, below are a few suggested organizations. Of course, there are many more, but these are a few the Hui have considered. Please note, there is no obligation. If you do donate to any organization, please donate *only in your name*, and not on behalf of Hui Lima Kokua. For any questions, please contact Darrin Ching (DChing32@yahoo.com) or Mike Nakamura (monakamura@aol.com).



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>



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The Makahiki

Though according to our Gregorian calendar we are still wrapping up our year, it would be around this time that the ancient Hawaiians would be welcoming the new year. This was the Makahiki Season, typically lasting four months and marked by the appearance of the Makali'i, or Pleiades constellation, in the eastern sky.

'Makahiki' should be a familiar term, as when we celebrate our New Year, we wish each other 'Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!' The word makahiki can mean a time for celebration, or a calendar year.

For Hawaiians, the year is usually divided into two seasons, kau wela being dry or summer, and kau ho'oilo the wet or winter (sometimes 'kau' itself is used to refer to summer, but generally it means season). There are other seasonal delineations, but those are the main ones. The Makahiki aligns mostly with the wet season. Tradition says that Lono travels from the ancient homeland of Kahiki to the Hawaiian Islands in the ho'oilo season for the Makahiki.

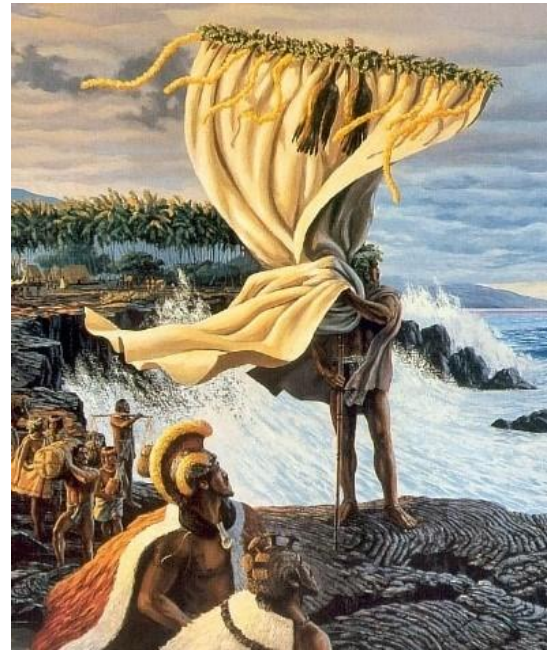
(Fun fact - ancient Hawaiian language sometimes interchanges the letter 'T' and the letter 'K'; so if you replace the 'K's in Kahiki... you get 'Tahiti'. This ties in with the article on Hōkūlo'a from last month, discussing the replication of the ancestral journey from Tahiti to the Hawai'i.)

Ancient Hawaiians and other Polynesians often paid tribute to different gods/deities, or 'akua. During the period prior to the Makahiki, all work was attributed to the 'akua Kū, the male god of war, politics, but also fishing, forests, and more. To note - in terms of war, the ancient Hawaiians honored the courage of warriors and ali'i (nobility) in their conquests, and not the glorification of violence.

The Makahiki transitioned the kānaka (Hawaiians) to a time of tribute, harvest, peace, play, and renewal, as now they honored the 'akua Lono, the god of peace, healing, agriculture, sports, and fertility. The ancient Hawaiians celebrated Lono during the Makahiki with feasting, competitive sport and games, hula, and story telling.

During the Makahiki, the year's harvest was gathered, and offerings or tributes were collected by the ali'i nui (high chiefs), who served as deputies to Lono. They carried an akua loa - like that in the image above - a tall staff with a carving of Lono at the top, and a cross piece draped with items such as white tapa, pala fern, feather lei, and skins of the ka'upu bird (black albatross). The ali'i nui carried the akua loa in a procession around their island - each island had their own Makahiki celebration - collecting the tributes.

At the end of the Makahiki season, an ali'i impersonating Lono sails out on a canoe and returns for a mock battle on land. He deflects the spears thrown his way, and proves his worthiness. After, a wa'a 'auhau (tax canoe) was prepared with provisions from the offerings collected and pushed out to sea; this was intended to be Lono's canoe for the journey back to Kahiki.





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Hawaiian Independence Day, November 28



Lā Kū'oko'a is the Independence Day for the Hawaiian Kingdom. On November 28, 1843, the Kingdom of Hawai'i was formally recognized as a sovereign entity by the United States, England, and France.

With the threat of colonization becoming an increasing reality, King Kamehameha III began to change the structure of how the Hawaiian Kingdom would be ruled. In 1839, he established a declaration of rights which would be incorporated into the first Kingdom Constitution in 1840; he also relinquished his absolute power. By modeling Hawai'i's government after the U.S. and Europe, they hoped that they would be seen as a valid and perhaps equal state.

King Kamehameha III was also strongly encouraged to send delegates to the U.S. and Europe to petition for Hawai'i's independence. These delegates were Timateo Ha'alilio, William Richards, and Sir George Simpson. In December 1842, Hawai'i received their first assurance from President Tyler that the U.S. would recognize Hawaiian Independence. Following their travels to Europe, Hawai'i secured recognition from France and Belgium on March 17, 1843, and Great Britain on April 1, 1843.

As a result, the Kingdom of Hawai'i was recognized as an independent state, and was also entered into Treaties and Conventions with other nations around the world. The translation of "Hae nani o Hawaii / E mau kona welo ana" from the poster at left means, "The beautiful flag of Hawaii, let it forever wave".

Just this year in April, Senate Bill 731 designated November 28 as Lā Kū'oko'a or Hawaiian Independence Day. Although it is not an official government holiday, the day is intended to celebrate Hawaiian culture and identity.

HAU'OLI LĀ HĀNAU

to our Nowemapa birthdays:

Darrin Ching
Martha Christensen



Hope you enjoy your day & your celebrations!

HAPPY VETERANS DAY

With deepest gratitude, we thank you for your bravery, dedication, and everything you've done for our country. We appreciate and salute you always!



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, November 11, 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