



HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER - 'Aukake & Kepakemapa 2024

Hawaii Club of Ventura County - August & September 2024

Calendar & Upcoming Events

Kepakemapa | September

2 - Queen Lili'uokalani's Bday

Labor Day Holiday

14 - Hui Lima Club Meeting -

ELECTIONS

22 - First Day of Autumn 🍂

[Hui Lima Meeting Location](#)

Main Building of the Bonaventure
10949 Telegraph Road
Ventura, CA 93004

[Next Meeting: Saturday, September 14th - 11a-1p](#)

ELECTION TIME for Board Members ! Our next club meeting is potluck in the *main building* again. Please see below section for more information about the elections.

Big mahalo to **Lynette Inouye** for last month's program sharing footage of Hawai'i from the '50s and '60s from her family's home videos. Especially impressive is her memory of all of the people and places we saw! At some point we hope to finish the rest of the video.

Hope everyone enjoyed a fun time in July with kanikapila! It was also **Darrin Ching's** final meeting with us as club president before he heads out to Hawai'i. We hope this is just 'a hui hou' (til next time) and that he'll visit us in the future!

HUI LIMA KOKUA ELECTIONS

It's time to vote for our club officers! **Elections will be held at our September 14th meeting** and installation at our October meeting. These are volunteer positions for one year, October 2024 through September 2025.

Below is a list of Board positions with their current officers:



President - Open

Treasurer - Amy Cherot

1st Vice President - Mike Nakamura

2nd Vice President - Leandra & Mario Castroni

Recording Secretary - Maxwell Hannum

Corresponding Secretary - Leah Kammeyer

If you are interested in serving on the Board in any of the above-listed positions, please contact **Lynette Inouye** at LLINOUYE@gmail.com, or 805-758-7387.

Please note that according to our Hui by-laws, the President must be of Hawaiian blood lineage; all other positions are open to all.

There are two other roles on the Board, *Advisor* and *Aloha Chair*, but both are appointed positions.

Hope to see you at our elections!



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Another Hawaiian Woman Graces Our U.S. Quarters

A special mahalo to **Ron Wong** for bringing this topic to our attention, and for his generosity in gifting us these very quarters at our last meeting. What a special treat!

As of March 2024, we have two Hawaiian women on our U.S. Quarters. The quarters are part of the American Women Quarters program, a four-year program celebrating the contributions of women to U.S. history. In March of last year, they released the Edith Kanaka'ole quarter, honoring her magnanimous legacy in preserving Hawaiian culture. This year, we have Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color voted into the U.S. House of Representatives, and the first Asian American to serve in Congress. Edith Kanaka'ole was the 7th quarter issued in the series; Patsy Mink is the 12th.

Patsy Takemoto Mink is known for her passionate support for equality and equal protections under the law. She is most well-known for her part as principal author of the Title IX of the Education Amendments in 1972. This prohibited sex-based discrimination in academics and athletics at institutions receiving federal aid. Alongside the women's movement, Title IX helped propel women forward in our society. In 1972, e.g., only 9% of law students were women. Forty years later, that percentage grew to nearly half.

She was a fighter for children, women, and those disenfranchised in our society. Patsy was responsible and/or sponsored the first federal childcare bill, bills establishing bilingual education, student loans, special education, and the Head Start program. She was not afraid to stand up, even if it meant crossing her peers.

Patsy herself experienced a long list of discrimination, in various capacities: as a woman, as a Japanese American, and because of her interracial marriage to John Mink. Keep in mind that the bombing on Pearl Harbor occurred while she was a sophomore at Maui High School as well, so racial tensions were especially high.

In pursuing her childhood dream of becoming a doctor, she faced racial discrimination and segregation, along with other women and students of color. All of her applications to med schools were denied,, though she was well-qualified. She pivoted and applied to law school, and was accepted to the University of Chicago Law School, where she would meet her husband, John Mink. Though she passed the bar exam in 1953 and became the first Japanese American woman to practice law in Hawai'i, she faced difficulty getting hired because of her race, because she was a young woman, a mother, and because she married interracially.

Despite her obstacles, Patsy always persisted and fought against the barricades. In the face of discrimination and segregation in college, she and others organized and protested. When no one would hire her as a new lawyer, she set up her own practice and took on cases that other law firms rejected. When people were still reluctant to hire her, she became involved in the Democratic party in Honolulu and became the Chair of the then territory-wide Young Democrats Club. This is where her political career took off.

In 1956, she ran for the territorial House of Representatives, despite discouragement from the leadership who considered her unelectable due to the aforementioned excuses she'd heard before. She ran anyway, appealing directly to the people by walking door-to-door and engaging with voters. Patsy walked the full area of her district, more than half of the land area of O'ahu. Her campaign succeeded and she secured the honor as the first Japanese American Woman voted into the Hawai'i legislature. Two years later, she won a seat in the territorial Senate, another first!



In 1959, just as Hawai'i became a state, she nearly became the first Japanese American, regardless of gender, to be elected to Congress. However, she lost to Daniel Inouye, who had last-minute withdrawn from his Senate run and instead pursued the House under party pressure. However, in her 1964 run for Congress, she won and also became the first Asian American woman to serve in Congress. In 1972, she even sought the Democratic presidential (*cont'd next page*)



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nomination as an anti-war candidate during the Vietnam War. She entered the Oregon primary, but only gained 2% of the votes. Another first for her and others as the first Asian American woman to run for president.

From 1977-1981 under the Carter administration, she was the assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. From 1982-1986, she served on Honolulu City Council. In 1990, she won back her seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, but she was disenchanted with how the political climate had changed. She felt neither Democrats nor Republicans were as open to improving the lives of the people, compared to when she served before in the 1960s and early '70s. Patsy felt like her time now was spent fighting to keep the very programs she had helped set up, like Title IX.

She retained her seat in the House until her passing in 2002 at age 74. She fought hard for Hawaiians, women, and children across the country. Many mourned her passing; it's said even the most hard-headed politicians shed tears for her. She left behind an incredible legacy, and they even renamed the Title IX law to the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act.

Despite this being a longer article, there are actually numerous other challenges and accomplishments Patsy Takemoto Mink experienced in her lifetime! She was an amazing inspiration and trailblazer, well-deserving of her place on our U.S. quarter.

One Year Anniversary of Lāhainā Fires

August 8th marked the one year anniversary since the deadliest U.S. fire in more than a century ravaged Lāhainā.

A large paddle out was organized to honor the 102 people lost, and for the beloved town. Hundreds came out to Hanaka'ō'ō Beach, also known as Canoe Beach, to participate either on the water or beach side. If that double-hulled canoe centered in the picture looks familiar, that is the Hōkūle'a and her crew among the community. Despite their heavy hearts, there was hope and happiness in coming together to celebrate Lāhainā's resilience as well.



The school year just began, but schools closed on August 8th for a day of mourning and reflection, and so students and families could be together. There are mixed emotions; teachers, students, and families welcome the return to school as a sense of normalcy and to be back among peers. However, many families have been displaced and although most are out of hotels by now, many are now living outside of Lāhainā, including places like Kihei and even central Maui, which can be close to an hour or so commute. Families were promised buses to shuttle in the students, but the Department of Education (DOE) pulled one of the routes to Lahainaluna High School at the last minute. Apparently, there is a bus driver shortage across the state.

The iconic 151 year old Lāhainā Banyan Tree is still doing well. It became a symbol of hope early on as signs of life were detected, even though the tree had been scorched by the fires. Arborists and others eagerly volunteered their efforts to encourage its recovery. About half of the tree's branches were lost, but other parts of the tree are growing back.

There are also efforts underway to restore other trees that were lost. It's estimated around 25,000 trees burned in the fires, which included many fruit trees people had in their yards. Duane (*cont'd next page*)



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Sparkman, the chair of Maui County Arborist Committee, created the nonprofit Treecoverly to help restore Lāhainā's trees. They are focusing on restoring the culturally important trees like the ulu, or breadfruit tree.

Though we see the hope and strength of the Lāhainā and Maui communities, there is still a long road ahead, especially with the locals struggling through housing, land, and water crises. Even before the devastation, housing was already an issue. For example, property tax records indicate that 85% of the condos on Maui are owned by people out-of-state, used as vacation rentals for themselves our tourists.

There are talks of cracking down on short-term rentals, but then comes the debate comes in on the loss of tourism dollars. Many wonder where the line is between supporting and respecting local interests but also encouraging tourism money to flow in. Tourism has returned to Lāhainā and the surrounding areas, but obviously by much less, 25% less, in fact. Of course there are mixed feelings about the tourists; some are respectful, others are oblivious or insensitive and, in turn, hurtful to the mourning community.

For the rest of us, the least we can do is continue to support local Lāhainā interests, even by just sharing with others the importance of respect and mindfulness when visiting the area or Maui in general. If you or others plan to vacation there, consider spending time volunteering with the local community as a way of giving back. Keep Lāhainā in your hearts, as they need all the kōkua they can get.



HAU'OLI LĀ HĀNAU

to our 'Aukake birthdays:

Arlene Fraser & Deby Tygell

and our Kepakemapa birthdays:

Connie Louie & Lynette Inouye



Hope you had/ have a beautiful day and enjoy your celebrations!

MEMBER DUES

Payment for membership dues is coming up in October.

\$20 per person, or
\$30 per family

Any membership payments received prior will carry over to the next year.

If you have any questions about your dues, please reach out to Treasurer **Amy Cherot**, atcherot@aol.com.

Hope to see you at our September Meeting, Saturday, 9/14 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