



HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER - Kekemapa & Ianuali 2025

Hawaii Club of Ventura County - December & January 2025

Calendar & Upcoming Events

Ianuali | January

- 1 - New Year's Day
- 11 - Hui Lima Club Meeting & Hawaiian Music & Hula Show
- 20 - MLK, Jr. Day Inauguration Day
- 29 - Lunar New Year

Hui Lima Meeting Location

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

Next Meeting: Saturday, January 11th, 12p - 2p

HAU'OLI MAKAHIKI HOU! Happy New Year! Our next Hui meeting is Saturday January 11th, but **please note the time difference: 12p-2p**.
*** Board Members only - please note we will hold a Board Meeting at 11:30a prior to our potluck.***

The Hawaiian Music & Hula performance, rescheduled from November, will take place after our potluck meeting. The Hui will meet in the Club House for our potluck. At 2p, we are invited to enjoy music in the main building from Lorien Sanders & Da Band. At 2:30p, Kumu Rona Koe & her Hālau Hula O Pualanina'auali'ioha will perform kahiko (traditional) and 'auana (modern) hula. Around 3:15p, the show will close with the song, "Hawai'i Aloha". Bring your 'ukulele to play along in the audience!

We had a lovely holiday celebration at our December meeting. I apologize for the technical malfunction, which prevented the musical play and sing-a-long. Thankfully, Lynette Inouye's guests, Barb & Gary, saved the day with their professional holiday entertainment. Hope everyone had their own happy holiday season!

Rare Surf Event "The Eddie" Took Place for the 11th Time in 40 Years

The best surfers around were lucky enough to get called to the Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational on December 22, 2024. Not only is the event by invitation only, but no one knows for sure if it's going to happen until the days of when it's confirmed a big swell has arrived. The window for the competition was December 14, 2024 - March 13, 2025 at Waimea Bay on North Shore O'ahu. The surf must consistently reach 40 feet within the slated window of time for the event to occur, which is why The Eddie is such a rare event. While the last Eddie did occur last year in 2023, the previous one happened in 2016, and prior to that, 2009!



Forty-five competitors, composed of 35 men and 10 women took to the water this year. This year's winner was 28-year-old Landon McNamara, North Shore native surfer and musician. McNamara has surfing in his blood, as his father Liam and uncle Garrett were both professional surfers. Garrett, in fact, set a world record by surfing a 100 foot wave in Portugal, 2013. People say that Eddie chooses the winner. Elated from his win, McNamara expressed his gratitude, saying he felt like Eddie was guiding him the whole day. He mentioned that in both his heats, he was following a turtle, and to him it felt like a sign from Eddie that he chose him. McNamara won \$50,000 and 350,000 Hawaiian Airlines miles.

The Eddie is named in honor of Eddie Aikau, legendary surfer and lifeguard at Waimea Bay. He was Waimea Bay's first lifeguard and credited with saving over 500 lives. The local phrase, "Eddie would go" was coined in admiration and respect for Eddie's compassion and bravery, putting everyone else before him. His tragic disappearance in 1978 came while he was a crew member aboard the Hōkūle'a canoe. Disastrously, Hōkūle'a capsized in the Moloka'i Channel, and Eddie tried paddling out to Lana'i to get help. Eventually, the rest of the crew was rescued by the Coast Guard, but Eddie was lost at sea. The largest air-sea search in Hawaiian History ensued, but he was never seen again. His selfless and enduring spirit is always remembered fondly and with aloha.



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Noland Keaulana Receives the Kahiau Award

The last newsletter covered the story of Noland Keaulana, Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) member and Waimea Bay lifeguard rescuing a 17-year-old kayaker stranded in the ocean for 11 hours. During opening ceremonies for The Eddie, Noland Keaulana was awarded the Kahiau Award, presented to him by PVS CEO & master navigator Nainoa Thompson.



The Kahiau Award is presented to those who embody the meaning of *kahiau*, which is to give from the heart with no expectation in return.

Thompson spoke of Keaulana's incredible selflessness and his deep compassion for others, as well as his keen intuition and brilliance on the water. Thompson and Keaulana were in close contact the night of the teenager's rescue; Keaulana having asked Thompson permission to use a PVS boat to get out on the water, and also for guidance and as a sound-off board. Thompson likened Keaulana to Eddie Aikau, both being lifeguards at Waimea Bay, but also for that "Eddie would go" spirit. Thompson teased Keaulana endearingly, saying he was fearless on the water but afraid of public speaking. It's clear that Keaulana is incredibly humble and genuine, an excellent choice for the Kahiau award. In an interesting coincidence, the 17-year-old that was rescued is named Kahiau Kewai!

Nainoa Thompson's dedication to Noland Keaulana can be viewed here on youtube:
<https://youtu.be/XtMVxo-hYb0?si=aqzRtnq7ttRVxbl7>

Former President Jimmy Carter Leaves Behind a Humanitarian Legacy

The U.S. and others worldwide mourn the loss of former President Jimmy Carter since his passing on December 29, 2024.

Former President Carter will be remembered for his dedication to humanitarian efforts, including work through The Carter Center, which operates in 80+ countries advocating for improved health and mental health care, education, and improving economic opportunities, as well as Habitat for Humanity and the Carter Work Project (an annual Habitat for Humanity building event). He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2002 for his efforts to promote conflict resolution and human rights worldwide.

In 2024, he celebrated both his 100th birthday and his 40th year anniversary of the Carter Work Project. He was the longest-living president in U.S. history. The former president will be honored with a state funeral on January 9th, which has been proclaimed as a national day of mourning. Flags will remain at half-mast in his honor for 30 days, until January 28th. Carter will be laid to rest next to his wife, Rosalyn at their longtime Georgia residence.

DUES REMINDER

Please ensure you are caught up on your dues - check with Treasurer Amy Cherot, atcherot@aol.com or 805-377-0824.

Happy Lunar New Year ! January 29th

According to Chinese Zodiac, it is the Year of the Wood Snake. The snake represents intelligence, strategy, and elegance, but with the added wood element, it also signifies creativity, adaptability, and long-term planning.



Hope to see you at our January Meeting, Saturday, 1/11 12p-2p!

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