



# HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER - Iune & Iulai 2026

## Hawaii Club of Ventura County - June & July 2026

### Calendar & Upcoming Events

#### Iune | June

- 11 - King Kamehameha Day
- 13 - **Hui Lima Kokua Meeting**
- 19 - Juneteenth
- 21 - Father's Day
- Summer Solstice ☀️

### Hui Lima Meeting Location

The Club House at The Orchard  
 10949 Telegraph Road  
 Ventura, CA 93004

### Next Meeting: Saturday, June 13, 11a-1p

Our next meeting is potluck in the Club House and we'll be doing a plant exchange. If you would like to participate, bring any cuttings or propagations you're willing to give away. No need to purchase anything - just bring what you have.

A big mahalo to **Bruce & Carolyn Tabor** for bringing their Tai Chi instructor, Fred Chase for an introduction to this ancient martial art and modern practice for May's meeting. It was great to get up and get the body moving. If you are interested in meeting up for Tai Chi with Fred, he holds sessions on Wednesday & Friday mornings from 10:45am - 12:15pm at Ventura Church of Christ, 5401 Bryn Mawr St., Ventura 93003, and Wednesday afternoons at The Orchard Club House from 1:30p - 3p. Classes are free, but donations are accepted for gas since he drives out from Ojai. To reach out directly to him, please contact Fred Chase (805) 705-9087, [fchase@gmail.com](mailto:fchase@gmail.com)

For July's meeting, we are planning a kanikapila - start thinking about what music you'd like to play, sing, and dance to!

### King Kamehameha I Day

June 11th is King Kamehameha Day, to honor King Kamehameha I, or Kamehameha the Great. This year, the lei draping on O'ahu will take place on Friday, June 12, and the Kamehameha Day Parade will be on Saturday, June 13th.

In 1871, by royal decree, King Kamehameha V declared a national holiday to honor and celebrate his grandfather, the unifier of the Hawaiian islands, and the first king of all the islands. However, the kānaka maoli originally wanted to commemorate the legacy of their king, Lot Kapūaiwa (King Kamehameha V) on his December 11th birthday. Being the humble king he was, he redirected the holiday to honor the first Kamehameha on a somewhat arbitrary day, June 11th, since it was the furthest from his own birthday. The first Kamehameha Day was celebrated in 1872.



Youth from the Papākoia Community Association conducting the King Kamehameha Lei Draping at the 2024 celebration

The theme this year is "E kū, e ho'ololi": Stand upright and change [unpleasant] conditions. The phrase carries a message of resilience, dignity, moral courage, and active transformation in difficult times. Many take this message to heart in the face of recent tragedies, like the fires in Lāhainā and the intense flooding from the Kona lows, but also the longtime struggle to keep the Hawaiian identity and culture alive and perpetuated for future generations. It's a reminder for the Hawaiian people to stand firm in their beliefs and culture, and keep working to improve and strengthen their communities.

### Local Hula Group Headed to Kaua'i Festival in November

Hula Anyone, the Polynesian dance group based in Santa Barbara, is headed to Kaua'i for the annual Eō e 'Emalani i Alaka'i Festival in November. Led by Angelita Eller, the group hopes to fundraise \$75,000 for their trip with the invitation to dance among other hālau in the famous Kanaloahuluhulu Meadow in Kōke'e State Park.

The trip marks their Diamond Jubilee, a 60 year milestone in Hula Anyone's history. Founded in the 1960s by Kumu Hula Mahealani McFarland held classes for all ages in Santa Barbara. Although known as a Kumu Hula (Hawaiian hula master),



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McFarland taught different kinds of Polynesian dance and their group performed locally in various hospitals, nursing homes, and at other community engagements. However, after several years, McFarland needed to return home to O’ahu for a family emergency. McFarland left her group in the care of Angelita Eller, who has since been the leader and teacher of Hula Anyone. Eller continues to lead Hula Anyone, teaching, preserving, and perpetuating the traditions of Hawaiian hula and Tahitian dance. They continue to engage the community at various events, such as the Santa Barbara Summer Solstice Parade, Concerts in the Park, and Santa Barbara theatres like the Granada, Lobero, Soho, and more. To find out more about Hula Anyone, you can visit <https://www.hulaanyone.com/>.

## Queen Emma’s Sojourn

Kaua’i’s Eō e ‘Emalani i Alaka’i Festival that Hula Anyone is preparing for is held in honor of Queen Emma Kaleleonālani Na’ea Rooke. Also known as Emalani, Queen Emma was beloved by the kānaka maoli for her efforts to preserve the Hawaiian identity in the mid-1800s, a time when foreigners were laying claim to Hawai’i’s lands. She is most well-known for establishing the Queen’s Hospital in 1859 to care specifically for kānaka maoli suffering from the diseases introduced by foreigners. She was known to personally visit patients when she was in Honolulu.



Queen Emma was the wife to King Kamehameha IV. They married in June 1856 and their son Prince Albert Edward Kamehameha was born in 1858. Tragically, their son passed away at four years old in 1862 from what is thought to be meningitis. King Kamehameha IV was so consumed with grief and depression that it allowed his chronic asthma to overcome him. He became increasingly reclusive and his health steadily declined until he passed away the following year, 1863 at only 29 years of age. When her son had passed, Queen Emma took on the name Kaleleokalani, meaning “flight of the heavenly chief.” When her husband passed, it changed to Kaleleonālani, “flight of the heavenly chiefs”; the change from *ka* to *nā* reflected the two deaths.

Imagine the immense grief of Queen Emma in losing her young son and husband, not to mention in such a short amount of time. In 1870, after philanthropic travels to fundraise for local religious schools and a cathedral, she settled briefly in Kaua’i in hopes of finding healing. She lived at Mauna Kilohana in Lāwai’i on the South Shore, overlooking the Lāwai’i Valley and ocean. During her four-month stay in Kaua’i, she is known for an incredible journey into the uplands of Kōke’e and the Alaka’i wilderness. She dreamed of seeing the beauty of the Kōke’e forests (now Kōke’e State Park) and the Kilohana Overlook, which she’d heard stories about from her late husband. Joined by 100 people and led by an elder named Kaluahi, they rode horses up the steep paths above Waimea Canyon and traversed through the Kōke’e forests and Alaka’i Swamp over the course of two days. The group camped in the Aiponui forest in the cold and damp night, with four men building a bed of lehua branches for the Queen. Queen Emma stayed awake most of the night singing traditional mele (songs, chants), and while conditions were cold and uncomfortable, it brightened the party’s spirits to hear her sing these ancestral mele.

It was the next morning when they finally reached the Kilohana overlook, 4,000 feet above sea level, with breathtaking views of Wainiha Valley and Hanalei. When the party came down the mountain into Waimea, the whole town came to honor Queen Emma and held a big lū’au to celebrate her trip. They played music and danced hula for her, and also listened to stories of her big adventure, with the festivities going late into the night. The stories of her journey spread through the islands and she became known as the traveler of the mountains.

While the trip in itself was quite a feat, the Queen singing mele, and participating in festivities with traditional Hawaiian music, hula, and foods inspired the kānaka maoli, especially in these times when foreign influence was powerful on the islands. They knew she was a Queen of the people.

## Eō e ‘Emalani i Alaka’i Festival

Since 1988, the Eō e ‘Emalani i Alaka’i Festival held in Kanaloahuluhulu Meadow celebrates that grand lū’au held for Queen Emma after her journey through the mountains. The festival begins with a reenactment of Queen Emma’s procession, including her attendant and the guide Kaluahi, arriving at the meadow on horseback. Many hālau and hula groups like Hula Anyone have their





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performances throughout the day. Various vendors and workshops are available to the public. Have any of you been to this festival?

There is much more to Queen Emma Kaleleonālani's life and legacy, but that is for another time. 😊🌺

### AI-Generated Music in HNL Airport

With endless local talent found all over the Hawaiian islands, imagine the disappointment in traveling through Daniel K. Inouye International Airport and hearing unfamiliar, island-themed music only to realize that it is AI-generated.

In late 2025, Honolulu airport put 17 AI-generated songs in rotation that play at the top of each hour. While it doesn't replace the more traditional playlist still featured, many are critical of the use of AI, especially in this particular context. Some are disappointed in the lost opportunities for a state agency to support local performers, and others criticize it as being lazy. Another major cultural concern is that this is an artificial or misrepresentation of Hawai'i for people who have never experienced Hawaiian culture or been to the islands. For a culture with such prolific musical talent, it's almost insulting not to use the plethora of options available.

The good news is that no state or taxpayer funds were used to create the 17 AI tracks, while the Hawai'i Department of Transportation does pay an annual fee of around \$10,500 for a playlist that does feature traditional artists. There is still some live Hawaiian music and dancing at HNL and the other airports throughout the islands.

What are your thoughts? Is AI music okay to use for this kind of purpose, or should there be better efforts to use the local talent available?

### Upcoming Festivals

**Oxnard Obon** - Saturday, July 11, 1pm-8pm. Free Admission! Enjoy Bon Odori (traditional Japanese folk dance), Taiko performances, food, and more! Located at the *Oxnard Buddhist Temple, 250 South H St., Oxnard, 93030* <https://www.oxnardbuddhisttemple.org/activities/obon>

**Alondra Park Ho'olaule'a** - July 18-19, Sat. 9a-5p, Sun., 10a-4p. Free Admission, but paid lot parking. Enjoy this Hawaiian cultural festival, with hula performances all day long, and plenty of island food and vendors to shop! Located at *Alondra Park, 3850 Manhattan Beach Blvd, Lawndale, 90260* <https://hiccsc.com/alondra-park-ho%E2%80%98olaule%E2%80%98a>

### Hawaiian Airlines May Day 2026 presented by Bishop Museum

In case you missed it, **Mike Nakamura** shared with us a May Day program featuring Robert Cazimero and Keali'i Reichel, as well as their respective hālau, Hālau Nā Kamalei and Hālau Ke'alaokamaile. Keauhou also performed as the musical backdrop to the 'auana hula.

Such a beautiful program - lovely, very well-done, and entertaining! Interviews with Kumu Robert Cazimero and Kumu Keali'i Reichel are endearing to watch, as the two greats are in humble awe of each other.

You can watch this program at the link below:

<https://stream.mele.com/hula-around-the-world/events/hawaiian-airlines-may-day-2026-presented-by-bishop-museum>

### **HAU'OLI LĀ HĀNAU**

to our Iune

**Carolyn Tabor  
Kay Nakamura  
Ron Wong**

& Iulai birthdays!

**Liz Awa  
Tom Fraser**



*Hope everyone has a beautiful day and enjoy your celebrations!*

**Hope to see you at our June meeting on Saturday, 6/13 from 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*