



NĀ MEA HOU

News and Stories from the Maui Historical Society

Something New

Summer 2022 | Wailuku, Hawaii

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Aloha mai kākou!



Sissy with Kekoa Enomoto

May Day is Lei Day in Maui Nei. Welcome to May, the month of Lei Making, Lei Wearing, and Lei Giving. To start off this incredible month, we hosted our first "in person" 8th annual Lei Day Heritage Festival in two years. Our last "in person" one was in 2019, and in 2020 and 2021, we kept the tradition alive, by hosting virtual events. We had a wonderful event on Sunday, May 1, 2022, with a heartwarming turnout of kama`aina and visitors alike. A time to honor a rich Hawai`i tradition and begin to celebrate and come together in community, as we learn to live and adjust to "life with Covid-19". In our February newsletter, we challenged our readers to share their feelings and insights about the idea and concept of ALOHA. Mahalo to everyone who submitted their thoughts on aloha. We are happy to announce that the winner of the Aloha Contest is Dr. Anik Cockroft. Anik and her family joined us on Lei Day as she shared her piece, Oceans of Aloha. Please enjoy the heartfelt words in Anik's labor of love in this newsletter.

Following the Lei Day Heritage Festival, we closed the museum for the month of May in preparation for the long-awaited ROOF RENOVATION. With the generous financial support of the LH Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation and the work of the Haleakalā Solar and Roofing Company, this major project is underway. We are thrilled to be in Phase 2 of the project now and look forward to the reopening of our museum in June.

Be on the look-out for opening information and details. As we start to move into the summer, our hope is to lengthen our days of operation slowly and steadily. Please visit our MHS website for appointment reservations and new information about upcoming events and details. You are also able to visit your MHS social media platforms via Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

The MHS 2021-2022 fiscal year will be completed on June 30, 2022. As the 2022-2023 fiscal year begins on July 1, we hope you will continue to support us in our work as well as at events including the upcoming MHS annual membership meeting and the induction of the new MHS Board of Trustees.

As the school year comes to an end and the start of summer arrives, here's to a productive and memorable summer. Mangoes are in season and the hot summer weather is upon us. Nui ka le`ale`a I ka wā Kauwela... Lots of fun in the season of Summer.

- Sissy Lake-Farm, Executive Director of the Maui Historical Society

Photos from Lei Day Heritage Festival -

Top L-R: Sissy and Doll Aricayos; Kekai Kahokukaalani, Artist and owner of Kapa Curious
Bottom L-R: Lei making with Kalena and ladies of Ku'u Lei; Lauhala with Gail Kuba; and Adaptations Dance Theater members, Jen Cox, Hallie Hunt, and Katie Istavan



ALOHA CONTEST WINNER



From Right Anik Cockroft, with Keiki Camden Makaia & Cruz Kekoa & Husband J.D

I wrote a children's book called "Oceans of Aloha" which was born out of my experience caring for the keiki of Hawai'i as a Pediatrician and as a Mama of 2 who loves reading to her own keiki. To me, Aloha is a choice, an invitation, and a reverent way to flow and connect with nature and the relationships that surround us. This book was written from a place of deep admiration I have from being shown aloha, and my own choice to live with and practice aloha in my daily life. To me, living with aloha is an intentional choice, a spiritual way of existing in gratitude and flow for the prosperity of the island around us, and the charisma we can cultivate in our conversations and interactions with one another. Aloha is both verbal and nonverbal. It exists in nature instilling awe within us. It is perpetuated by those who choose harmony with creation. Keiki often lead the way with aloha in their curiosity for the world around them, and in their vulnerability and authenticity in interpersonal interactions. I feel that the Aloha spirit flows out from the waters surrounding Hawai'i and can be practiced by anyone living anywhere, with the Hawaiian people and those who have come before us leading the way. Aloha is thus a movement and a healing vibe that has a powerful impact not just in the Islands, but in the world as an interconnected 'ohana. I hope to release these words out into the wild in book form this year!

Anik Cockroft, D.O.

(Dive in to "Oceans of Aloha" by visiting www.mauimuseum.org)
Creator Mama Mindset @
www.mamamindset.com
Instagram @dranickcockroft

2022 LEI DAY HERITAGE FESTIVAL

After two years of virtual events and too many zoom meetings to count, on May 1st, 2022, the Maui Historical Society celebrated May Day with a flourish of floral festivities. While the day was spiced with scattered showers, the rain didn't put a damper on anyone's spirit as everyone was treated to live music, lei making, and a variety of cultural activities.



Leis have a long history in Hawai'i. Between the 8th and 14th centuries, early Polynesians voyaged to the Hawaiian Islands adorned with a variety of vines and flowers woven into fragrant and colorful leis. The Hawaiians, ever the innovators, took the idea of the lei and wove it into their own unique culture and traditions. Soon enough, leis were worn by the maka'ainana and the ali'i alike for ceremonies, celebrations, or just to enjoy the day with a bit of beauty.

This year's May Day was filled with beauty. As the music of Jordan Soon, Kūikawā, and George Kahumoku filled the air, guests were encouraged to attend the various workshops offered along various parts of the Hale Hō'ike'ike grounds. There were lauhala crafts with Gail Kuba, ulana 'ie with Ed Lum and Jeff Donohue, and natural dyes with Kekai Kahokukaalani. Adaptations Dance Theater members, Jen Cox, Hallie Hunt, and Katie Istavan, treated everyone to an interpretive dance set to dynamic music spiced on top of humorous and touching interviews with longtime and beloved Maui Historical Society Board member, Walette Pellegrino. Even this month's Aloha contest winner, Anik Cockroft, had her moment in the rainy-day sun, as she read an excerpt

from her winning piece and gave everyone in attendance a small preview of her upcoming children's book *Oceans of Aloha*.

As to actual lei making, people of all ages wove a variety of flowers, from blue jade to plumerias, at our lei making table. By the end of the day, almost everyone was adorned with a unique lei they either made or had been given. Leis are generally thought of as a symbol of love – flowers, feathers, greenery, etc. being woven into a circle of aloha which honors the person receiving it. The congenial giving and receiving of leis is what poet and creator of the official "Lei Day," Don Blanding, had in mind when he first suggested the celebration in 1927. The idea quickly took root throughout the islands and by 1928, Hawai'i marked its first May Day at the Bank of Hawai'i in downtown Honolulu. From then on, May Day grew in size and celebration – quickly becoming an annual Hawai'i staple.



Lei Contest judges—Lopaka White, Aunty Walette Pellegrino, and Daryl Fujiwara

The actual lei contest at the museum was split into three categories: Fresh Foliage, Natural Material, and Recycled. The three judges based their scores on technical difficulty, originality, overall beauty, cohesive theme, and technique. Deciding on a winner was easier said than done, as all the submissions this year were beyond amazing. The overall winners of each category were Miki Pō'aipuni (fresh foliage), Jocelyn Costa, (natural material), and Linda Tesar Amimoto, (Recycled Materials).

All of the many activities and excitements allowed everyone to experience the intrinsic sense of community behind Lei Day. Hopefully, this May Day celebration is only the start of the resurgence of collaborative community events hosted at Hale Hō'ike'ike.

Visit mauimuseum.org to read an interview with Sissy Lake-Farm about May Day and the deep Hawaiian spirituality that surrounds the cultural practices of lei, lei making and lei receiving.

Kākau - Part 2



Keone Nunes and assistant at Hawaii Tattoo exhibit August 6, 2017.

Part II of our two-part series on the history and renaissance of Native Hawaiian Tribal Tattoos.

Upon the arrival of missionaries to the Hawaiian Islands in the 1820s, the traditional work of kākau was highly condemned. Seen as an act of the devil and symbols of sorcery, much of this body art form vanished. While there are some sketches and drawings documented by Captain Cook's crew during the initial contact period, kākau uhi was almost lost to history. Until recently, little was known about traditional motifs, patterns and the ceremony behind kākau uhi (tattooing) but it has since been revitalized with the help of our Polynesian neighbors.

The rebirth of kākau uhi begins with Su'a Sulu'ape Paulo, a traditional master tattooist (Tufuga ta tatau) from Samoa. He gifted Keone Nunes, from O'ahu, a set of tattoo tools in 1998. With that, Keone Nunes began the process of reintroducing this indigenous knowledge to the Hawaiian people. Nunes was the first Hawaiian in over 15 decades to practice this indigenous art form. He is more cultural practitioner than tattoo artist, as the ceremonies he performs are rooted in thousands of years in Hawaiian history. He has gained many haumāna (students) over the years, with interest still growing today.

The work and the ceremony is simple. It takes many hands to calm the body and stretch the skin while the skin is hahau (struck) with rhythmic taps to create mōlī (any straight line separating in tattoo pattern). This raw process allows the person receiving the tattoo to feel the pain that their ancestors felt, bringing about a spiritual connection to them. The tools used to perform kākau are created individually for each person. In the old days, these tools would be burned or destroyed shortly after as the blood of an individual was considered highly sacred. Today, they are often gifted to the person who receives the tattoo for use in their next kā uhi, or as heirlooms for their family members.

Often times the work can either be done with a modern tattoo gun, or in the traditional method of tapping. It is a sincere, deep and personal process between the tattoo master and the individual receiving the tattoo. Kahuna Kā Uhi (master of the art of

traditional Hawaiian Kākau) are not given to just any person who can claim Hawaiian descent. The individual must prove they are ready, and that they have earned their tattoo. Usually there is a long interview process in which a connection between the Kahuna Kā Uhi and the individual is forged. With the ability to show kuleana (responsibility) in adulthood and being able to represent the Hawaiian ancestry to the world, one is deemed ready to undergo the kākau process. Samson Harp, highly respected owner of Pacific Rootz Tattoo on Maui says, "If you wear it poorly, it reflects poorly on people who wore it before you and who wear it today."

The most sacred and traditional style of Kā uhi today are genealogy tattoos, or alaniho. This form of kā uhi gives the individual a deep-rooted connection as a kanaka to their ancestors. These genealogy tattoos usually fall up on left leg because it refers to the mother's lineage and the former matrilineal society of the Hawaiian kingdom. To many, the right side of the body is considered the masculine side while the left is feminine. Your mo'okū'auhau (family lineage) is extremely important in the design of the tattoo. Your family name explains which side of the island that you came from. In turn, your kā uhi is then designed with motifs that are representative of your ahupua'a (land division extending from the uplands to the sea) and your 'ohana (family) lineage, in addition to unique pieces which are added to represent the individual receiving the tattoo. While many family members share the same genealogy, they are not the same person which is why their alaniho (genealogy tattoo) will differ slightly. Kā uhi on the hands, tongue, face, arms, chest and legs are also found today and historically.

The designs of the kā uhi are a mix of motifs derived from traditional styles and modern styles. This combination of tradition and elevation allows Kahuna Kā Uhi to work with what they know and make the best sense of it. They go into the process with a conscious effort to figure out how it works aesthetically with that person. In this process there can be multiple layers of meaning and while multiple individuals may wear the same design, it can be for different reasons.

On Maui, Samson Harp speaks of his experiences tattooing the next generations of Hawaiians, "with three to four generations being tattooed, it becomes their family tradition. From my side, it's the greatest privilege, honor, and love, being a part of one massive bonding and confirmation that four generations find one common desire to all experience the same thing." These strong traditions of Hawaiian ancestry create a huge responsibility on the craftsmen and the wearers of the kā uhi. Today, they are representative of a lost knowledge reborn in contemporary Hawaii.





2021-2022

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Maui Historical Society

2375-A Main Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

PLACE
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A HUI HOU

In the month of May we will be closed for the completion of Phase 2 of the Roof Renovation.

In June, we will reopen with the continued schedule of Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am-1 pm with the 1 pm time slot being the last tour of the day. The museum gift shop is also open during those days and hours. Our plans are to slowly and steadily add on more days and times. We encourage readers to visit our website and social media platforms regularly for updates and additional details.

We are excited to continue to be a collaborative partner with the Wailuku STBA (Small Town, Big Art) program. Please visit the STBA website to see new artists and videos explaining the continued public art being created and new initiatives being born in relation to Wailuku.

THE HOA project: The Hālau of `Ōiwi arts project. In relation to the Wailuku Redevelopment Project, and in the 2022-2023 County of Maui budget, there is an initiative that is being worked on and established for the support and care of the Nā Kumu Hula and Hālau of Maui. This initiative is the first of its kind in the entire State of Hawai'i. The new civic center being built near the Wailuku municipal parking lot area will house the HOA project. The growth and establishment of this project falls in line with our mission and will continue to support the history and heritage of Maui through the Maui Kumu Hula and hālau community.

Mahalo

Contact Us




Give us a call for more information about our services and products

Maui Historical Society
2375-A Main Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

(808) 244-3326

info@mauimuseum.org

Visit us on the web at
www.mauimuseum.org

-  @halehoikeikeatthebaileyhouse
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