

REPORT OF THE LĀNA‘I CULTURE & HERITAGE CENTER

An Invitation to Join Us in the 2010 Nā Hoaloha o Lāna‘i “Friends” Drive

MAHALO A NUI! On January 16, 2010 more than 500 people gathered on the lawn fronting the Dole Administration Building to celebrate the opening of the new Lāna‘i Culture & Heritage Center (Lāna‘i CHC). It was a day of cultural gathering, more than 20 years in the making. Years ago, this community envisioned a place where residents and visitors alike could share, explore, and celebrate the rich cultural and natural history of Lāna‘i. On January 16th that vision became a reality. The new Lāna‘i CHC houses thousands of artifacts, records, photos and items reflective of the people of Lāna‘i. Many families came together to help make the day a great success. To each of you we say, Mahalo nui!

With our success in securing a facility from Castle & Cooke Resorts, LLC, and generous funding from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and community sources to open the heritage center, we now face several new challenges in keeping this important link to our past moving forward. One challenge is “space.” Our collections are growing on a weekly basis with our elder family members and their descendants bringing family treasures to the museum for safekeeping, and to pass the stories of the people of Lāna‘i on to future generations.



Hālau Hula o Lāna‘i Kaula (under the direction of Kumu Lynette Kaopuiki) shared mele hula of Lāna‘i with the audience. (Photo by Kepā Maly)

Another challenge is funding. If we are to ensure that the history of Lāna‘i’s families will be remembered and passed on, we need to be able to fund operation of the Lāna‘i CHC—including staff support, utilities, and continued development of the archival collections and exhibits. In these days of challenging economic issues, it is difficult to think about supporting efforts like the Lāna‘i CHC heritage programs. But, if we on Lāna‘i do not care for, and honor our past, it will be lost. There are many uncertainties about the future, but one thing that we can be certain of is that knowing our past and celebrating our heritage, will enrich all our lives. Furthermore, caring for our heritage is good for business. What we have on Lāna‘i is found no where else, and every day, we hear from people who value the unique place which we call home—your history attracts people to Lāna‘i.



Ladies of the Lāna‘i Hongwanji Mission shared an old Japanese folk dance and mochi rice treats with the audience as a part of the opening events. (Photo by Kepā Maly)

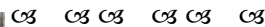
management organizations; field trips and assisted research projects. We also hosted a fundraising concert featuring Keali‘i Reichel and his hālau hula (who generously donated their presentation for the people of Lāna‘i), and we engaged in an oral history program with Lāna‘i elders. In August 2009 we began our construction/renovation program of a portion of the Dole Administration Building, and created a new safe archival safe facility in which to house and exhibit precious Lāna‘i artifacts and history. On January 16th, our new exhibits were opened to the public, and the Kapiha‘ā Village interpretive trail was dedicated. The trail project was funded by Maui County/Hawai‘i Tourism Authority, Lāna‘i Archaeological Committee, Cultural Surveys Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Youth Conservation Corps, Lāna‘i CHC and many volunteer hours. We are striving to fulfill our **Vision** – to inspire people to be informed, thoughtful and active stewards of Lāna‘i’s heritage by preserving, interpreting and celebrating its natural history, Hawaiian traditions, diverse heritage and cultures, and ranching and plantation era histories.



OHA Trustee Colette Machado shared comments with everyone gathered at the opening. Funding for the renovation & construction and program development was sponsored by a grant of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. (Photo by Phillip Sowers)



Members of Lāna‘i’s Filipino Community shared folk dances and music, and celebrated more than 80 years of contributions to Lāna‘i’s history. (Photo by Phillip Sowers)



We humbly come to you once again, and invite you to join the hundreds of people and organizations from Lāna‘i and around the world who have already committed to the effort of perpetuating Lāna‘i’s diverse cultural and natural histories. Please review the enclosed Nā Hoaloha card, and help us with a donation to support the heritage programs on Lāna‘i. Your donation, in any amount, will be used to help us preserve and pass the history of Lāna‘i’s people on to future generations. A return addressed envelope is enclosed so you can return your card and donation. All donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged.

Overview of 2009 Lāna‘i CHC Operations

The Lāna‘i CHC organized as a community non-profit foundation in 2007. In 2009, 5,029 residents and visitors participated in programs of the center. Programs included work with Lāna‘i students; service projects with island residents, visitors and national education/resource



Plantation Heritage Room at the new Lāna‘i CHC. (Photo by Kepā Maly)

Mahalo to all who helped carry on the work of the Lānaʻi CHC in 2009

The list below acknowledges all donors to the Lānaʻi Culture & Heritage Center in 2009. Through your support we are honoring our past and enriching the future:

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We are yours with aloha, and look forward to your reply and help in this community effort –

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