

Lanai

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loan from the Bishop Museum, or were repatriated to Lanai after the center opened to provide a safe repository for them. The center also launched an oral history program and has completed more than 80 interviews with Lanai residents about the island's past.

Executive Director Kepa Maly said the artifacts and interviews tell the story of how Lanai became the tightly knit, multicultural community it is today.

“The vision is that the center is going to be the repository where you can find anything about Lanai’s history all in one place,” he said. “These things have been sitting in people’s homes for years, and now they’re being brought in and they have a home here.”

The Heritage Center, which has been building its collection since it organized as a nonprofit in 2007, will hold a grand opening Saturday in Lanai City.

Maly and two part-time Heritage Center employees were still working hard last week to complete exhibits and get the museum ready for its official debut.

The facility is housed in a 1,300-square-foot space in the former plantation manager’s office in the old Dole Administration Building on Lanai Avenue.

Maly installed movable panels over the room’s traditional, large double-hung windows, both to protect fragile artifacts from damaging sunlight and to expand the tiny museum’s available wall space for exhibits. The outside faces of the panels hold exhibits with display copies of photographs and documents that can be viewed



The Maui News / ILIMA LOOMIS photo

Executive Director Kepa Maly holds a silk Korean dance dress donated to the Lana'i Culture and Heritage Center by Lanai resident Mary Shin, whose sister last wore the dress at a celebration on Lanai in the 1930s.

Grand opening on Saturday

Festivities for the grand opening of the Lana'i Culture and Heritage Center will start at noon Saturday, with a blessing; tours of the center's new museum; Hawaiian, Filipino and Japanese folk music and dances; and a taste of Lanai featuring community foods.

The center is in the old Dole Administration Building on Lanai Avenue in Lanai City.

Also Saturday, the Heritage Center will dedicate its new Kapihaa Village Interpretive Trail at 4 p.m. at the trailhead just below The Challenge at Manele clubhouse.

The half-mile fishers trail is marked by cobblestone curbs and passes by ancient house sites, planting areas, tool workshops and religious sites, featuring interpretive signs explaining the history of the area.