

# Celebrating Lanai's Cultural Legacy

Contributed by Kapa Maly, LCHC Executive Director

On June 23, 2012, more than 200 people gathered at Keomoku Village to celebrate completion of a major phase of the Lanai Culture & Heritage Center's stewardship program. With the help of many friends and dedicated workers, interpretive trails to several noted historic "Keomoku" resources have been opened, and the last standing wooden structure of Keomoku Village, the old Ka Lanakila Church, was saved from collapsing, and stands as a memorial to the original families of Lanai. The day was the culmination of two years of hard work and brings attention to seven of Lanai's noted historic sites. The work was made possible through the generous support of The Agape Foundation Charitable Trust and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Broad community support and the success of the celebration at Keomoku was overwhelming. This was the first time since 1950 when the last church conference was held at Keomoku, that so many people had gathered at Ka Lanakila. After welcoming comments and acknowledgements, a dedication prayer was offered by Kahu Lei Kanipae, and Hawaiian himeni were sung. Kahu Kanipae encouraged people to use the old church once again, to respect the place, but bring new life to Keomoku. The Senior ukulele band, under the instruction of Albert Morita, then played and sang several mele with everyone joining in. Kahu Keola Freitas then offered pule to bless the food and the entire group then went outside and shared in a potluck luncheon which featured all the tastes of Lanai's home cooking.

Mahalo nui to the families of Lanai and guests for sharing the amazing potluck that fed more than 200 people with plenty of food leftover.

Saturday evening (June 23), Lanai's own Anthony K. Pacheco and Simon Tajiri (founders of the High Makamaka Film Society) debuted a new mini-documentary film, "Voices of Lanai" featuring oral history interviews with some 40 kamaaina of Lanai. The film, produced with funds

raised through the 2009 Kealii Reichel benefit concert, and donations from The Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Jager Family Foundation, was filmed by Kenneth Martinez Burgmaier of Jazz Alley TV and produced by the Lanai Culture & Heritage Center.

The Lanai Culture & Heritage Center seeks to inform and cultivate interest and knowledge in the history, folklore, culture, customs and practices of Lanai, and develop programs to help ensure preservation of the island's unique cultural and natural resources. Our goal is to provide long-time island families, youth, new residents, visitors, business interests and all interested parties with a sense of place and cultural attachment to the unique cultural and natural histories of Lanai. By working together, we will foster an environment that will cherish the heritage of Lanai and its people.

Lanai Culture & Heritage Center – Honoring the past, enriching the future!

Visit Lanai's little museum Monday through Friday (8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.); Saturday (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) For more information, call 808-565-7177 or visit [www.lanaichc.org](http://www.lanaichc.org) – you may also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

The Lanai Culture & Heritage Center is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. All donations are acknowledged and tax deductible. Your donations support care for Lanai's rich heritage.

Board of Directors: Pamela Alconcel, Jay Ballesteros, Sheila Black, Joan de la Cruz, Albert Morita, John Schamburg. Board Advisors: Martha Haia Evans, Colbert Matsumoto. Staff: Mikala Enfield. Executive Director: Kapa Maly. And an amazing group of program volunteers.

Mahalo nui to all, *Kapa Maly*.

Ua olelo mai o Kupuna Daniel Kaopuiki – "O ka mea maikai malama. O ka mea maikai ole, e hookaawale aku!"



Restored Ka Lanakila Church, June 23, 2012.



Original Sign and Pulpit at Ka Lanakila – adorned with lei of Kaunaoa.