

Molokai Advertiser-News

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Merry Christmas: Bring Troops Home from the War in Iraq

U.S. Soldiers Call for Iraq Withdrawal

by MARC COOPER

For the first time since Vietnam, an organized, robust movement of active-duty US military personnel has publicly surfaced to oppose a war in which they are serving. Those involved plan to petition Congress to withdraw American troops from Iraq. (Note: A complete version of this report will appear next week editions of The Nation.)

After appearing only seven weeks ago on the Internet, the Appeal for Redress, brainchild of 29-year-old Navy seaman Jonathan Hutto, has already been signed by nearly 1,000 US soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen, including dozens of officers--most of whom are on active duty. Not since 1969, when some 1,300 active-duty military personnel signed an open letter in the New York Times opposing the war in Vietnam, has there been such a dramatic barometer of rising military dissent.

Interviews with two dozen signers of the Appeal reveal a mix of motives for opposing the war: ideological, practical, strategic and moral. But all those interviewed agree that it is time to start withdrawing the troops.

20 years old, E-4, USAF, Stationed at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii:

I joined up two weeks after I turned 17 because I wanted to save American lives. I wanted to be a hero like any American child. I supported the war when I joined because I thought it was justified. Only after my own research and the truth coming out did I learn how wrong I was, how--for lack of a better word--how brainwashed I was. Now I know the war is illegal, unjustified and that our troops have no reason for being there. When I saw an article about the Appeal in the Air Force Times I went online right away and signed it and have encouraged others to do the same.

26 years old. 101st Airborne, US Army. Just returned from Iraq:

I joined in 2004. Mostly I saw the frivolity of the missions, the lack of direction, the absurdity of the mission. You go out in your Humvee, you drive around, and you wait to be blown up and get killed by an IED. About 40 percent of my unit were stop-lossed. Their first mission was to take down Saddam and his regime, and they seemed to understand that and agree with the mission to take down a ruthless dictator. Now they can't seem to understand why they are there, caught in the cross hairs of a civil war. I think it is safe to say that the majority of soldiers are wondering what this grand scheme is that we keep hearing about from those above us but that is never translating down to the ground level.

Coming from an all-volunteer military, the Appeal was called "unprecedented" by Eugene Fidell, president of the National Institute of Military Justice.



You Can Protect Freedom: Question Authority!

"Where Rights secured by the Constitution are involved, there can be no rule making or legislation which would abrogate them."
Miranda v Arizona, (1966)



Sakadas and wives of Sakadas unable to attend the closing celebration are honored.

“Filipinos in Hawaii: 100 years and Beyond”

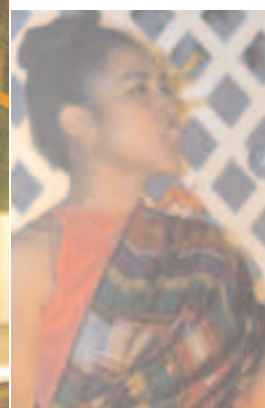
It began late last year at the Rizal Day Celebration, honoring the 100th year immigration of Filipinos to Hawaii in 1906. In August, an all-day celebration with impressive parade of 1946 Molokai Sakada and their families concluded that night with medals and certificates awarded to surviving 1946 Sakadas by the Governor. The evening of December 9th, Molokai Sakadas concluded this Centennial Year in speeches, dance, music and certificates by their families and friends.

President of the Hawaii Filipino Community Association, Brian Andaya spoke as a son of a Sakada, encouraging young Filipinos to strive to higher education to honor their ancestors. He honored the Molokai Sakada community with a hula, “coming out of retirement,” according to Debbie Davis chairperson of this year’s celebration

Honorary Chair Councilman Danny Mateo, Lida Molina, Maria Watanabe, Benny Piros, Mariano Acoba, Francisco Cabael, BJ Ocampo and Salome Garces were among the participants in the year-long celebration to be honored by the Filipino Community with Certificates of Achievement.

With expressions of respect and love, children of Sakadas Alice Cabael and BJ Ocampo spoke of their father’s contributions to the Molokai community and their families. Each spoke of the encouragement by their parents to become educated and strive for success and by example to give back to the Molokai Community.

Entertainment highlights included folk dance by students of Salome Garces and the Filipino Cultural Club. Kristian Lei, “Miss Saigon” performed to the delight of all. Youth was represented by Natalie Luczon, granddaughter of Sakada Gerardo Luczon, home for the holidays from college in Oregon. Elementary school students, Kathleen Merkel and Janice Powell with Marion Powell delighted the audience with dances.





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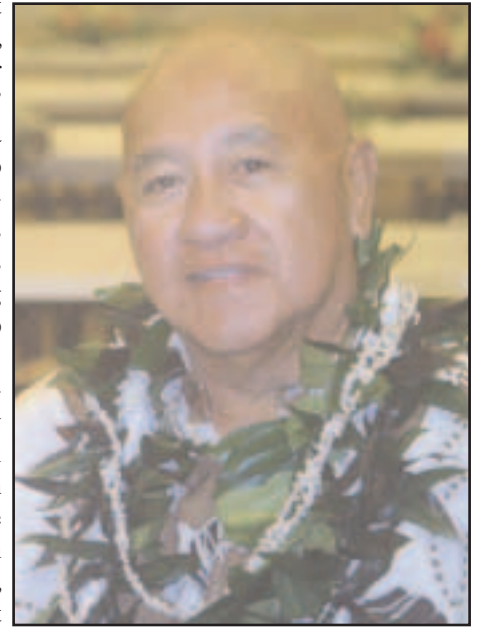
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December, 2006

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a
Happy New Year from all of us at
Imports Gift Shop, Lodge Gift Shop &
A Touch of Molokai.

Henry Ah Yau Kauka, Jr. Celebrates Retirement and a Birthday

Family and Friends gathered at Mitchell Pauole Center on Saturday, December 2nd to celebrate milestones for Henry, -- "Hanalei" to friends, "Ah Yau" to his siblings. His family had planned on a "surprise," but on Moloka'i, according to a sister, Betty Puaa, it's hard to keep a surprise on Molokai. And during the days prior to the luau, Henry, known for his Chinese cooking skills was there helping the family with preparations - hard to keep a secret on Molokai!



With wife Emma and the large extended family and co-workers from the County offices, the retirement from 26 years with Maui County was celebrated -- along with his 70th birthday! Congratulations to the easy going, quiet spoken, calm gentleman who registered Molokai's cars and trucks, canine companions and served court papers.

New CD Release benefits two Maui agencies *HALELU: Songs of Christmas from Hawai'i*

Halelu celebrates the holiday season with Christmas classics performed with Hawaiian flavor and flair, two original songs, and a few surprises. The voices and music of some of Hawaii's finest musicians and recording artists, including Cody Pueo Pata, Ata Damasco, Lei'ohu Ryder, Kaiolohia Funes Smith, the Hula Honeys, Gypsy Pacific, Bulla Ka'iliwai, and Leimana Abenes.



Maui's own Ahumanu makes its debut with "E Halehu!," an original song of powerful reverence and Polynesian-style harmonies. "Taro Patch Christmas," a Lei'ohu Ryder original, is a charming song of childhood memories of Christmas on homestead land.

The album opens with "Po La'i E/ Silent Night performed by C. Pueo Pata and Leimana Abeunes and closes with selection 10, "Sleigh Rid e" by Gypsy Pacific.


Photography by Randy Braun completed the classy package.

In the spirit of the season, the artists and producers have donated their time and talents so that all proceeds will go to two organizations serving the Maui community: the Maui Food Bank and the Neighborhood Place of Wailuku.


HALELU : SONGS OF CHRISTMAS FROM HAWAI'I is distributed exclusively by Mountain Apple Company

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The Moloka'i Advertiser-News



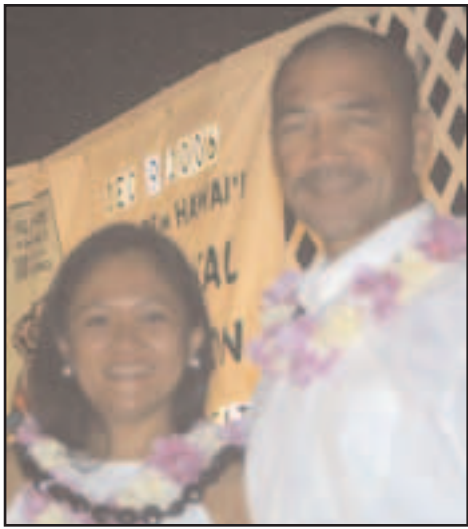

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Sakadas continued from page 1

Host Brian Naeole and Hostess Melony Parker kept the festivities moving. There was much to celebrate of the past and future.



Speakers Bryan Andaya, Alice Cabaal-Kaahanui and BJ Ocampo told of the many special contributions to our community. Cooking pancit for events, encouraging success in school, working tirelessly in the plantation; and for Ocampo, planting mountain plums, running the movies at the community theaters and helping with burials of their countrymen.




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