

Molokai Advertiser-News

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The Militia of Molokai's Community Newspaper—Every Wednesday

August 24, 2005

Concerned Home Pumehana Residents Describe Their Terror and Frustration with Manager Jersula Manaba/Roy Katsuda; Ask H.U.D. To Expedite Management Changes



Flora Jumawan, Harriet Denison, and Juditha Gardner speak to the H.U.D officials about their problems with Home Pumehana management, and give compelling testimony of ongoing bad conditions at Home Pumehana after years of being brushed off, ignored, and/or threatened by Jersula Manaba and Roy Katsuda.



Mr. & Mrs. Swords, Betty Smith and Jeannette Javillonar, all senior citizens who are not backing down from their responsibility to enforce their rights under their contract with Home Pumehana, are committed to improvements for all residents of Home Pumehana, their home for 9, 13 and 21 years respectively. Below: Katie and Linda Liddell were explicit about their fear from Manaba's threatening letters sent to all residents instead of just those who violate the rules, and the hypocrisy of management.



On August 8th 10:00am at the Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center conference room a meeting requested by concerned residents of Home Pumehana was held to air their grievances to federal HUD officials. HUD officials Clarence Nelson and Mary Morton attended, as did Hale Mahaolu Board President Jean Brooks, Home Pumehana resident manager Jersula Manaba, Hale Mahaolu attorney William Kinaka and Councilman Danny Mateo, and about 70 concerned citizens. Hale Mahaolu Executive Director Roy Katsuda did not attend so that he could keep his scheduled vacation plans.

Jeanette Javillonar facilitated the meeting for the concerned residents.

Residents voiced problems about lighting, security, repairs, house rules inequality, fiscal improprieties, and a heartless and incompetent management.

The residents have banded together to "voice our concerns of mismanagement and psychological abuse that we have endured and will no longer tolerate," according to the closing statement read by Donovan Keliipuleole.

In part, the residents' statement also said: "Our complaints range from a lack of security, retaliations, intimidation, manipulation of the rules, lying, invasion of privacy and trespassing. Every one of our concerns has legal recourse that we may want to explore with an attorney if not addressed. We also demand that a complete financial audit of the entire facility be done and that each resident be included, we have noticed a sharp increase and inconsistency in our rental and electrical payments. Some tenants are or have been over charged some 500.00 dollars. For people living on a fixed income this is quite a substantial amount of money. If an error is found the overcharge is not refunded in cash it is always credited. Why? When paying rent we pay in legal tender we should be reimbursed with legal tender, this can be used to pay other bills.



Jeanette Javillonar and Donovan Keliipuleole, Danny Mateo, Jersula Manaba, Hale Mahaolu Board Pres. Jean Brooks, Hale Mahaolu attorney William Kinaka, H.U.D officials HUD officials Mary Morton and Clarence Nelson. Roy Katsuda did not attend



Donovan Keliipuleole, volunteer community advocate presented video evidence of the commercial truck operations conducted by Jersula's husband Dedric on the Hale Mahaolu property even after Manaba claimed the trucks had been moved away. The video also proved, contrary to previous denials by Manaba, that her children did ride prohibited scooters etc fronting individual apartments, and that non-resident teens were allowed to hangout unsupervised on the property, and that security lighting was needed in many areas, apartments in disrepair. The video helped the disabled and senior citizens who complained to manager Jersula Manaba and Roy Katsuda, but were dismissed and sometimes threatened with rental increases and/or eviction, to expose the coverup by Manaba/Katsuda, and to prove their case to HUD that management needs changing or these residents will continue to be victimized.

The statement continued: "We ask that you [HUD and Hale Mahaolu] thoroughly look into our complaints and that you investigate all aspects of our claims. We demand that extra time be devoted to look into the response of the RM and her supervisors. If we can not reach a satisfactory agreement we are prepared to take legal action. The time has come to end all the lies, intimidation and abuse. We should be living our twilight years to the best of our abilities not fighting for our basic human rights.

"The residents no longer look to the management staff of Home Pumehana and hale Mahaolu for solutions. We can no longer trust the people in power; we turn to you the representatives of HUD to aid and protect us from retaliation. At this point we want to replace resident manager Ms. Manaba as well as executive director Mr. Katsuda." [Community Advocates Donovan and Lorna Keliipuleole have assisted the Home Pumehana residents group to organize and support the efforts of the concerned residents' group.

Home Pumehana/Hale Mahaolu Elderly Housing is a County housing project with 85 units and approximately 55 occupant residents now.

PS: AKAKU TV ch. 54 will show the video of this meeting Aug.24 at 10 a.m. Ch. 54.

August 24, 2005 Meeting:

Mary Morton has reported that Diane Kennedy said the upcoming Hale Mahaolu meeting is for residents only.

That means Donovan and The MAN are not invited to attend.

Morton also said that if certain tenants are not at the August 24, 2005 meeting, she will ask Hale Mahaolu to respond to HUD in writing about their complaints.

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Mahalo from Concerned Residents of Home Pumehana: "We the residents of Home Pumehana would like to thank all those who supported us in making this possible. To all those who gave monetary and product donations we would like to extend a warm mahalo. We would also like to thank the community for their continued support in our time of need to make it through this turbulent period. 'We ask for your continued support and blessings.'"

"But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security." -- Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776



The Molokai Cancer Fund was organized by cancer survivors and families of cancer victims to defray the cost of treatments on Maui or Oahu. Held in the past as the "Relay for Life," this year, Uncle Boy Kanae and many volunteers and a stellar lineup of entertainment and films, a marathon event was held last Saturday.

Below: Uncle Boy Kanae greets Auntie Pudgie, looking forward to her last chemotherapy this week.



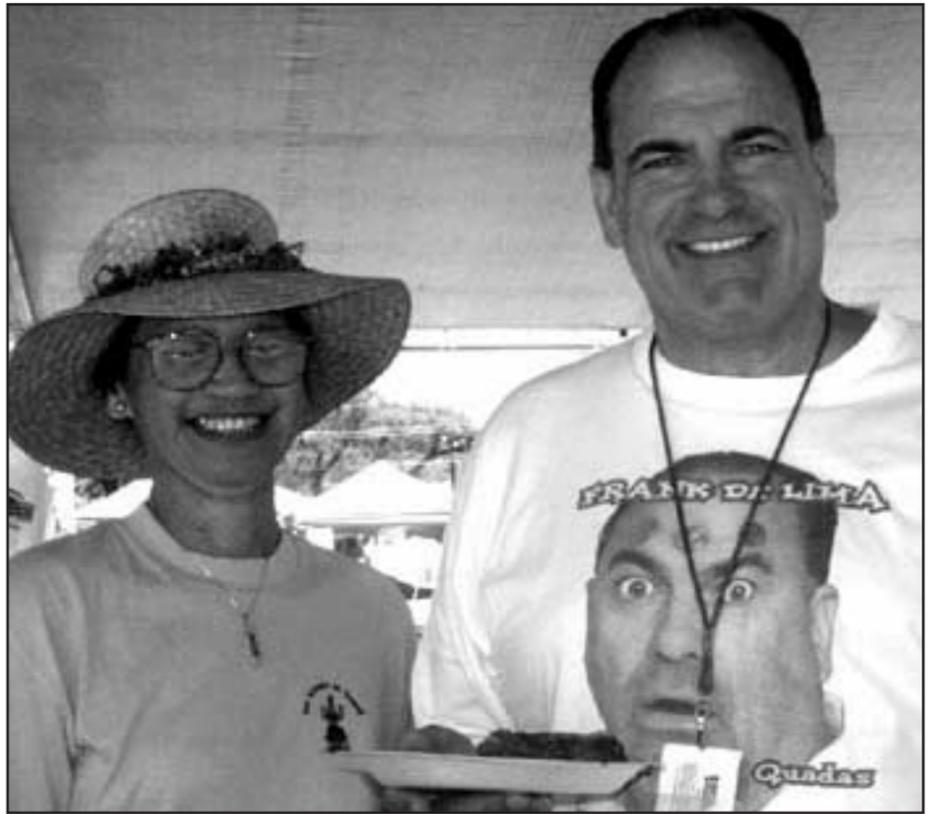
Maui FEST Hawai'i Moloka'i Film Festival • Molokai Against Cancer Event •

A Celebration of Music, Arts, Culture and Film premiered on at the Kaunakakai Ball Field last Saturday morning. The evening outdoor film festival was preceded by a great lineup of entertainment on stage with the likes of Bruddah Francis, Moana's Hula Halau and Hawaii's comic treasure Frank DeLima, all emceed by the familiar Maui Supa Man Uncle Boy Kanae. In spite of the blazing sun, the Molokai Against Cancer group continues to seek contributions for assisting cancer patients with travel expenses for off island chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Virtually every family on Molokai has been touched by cancer and many today are striving to survive.

Molokai General Hospital, Molokai Community Health Center, Na Pu'uwai/American Cancer Society, artist Rick Pa, and several food booths set up for business in the heat of the day. Information about cancer diagnosis and treatment, was available including a really difficult quiz at the Community Health Center's booth, motivating a participant to learn more for prevention and early detection.

Desiree Puhi, MGH Director of Outpatient Services and Lei Mokiao accepted signatures of support for a proposed MGH project "Patient Navigation System" to decrease health care barriers and enhance communication for Molokai patients traveling to Oahu for medical care. The Na Pu'uwai booth offered "makeovers" for cancer patients and a display examples of things to make the burden lighter and life brighter for cancer patients.

The evening Molokai Film Festival event promised appearances by filmmakers Edgy Lee "The Hawaiians-Reflecting Spirit," Ken K. Martinez Burgmaier "Kiho Alu - Keola Beamer-Paniolo Version," and Ed Joy "Ho'okipa", with their award-winning productions. Other eagerly awaited films by the Moloka'i audience included "IZ-The Man Behind the Music," and animation/live action film on hula and chant "Rolling Down Like Pele," and others. Shown on a big outdoor screen families, enjoyed the special event for a good cause.



Comedian Frank DeLima accepted the gracious invitation to lunch, well deserved for the guy who makes appearances at the local schools with his lessons in good choices and tolerance

below: Moana's Hula Halau young dancers and musicians always give their best for community events.



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Charles Uahinui Joins the US Marines



Lahainaluna High School graduate, Class of 2005, Charles Henry Hiilei Uahinui has been recruited by the U.S. Marine Corps.

Hiilei, was honored by friends and family at a dinner gathering at One Ali'i Park on Saturday, August 6th, and hosted by his parents Byron & Jackie Uahinui. Hi'ilei leaves on September 6th for San Diego for 3 months basic training in combat support. He said he chose to join the US Marines since he thinks they are the best for discipline and training. He expects to be sent to the Middle East for a year and a half after basic training.

The community and his family wish Hiilei good health, strength and safe travels.

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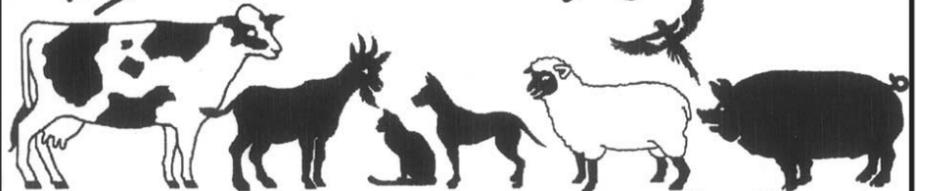
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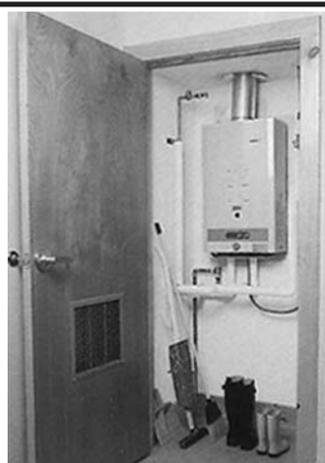
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