

Kwajalein Reunion 2010 Honolulu

Aloha E Pili Kākou . . . Let Us Be Together

What To Do On O'ahu Cheap or Free!

Beautiful Gardens

Foster Botanical Garden

honolulu.gov/parks/hbg/fbg
Daily 9-4 ~ \$5

Harold L. Lyon Arboretum

hawaii.edu/lyonarboretum
M-F 9-4; Sat. 9-3 ~ \$5

Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden

honolulu.gov/parks/hbg/hmbg
Daily 9-4 ~ Free

Koko Crater Botanical Garden

honolulu.gov.parks/hbg/kcbg
Daily, Sunrise-Sunset ~ Free

Lili'uokalani Botanical Garden

North Kuakini St., Honolulu
Daily 7 am – 5 pm ~ Free

Queen Kapiolani Garden

Kapiolani Park, Waikiki
Open 24 hours ~ Free

Wahiawa Botanical Garden

honolulu.gov/parks/hbg/wbg
Daily 9-4 ~ Free

Did You Know???

In Colonial times, the Marshallese people of the Ralik Chain used to come to **Kuwajleen** island to gather fruits from the flowering **Utilomar** tree from which, it was believed, great blessings flowed. The origin of the word Kuwajleen comes from **ri-ruk-jan-leen** "the people who harvest the flowers."

To share your story, memory, opinion, ideas, participate in the Hawaiiana Fair and/or help with our reunion, email **Momi** at momiala@yahoo.com

Keeping You Updated!

August 26, 27 & 28, 2010 (4 Days & 3 Nights) ~ Hilton Hawaiian Village ~ Only 9 Months Away!

Ke Kai – Our Very Own Musicians from Kwaj!!

We are very lucky that playing for us at two of our evening events will be our very own band of Kwaj musicians – Ron Evans, Lamar Hina, Kalani, Elika Kaiwi and Kaipo Pomaika! From Ron we recently received the following: "I was on Kwaj for three tours. During our first tour, as a youngster, we lived near Emon Beach. Phil Ching lived behind us, and every weekend Phil and his friends (Bear Kapahu, German Rodriguez, Stan Akana, William Puulei, Harry Kalahiki and others) would play Hawaiian music late into the night. My folks and I often went to listen – Phil always had the pupu's going – a'ama crab, lup cheong, teriyaki steak! It was there I first learned how to play the ukulele. My father said some would complain about the music at the late hour, but to us the soft Hawaiian guitars and ukuleles were a serenade to sleep by! Those were the days before TV and video so everybody socialized.

"During our second tour and high school, I began playing guitar and even played a couple of times with Chuck and Dave Tietz. It was the Beatles era and we were all wanna-be rockers! After graduation from KHS in 1971, the Navy and junior college, I

returned to Kwaj in 1976. I had learned much while in California, and back on Kwaj played lead guitar with the band *Lock, Stock & Barrel* (Terry and Mark Covington, Mel Sanchez and Harry Kalahiki).

"The year 1978 arrived and along with it, Kalani and Elika. One night after playing, I walked into the bar side of the Yuk. There they sat, playing and having such fun! We struck up a friendship in no time. We formed the group *Kolohe* and "Uncle" Harry joined us when he could. When he retired & left



island, I took up the bass – we didn't need two guitars, but we did need a "bottom end". Soon Paul Pomaikai joined us, and we became *Ke Kai*. We had sit-in drummers (Ben Mamhot, Rick Medieros and Paul Timas) join us occasionally, and Keone Morris, Jr. sang with us once in awhile.

"We didn't just play Hawaiian music, but contemporary, popular, reggae and country as well. Anything we were capable of! Then a sad thing happened. Television

and video came to Kwaj, the crowds began to dwindle and people got the "couch-potato" bug. We still had a loyal crowd of "local boys" though.



"We played for ten years altogether, probably longer than any other group on Kwaj, and we held onto that mana, that Spirit of Aloha. That's how we rolled. We just played so naturally together. I would like to think we gave back something, even if it was just good times and music. In 1988 I left Kwaj for the final time. *Ke Kai* became *The Fat Boys* and included Lamar Hina and Shermie. For the Colorado reunion in August of 2008, Kalani, Elika and I played with Shermie. It should be a real blast this coming reunion with all the gang back together again! So, get out your aloha shirts . . ."

What a treat it will be to once again dance under the starlit tropical sky to the rhythm of our past. Close your eyes and listen . . . can't you just hear the waves softly kissing the sand in the background?? Mahalo plenty and kommol tata, Ron!

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Kwaj High School

Please email your photos, biographies & special school memories for inclusion in our **KHS Memory Book** to panidalachman@hotmail.com



January Nupepa

Our next *Nupepa* will surely bring changes, as we are ever on the lookout for ways to save you money. We will keep you constantly updated!

When deciding where to stay, even in the current economy, do make quality a consideration. Why not pamper yourself with a fine hotel? This you will find at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, a city within a city, all done up with you in mind!

Even though we have a country home, this is the place my ohana chooses for a “staycation” in Waikiki; it is where we go to play tourist! You will be certain to enjoy each and every moment of your time spent there!!



Warm Winter Wishes To All!



Kwajalein 2000

Things We Love About O’ahu

- Beautiful, balmy weather
- Multi-culturalism and diversity
- The Koolau’s sheer green cliffs
- Wearing slippers year-round
- Honolulu’s Downtown Arts District
- Birthplace of Barack Obama, our 44th President,
- Cold shave ice on a hot day
- Mouth-watering plate lunches
- Snorkeling at Hanauma Bay
- Two official state languages - Hawaiian and English
- Leisurely drives - stopping for fresh fruit and coconuts at roadside stands
- Ancient Hawaiian artifacts at the Bishop Museum
- The heavenly scent of fresh flower leis
- Iolani Palace, the only royal residence in the United States
- Listening to poetry in Hawaiian
- The Aloha Spirit
- Unique holidays ~ King Kamehameha Day, June 11th
- Sparkling diamond triangles of light rising up mountainsides at night
- Gorgeous sunrises and sunsets
- What is your favorite thing about O’ahu??

Talk Story

Then, without even realizing it, a strange thing began to happen. Kwajalein’s special magic seeped stealthily into the blood. Replacing initial thoughts of an early departure with a desire to stay . . . forever. In an incredibly short period of time, geckos really were cute. The only rat you ever saw was Ben on the screen at the Rich Saturday night. Any temperature under 75° was absolutely arctic and any speed over 25 positively breakneck. Rust was more than acceptable; it was dignified. And the odder-looking the bike, the better!

. . . *To be continued*

Check out our **Kwaj Reunion 2010** page on [Facebook](#) – it’s great!!

Updated Schedule of Events and Kwajalein Reunion 2010 Honolulu Nupepa’s are posted on the following web sites: <http://www.wiehes.com/reunions.html> and <http://www.mattgoff.net/kab.htm>

Official Registration Form, with registration and function costs, will be available soon . . .