



Luana Hawai'i

Enjoying the culture at Lanikuhonua

A bird's eye view of Lanikuhonua at Ko Olina shows an ocean-side oasis of velvet green lawns ringed and shaded by thick tropical foliage and tall palm trees, set against a postcard backdrop of ocean and sky. It is also the home of the Lanikuhonua Cultural Institute (LCI), which the James Campbell Company established decades ago, primarily for the study, practice and enjoyment of Hawaiian culture. To date, LCI has been promoting the culture through programs like the Hawaiian studies classes for elementary school students, the Lei 'O Lanikuhonua Hula Festival, and the Mele & Hula at Lanikuhonua summer concert for the general public. These are soon to be joined by a new program designed for Ko Olina resort visitors and residents of West O'ahu.

Luana Hawai'i (Finding Enjoyment Through Hawaiian Activities)

The key to LCI's programming is authenticity. The institute works closely with respected cultural practitioners to develop, direct and conduct each of its programs. Luana Hawai'i is no different.

For this new venture, LCI engaged noted Hawaiian music historian, composer, performing artist, University of Hawai'i System assistant professor in Hawaiian Language and Studies, and respected authority on ancient and modern Hawaiian music and dance, Kimo Alama Keaulana. He was instrumental in developing Luana Hawai'i in partnership with Kapolei cultural practitioner, Miki'ala Lidstone. Lidstone selected and enlisted credible and recognized practitioners to share genuine learning experiences that are also enjoyable — thus, the name.

Luana Hawai'i is a once-a-week two-hour program that showcases five unique aspects of Hawaiian culture. They include poi making, *lauhala* (pandanus leaf) weaving, *kapa* (tapa or bark cloth) creation, lei making, and story telling through demonstrating the art of *pa'u holo lio*, the Hawaiian female horseback riding skirt.

"We worked very hard to create activities that would be engaging but also give participants a real appreciation of the role each of the practices played in Hawaiian life," said Keaulana. Lidstone explained, "We wanted the experience to be 'real' and not a facsimile, which is why we chose instructors who actually practice the culture."

To test the concept, Lidstone did two dry runs — one for a group of residents, and the other for resort staff. The responses were overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

"We asked them to be unsparing in their critiques, and they were," said Lidstone. Those critiques were used to fine-tune the program into what it is now.

She had an encouraging response from the test group of local residents. While many of them were Hawaiian and therefore not strangers to the cultural practices, they appreciated the deepening of their knowledge about the culture, and came away valuing it more. Lidstone hopes that Luana Hawai'i will draw participants from the local community. "There is no other program like it in West O'ahu, so we look at this as a community resource."

The plan is to expand the program to include high school students whose costs and fees would be subsidized by LCI.

"LCI envisioned a program that would bring Hawaiian culture to a broader audience in a format that allows participants to explore facets of Hawaiian culture as practiced by cultural specialists in their everyday lives," said Keola Lloyd, president of LCI. "I believe Luana Hawai'i achieves that."

Luana Hawai'i will be launched on Thursday, August 3, 2017 at LCI at Ko Olina.

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—Kimo Alama Keaulana and Miki'ala Lidstone



The Program: Luana Hawai'i at Lanikuhonua

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session I : Kui Lei (lei making)

Bonnie Kaleikini of Gladys' Lei Stand at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport will share the centuries-old history of lei making as well as what it's like to be a lei maker in the 21st century. Bonnie comes from a family of lei makers. Participants will make an orchid lei to wear or take with them.

Session II : Kapa Hawaii (Hawaiian kapa)

Unique designs using bamboo stamps is one of the distinctive Hawaiian art forms. Participants will have a rare opportunity to learn *kapa* stamping from one of a handful of *kapa* masters in the world, Dalani Tanahy of Kapa Hawaii, LLC. She will show them how to use popsicle sticks and sponges to mimic the practice of *kapa* stamping. They will design a greeting card.



Session III : Ulana Lauhana (Weaving)

The leaves of the *puhala* (pandanus) tree, are used to make a myriad of useful items from traditional times, such as mats, hats, fans, and baskets. Today, a handful of cultural practitioners like Stacie Segovia of Na Lala O Ka Puhala still practice the skillful art of weaving these useful leaves. Participants will learn how to make a star ornament, which they will keep.

Session IV : Ha'i Mo'olelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian Storytelling)

"Mo'olelo" is the Hawaiian term for "storytelling" and "history." Hawaiian histories are held in stories and passed down from generation to generation. Participants will hear stories as told by Kamahana Iona of Pua Ana Ka Malana Hula School. He will give a rare glimpse of how the *pa'u holo lio* (horseback riding skirt) is created for the Hawaiian woman equestrian and its origins from Makaha in West O'ahu.



Session V : Ku'i 'Ai (poi pounding)

"Ku'i 'ai," also known as "ku'i poi," was at the heart of countless Hawaiian families, both for their staple food and wellbeing. Many communities and *ahupua'a* (large tracts of land) were extensively planted in *kalo* (taro). It was, and still is, important in the life of Hawaiians. Participants will see how *kalo* is transformed into poi, as demonstrated by Antholy Deluze, a *kalo* farmer of Ka'ono'hi, a *lo'i kalo* (taro patch) in the *ahupua'a* of Lakauao. They will also share the poi.



KAPOLEI PROPERTIES DIVISION

Kapolei Properties Division is a division of the James Campbell Company LLC focusing on the development of the City of Kapolei, and on economic development and job creation in the Kapolei region.

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