

BF Committee

From: Anna Kanana <wailenapu2011@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 8:45 AM
To: BF Committee
Subject: 250th Kaahumanu Birthday Celebration
Attachments: Lena-Kaahumanu-Testimony.docx

Aloha,

I am submitting a written testimony about the current issues with the 250th Birthday Celebration of Queen Ka'ahumanu. Please see the attachment.

Mahalo,
Wailena

‘O ka mo’okuauhau keia o ka ‘ohana ‘o Kaahumanu

‘O Kekaulike ke kane,

‘O Ha’alo’u ka wahine,

Noho pu laua a hanau ia ‘o Namahanaikaleleonalani.

‘O Namahanaikaleleonalani ka wahine,

‘O Keaumoku Papaiahiahi ke kane.

Noho pu laua a hanau ia ‘o Ka’ahumanu.

E OLA MAU NO KA’AHUMANU!!

Aloha kakou,

My name is Wailena Pu Kanana, a cultural practitioner and a member of the benevolent society, Ahahui Ka’ahumanu Chapter XI-Hana. The opening to my testimony is to share with you the genealogy of our Kuhina Nui, Queen Ka’ahumanu. An important figure in our Hawaiian culture, our history, and the reason for the 250th Birthday Celebration that was held this past March. We were asked by Council member Alike Atay, at one of our annual Ahahui meetings, to host an event to honor her and the place where she was born, a secret cave on the side of Kau’iki Hill. All Ahahui Hana members agreed that the sole purpose of hosting this event was to honor Queen Ka’ahumanu in both tradition and modern celebration. Using a budget of \$20K, we were able to create an event that incorporated cultural protocol, educational outreach and the opportunity to give back to the Hana community.

The amount of time we had to plan this event was six months, months of hard work to the paperwork and permits completed, the gathering of our Ahahui sisters from around the state and the completion of the materials needed for the protocol portion of the event. As well as practicing and memorizing oli to honor Queen Ka’ahumanu for the tradition ceremony. The creation of our feather kahili’s took us a little less than a week to complete, from sun up to sun down on the weekend and hours after work. Our kihei material was bought but the color to dye it came from the kukui bark that a few of us went to harvest one day after work. This too is a cultural practice, harvesting plant material to create the red dye we needed. The tradition portion of our event started with hi’uwai, a cleansing that is done in the dark hours of the morning before the sun streaks the sky with light. This cultural practice was done to cleanse ourselves of all the negative emotions that we have carried until that point, by submerging ourselves in the water we arise in humbleness and with a clean slate emotionally and spiritually.

After the cleansing, we gathered to chant E Ala E, an oli done until the sun had fully risen over the horizon. Before the actual festivities could commence, all Ahahui members joined by the Royal Order of Kamehameha and other community members, such as Makahiki Hui, participated in a Wai Ceremony where each chapter has brought wai, or fresh water, from their home land to add to a bowl that signifies the unity of us all.

A The gathering of cultural demonstrators wasn't difficult because culture is a strong point here in Hana, we managed to have multiple demo set-up during our event. The crew of Mo'okiha O Pi'ilani sailed Maui's own Wa'a Kaulua to Hana from Ma'alaea and did canoe tours for the entire day. The Ku'i Ohana is a non-profit program at Hana school that teaches about the significance of taro, the connection between taro and us kanaka, as well as how to ku'l your own taro. They provide the knowledge and the material needed and then teach you how to do it yourself. The students of Halau Nakaulakuhikuhi, did demonstrations on how to make certain lei and haku that you make for yourself. There was also Lauahala weaving, where you could learn to weave your own book markers or a small fan. Some examples that this master lauhala maker had done were on display as well, to show the public the beauty of the art and how intricate some of the designs can be. Lastly, as a way for them to give back to their community, Makahiki Hui did various demonstrations on the different types of Makahiki games, as well as a little bit of history on the season. These students attend Hana School where some of them challenged each other for a spot to participate in the Ka Moloka'i Makahiki games annually held in Moloka'i. It was a great success to have educational outreach at our event!

Overall there was great success in this event! And from the reviews and comments we as Ahahui have received since then, is nothing short of amazing. Opening with a traditional protocol and ceremony laid the foundation for our day with humbleness and integrity, that our focus to honor our Queen was present in the oli, mele and community participation. With the \$20k funding available to us for the use of creating this event, Ahahui Ka'ahumanu Chapter XI-Hana has done an extraordinary event that was made possible through hard work, constant communication and a strong community support system. You can't find this kind of kako'o anywhere else and because of that, I ask that any monetary pilikia (or problems) be resolved and made pono (right). Our vendors shouldn't have to suffer the lack of funding because of something not in our control, when everything was turned in and accounted for. I also ask that the remarks against our Queens' name and her benevolent society be corrected and cleared of negativity. Mahalo!