

BF Committee

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Aloha, I'm send my testimony in, because I will be able to be their in person to read it.

Sincerely Yours
Nani Lay

Aloha Chairman Hokama, and Council Members,

My Name is Sharol Nani Lay; I am the Pelekikena for 'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu, Chapter XI, Hana. I'm speaking on behalf of BF 153.

I want to start by expressing how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to honor such a Prestigious Moi Wahine, **Elizabeth Ka'ahumanu Keaumoku.**

The 250th Birthday Commemoration Celebration was received with overwhelming appreciation by everyone. Members of the 'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu, Members of Royal Order of Kamehameha Kahikili Chapter, Members of the Wa'a Mo'okiha O Pi'ilani, Community of Hana, and Na Honoaopi'ilani.(All of Maui)

'Ahahui Members from Kauai to Kohala, Molokai to Waimea along with Oahu flew into Kahului Airport. Then, made the long journey to Hana. Thank you; to Kihei car rental who donated a van for the weekend. Annie Gilbert, a member of the Hana Chapter, caught a ride to Kahului, early Friday morning, to pick up the van, coordinated with the different arrival times, picked up the crew and headed back to Hana, in time for the arrival of the Wa'a Mo'okiha O Pi'ilani into Kapueohahi Bay later that afternoon. This was the first visit to Hana, for many of the 'Ahahui Members.

Let us announce to Hawaii nei; who is Moi Wahine Ka'ahumanu: let us tell her story, Let us share her Royal Lineage.

From her place of birth, Mapuwena, where the waves crushed upon the cinder cones and the ocean breeze muffled the sound of a crying child, and the vines and trees hiding the entry to the warmth and safety of a cave. Only women were present at the birth of this child. "what shall we name this child" ah... let us take the name from Kahekili-nui-ahumanu, from her fearless uncle, and name her Ka'ahumanu, the Feather cloak.

And this is the start of a 2 day memorable Celebration!!

Saturday early morning Protocol. Women only!!! Kapukai, Darkness, all is still, and all quite, no talking!!! All is Kapu!!! Selected few were chosen to deliver the ho'okupu by wa'a to the birth site. While everyone chant "e ala e" as the sun is rising up over the horizon at the edge of Kauiki hill. Until the sun has fully puka out of the ocean and the wa'a has returned to the wharf. Will the Kapu be lifted, and all is Noa!

We thank, Chapter V, Wailuku. drove into Hana, 2 am Saturday morning, after their celebration at the Queen Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center, and knowing full well the importance of protocol, and NO entry into Kapueokahi Bay after 5am. Gates reopen 9 am when the Kapu is lifted. And all is Noa again.

The Community is welcome to join the 10 am ceremony, with full regalia, along with the presents of The Royal Order of Kamehameha. And all other ho'okupu is given at this time.

The 250th Queen Ka'ahumanu Birthday Celebration Committee. Would like to extend a warm Mahalo Nui Loa and acknowledge the people of Hana. For their Aloha that made this Celebration possible. I, The Pelekikena of Chapter XI, personal met with business, individual, organization, teachers, almost everyone to share this passion, what we (The Ladies of 'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu) are planning to do in Hana, and we need their help. The response was overwhelming, they were very supportive, from vacation rentals, gave a free night, eatery discount deals, everyone really help out anyway they could. The last request I asked of them was to please show your support by making 2 Ti-leaf Kahilis, each should be over 8 feet tall. One Kahili is to be raised near or around your home or place of business, and one at Kapueokahi. Boy, it was outstanding, Kahili along the pathway to birth site, along line on the sand along rock wall at Hana Bay, along the road side into Hana town, and on the grounds of Wananalua Congregational Church.

We also want thank the Hana Canoe Club, who through out Saturday were shuttling people to and from the Shore of Hana Bay to the Wa'a Mo'okiha O Pilani.

It was an all day affair. Music, food booths, craft booth, No e au, Lei making, so much going on. However, there was a pau time. And the committee members were still under Kapu,

Sunday, Ali'I Sunday, All Ka'ahumanu Society Chapters honor and pay homage to this prestigious Kuhina Nui. She was favorite wife of King Kamehameha the Great. And so we begin.

This was an auspicious and memorable. Service was held at The Wananalua Congregational Church, built in 1838, they celebrate their 180th year of existence. Service Led by; Kahu Ken Makukane. The Ladies of The Ka'ahumanu Society was graced by the presence of the Royal Order of Kamehameha, Kahekili Chapter. And again everyone was just speechless. Church was full with community folks as well; Words can not describe the Aloha that was present. Lunch was served soon after with soft music, then the van had to deliver all the VIP back to the airport to catch their flight home.

I describe this event in detail because it is very important that you all know that this Celebration would not have been successful if not for the Love, dedication and hard works of one fearless Chairperson, Leader, Claudia Kalona. She has chaired many events for many years, and she did exceptional well. She was the Chairperson for Aloha Week when it was called "Aloha week" now its Aloha Festivals. And to have this thrown under the bus situation done to her is an absolute scared tactic done by Brian. I ask that who ever are responsible to right this wrong, do so immediately.

Thank you,
Nani Lay