

BF Committee

From: Ellen Kahookele <ek2nahiku@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 11:11 PM
To: BF Committee
Subject: Testimony: Ahahui Ka'ahumanu 250th
Attachments: Ahahui Ka'ahumanu 250th testimony.pdf

Aloha,

Attached please find my written testimony is regards to the 250th Celebration of Queen Ka'ahumanu.

Mahalo,
Ellen Kahookele

Aloha kakou,

My name is Ellen Kahookele from Nahiku and I am a current and active member of the Ahahui Ka'ahumanu Chapter XI - Hana. I was an active participant in the 2-day of the 250th Celebration of Queen Ka'ahumanu.

As this is a Budget and Finance Committee, and thus concerned with the financial aspects of the Celebration, it is my belief in the facts that our Hana Event Co-ordinator, Claudia Kalaola, was and is extremely capable and competent. It is my firm belief in the fact that not only did the Hana event come in under budget; a quarter of the total allocated funds; but everything here was properly accounted for. As an experienced Festival Coordinator, she would do nothing less. Her honesty and integrity should never have been brought into question as she is always doing her best for Hana, for the Ahahui, and for Queen Ka'ahumanu. Hana has everything to be proud of in this event for the outpouring of support and Aloha from people, communities, and businesses were a truly wonderful and humbling experience.

This event was a memorable one and enhanced our cultural knowledge, encouraged the keiki, remembered the kupuna, and brought honor to the memory of our Beloved Queen. It was planned on the scale of the Annual Taro Fest and I believe it was a resounding success. People came and participated from all over Hawai'i, not just Maui. Some even came from the Mainland. Several of the activities were not of the kind that are usually shared, as they were private protocol traditions.

Many people generously shared and donated their time and energy, mana'o and personal items to help make this event a reality. One of whom was Claudia Kalaola with her knowledge and effective leadership in putting together the right combination of people and information necessary to hold the celebration. It let things happen exactly as they should have. The Ahahui and many others set out to accomplish something that had not been done before. This was a cultural event that required an intense level of research into the history of both Queen Ka'ahumanu and Hana, and the proper Traditions to honor her Legacy. A Legacy of Faith, Justice and Education that will never be forgotten.

I feel that the 250th Celebration was a beautiful reflection of the commitment and the Aloha that Hana and others came together to have and share.

Mahalo,

Ellen Kahookele