Lanikuhonua – Where Heaven Meets the Earth

Students enjoy the game of 'ulu maika at Lanikuhonua.

These students learn the art of playing the kā 'eke 'eke *(bamboo instruments).*

BY THE VOICE OF KAPOLEI STAFF

Hawaiian Culture Flourishes Here

There's a little patch of heaven by the ocean that is dedicated to preserving and promoting the cultural traditions of Hawaii. Lanikuhonua, which means "where heaven meets the earth," is owned by Campbell Estate and is the site of the Lanikuhonua Cultural Institute, a non-profit organization. The Institute's programs are funded by Campbell Estate and the James and Abigail Campbell Foundation.

During World War II, Alice Kamokila Campbell (center) opened up her home at Lanikuhonua as a USO recreation center for the troops.

"Camp Bell"

Lanikuhonua is a part of the 41,000 acres of Ewa lands acquired in 1877 by business pioneer James Campbell. One of his daughters, Alice Kamokila Campbell, leased Lanikuhonua from the Campbell Estate in 1939 to use as her residence. During World War II, she offered her home to the United States Organization (USO) for use as an army and navy recreation center. Soldiers nicknamed Lanikuhonua "Camp Bell."

Lanikuhonua recently became Camp Bell again, when it hosted a welcome home celebration for the 127th Wolfhound Infantry Battalion that had just returned home from a tour of duty in Iraq. Eight hundred infantrymen and their guests enjoyed an evening of entertainment, food and refreshments, all provided at no cost, thanks to Nettie Tiffany, Campbell Estate's Lanikuhonua supervisor, who enlisted the help of area businesses.

Campbell also used her home to encourage the practice and preservation of Hawaiian culture, a purpose that continues today through the Lanikuhonua Cultural Institute.

A returning soldier and the 127th Wolfhound Infantry Battalion mascot celebrate the battalion's homecoming from Iraq at Lanikuhonua.

Practicing Hawaiian Culture

Lanikuhonua sponsors Hawaiian studies classes conducted by *kupuna* for children in Grades 1 to 6. Students come on field trips from public, private and charter schools in Waianae, the Leeward area, Aiea and Mililani. They learn and experience different aspects of Hawaiian culture.

For example, Kumu Antoinette Waiamau-Nunuha, a former Hawaiian culture teacher from Waianae Intermediate and High School, teaches Hawaiian language and music. Kumu Betty Anna Kaahaaina schools the students in the art of *kā 'eke 'eke*, a bamboo pipe musical instrument. Kumu Stephenson Eli leads a walk of the grounds and shares his knowledge of island plants and their medicinal value. Not surprisingly, *'ulu maika*, the game of bowling using a stone, is a popular subject with the youngsters. They are coached by Kumu Dora Liboy.

"This is an astonishing program," said Kumu Waiamau-Nunuha, who said the real value of the program is that it's not just for Hawaiian kids, but for children of all ethnicities. "This gives us a chance to share our culture and our *mana* with everybody," she said. "I have a fabulous job and it's awesome!"

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Weddings & Events Support Cultural Programs

Over the years, Lanikuhonua has become a popular site for weddings, corporate meetings, receptions and other special events such as the annual Kapolei Outstanding Achievement Awards sponsored by Campbell Estate. The lush, beautifully maintained grounds and the fabulous ocean and sunset views have also made it a favorite backdrop for film companies, videographers and commercial photographers. Rental fees generated by these uses help to support the Institute's programs.

For more information about Lanikuhonua, go to www.lanikuhonua.org.

Lanikuhonua is the site of special events like the Kapolei Outstanding Achievement Awards.

Two Universities Offer Classes for Kapolei's Working Adults

University of Phoenix (top) and Chaminade University (bottom) offer classes for working adults in Kapolei.

BY THE VOICE OF KAPOLEI STAFF

The University of Phoenix was the first private university to establish a campus in Kapolei. The nation's largest accredited university with 128 campuses worldwide, UOP specializes in providing education for working adults.

Since UOP's Kapolei campus opened in 1999, it has increased its classroom space more than three times. The campus now operates out of nine classrooms, a Learning Resource Center, and administrative offices in the Kapolei building at Campbell Square.

UOP's Kapolei students hold full-time jobs and are able to pursue bachelor's and master's degree programs in business, criminal justice, education, health administration, human services, nursing, and technology.

"New programs start each month," said Dr. Grace Blodgett, vice president/campus director, who explained that they rotate offerings based on community demand.

Students attend classes one evening a week, one course at a time. They have the option of combining classroom and online instruction in most business programs and in all technology programs. For information, call UOP at 693-8686.

Chaminade Offers Graduate Classes

The second university, Chaminade, is a newcomer to Kapolei. On July 1, the university started conducting two graduate classes in counseling psychology targeted at working adults. The classes meet four nights a week in a classroom in the Kapolei Building.

"We surveyed our students and found that there was high interest in attending classes in Kapolei," said Michael Fassiotto, assistant to Chaminade University's provost.

"Chaminade has programs currently on all neighbor islands, in American Samoa and, via its Internet classes, all over the world, but our basic market is Oahu. We're in Kapolei because it meets the needs of that growing population," Fassiotto said. Already, there are 29 students enrolled in the two classes, and Fassiotto estimated that another 35 to 40 students will be registering for the MBA program the university will be offering in October. For more information on Chaminade's Kapolei course offerings, call Graduate Services at 739-4663.