A Season of Growth, Change, and Excitement at Iolani Palace

2019–2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
IOLANI PALACE UNVEILS NEW AUDIO TOUR
THE FRIENDS OF IOLANI PALACE 2019 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAULA AKANA
CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS
PARTNERSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY
2019 PALACE ORNAMENT

The Friends of Iolani Palace supports, guides, and manages Palace activities, providing caring stewardship for this Hawaiian landmark and national treasure. It currently administers the Palace under a lease with the State of Hawaii.

Mrs. Liliuokalani Kawananakoa Morris, grandniece of Queen Kapiolani, founded The Friends of Iolani Palace in 1966. Since that time, The Friends have supported and guided the restoration and management of the Palace building by obtaining donations and grant monies, spearheading efforts to acquire original Palace furnishings, many of which have been scattered throughout the world, and actively managing and assisting with Palace activities.
Aloha Friends,

I am so happy and humbled to be here at Iolani Palace. I have always loved this very special place, and I look forward to working with all of you to continue to share its very important story.

I would like to send out a sincere mahalo nui loa to Mark Shklov, who served as the Interim Executive Director. He accomplished so much during his time, and I mahalo him for his patience and the aloha he has shown me as he helped me ease into this position.

This summer has been an exciting one at the Palace. In July, we welcomed thousands of people to our sacred grounds for a celebration of hula. This was the third year the Prince Lot Hula Festival was held here on the Palace grounds, and featured two wonderful days of celebrating Hawaiian culture and honoring Lot Kapuaiwa.

We also celebrated a new book, *Iolani Palace Portraits*. It was written by our Palace historian Zita Cup Choy, along with Palace docent and HPU assistant professor Dr. Douglas Askman. If you’ve ever looked at the royal portraits in the Palace and wondered who they were and who painted them, this book is where you will find the answers!

Don’t forget to check out our Facebook (@iolanipalace) and Instagram (@iolanipalace), where you will find interesting tidbits about the Palace, its royal residents, and the artifacts in it.

If you haven’t visited the Palace recently, please do — and bring a friend! It is because of your support that we can continue to restore this royal residence and share its story with the world.

Aloha,

Paula Akana
Executive Director

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**2019–2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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- Billy Pieper
- Soulee Stroud

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**KAMA'AINA SUNDAYS**

On the second Sunday of most months, Iolani Palace opens its doors to kama‘aina guests to visit the historic landmark for free.

Two tour options are offered: a docent Guided Tour and a Self-Led Audio Tour. Both options include a tour of the first and second floors of Iolani Palace, which includes the state rooms and private quarters of the royal monarchies. The tour concludes with a self-guided exploration of the basement gallery exhibits showcasing the royal collections, restored Kitchen, and Chamberlain’s Office. Guided tours are from 9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. and audio tours from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tickets are distributed on a first come, first served basis.

The following dates are the upcoming Kama‘aina Sundays for 2019:
- September 1 – Onipaa Celebration
- October 6 – Children & Youth Day
- November 10
- December 8

We want to wish a special mahalo to Mark Shklov, who served as Interim Executive Director of The Friends of Iolani Palace following the departure of Kippen de Alba Chu, who’d served The Friends for over 12 years. Mark did a fantastic job spearheading the organization while we conducted a formal search process for a new Executive Director, and we’re so grateful for his time, commitment and dedication to The Friends of Iolani Palace.
**THE FRIENDS OF IOLANI PALACE 2019**

**Annual Membership Meeting**

On Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 5:30 p.m., The Friends of Iolani Palace proudly hosted the 2019 Annual Membership Meeting to keep all members abreast of the past year’s highlights and new initiatives.

Before the evening’s official business took place, Princess Abigail Kawananakoa honored five employees with a special presentation. She bestowed the Royal Order of Kimoiki Kekaulike, her personal royal order, to the following Palace employees in recognition of their years of service: Zita Cup Choy for her nearly 42 years of dedication and service in her capacities as a volunteer docent and as Palace Historian/Docent Educator; Ferdinand Saguco of the Facilities Department for serving the Palace more than 29 years; Magnolia “Aunty Maggie” Keener was recognized for her more than 26 years as a volunteer docent and Guest Services staff member; and Cindy Ascencio, Director of Guest Services, who has been with Iolani Palace for nearly 25 years. Director of Development and Communications Pomi Toledo was recognized for her “distinguished service and personal assistance to the royal family of Hawaii.”

During the meeting, Board President Lissa Guild Eveleth thanked departing Board members Robbie Alm, Debbie Nakaneuia-Richards, and Diane Paloma for their leadership and commitment over their terms. She also welcomed four new members to the Board.

Gerard Akaka, M.D. is Vice President of Native Hawaiian Affairs and Clinical Support at The Queen’s Medical Center. Dr. Akaka previously served as the Medical Director of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Speech from the University of Hawaii and his M.D. at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). He also completed his intern and residency programs at JABSOM. Dr. Akaka hopes to impact the health and well-being of Hawaiians through effective collaborations with other Hawaiian-serving organizations.

Hawaii Energy Executive Director Brian Kealoa has been involved in the energy sector for over 20 years. He began his career developing and implementing energy programs with various utilities including Pacific Gas & Electric, Avista Utilities, and Maui Electric Company. Brian earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s in Business Administration from Gonzaga University. He also holds a certificate in negotiation from the University of Oxford. Brian serves on the Board of Directors of Ahahui Koa Anuenue, the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Aloha United Way’s Future Institute.

Brennon Moriola, Ph. D., is currently the Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He has served in multiple executive positions in both the public and private sector, including Hawaiian Electric Company, Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, and the State Department of Transportation. Dr. Moriola received his Bachelor’s and Master’s of Science degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, and completed his doctoral studies here at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He serves on numerous boards of community service and non-profit organizations, including the Aloha Stadium Authority, the US Japan Council, Ahahui Koa Anuenue, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, as well as, being the Chairman for PICHTR, the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research.

Billy Pieper is Vice President and Group Segment Lead for Barclays, overseeing Hawaii’s Co-Brand Credit Card Partnerships. He earned a master of business administration degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and received a bachelor degree from the University of California at Los Angeles. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board for the Bishop Museum and Pacific Islanders in Communication, and also serves on the board of directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii. He is past president of the Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association and Ali Like Enterprises. Billy received the Pacific Business News Community Leader of the Year Award in 2009. He is also a past Pacific Century Fellow, Omidyar Fellow, and a fellow of Stanford University’s First Nations Future Institute.

The Friends of Iolani Palace extends a warm mahalo to each of our board members for sharing their passion for Iolani Palace and generously donating their time to our organization!
RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT BEQUEST

We are so grateful to the trust of Martin Skrypzak, through which Iolani Palace has received a generous gift of $411,500. This considerable gift supports our efforts to perpetuate Hawaii's history and culture for years to come.

Martin was the life partner of former Palace employee, Darryl Keola Cabacungan, whose journey with The Friends of Iolani Palace started in 1975 when he served as a volunteer in what was at the time the developing Docent Program. He then moved on to the role of Education and Programs Coordinator, through which he coordinated several educational programs including Docent Training, Volunteer Scheduling, the School Tour Program and more.

During his time at the Palace, Cabacungan developed a variety of training materials for docents. He also authored "Iolani Palace: A Field Trip," a curriculum guide for upper elementary school teachers; and edited "Experiencing Hawaii’s Historical Past: A Walking Tour of the Iolani Palace Grounds," a curriculum guide by Keoni Du Pont. Though Cabacungan is no longer with us, he was deeply admired and respected during his time at the Palace, and his memory lives on through his generous bequest. We are equally grateful to Martin Skrypzak for designating The Friends of Iolani Palace as one of the beneficiaries of his trust.

We hope you will consider leaving a gift to Iolani Palace in your will or living trust. Whether you choose to make a gift of an exact dollar amount or a part of your estate, you are supporting the preservation of this unique historical landmark. The size of the gift doesn’t matter — big or small, every gift makes a meaningful difference.

For more information about supporting the Palace through bequests, trusts, and other planned giving, please contact Pomai Toledo, Director of Development and Communications for The Friends of Iolani Palace, at (808) 522-0827 or via email at members@iolanipalace.org.

WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Paula Akana

Following an extensive local and national search, we’re thrilled to introduce Paula Akana as the new Executive Director of The Friends of Iolani Palace. As one of Hawaii’s most highly regarded veteran broadcast journalists, Akana brings more than 30 years of communications and leadership experience to her new role, and we’re confident she will be an invaluable asset to our organization.

Recognized by the local community for her distinguished career with KITV Island News, Akana has covered a variety of stories about the Palace during her time as a journalist, including its restoration, return of long-lost objects, and unique place in Hawaii’s history. She possesses a deep love of Hawaii’s history and culture, and will be instrumental in supporting the Palace’s efforts to promote its mission and to share stories of our monarchy and of the Palace with both the Hawaii community and visitors from around the world.

A proud graduate of Kamehameha Schools, Akana received her Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism with a minor in Hawaiian anthropology and archeology from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. She is actively involved with a number of local nonprofit organizations, including the Board of Directors for YMCA Metro Honolulu and Ma'o Farms, and is a member of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu. She has also been volunteering with the Polynesian Voyaging Society for over 30 years, through which she’s pursued education initiatives, voyaging planning, and fundraising efforts.

When asked about her new role at the Palace, Akana said, “The Palace has always held a special place in my heart, and I am humbled and honored to be asked to help lead The Friends of Iolani Palace. I now look forward to not only sharing the Palace’s story with the world, but also, along with the board, staff and volunteers, to continue to restore and protect this wahi pana.”

Welcome to The Friends of Iolani Palace, Paula Akana! We are so excited to have you as part of our ohana.

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Volunteers hold a very special place in the hearts of The Friends of Iolani Palace. For over 50 years, our volunteers have provided services that are invaluable to the Palace’s day-to-day operations. On an average month, we have nearly 85 volunteers who share their love of the Palace with over 100,000 visitors from around the world. Our volunteers are the heartbeat of our organization, and help us to preserve and perpetuate this historic landmark for generations to come.

On Sunday, March 17, we had the pleasure of celebrating these amazing people at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch. Hosted at the Oahu Country Club, the event gave us an opportunity to recognize the remarkable efforts of our community volunteers who’ve devoted years of service to The Friends of Iolani Palace.

Throughout the morning, staff and volunteers were treated to delicious food, live entertainment and enjoyable company. Of course, the highlight of the event was the honoring of each and every one of The Friends of Iolani Palace’s volunteers. Special recognition went to Armando Lopez, Mie Miura, Keoua Nelsen, and Anita Wenska for each having five years of service. Brian Sims, Tory Laitila and Willie Moore were thanked for 10 years of service, while Kathy McGovern was recognized for 20. The reception concluded with the acknowledgement of Norman Black, who’s devoted 25 years, and Niklaus Schweitzer for 40 years of bringing the history of the Hawaiian monarchy to life through their work with the Palace.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who work hard to promote both the preservation and perpetuation of Hawaii’s history and culture.
Upcoming Events

KING KALAKAUA’S 183RD BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On Saturday, November 16, The Friends of Iolani Palace along with the Royal Guard of the Hawaii Air National Guard will celebrate King Kalakaua’s 183rd birthday with a day of festivities. Inspired by the styles, colors and events of the King’s Birthday Jubilee in 1886, the celebration will feature the review and posting of the Royal Guard, live entertainment by the Royal Hawaiian Band, Monarchy-era bunting and décor, and special birthday tributes. For more information on this free event, call (808) 522-0822 x122 or visit www.iolanipalace.org.

QUEEN KAPIOLANI EVENING TOURS

In honor of Her Majesty Queen Kapiolani’s 185th birthday, Iolani Palace will continue its beloved tradition of hosting its evening tours from December 28–30, inviting guests to step back in time and experience the Palace in its 19th century grandeur.

Over the course of three evenings, the Palace will be adorned with shimmering decorations and music will swell throughout the halls as it would at King Kalakaua’s holiday soirees. The evening tours also provide a rare opportunity for guests to visit the Palace at night.

Stay tuned for more information on the Queen Kapiolani Evening Tours. You can also visit www.iolanipalace.org or email palacetickets@iolanipalace.org.

Partnerships

IN THE COMMUNITY

Iolani Palace has always had a special place in the local community, and we’re proud to continue this tradition with new partnerships with Café Julia and the Waikiki Aquarium, while enhancing our ongoing relationship with Hawaiian Airlines.

This summer, the Friends of the Waikiki Aquarium is hosting its annual Ke Kani O Ke Kai concert series, and we’re partnering with the nonprofit to present a very special BOGO offer for all concertgoers. Pick up a special BOGO certificate from one of the Ke Kani O Ke Kai summer concerts to be redeemed at the Palace, where you can buy one admission ticket and receive a second for free. This limited-time BOGO offer is good for Palace entrance through the end of 2019, and can be used to purchase either a Guided Tour with a Palace Docent or a Self-Led Audio Tour. It can’t be combined with other offers or used for specialty tours, including the Queen Kapiolani Evening Tours.

One of downtown Honolulu’s most popular spots for lunch, Café Julia at the YWCA is known for its spectacular architectural design and fine dining. For a limited time only, purchase either a Guided Tour with a Palace Docent or a Self-Led Audio Tour of the Palace and receive a coupon for 15 percent off Café Julia’s delicious gourmet cuisine.

Hawaiian Airlines employees are also invited to present their Hawaiian Airlines employee IDs and enjoy free admission for a Docent-Led or Self-Led Audio Tour. Additional guests are eligible to receive a discounted entry fee of $22 for a Docent-Led Tour or $15 for a Self-Led Audio Tour. For those who aren’t employed with Hawaiian Airlines but would still like to save on their next travel adventure, opt for the Preferred Affiliate Program. Book your next flight at www.hawaiianairlines.com/our-services/products-and-programs/preferred-affiliate using the code iolanipalace – not only will you receive a five percent discount, but the Palace will earn miles equaling to the dollar amount of your ticket, to be used for our staff to travel to and from educational conferences.

For more information on our Hawaiian Airlines partnerships, contact (808) 522-0827.
THE FRIENDS OF IOLANI PALACE

MEMBER LIST (January – June, 2019)

Mahalo to all of our dedicated members and a warm welcome to those who have recently joined The Friends of Iolani Palace. We greatly appreciate your generous support!
The 2019 Palace Shops ornament is inspired by a helmet plate belonging to the Prince’s Own, a uniformed group of the Hawaiian Kingdom. The helmet plate is the ornamental design located on the front of a helmet. This plate designates the wearer’s nationality and organization, and is commonly used among military and police forces, with the design featuring symbolism that’s meaningful to said group.

The Prince’s Own was a volunteer artillery unit with its roots dating back to 1857. As you’ll see depicted in the ornament, the bronze helmet plate bears the letter “K” for King Kalakaua and is inscribed with the Hawaiian national motto: Ua Mau ke Ea o ka Aina i ka Pono, or “the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.” The design also features garland as well as cannons and cannon balls.

The helmet plate, which is very similar to the one currently in our collection, was donated to The Friends of Iolani Palace in 2019 by The Helen Ladd Thompson Revocable Living Trust. The family are descendants of Anton Rosa, who served in numerous governmental positions and most notably as Attorney General for King Kalakaua. Mahalo to the family for their generous donation.

This limited-edition ornament is exclusive to the Palace, and will be available in September at our Palace and Gallery Shops for $25. You can also pre-order an ornament for $20 starting now by calling (808) 532-1050 or emailing shops@iolanipalace.org.

If your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies for the error and our most sincere thanks for your support. Please contact Pomai Toledo at (808) 522-0827 or members@iolanipalace.org if there is a discrepancy.