

Executive Director to Leave Lanai

Contributed by LCHC Board of Directors

The Lana'i Culture & Heritage Center's popular Executive Director, Kepa Maly, and his wife, Onaona, have announced that they are leaving Lanai citing health issues as the reason for their departure. The Center's Board of Directors now has the difficult task of finding a new Executive Director. The task will be all the more difficult given the Malys' significant contribution to the Center and community.

Although he visited Lanai on numerous occasions, Kepa spent most of his early years on Oahu. Then, when he was fifteen he moved here fulltime. It was while living here that he met native Lanaians, Daniel and Hattie Kaopuiki who instilled in him a love of the island, its people and its heritage and this became the foundation for his life's work.

After graduation from high school, Kepa worked with Kenneth Emory and Mary Kawena Pukui as well as for the City and County of Honolulu's Parks & Recreation division and the National Park Service (nation-wide). Then in the early 1990s, he and his wife, Onaona, started their own cultural resources consulting firm concerned primarily with researching and preserving the history of the Hawaii and its people. All this seemed to be preparing him for his return to Lanai.

In 2006, the Lanai Archaeological Committee asked Kepa and Onaona to come to Lanai to help them create a plan for taking the original culture center concept (resulting from the Memorandum of Agreement of 1987) to a new level. The new center would create a safe and organized home for Lanai heritage resources and remain open and responsive to the needs of the public as well as serve



Kepa and Onaona Maly

as an educational-interpretive resource for all who visit Lanai. Over the period of nine months, a non-profit organization called the Lana'i Culture & Heritage Center (LCHC) was formed and Kepa and Onaona were asked to help lead the new program. Kepa jumped at the prospect of fulfilling a long-standing desire to come back to Lanai and to give back to the place that, as he puts it, "gave him his life."

Upon their arrival in September 2007, they began to organize the collections, exhibits, and programs of the new heritage center. They also immediately began raising money with which planning, construction and operations of the center could be undertaken. Today, Lanai is home to a heritage center-museum and

archival collection that would make any small community proud. The program is a community effort that seeks to honor all who have contributed to Lanai's history. And it is the Malys' belief that the strength to move this program to

new and greater successes exists in the hearts and hands of Lanai's people.

All seemed to be going well until May of 2009. "Beginning in 2002, I began to experience heart problems which we hoped would settle down, but in May, 2009, I suffered another heart attack here on Lanai and a second one in the hospital in Honolulu. Based on my history, the doctors recommended that we relocate to Honolulu. I put it off because I was hoping I could ignore it and because we were finally planning the renovations of the Dole Administration Building and the opening of the new facility. In September, the doctors again strongly recommended relocation to Honolulu, but I insisted on waiting until after the January opening of the museum. Now that all this has been accomplished, Onaona and I have decided that we cannot ignore the doctors any lon-

ger. So, unfortunately, we will be moving to Oahu at the end of May.

We'd like to remain involved in helping with research, design, and assistance when needed. Our hope is that we helped the community create a place that will be sustainable and that someone with a passion for Lanai can step in and continue what we've started. I think it's so important that we continue to keep the community involved and that we engage our young people in the program so they can become the stewards of their heritage," Kepa Maly wrote in a letter to the Board of Directors.

Kepa and Onaona are leaving the Lana'i Culture & Heritage Center with a strong foundation and the Board of Directors is committed to continuing the work that they have started. To that end, the Board of the LCHC has begun an immediate search for an interim or permanent Executive Director. They are looking for someone who can create and manage programs, manage the facility, coordinate personnel and volunteers, curate exhibits, develop events, and engage in fundraising. The Executive Director should possess knowledge of and passion for the history and culture of the people of Lanai, strong writing and oral presentation skills, and good people skills, including the ability to engage guests of the Lana'i Culture & Heritage Center.

Anyone interested in applying for the Executive Director's position should see our ad on page 13 and submit a resume to Martha Evans at P. O. Box 630374; Lanai City, HI 96763 or contact Pam Alconcel at 565-7266. Deadline for applications is March 31, 2010.

See page 13.

Job Opening - Executive Director, Lana'i Culture & Heritage Center

Position Scope and Objectives: The Executive Director is responsible for the development, execution and management of the policies, programs, and initiatives of the Lana'i Culture & Heritage Center (LCHC) as directed by its Board of Directors in its mission of preserving Lana'i's history and culture.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

- Assumes management responsibility for all services and activities of the Lana'i Culture & Heritage Center including the hiring, supervising, and training of staff and volunteers and overseeing the work of professional consultants
- Participates in the development and implementation of goals, objectives, policies, and priorities to enhance the organization
- Develops an Annual Budget and performs daily banking and financial record keeping
- Updates current and develops new exhibits; identifies new guest programs and attractions; maintains the archives
- Oversees, participates in, and coordinates membership drives, fundraising and donor management activities, including researching grant availability, grant writing, and reporting to donors
- Understands technology and is responsible for the maintenance and on-going development of the LCHC's technology infrastructure, web site, and on-line archives
- Develops and maintains effective relationships with persons and groups in the community and field, and builds support for the continued development of the LCHC; serves as the primary external contact and spokesperson
- Educates and cultivates interest and knowledge in the natural environment, history, folklore, culture, customs and practices of Lana'i
- Develops - in conjunction with the Chair - the agenda for the Board meetings; attends and reports to the Board at its meetings; performs an accurate recording of the proceedings; and distributes information as requested

KNOWLEDGE AND OTHER SKILLS:

- Knowledge of and passion for the history and culture of Lana'i
- Knowledge of the Hawaiian language
- Excellent people skills and a strong ability to engage guests
- Strong writing and oral skills - an excellent storyteller
- Curatorial knowledge and the ability to create and update exhibits
- Strong administrative skills

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Bachelors degree in cultural anthropology or related field, or equivalent work experience

EXPERIENCE:

- Several years working in a similar organization, cultural surveying company, or the National Park Service

SALARY: Commensurate with experience

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