



Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association

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Monthly News & Updates

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July 2020 Newsletter



The Mask-Making Project Wraps Up

By Joe Clarkson, PMKCA President

Many of us in the PMKCA ohana participated in a locally organized project to make cloth face masks. One of our board members, Jami Sales, was instrumental in organizing the project, which involved numerous participants from Waikoloa to Hilo. Most of the masks were distributed in that same geographic area, also including North Kohala, with many of them given away at post offices and other public locations.

As someone who is over 70 years old, I am in a demographic group that is at high risk for a worse outcome if I catch Covid-19. I want to personally thank all of those who participated in the mask making project for helping to make our part of the Big Island a safer place in these uncertain times. Jami has given me her final report on the project, which follows:

"The mask making efforts that were helped by so many local volunteers is wrapping up now. We started with a goal of 500 masks for the Hamakua Health Center and just kept expanding as the need was made clear. Wonderful people with big hearts stepped up to support us either with donations or for construction and distribution of the masks. Many people who didn't sew cut out the fabric so that the people who did sew could sew as much as possible. In the end we had over 80 volunteers who made and gave away an astounding 17,751 free masks in a very intense 10 weeks. In addition, we were able to secure some donated disposable surgical masks, and distributed 12,000 of those. All in all we gave away just under 30,000 masks to medical professionals, front line workers and island residents in North Kohala, Waikoloa, Waimea, Hilo and along the entire Hamakua coast."

"Mahalo nui to our dozens of cutters and seamstresses, volunteer drivers, the Honoka'a Sew Fun group led by Kay Doe, Hui Kako'o O Laupahoehoe, Representatives Chris Todd and Mark Nakashima, United Airline Kona station workers, Amanda van Weert at Elite Pacific Properties, the PMKCA, the CERT members of Laupahoehoe and Pa'auilo, generous people and organizations who loaned out their sewing machines, and to the many donors who contributed funds

and materials. A special thanks goes to our major donors: United Way Hawaii, Karen and Joe Clarkson, the Honoka'a Methodist Church, the Lions Club of Honoka'a, and the re-election committee for Mark Nakashima."

Meetings Postponed

While the month of May offered hope that the Covid-19 pandemic was under good control in the state of Hawai'i, with only 46 new cases during the month and long stretches of time with no active cases on the Big Island, June has been more problematic. As of June 21, there have been 166 new cases in the state and an increase in the number of active cases on our island.

Due to uncertainty about how this pandemic will progress in the next few weeks, PMKCA will not be holding our in-person board meetings or the general membership meeting next month. In any case, the Kalopa State Park pavilion, which is our preferred venue for the general membership meeting, remains closed to public gatherings.

Board and Officer Positions Available

PMKCA is looking for more board members! Jami Sales, our Water, Health and Utilities committee chair, has resigned from the board after many years of service. Jami has been very active in support of our community in many ways and we will miss her contributions to PMKCA board activities. Thank you, Jami, for all your hard work.

We will also soon be needing a new PMKCA officer. Diana Nui is our Secretary and has informed me that she will be resigning at the end of the year. Diana will continue working on PMKCA projects at Kalopa Park, but we will miss her participation and record keeping with the board.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for either position, please contact me by phone or email. My contact information can be found at PMKCA.org.

Next Meetings

Here's a lineup of the next few PMKCA meetings:

Thu, Jul 9, 2020 7PM PMKCA Board of Directors Meeting
(By Videoconference)

Sat, Jul 25, 2020 11AM PMKCA Annual Potluck Picnic and
General Meeting. Kalopa State Park (**CANCELLED**)

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