

## Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association May 2018 Newsletter

### President`s Message



*PMKCA President Joe Clarkson*

Aloha PMKCA Neighbors

### **New Board Members**

At our most recent board meeting we welcomed two new members to the board. Ken Hinck and Eric Burkhardt will be co-chairing the road committee. Their first project will be a detailed appraisal of the roads in Kalopa and Paâ€™TM auilo Mauka. The result will be presented to the county officials who supervise road and bridge maintenance.

Ken and Eric have already determined that the very dim streetlight at the intersection of Kalopa Road and the belt highway is maintained by the county. It will be inspected by the county to determine the cause of its poor light output. If readers have a particular concern about roads in the Paâ€™TM auilo Mauka or Kalopa areas, please call either Ken at 776-1926 or Eric at 895-3532. Very urgent concerns can always be conveyed to the county road department directly by calling 775-7500.

### **A Bit of PMKCA History**

In 1988 Hamakua Sugar was in full operation up and down the Hamakua Coast. The villages of Paâ€™TM auilo and Paâ€™TM auhau (those nearest Kalopa and Paâ€™TM auilo Mauka) were owned by the plantation. As such all infrastructure in those â€™campsâ€™TM, other than electricity, was maintained by Hamakua Sugar. Most of the people living in Hamakua were surrounded by privately owned plantation property. Perhaps because the plantation influence was so dominant, non-plantation areas of Paâ€™TM auilo Mauka and Kalopa were not getting the attention from the county they thought they deserved.

In 1988 the roads throughout our mauka community didn't even have formal names. Informal description of roads relied on the names of people living at either the beginning or end of the road. Most roads hadn't been repaved in decades and there were many sections of road for which ownership was in limbo. Long stretches of county road required 4-wheel drive vehicles for any certainty of passage.

Even more important was the effect on emergency services. It is hard for police and fire emergency responders to locate the source of an emergency if the only way to identify a location is by reference to the names of the people who live in the neighborhood. I know of at least one instance of an ambulance failing to respond to a medical emergency because they couldn't find the house of the seriously ill person involved.

It was mostly the county's not-so-benign neglect of our roads that induced mauka residents and landowners Bob Williams, Nadao Honda and Abraham Ramos to decide that a community organization was needed to lobby for the needs of Pa'uilo Mauka and Kalopa. They decided on the geographic area to be covered by the organization, which is still described as being mauka of the belt highway between what is now lower Pohakea Road (the Hilo side boundary) and Keahua Gulch (the Honoka'a side boundary).

Pa'uilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association (PMKCA) was formed with the assistance of attorney Dwight Takamine, who graciously offered his time free of charge to write the bylaws for the new association. In accordance with those bylaws, officers were elected, functional committees were formed and PMKCA started work. The first project was getting the roads the names we see today. I will tell more about how that happened in an upcoming post.

### **Road Cleanup Day**

It has been over a year since PMKCA promoted a roads cleanup. We have scheduled a cleanup for Saturday, May 19th. All in the PMKCA area are encouraged to walk the roads close to where they live and bag up any roadside litter found. Since that day will be the 70th anniversary of my birth, those who desire may bring gifts of bagged roadside rubbish to me at the Hawaiian Vanilla Company about 10 am and receive a reward of lemonade, tea and cookies. All collected rubbish will be transported to the transfer station as one truckload.

Best Regards,

Joe Clarkson  
President, PMKCA

**Pa'uilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association**

PO Box 408

Paauilo, HI 96776

© Copyright 2006-14. All rights reserved.