

# Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association September 2017 Newsletter

## President`s Message



*PMKCA President Joe Clarkson*

Aloha PMKCA Neighbors

### **ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC**

PMKCA held its annual summer meeting at Kalopa State Park. Guest speakers were Rep. Mark Nakashima and Council Chair Valerie Poindexter. We missed the usual presentation by Officer Jody Passmore because he has been transferred to Puna (the district in which he lives and from which he has been commuting for the last five years). We are sorry to see him go, but have high hopes for a similarly good relationship with his replacement, Officer John Kari, who will be starting work in our area on September 1.

Prior to hearing from our guests, the membership heard reports from committee representatives and the membership also had an opportunity to introduce themselves and express their hopes and concerns for our

to introduce themselves and express their hopes and concerns for our community. Most people were very appreciative of the beauty and peace to be found in our rural community and hoped that it doesn't change too much as the years go by. One common concern was the inability of many young people to move into the community as land owners. Real estate prices have risen beyond the means of many young families, so they are restricted to renting, which often can't be a permanent situation. The result is an increasingly older population of PMKCA area residents.

Committee reports included information on the latest activities of the CERT group and a chance to see inside the CERT response trailer, the volunteer fire department (which is frequently responding to calls on fires but needs more volunteers), the continuing participation of PMKCA members in the maintenance of the Kalopa Park garden, trails and trail signage and the opportunity for members with small businesses to get free advertising in the monthly email newsletter. Special thanks to John Lindelow for hosting the PMKCA website (PMKCA.org).

Councilmember Poindexter thanked the members for being frank with their concerns, since it allows her a chance to really get a feel for community priorities. Among those priorities were concerns over speeding and drag racing on Keahua Road, which Poindexter suggested could be dealt with by installation of speed bumps at minimal expense. Other concerns involved the relationship between our CERT group and county government and also follow-up on adding fire truck water supply standpipes at county water tanks in our area. I am pleased to report that both of those issues are actively being worked on by Poindexter and her staff and prospects for resolving these concerns are good.

Councilmember Poindexter also gave the membership the latest information on the status of Hu Honua and the problems with dairy waste near O'okala. She reassured everyone that the chipping of

the trees for use at the Hu Honua powerplant would be done at the mill site and not in the field plantations. She also was confident that recent legal action would remedy the problem of dairy waste effluent getting into a gulch and traveling downstream to the ocean.

Representative Nakashima briefed the membership on tax issues that might affect us, particularly related to possible funding for the rail project on Oahu. Nothing is certain at this time, since a special session of the legislature had yet to convene and take up the issue, but if the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) does become tapped for support of rail it could affect the county share of that tax. Neighbor island residents could also end up supporting rail if they stay in local hotels, which must charge them the TAT.

One strong concern from members was the use of herbicides along county and state roads, not only because of the effect on the scenic view from the highway but also because of the chemicals in the herbicides. County roads in our area are being mowed as the primary method of vegetation control, but it seems that state highways are being mowed less and sprayed more. Nakashima noted that the vegetation must be controlled for safety and fire reasons and that the control must be accomplished within the limited budget allowed for that kind of maintenance. He promised to follow up on researching the reasons for existing maintenance procedures.

A very enjoyable potluck lunch was followed by the traditional bingo game in which prizes that had been donated by members were won by bingo players. A special treat was a box of fresh leaf-lettuce heads donated by Anoa's™ Ano Farm, which had enough large heads to provide a half-dozen prizes.

Best Regards,

Joe Clarkson  
President, PMKCA

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