

Premiere Issue — 2012

HO 'OKU'PU

*Experience
Bollywood*

*A reflection of how
far Taste of Life has
come in 14 years*

*On stage:
Leche de Tigre*

And more inside ...



The official magazine of

Taste of Life

- ▶ *Schedule of Events*
- ▶ *Restaurant Guide*
- ▶ *Auction Highlights*



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Hihaf
HIV/AIDS Foundation



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HO'OKUPU

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#to12012

» KAHU PROFILE

Earl Kamakaonaona Regidor

Ka'upulehu Cultural Center Manager, Hualalai Resort

Born and raised in the quaint sugar plantation village of Pa'auilo, Hamakua, Island of Hawai'i he is the youngest in a family of 12 children. Earl fondly recalls family life in a small community. "Music was always a part of our family," says Earl, "I can't remember one day there wasn't music present — whether it was live or played on a record player. Being "young and carefree" lasted only about 18 years for Earl. Only six months after graduating high school, Earl enlisted in the military. He credits the military for transforming him from a young boy to a man and later for allowing him to continue his education.



In 1996, Earl joined Hualalai Resort as mea ho'okipa — or hospitality ambassador — at Ka'upulehu Cultural Center. In 2006, he became manager of the center and was ordained by Universal Ministries. He now performs weddings and blessings, adding another fulfilling facet to his colorful life.

Earl's humble upbringing, life experiences, and love for the culture make him the perfect ambassador to share Hualalai's and Hawai'i's values and culture with those from here and beyond.



Taste of Life

Saturday, August 25, 2012
 Keauhou Sheraton Resort & Spa

» TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m. Live music
 6:00 p.m. Hawaiian blessing
 6:15 p.m. Leche de Tigre performance
 6:45 p.m. Welcome by Ke'ala Kadooka and Mika Mulkey
 7:15 p.m. Introductions and acknowledgments
 7:30 p.m. Hands of Fatima performance
 7:45 p.m. Auction closes (first section)
 8:15 p.m. Auction closes (second section)
 9:00 p.m. Auction items ready for pick-up

» AFTER THE EVENT

The official after party The Mask-querade Bar
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» EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 14th annual Taste of Life!

What a year it's been! Since last year, because of your support, we have been able to double the number of Rapid HIV and Hep C tests given around the island. This has very quickly allowed us to support those who are newly infected with HIV and get them life-saving care.



Did you know that 1 in 3 newly diagnosed HIV+ people are heterosexual women below the age of 35?

This past year we have been able to raise over \$60,000 through a matching grant program for the SISTA Program. This program, focused on young at-risk women on Hawaii Island, will educate and equip them with the tools to reduce their risk of HIV and to make healthy lifestyle choices for themselves and their families.

This past year we held our very first Big Island AIDS Walk in Hilo. More than 350 people in 33 teams came together in the triumphant spirit of celebration and remembrance, bringing much needed attention to the fact that AIDS is still with us.

We hope that you enjoy "A Taste of Bollywood" this evening. Most importantly, we hope that you leave with a sense of having contributed to the health and well-being of the residents of Hawaii Island through your attendance.

Thank you so very much for your support!

Aloha,

Tina Clothier
HIHAF Executive Director

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Secretary

Lester John Bates III
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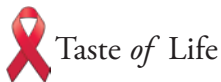
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Mahalo to our team of valued volunteers, without whom tonight would not be possible.



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- ◆ Teach
- ◆ Test
- ◆ Treat
- ◆ Triumph

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» PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Aloha, and welcome to the 14th annual Taste of Life!

Our theme for this evening was chosen for a very special reason. When I think of Bollywood musicals, I think of love, light, and hope ... mostly in the form of everyday, ordinary people, who, when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges, overcome them triumphantly and become extraordinarily strong in the process. That theme seems to play out day after day here on Hawai'i Island as well as in Bollywood films.



While preparing for this evening, I spent quite some time at our offices looking through old photo albums from the early years of HIHAF. Those hundreds of photos gave me a visual, as well as an emotional reminder, of just how our organization has evolved. I saw photos of events long forgotten, except possibly by a few participants. There are photos of charity bike rides, Halloween costume contests, Drag shows, World Aids Day walks, volunteer appreciation parties, and yes ... very early photos of our very first Taste of Life event on the lawn at Huggo's.

We were a small but determined group back then. In those photos I see the incredible bravery of people marching down Alii Drive at a time when, for most, the subject of HIV and AIDS was not something openly or safely discussed. There are also children being pushed in strollers at various events, who are now grown up, and can still be counted on as some of our greatest advocates.

In those photos, I see and can remember the love and support as well as hope and boundless determination. I also see the faces of many dear friends who have been lost along the way ... bringing home once more the harsh memory that this was also a time of vast uncertainty and devastating loss.

When I realize who we, as both an organization and a collective people, have become, I cannot help but be proud and grateful to those whose perseverance, courage and determination over the years have helped change things for the better on Hawai'i Island. We are now stronger, more visible and more accessible than ever before ... making it possible for our community to be better educated and informed; thereby making better and safer choices for themselves.

So, as we enjoy this beautiful event tonight, I ask that we give thanks to the spirit of the many, whom however briefly, have walked along with us. And as we look to the past with fond remembrance, let us not forget to show appreciation to those who are here today ... now ... giving their love and support ... and let us always be looking to our future and those new friends and champions we have yet to meet!

Mahalo nui loa!


David Michael Fero
HIHAF President



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HO'OKUPU

Published by Hawai'i Island HIV/AIDS Foundation



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» HIHAF STAFF

A very special Thank You to the HIHAF staff, who go above and beyond to make Taste of Life a success!

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| David Deges | Winic Pierce |
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| Bernadette Haleamau | Gene Smith |
| Teri Hollowell | Laurie Soares |
| Breze Hyatt | Wing Takakuwa |
| Cindy Medeiros | Mary Xavier |
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teach

What's the status of

HIV?

By Fiona McDonough
» Special to Ho'okupu

If you added up all the experience of HIHAF's staff and clients with HIV and AIDS, they would be celebrating their centennial. Though AIDS was discovered less than 30 years ago, HIHAF staffers have a much longer cumulative experience because of their backbone of longstanding professionals who understand the development and evolution of HIV/AIDS both in medical and social terms.

One of the biggest priorities of HIHAF is getting the message out that HIV is a virus that can affect in the general public in Hawaii and around the world — a challenge to the prejudice that HIV is isolated to marginal groups with a social stigma. They seek to build a stronger, healthier community with a greater understanding of HIV and related health issues. Working closely with the people of Hawaii, HIHAF develops appropriate approaches to teaching, testing, treating, and triumphing over HIV/AIDS, all at no cost. With studies showing that one in every three new HIV patients are heterosexual women and one in four new cases result from heterosexual sex, HIHAF's global approach to prevention is right on target. »

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HIV101

HIV is a virus that can only be passed if it enters the blood stream. A virus is like a computer program that writes a self-reproducing process. This process takes place in a cell, and once the virus' program takes over the cell, it becomes a factory for producing millions of little viruses destined to infect other cells. The HIV virus mostly infects CD4 cells, known as T cells or T helper cells, the white blood cells the immune system uses to fight disease. HIV converts the white blood cells so the immune system has fewer and fewer allies to fight diseases. The body's ability to fight off disease becomes increasingly compromised as the viral load, or amount of cells that have gone from white blood cells to HIV virus factories, rises.

AIDS develops when the HIV virus has broken down the immune system and the weakened body can no longer fight the onset of serious, often deadly infections and cancers — classified as Opportunistic Infections (OI). Part of what makes OIs so challenging to treat is that in AIDS patients they overwhelm the body. To treat this, the infection is fought head-on and the immune system is boosted. A healthy body is the best medicine, however, and when a patient's immune system no longer generates any self-healing, he or she will succumb to the OI, no matter how much medicine is in his or her body or how advanced medicine becomes.

» Good teachers know that reaching students means employing many different methods — and here in the school of life, HIHAF has different programs involving HIV-positive individuals, those at risk, and the community at large. The organization presents a model where the connections between healthy body, healthy mind, healthy behavior, and healthy community are clear and emotionally compelling. Wing Takakuwa, R.N. and Treatment Advocate with 20 years of experience in the field, explained the ways that the social views of a disease affect individuals and disease control:

“It's perceptions of appropriate behavior — if you don't meet the 'normal' you will hide behavior,” she said. “When it's hidden, people get exposed (because people don't take precautions or plan). How do you keep safe? The virus does not have a morality, it's just a virus. Society has values attached to what it means when you got infected.”

Changing public perception, therefore, is an important safety measure.

Tina Clothier, Executive Director of HIHAF, worked for years as the director of a cancer organization. Comparing public perception of HIV/AIDS to cancer, she points out a possible correlation: “HIV is not unlike cancer was 50

years ago — something not talked about, to be ashamed of. It's only because of educating the public and celebrating survivors that the stigma has changed.”

Fear and ignorance regarding a disease has historically led to propaganda blaming the disease on those from another country, race, or social or professional group, and the spread of the disease on the lack of proper precautions, as was the case with tuberculosis and syphilis.

Fear of using the same drinking fountain or cup, touching, kissing or having protected sex with an HIV positive individual, while still having unprotected heterosexual sex is an example of the worst results of false public perceptions of HIV/AIDS.

HIHAF's teaching approach is to have compassion, even for those false perceptions, thus HIHAF seeks ways to be part of positive public events so that they become familiar and accepted as part of what is normal. They regularly participate in the Christmas parade, Merrie Monarch, street fairs, and also go on the radio and speak to groups in schools, shelters and public assistance programs. David Michael Fero, President and Chairman of

» Continued on page 11



Meet your chef



There still remains a group of associates at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows that have worked at the resort since day one, and Chef Al Pacatang is one of them. In fact, he started at Mauna Lani Bay before the doors officially opened on February 14, 1983.

During Chef Al's time at Mauna Lani Bay he has been a chef for the Canoe House restaurant when it was recognized as Allan Wong's popular dining hotspot, the Bay Terrace breakfast restaurant and for the Mauna Lani Resort golf clubhouse. For many years now Chef Al has been recognized as the culinary face of Mauna Lani Bay's banquets.

In his role as Chef de Cuisine for

banquets, Chef Al has worked on major corporate events, weddings, themed functions and food festivals. The ingredient he enjoys working with most is fish, whether it's locally caught or sustainably farm-raised fish such as moi, kampachi, opah or swordfish. He enjoys using different cooking techniques best suited to the type of fish and drawing from his Hawaii upbringing to give an authentic taste of the islands.

Chef Al was born and raised in Kona. In his spare time he enjoys preparing his own culinary masterpieces at home and relaxing at the beach.

He has participated in this event in the past and is proud to represent Mauna Lani Bay at this important community fund raiser once again.

Taste of Life
AUGUST 25TH 2012
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Do you know your status? Are you positive?

By Fiona McDonough » Special to Ho'okupu

Of the estimated 1.1 million Americans currently living with HIV, 21 percent do not know they are infected, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). First, this results in the spread of the disease.

test

Many new HIV infections are caused by people who have been infected recently with HIV. It is a time when they often have few to no symptoms yet are extremely infectious, and can easily unknowingly transmit the virus to others. It may take up to three months for HIV to even show up in a test because HIV antibodies aren't found in the blood for two weeks to three months after infection. Second, the longer HIV goes untreated, the less effective treatment and long-term health forecast becomes.

Clearly it makes sense to get tested to know your status, and everyone should have at least one HIV test — more if you are pregnant, had a blood transfusion between 1978 and 1985, or are having unprotected sex outside of a mutually monogamous relationship, and/or injecting drugs. However, because of the social stigma and danger of losing health insurance, people are fearful of even getting tested or showing any interest in prevention or advocacy. They fear that if their HIV status is

positive, they could be rejected by family and society and lose their financial independence.

HIHAF offers free and anonymous rapid HIV testing weekly both in Kona and Hilo and performs outreach aimed to make HIV/AIDS something people can associate with publicly to relieve that fear of stigma. They have reached out to different ethnic groups on the island with awareness campaigns using social media such as facebook and platforms such as the radio, and, of course, being visible at public events. Fero uses the


example of a radio campaign with Augie T:

“The Augie T campaign has been really effective, reaching an audience we normally wouldn't have access to.”

Fero said HIHAF is trying to get funding for NPR radio to do targeted messages:

“The goal is that the idea of

talking about it and being involved is not a big deal. At gay pride people were getting tested in public. Before people would be afraid of what any interest would imply. A mother came and took supplies saying ‘I have teenage kids and I know what they are doing.’”


When teaching or speaking in public, they tailor the messages and use lots of role play to keep people comfortable so they do not shut down. 



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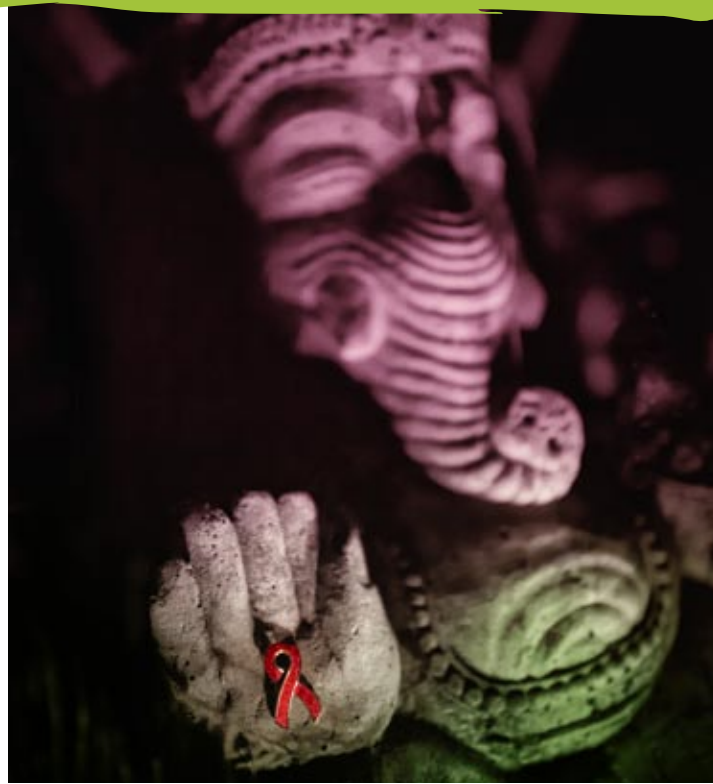


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 by Dino
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 Special to
 Ho'okupu

» What's the status of HIV?

» Continued from page 9

the Board, and also one of HIHAF's first clients, glowed about the positive, spontaneous encounters he has had at public events:

"People came up and hugged us, thanking us. People don't know where to find us, this was a way to reach larger public. Someone is cutting your hair, and they tell you they know someone with HIV. They don't come to us [at the offices] but if we are out there, they feel safe talking."

As HIV medicines have evolved and improved over the years, and as more people live longer, healthier lives with HIV, there is reason to celebrate. Survivors often find that the positive attitude and life changes that have allowed them to administer the special care they need for themselves has made their overall life and relationships better.

Nonetheless, HIHAF staff stresses that living a healthy life with HIV is challenging.


"Youth numbers are starting to go up. There is not a sense of urgency because people are not dying in droves. They think it's not a real

issue, or think there's a cure, or think they can just take a pill. They don't know it will take 10-20 years off their life," Fero said. "Pills can be problematic. Till recently side effects were horrendous. And if they stop taking meds for even a few days they might no longer be effective."

Common side effects of even the most current drugs are high cholesterol and related illness, facial wasting, and fat deposits under the stomach and back of the neck.

Fero brings home the personal cost of living with HIV.

"I know 30 less people than 15 years ago. I have one friend left from my crowd back then. All those people are gone."

When teaching about HIV/AIDS, therefore, HIHAF transmits the facts, shares the tools for prevention such as safe sex kits, and then, on a more subtle but equally important level, promotes safe sexual behavior through nonjudgemental dialogues with clients aimed to build the self-esteem and communication skills to have protected sex. 



ON STAGE

Leche de Tigre



Leche De Tigre, tonight's Taste Of Life entertainment, has quickly become one of the most popular bands in West Hawaii.

Born in a series of jam sessions at Kailua-Kona's Ceviche Dave's in 2009, the band has turned its inimitably danceable Latin gypsy funk into essential listening.

Led by lead guitarist Dan Brauer and chanteuse Lee Motter, the 10-piece has taken stages around the island by storm.

The inspired originals and classics such as "Besame Mucho" are punctuated by the brash brass of trumpeter Michaeloha Elam.

While Brauer leads the way, he gets plenty of stringed help from guitarists Dave Weaver and Lukas Lessa, bassist Robby Malovic, and cellist Jing Tsong.

Craig Miller holds down the beat on the trap set while Joe Marcelin on congas and Ruben Diaz on timbales and other percussion punctuate the rhythm.

It all adds up to a unique Latin-infused musical experience that'll keep you humming Leche De Tigre's songs for days.

After its success here on the Big Island, Leche De Tigre is making its way across the Pacific.

The band's tour starts here in Kona at one of its favorite venues — the Aloha Theatre in Kainaliu — Sept. 8; then the band jets off to Las Vegas to play Sept. 14 at Vinyl at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino followed by a gig at the GuitarFish Music Festival in Cisco Grove, Calif., near Lake Tahoe.

After that, the band plays two shows in the Bay Area — Sept. 18 at the Boom Boom Room in San Francisco and Sept. 20 at the Ashkenaz Music & Dance Community Center in Berkeley.

Leche De Tigre finishes up its West Coast swing Sept. 21 in The Atrium at the Catalyst in Santa Cruz, Calif.

Olé! 🍷

Living HIV-positive

By Fiona McDonough » Special to Ho'okupu

When first diagnosed with HIV, most people mentally shut down as much as you would after receiving a death sentence, says Wing Takakuwa, HIHAF's Treatment Advocate R.N. who administers many of the rapid tests.

"The first message I try to give is, there is a way to live with it," said Takakuwa, who immediately surrounds new HIV-infected patients with services, all at no cost to the individual. Once lab tests have confirmed the rapid test and revealed the state of the immune system, the current thought is to get people on medication as soon as possible to keep the immune system strong for the best long-term outcome.

Assessing which medicines to use and paying for them presents hurdles, because usually only specialists can keep up with the new therapies involving drugs designed to treat HIV exclusively. In addition, the new drugs cost thousands of dollars a month.


HIHAF helps people get to the right doctors, and get the insurance coverage to pay for medicines and treatment, sometimes a complicated cobbling together of insur-

ance plans with public assistance. Treating HIV effectively requires stability because you need insurance and regular doses of drugs and visits to the doctor, thus, Takakuwa also assesses the person's situation, how sick they are, if they need public assistance, health insurance, a place to live, a translator, extra food, counseling on healthy choices, a refrigerator for medicines, or a doctor.

Medicines require 95% adherence or the highly adaptive HIV virus becomes resistant, explains Takakuwa, so she works with patients to find a way to adhere.

The burden of responsibility for HIV can be depressing at some point and patients must find a way to stay positive.

"You have to think about meds, insurance ... When you meet someone, are you going to tell them? Depression can lead patients to stop taking meds," Takakuwa said.

She added that positive things, such as family, a partner, spiritual beliefs, meditation, exercise, or even pets, can help patients' mental attitudes. 

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Learning to thrive triumph

By Fiona McDonough » Special to Ho'okupu

Triumph starts as a choice to fight for life. As drugs improve, it is possible to live a long, good life with HIV. Living a healthy life with HIV requires attention to diet, exercise, lowering stress, taking medicines correctly, and protection from other diseases. For some, it has given them the motivation to take care of themselves, appreciate the beauty and gift of life, help their community, be a leader, work harder, try new things, achieve more, find a support network, and love and be true to themselves.

HIHAF President David Michael Fero talks about how he has successfully survived:

"They say hope for the best and be prepared for the worst. I did clinical trials right away 17 years ago, if I could be of any service or use I would do it. I never put more energy into symptoms than it needs. That keeps it lighter. Your attitude makes a difference."


Wing Takakuwa, HIHAF Treatment Advocate R.N., recalled the early days of HIHAF during the epidemic and how much things have changed.

"It was a response to a medical crisis. People were not surviving. We were a hospice, serving immediate needs. Now that it's a chronic manageable disease, we need to

shepherd funds so people can live a long, healthy life."

Fero commented on the difference HIHAF has made in his life:

"I was here when no doctors would talk to people. People would just disappear, go to hospital and never come back, and it was covered up. HIHAF was a place to go where you could talk and be treated as a person. The staff here stepping up to get things done has literally saved peoples lives."

Fero warns that government funding cuts could cause a rise in HIV and that it is important that people advocate against these cuts. HIHAF is actively raising funds so that whatever the case may be, it can continue to serve the people of Hawaii. 



FOUR SEASONS RESORT

Meet your chef



Chef Shaun Acosta
Sous Chef Pahuia
Four Seasons Resort Hualalai

Originally from California, I have worked here at the Four Seasons Resort Hualalai for the past six years. I was trained at the California Culinary Academy and was a Chef at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco. Now the Sous Chef at Pahu'a I strive to serve the freshest local ingredients, focusing on the Regional, Seasonal, and Artisanal products that the Big Island has to offer.

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"Banyan"

Painted on Ali'i Drive looking towards the pier in Kailua Kona, Hawaii. Terrance J. Cisco © 2012

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Remember When ...

Scott Dodd, along with his partner Eric von Platen Luder, has supported Taste of Life since its genesis.



Participants enjoy food samples at the 1999 Taste of Life at Huggo's On the Rocks in Kailua-Kona. Owners Scott Dodd and Eric von Platen Luder has been with Taste of Life since its beginning 14 years ago and helped make the event one of the Big Island's premier galas to raise funds for HIHAF.

By Fiona McDonough » Special to Ho'okupu

Taste of Life became so successful because its first hosts, Huggo's owners and operators Scott Dodd and Eric von Platen Luder, had a formula for creating popular awareness and a fund raising event: give a great party celebrating life.

"It's fun. It's really casual, people walk around and talk to people. It's very social, there's good food and drinks, and people want to go," said Dodd.

Dodd and von Platen Luder kept the Taste of Life successful as an awareness and fundraising event by keeping it light.

"What makes the difference is that it's really fun and social, which keeps people coming and shopping. It's proven to be a winner in that regard."

While certainly important in other settings, educational presentations about HIV/AIDS, it "kills the spirit of the

» Continued on page 22

» FOOD & DRINK

Enjoy the Big Island's best cuisine while supporting HIHAF. This year's participating restaurants and vendors are sure to whet your appetite!



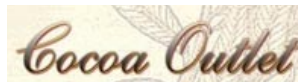
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» ACTIVITIES

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HIHAF
Taste of Life 2013 10-top table

Captain Zodiac
Raft and snorkel for two

(Blue Hawaiian?) Helicopter
Volcano tour for one

A 90-minute massage

A tattoo

Fairwind
Afternoon cruise for four

Kona Historical Society
Two museum passes

A titanium ring

Imiloa Astronomy Center

Family membership

Dr. Monica Scheel
Skincare consultation and micropeel

» DINING

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Beach Hotel
Prime Rib/Seafood buffet for two

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1897 London Illustrated News
engravings

Antique carved wood panel

Palm and teak model boat

» GIFT BASKETS, ETC.

Assorted Halloween and Christmas
decor

Cocktail time bar set-up

Box of jellies and syrups

» JEWELRY

Silver, Rhodium and fresh black water
pearls

» BEYOND CATEGORIZATION

"The Way We Used to Play" toys and
games from the '50s

After dinner set — including port,
decanter, glasses, a tray and a book

Pashmina silk shawl

A barbecue

A pair of boots

» Welcome to HIHAF's Silent Auction

Your Bidder No. will be on
your entrance ticket and the stub.

Silent Auction Bidding Instructions

- » To place a silent auction bid, legibly print your name and bidding number in the starting bid space or on the line following the highest current bid.
- » If you wish to **BUY NOW**, fill in the appropriate space and notify an auction attendant.
- » A bid will be considered a binding agreement to purchase the listed item(s) at the amount indicated. All bidders must be 18 years of age or above.
- » All winning bids must be settled before the end of the event by cash, check or credit card.
- » In order to protect the integrity of all bidders, please do not scratch out bids. Bids may only be voided by an auction volunteer or staff member due to a valid bidding error. Please seek assistance if you find an invalid bid or make a mistake during bidding.
- » The auction in the Backroom will close at 7:45 p.m. The auction in the Main Ballroom will close at 8:15 p.m., at which time the highest bid on each bid sheet will be declared the winner.
- » All winning Bidder numbers will be posted by the cashiers desk at the ballroom entrance.

Guidelines for Silent Auction Security

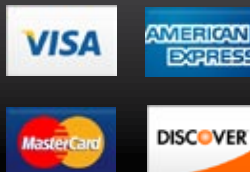
- » Please do not remove or relocate auction items. If you wish to look more closely at an item than placement allows, please seek the assistance of auction staff.
- » Please refrain from touching fine art or jewelry items.
- » Please do not open baskets or packages.
- » Silent Auction Restrictions and Other Details
- » Gift certificates, gift cards, etc. are not displayed, but will be provided at the time of payment. Reservations for trips, stays in hotels, use of facilities, ticket redemption (or other applicable items or actions) must be mutually arranged by the winning bidder and the donor unless otherwise specified. Black-out periods, expiration dates and restrictions may apply.
- » Restrictions and expiration dates do apply on several auction items. Gift certificates should be thoroughly scrutinized. The utmost care has been taken to note restrictions as accurately as possible; however, the [charity] is not responsible for any restrictions omitted or not otherwise indicated by the donor, or prizes not claimed within the scope of restrictions or expiration dates.

Conflicts

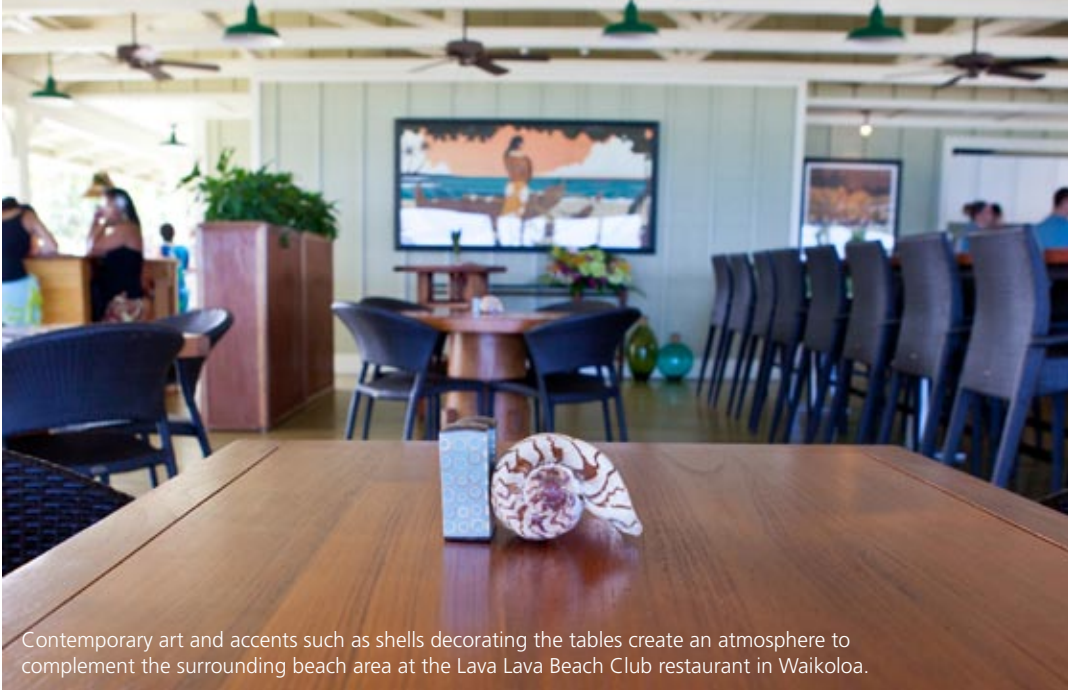
If a conflict arises (such as identification of who the winning bidder is or if unfair tactics on the part of a bidder have been used), a member of the auction committee will determine the outcome of the controversy. All bidders must abide by the decision of the committee member.



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Contemporary art and accents such as shells decorating the tables create an atmosphere to complement the surrounding beach area at the Lava Lava Beach Club restaurant in Waikoloa.

Photo by Anna Pacheco » Special to Ho'okupu

» Remember When ...

» Continued from page 17
mood in the moment,” Dodd explains. That means the fun of mingling, dancing, eating, drinking — and, well, basically, partying.

Dodd and von Platen Luder hosted the very first Taste of Life right at their Huggo’s restaurant in downtown Kailua-Kona. After the first two years it was so popular they had to move to the bigger King Kamehameha hotel, then the Outrigger, and now the Sheraton Keauhou Resort & Spa, but continued to be instrumental in organizing the event for 10 years.


“Because of our involvement in the restaurant business we could reach out to other restaurants to get them to participate. We could also use our connections to liquor purveyors. Once we added that, it made it a more fun and desirable event,” said Dodd.

Dodd and von Platen Luder learned of the event from one of their Huggo’s managers on the HIHAF board. They felt compelled to help host because HIV and AIDS were affecting their friends.

“We knew a lot of people affected at the time. People were dying more frequently

and suffering more. We wanted to do something to bring awareness and lessen suffering and promote measures for HIV negative people to stay that way,” said Dodd.

Dodd, who with von Platen Luder was on the HIHAF board for seven years, said it’s gratifying that volunteers and the board have taken that foundation and continued to make it better.

Their Huggo’s restaurant and new Waikoloa Beach Resort Lava Lava Club vacation cabanas and restaurant are participating in this year’s Taste of Life. 

Giving women the power to protect themselves

By Fiona McDonough
» Special to Ho’okupu

Women enduring domestic violence are at risk for HIV because they cannot negotiate safe sex with their partner, say HIHAF Executive Director Tina Clothier and Women’s Outreach Program’s Breeze Hyatt. HIHAF works with groups that are already meeting to deal with family violence at women’s shelters, college students women’s centers, and the YWCA through its SISTA program. This program was adapted from a mainland program for African-American women to one rich in Hawaiian and Pacific Island culture. Hyatt explains where many women come from starting the SISTA program:

“We teach about making healthy choices by teaching women how much value they have as a woman. Most are in domestic abuse relationships and had horrible upbringings. A lot don’t value themselves. They are treated as objects rather than people.”

First the women are built up, given confidence and taught about the value of women and the tradition of long-lasting supportive relationships with women (their “sistas”). They reflect on the myths vs. facts about HIV/AIDS. Then they receive assertive communication training, which consists of role-playing and analysis of current behavior and the pros and cons of changing attitudes. Some have found that communication skills learned in SISTAS have helped them to have more peaceful interactions with their partners than before. Several women have been able to leave destructive relationships because of the self-esteem and support the program gave them. Women with children see how they can help their children by helping themselves.

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