



## Supporting the Palace

*The Friends of 'Iolani Palace are asking for  
a little kōkua from the Kamehameha Schools 'ohana*

**C**ommissioned by King David Kalākaua at a cost of nearly \$360,000, 'Iolani Palace was built in 1882 as a tribute to the Kingdom of Hawai'i. The palace served as the official residence of Kalākaua and his successor, Queen Lili'uokalani, until the monarchy was overthrown in 1893.

The palace was then converted into legislative halls and executive offices, with the business of government conducted there until the state capitol was completed next to the palace grounds in 1969.

Through the dedicated efforts of palace staff and the nonprofit citizen's organization The Friends of 'Iolani Palace, the stately palace stands today as an enduring reminder that Hawai'i was once a thriving monarchy.

A national historic landmark recognized as the only official royal palace on United States soil, 'Iolani Palace was opened to the public in 1978. Guided tours and special lectures on Hawaiian history, art, language and culture are presented throughout the year to the more than 50,000 people who visit the palace annually.

"'Iolani Place is the most visible and lasting symbol of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. It houses

precious artifacts reflecting the richness and dignity of our Hawaiian heritage," said **Kitty Knight Kamaka '82**, who has served on the The Friends of 'Iolani Palace Board of Directors since 2000.

Kamaka is one of several Kamehameha Schools alumni who are contributing their time and energy to support the palace. The "Friends" organization was established nearly 40 years ago to help direct museum operations and oversee restoration efforts.

Former Kamehameha trustee **Oswald "Oz" Stender '50** has been a board member for more than 15 years, and currently serves as board president. Stender said he was invited to be a board member at a time when very few Hawaiians were involved with the group.

"Today, more than half the board members are part Hawaiian," he said. "Now's the time for alumni of Kamehameha to get involved, to be a part of the history, and to help protect and preserve the palace."

Stender added that fundraising is also a big issue for board members.

"It's one of our biggest challenges," he said. "We need funds for maintenance, restoration, security and acquisition of articles that previously

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had been located in the palace. We need to keep the facility in good shape, so people can come and really be impressed.”

Former Kamehameha staff member **Fred Cachola '53** has been a palace docent for the past five years, and he echoed the need for volunteer support – from KS alumni in particular.

“I think it’s important for our alumni to support the palace because it’s a place that deserves to have more Hawaiians telling the story of our *ali’i* and telling it from a true Hawaiian, *kanaka maoli*, perspective,” Cachola said. “As direct beneficiaries of the ‘living legacy’ of our *ali’i*, we should share in the continued need to keep that legacy alive.”

Cachola, whose knowledge of the Big Island’s Kohala area – home to Kamehameha I – is renowned, said he’s been a historian for most of his life. “When I retired in 1996, I wanted to engage in a meaningful activity to perpetuate our rich Hawaiian historical and cultural legacies. There’s a fascinating story to be told about the palace, and I love to learn more about it and share it with other people.”

Many of the docents are retirees, but opportunities abound for individuals with even a small amount of time to spare. Volunteers are needed to serve as docents, guardians, greeters, gallery hosts, clerical helpers and to assist in the Video Theater and Gallery Shop.

**Amber Torres '00**, a student at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, said she volunteered as a guardian and a greeter because her tuition waiver to attend the university required her to do some community service.



Guardians provide assistance for the docents as well as visitors. Greeters meet visitors upon arrival, share house rules and help distribute the protective “booties” visitors are asked to wear to prevent damage to the palace floors.

Torres said she chose ‘Iolani Palace because of its significance to Hawaiians.

“The palace is a reminder that our people once had a well-recognized monarchy and a way of life that was unique. All alumni should support our palace. It’s our heritage.”

“As a child, I admired this ‘beautiful home’ and wondered who lived in it, never having known it was ‘Iolani Palace, the home of Hawai’i’s royalty,” said **Marguerite Kaonohilani Kealanahele '49**. “I vowed to take an active role in telling the palace’s story, and I enjoy being a docent because I’m able to tell this story.

“There’s always room for new volunteers, and anyone can serve in whatever capacity they choose. People come from all over the world to visit, and it’s a wonderful opportunity to share your talent with them.”

Kamaka said the palace also offers hope for the future.

“Although many other taller and larger buildings have been erected around it, ‘Iolani Palace perpetuates all that is Hawai’i, and serves to inspire Hawaiians, young and old, to be the best that we can be,” Kamaka said.

For more information about contributing your time and effort, call the palace’s Volunteer Coordinator Lori Garcia at 522-0821 from 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday through Saturday or send e-mail to [kanaina@iolanipalace.org](mailto:kanaina@iolanipalace.org).



With its lavish appointments of Paris porcelain, Bohemian crystal and presentation portraits of European monarchs, the State Dining Room is the most formal of several dining areas in ‘Iolani Palace.



Kamehameha Schools ‘ohana members who are involved with the Friends of ‘Iolani Palace organization include, from left, Mel Garcia '74, David Peters, Kitty Knight Kamaka '82, Amber Torres '00, Oswald Stender '50, Fred Cachola '53 and Ambrose J. Rosehill '45.