

Ka Lei Maile Ali`i - The Queen's Women



A "Re-enactment" Work-in-Progress of an article that was written in the *San Francisco Call* newspaper by reporter Miriam Michelson on the deck of the *Australia*, 22 September 1897

Written by

Helen Edyth M. Lincoln Lee Kwai aka "Didi"

A presentation by

Ka Lei Maile Ali`i Hawaiian Civic Club (including Leon Siu & Dr Ron Williams giving historical context)

Waimanalo Beach Park Pavilion

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

6pm Dinner & 7pm Presentation

Ka Lei Maile Ali`i - The Queen's Women was first performed at a celebration of Queen Lili`uokalani's birthday in 2001 at the Kana`ina Building, on the grounds of `Iolani Palace. Taken from the story that appeared in the *San Francisco Call* in 1897, the one-act play is a re-enactment of a now famous meeting in Hilo between *Hui Aloha `Aina o Nā Wāhine* (Women's Hawaiian Patriotic League) and the maka`āinana. The subject of that gathering was the Ku`e Petition, also known as the Monster Petition, signed by nearly every kanaka maoli living at that time.

The petition was returned to Hawai`i nei by Dr. Noenoe Silva in 1997 from the National Archives of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. It was on display at the Bishop Museum in 1998. Since then, it has become one of the most powerful tools for independence dialogue in the Hawaiian sovereignty movement, and is the one document all kānaka maoli can point to that represents the true unified voice of our people. It remains proof of the unity of mind and spirit that all of us inherited from our kūpuna who loved us so.

Ka Lei Maile Ali`i –The Queen’s Women is our mo`olelo. It reminds us that:

- Our kūpuna did not want to be part of America, neither as a state nor a federally recognized tribe.
- Our kūpuna had faith in the truth and meaning of being PONO, as a legacy handed down to us.

Join us to experience the spiritual, cultural, and emotional energy of that day in Hilo, when kānaka maoli collectively made their will known. Be in the audience; listen to the words spoken 107 years ago; live, even if only briefly, the momentous events that shaped our past, our present, and what will become our future.

Reviews of “Ka Lei Maile Ali`i”

I liked what I saw of *Ka Lei Maile Ali`i* and of course, from a theatrical perspective, liked what I felt. Especially at the end when voices were heard...good theatre does just that. And I second Chris Patrinos. Do this piece again at Hawai`i Theatre or wherever.... Why do people wait for another showing as they did that evening? Because this piece hits home and boy it sure did with a lot of people. All the elements of an interactive performance were certainly there from the chiming of the bells to the sad melodic echoing of the nose flute. They played with the (my) emotions, as did the opening chant. When you move an audience you know this is right. If you guys were rehearsing, then I'll wait for the full-on season premier of *Ka Lei Maile Ali`i*. Bless you with all your endeavors.

Cheers – Misa Tupou

This play has strengthened my spirit and encouraged me to be all that I can as a Hawaiian Kupuna Wahine. I will never let anyone suppress me by signing my rights away. I pray God will have his hand on this reenactment in Kaua`i and bring all his people of all nations together.

Mahalo Piha - Leota

For me, *Ka Lei Maile Ali`i*, a documentary, depicts moments of truth of the Hawaiian people’s yesteryears in our present world of orchestrated misinformation and distortion. It is a kahea from ka po'e of then, to ka po'e of now. This blessing comes forth in the most critical time of the Hawaiian people when the people of koko are being used to cast stones against one another only for external foreign recognition. Those of the koko should place their pu'uwai close to the aina and listen to the kahea of their ancestors. Those like myself without the koko should ask why our ancestors stood by and let it happen. I cannot change what they did, but I can be part of not allowing the lie to continue. Truth cannot be hidden and will surface in all situations. *Ka Lei Maile Ali`i* is the beginning of its rise, hana hou.

Aloha ke Akua, God is Love - Pilipo Souza

I thoroughly enjoyed “*Ka Lei Maile Ali`i*”. It is an excellent reminder of our history. The play should be taken out to the community at large; they need to hear the story.

Antoinette “Toni” Lee, First Vice President, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and Historian of the Pearl Harbor Hawaiian Civic Club.

As many times as I have seen the play, “*Ka Lei Maile Ali`i*”, I shed tears because each time I am taken back to when Kānaka Maoli were facing the loss of their nation and reign of their beloved Queen and all that this represented. Onipa`a!

June Shimokawa - a sister in solidarity

I’m one all Pake guy, whose great grandfather signed the petition in Honolulu just days before the Hilo meeting in 1897. I am a subject of the Kingdom of Hawai`i by descent. Great-grandfather became a naturalized Kingdom Subject in 1890 and pledged his allegiance to King Kalākaua and the Kingdom.

The play helped me to understand the emotions, passions and the human face of the signing of the petitions. Before that, great-grandfather's signing was a historical episode. Now it is as if the kūpuna are alive and speaking with a voice that is clear and unmistakable.

Mālama pono – “Kaho`ola” Baron Ching, M.D.

I was quite moved by the play and anxiously await someone to write a longer version for Broadway.

Jeff Garland, President, Community Television Producers Association.

St. M. Queen Liliuokalani, Hawaii.