

Moses "Moki" Kalanikau " Rememberance "

June 05, 1936-June 20, 1986

While most club members know KCC's annual regatta is named for Moses "Moki" Kalanikau, all too few paddlers know much about this extraordinary man. As one of the several men and women who help establish this club, he always said that it "takes a village or a community to raise and help a child."

He, along with George Ferreira, Ben Abiera(Moki's), Joe Kuaana., Les Kuloloio, Henry Foo sum, The Hamada's, Danny Palakiko, Delanux, Arrudas, Darvon Leis, Moon Kauhane and countless others to create KCC.

His idea along with his colleagues was to help keep children occupied and off the streets. Basketball was the only sports down in this little town at the time and many keikis were without activities. Joe Kuaana says its" good for the keikis to learn the Hawaiian canoeing and culture too." All were in agreement and Moki involved in his own Menehune basketball team was already donating countless hours with kids and parents in the community.

Moki served as part time coach as well as other responsibility, and was a member of the Board, President for some years ,but mostly spent his time with the keikis. He was a mentor, a friend, a listener, an uncle, a counselor to whom ever felt the need. Even with parents.

The club had only one canoe when it was established and dedicated in 1975. The canoe was then a Yellow and Blue Canoe, Helu Ekahi" It was leased from a Honolulu Outrigger canoe who belonged to HCRA, and the Leis's purchased it later in the year. By then the club had about 200 plus members and one canoe. Ben Abiera and wife Rachael purchased the second canoe, "Mikiala" and then later the "Pakalana" the favorite flower of our awesome, unrelentless coach Dutchy Kino .

“Moki” as we all fondly called him was born to Rachael and Louis Waiwaiole . He married the former Paula Travis, had one son, two daughters, and later adopted another son.

Moki was enthusiastic in everything he did. His gift of the true meaning of” Aloha was spread among his family, church, his job and the community. He was a member of the church choir and volunteered many hours serving others.

How he ever managed his time I never really knew, he just did, says his wife Paula.” He did it well.”

Moki also served in the Kihei School PTSA as vice President and officiated at MIL basketball games for 17years as well as coaching his own basketball Menehune team ...The Kihei Suns.

He was also a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard Reserves an avid sportsman, Moki bowled on several Hawaiian Bowling League and during his “free time” enjoyed taking his family on camping and fishing trips.

The Regattas was always held on Sundays and Moki appealed to have the days changed to Saturdays as he attends church with his family on Sundays but that never came to reality until after his passing.

In 1987, the KCC board informed his widow that the “first” of what is now held and called the Moki Kalanikau Regatta in his honor and has continued the tradition to this day in tribute to this dedicated man.