

Kihamaniania Church and School House Ruins Cleaned Up

Community Service Project unites visitors and residents in common goal

by Kepa Maly, Executive Director, Lana'i Culture and Heritage Center



The participants in the clean-up crew made up the largest congregation of people inside the walls of the church in many years!

Situated on a hill overlooking a portion of Lana'i City sits the stone ruins of the oldest historical structure of our beloved little city. These stone and mortar ruins are all that remain of the old Kihamaniania Church and School House, which between 1840 to the 1870's was the center of activity in the uplands of Lana'i.

While it is remembered by few people today, the Kihamaniania ruins are an important part of the historic nature of Lana'i City. The earthly remains of the old families who once lived in this area are buried on the lands adjacent to the church and school house and it is the oldest "western-style" cemetery on the island.

Castle & Cooke, the Lana'i Archaeological Committee, 'Ahahui

'Imi Pono O Lana'i (formerly Hui Malama Pono O Lana'i), and the Lana'i Culture and Heritage Center have been working on plans to protect the site and interpret the history of Kihamaniania. As part of the preservation planning process, a group of 18 island residents and 35 visitors spent three and a half hours at Kihamaniania on March 1, clearing accumulated debris and removing brush and saplings from within the ruin's interior.

The visitors, participants of an Anthony Robbins Seminar series, were guests at the Four Seasons at Manele Bay. The residents are members of 'Ahahui 'Imi Pono o Lana'i, Laulima, and other individuals interested in the history of Lana'i.

The 50+ participants carefully cleared years of debris from the



Hula, music and the ruins history was shared during a picnic luncheon.

site; removed fallen trees which had damaged some of the old stone and mortar walls; and trimmed vegetation that was impacting the site. At the end of the day, there was some "talk story" of the history of

Kihamaniania, music and hula. The work accomplished set a new foundation for the community to assume a role as the steward of this important historical resource.

Mahalo nui to all!



This "before" photo taken several months ago show saplings and brush inside the church ruins.



After the clean-up, all of the debris was hauled away, leaving everything neat and tidy.

Platinum Members Personal Satisfaction In Job Well Done

Contributed jointly by Kim Snyder and Jan Mikulin

Platinum Partnership is a program developed by Anthony Robbins to provide opportunities to contribute around the world.

Arriving in the beautiful wooded area, we were greeted by some of the local people and were graced with stories of the island's history. Once we had honored the space with a circle prayer, we broke into our teams and began the cleanup of brush, debris and fallen trees. The

area had a spiritual quality to it, as we worked around the ancient ruins, being careful not to disturb stones, laid by local Hawaiian people so many years before.

We worked together as one big team to remove logs, trim tree stumps, which hid to trip the unwary hiker, and clean up piles of debris left by prior efforts at restoration. It was with great satisfaction, we took a moment to walk around and ap-

preciate the fact we had made it easier to move around the area, and the ruins now stood out, rather than being hidden behind brush and logs.

Our time at Kihamaniania shone ancient wisdom on our spirits and reminded us of the ties we have outside the rigid framework of time and space. We breathed the air of our ancestors and connected with the shared experiences of cultures and generations past.

Lana'i truly means "day of conquest," for to spend a day in her people's company is to have your heart seized and your soul captivated. To be welcomed in any new place is always a treat, to be taken in like family is unique!

We will take the memories of our new family with us throughout the rest of our lives and know that we are now connected throughout time and space.