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Village News

THE LEGACY OF HER ALOHA

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It was a beautiful, typical morning in the Village of Waikoloa.

But this Sunday was a little different in the Village. 'Ohana gathered, friends and neighbors greeted each other, and new friendships formed. Those in attendance included her children - a sister and two brothers, co-workers, and extended family. Their common bond this day, was to honor the legacy of her Aloha.

She was Aunt Mabel "Meipala" Ishii, Waikoloa's First Lady Of Aloha. A moving memorial in Mabel's honor sits at the corner of Meipala Pl. and Kilakila St., on the property of Kim Mufalli and Scott Campbell. A massive volcanic pohaku with a bronze plaque and her picture faces the intersection. The plaque notes her "Spirit of Aloha and contribution to Waikoloa Village."

Around 60 people came together on August 19th to share their memories of Aunt Mabel. Special guest speaker,



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County Councilwoman Valerie Poindexter, Dist. 1, a long-time friend of Aunt Mabel's, shared poignant recollections of Aunt Mabel's character and legacy, as people held back tears. She reminisced that her 'ohana and Aunt Mabel's 'ohana would often spend time together. Poindexter pointed out that Aunt Mabel, much like herself, instilled the values of Aloha and service to the community upon her children and grandchildren.

Aunt Mabel "Meipala" Ishii was the Village of Waikoloa Administration Manager for 17 years, from 1986 until her death in 2003. Her calling card was a gracious warm smile...and a welcoming (all-inclusive) greeting of "Aloha!" It was often followed by an unforgettable, Aunt Mabel-kine hug, that was kilipue--enthusiastic, passionate, and full of Aloha! To people who settled in the Village, Aunt Mabel was the first, true face of Aloha.

A proclamation from the Hawai'i State Senate noted Aunt Mabel's "strong commitment to community", "whose work has improved our quality of life," and that Aunt Mabel's spirit of aloha was "legendary." A letter from County Councilman Tim Richards read, "She was the epitome of Aloha."

In closing, Village musician Jammin' Joe Buck, strummed his ukulele as everyone held hands singing, "Hawai'i Aloha."