Aloha Kākou,

Our 39th season was one of beauty, joy, celebration, and unforeseen challenges. From the incredible season opener of international Hawaiian superstar Kealiʻi Reichel and his ensemble, to the Celtic musings of Goitse, it was shaping up to be a truly memorable season. And then in March we were forced to close our doors by government mandate. COVID-19 had made its way to Hawaiʻi and all of our lives would be drastically altered for more than a year.

While our doors were closed to the public, and it truly dawned on us that our new reality was setting in for the long term, an evolution of Kahilu, and the way we present art to the public, was set into motion. Our artistic director, Chuck Gessert, started researching other ways we could keep the arts (and Kahilu) alive. Around the same time, after five years of dedicating herself, and her many talents, to the theatre, Deb Goodwin stepped away from her position as executive director. We will be forever grateful to her for the contributions she made to Kahilu, to our community, and to ensuring that the legacy will live on.

When the pandemic first became a reality, I could not help but think back to the “intermission” of 2012–2013. However, thanks to the lessons learned from that time, it ended up being entirely different. Once again, though, we have our dedicated patrons and community members to wholeheartedly thank. They contributed what they could to help keep our theatre afloat and it made all the difference. Mahalo nui!

We like to say that Kahilu Theatre is the artistic heart of the community, but, in reality, it’s the community — the artists, the keiki, the kupuna, the organizations, the families — that serves as the heart of Kahilu Theatre.

With all of our hearts, we thank you for the love you have shown us and we look forward to the adventures ahead.

A hui hou,

Mimi Kerley

Board President
A HERITAGE IN THE ARTS

The Kahilu Theatre came into being through the generosity of its millionaire benefactor and Parker Ranch owner Richard Kaleioku Smart: like his stewardship of the Ranch, Smart built the theatre with a vision of a place where the performing arts could flourish, a place that would truly serve the community.

Not long after Richard Smart’s birth in 1913, both of his parents passed away, leaving him as the sole heir of the Parker Ranch fortune. Richard developed a love for drama and music, and as a young man, he left Hawai’i Island and headed for the bright lights of New York City. There, he performed for 30 years on Broadway. He eventually returned to Waimea and decided to build a theatre in his hometown, named the Kahilu Theatre in memory of his mother, Thelma Kahiluonapua’api’ilani Parker.

In 1992, Smart passed away and the Kahilu Theatre became completely independent of the Ranch, relying on outside funding for its survival. Community members rallied around their beloved theatre, helping the board to retire the accumulated debt in full within 6 months. The Staff and Board of Directors has worked hard to develop broad-based support for the theatre—through grants, memberships, donations, fundraising events and show sponsorships — to provide more than 60% of the Kahilu’s annual operating budget. The health of the theatre is reliant upon the continued generosity and commitment of its community. We are proud to say that Richard Smart’s legacy continues to endure and flourish in Waimea, where the theatre serves to strengthen Big Island communities by providing access and opportunity to experience the magic of the arts.
Hawaiian Music Series
Keali‘i Reichel
Three Maui Divas
2019 Ukulele & Slack Key Guitar Festival
Hawaiian Style Band
HAPA
Kalani Pe‘a Love Songs
Makana

Blues, Jazz and World Music Series
Jimmie Vaughan Trio
Tiffany
Christian Sands Trio
Okaidja Afroso Trio
Carmen Staaf Trio
Derek Gripper
Dirty Cello
Goitse

Classical Music Series
Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra
Sara Davis Buechner
Camerata RCO
Ultimi 3 Tenors
Rachel Cheung

Dance
First Nations Dance – Dancers of Damelahamid
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet
Speak: Tap and Kathak Unite – Michelle Dorrance

Theatre & Family
Mark Nizer
HTY’s Korean Cinderella
Activities of Daily Living
Schoolhouse Rock Live!
India Ink Theatre – Mrs. Krisnan’s Party
Alphabet Rockers

Film Series
Hitchcock’s Best Film Series

Special Concert Event
Lukas Nelson featuring Tato Melgar

Luce Unplugged
Blayne Asing
Ian O’Sullivan
Sonny Lim

Dance Night
Lorenzo’s Army
Lucky Tongue
Bottle of Blue

Comedy
JP Sears
Pauly Shore

Gold Series
Angela and Michael Ingersoll
Keola and Moana Beamer

Community
Shakastock
Waimea Community Chorus

KAHILU PRESENTS AND PRODUCES:

Kahilu Theatre’s 39th season presented voices and visions of diverse creative expression and a universal language of hope. The season sparked with Hawaiian artists, world music, jazz, classical, Americana, dance, theatre, comedy, community chorus, and exciting solo and group performances. It also included the Hitchcock’s Best Film Series, and one night each month we transformed our stage and the Mike Luce Studio into the Big Island’s hottest nightclub, with some of the best local bands providing music to dance the night away.

The season was suddenly cut short in March by the pandemic, preempting such popular artists as Joan Osborne, Buffy St. Marie, and Robert Cazimero. But even though abbreviated, the 39th season nonetheless delivered both a full measure of artistic excellence and a joyous celebration of the arts.

‘80s and ’90s pop icon Tiffany brought her latest album, Pieces of Me, to the Kahilu stage in September.
FINANCIALS:

Board and Leadership
Kahilu’s 10 Board members are community residents and serve without compensation for Board service. Directors are responsible for carrying out the mission of the organization and fiscal oversight. During this past year, our Board has been meeting monthly, rather than bi-monthly, with nearly 100% attendance to proactively meet the demands of the changing pandemic environment. Many Board members share their expertise and labor to augment the efforts of our small, hardworking staff of eight.

Budget and Other Sources of Funding
Kahilu supports its activities and operations with earned and contributed revenue. Earned revenue includes rentals, tickets, subscriptions, merchandise, gallery commission fees and youth program fees. Contributed sources include individual donations, public and private grants, corporate support, sponsorships, bequests and gifts-in-kind.

In a typical year, our annual operating budget is about $1.4 million. Ticket revenue averages 32% of our total revenue, with theatre rentals at 20%, and the balance derived from philanthropy.

In 2020, when ticket revenue shifted to only 5%, contributed sources and CARES ACT funds provided some relief. The COVID-19 reality has impacted our plans and we adjust our budget quarterly. We closely monitor sales revenue for more accurate forecasts.

Looking Ahead
Kahilu Theatre is planning an exciting new season of inclusive and original programming and ways to generate revenue and sustainability, with a new digital platform in development.

Our success is measured quantitatively by surveys and qualitatively by our artists and audiences.
KAHILU EXHIBITS

Kahilu Exhibits presents solo and thematic group shows and features local and global works of art from both emerging and established visual artists.

Mayumi Oda
Expression of the Female Deity
Aug 29 – Oct 13, 2019
A retrospective exhibit spanning 40 years of work by the artist known as the Matisse of Japan, Mayumi Oda. “Through my creative process, I have been creating myself. Goddesses are a projection of myself and who I want to be. Each picture represents a stage of my development, the influences I was feeling, and events that were going on around me.”

Mariah Reading
In The Wake of Our Waste
Oct 17 – Dec 8, 2019
There is no shortage of marine debris. Reading’s work depicts environmental changes humans have caused and what steps must be taken to preserve this one Earth.

Leah Schretenthaler
The Invasive Species of the Built Environment
Oct 17 – Dec 8, 2019
The Invasive Species of the Built Environment explores the controversial builds and infrastructure projects in the state of Hawai‘i.

Voyager 2020
Dec 12 – Jan 26, 2020
This year’s exhibit focused on the voyaging canoe Makali‘i’s Hanauna Ola project, in which the canoe sailed for 30 days to the Northwest Hawaiian Islands provisioned with food entirely sourced on Hawai‘i Island. The Voyager Exhibit is curated in partnership with Na Kālai Wa‘a and the Waimea Ocean Film Festival.

Michelle Schwengal-Regala
Kalae and Beyond
Jan 30 – Mar 8, 2020
Fire and ice: opposing forces which seem worlds apart. Hawai‘i and Antarctica have both been defined by these conditions. This mixed-media installation compares and contrasts these interconnected regions, their inhabitants, and the forces that shape them.

Craig Schwanfelder
Half Court – Full Court
Jan 30 – Mar 8, 2020
Basketball hoops are everywhere, and accessible to people from all walks of life. Half Court – Full Court uses in-camera multiple exposure photography to explore the sport's surrounding environment by providing an otherwise impossible view of both basketball hoops simultaneously.

5th Annual Juried Exhibition
Mar 12, 2020
As part of our visual arts program, Kahilu Exhibits annually presents a juried exhibition of Hawai‘i state artists.

Remainder of season exhibits were canceled due to the pandemic.

Carving of an outrigger canoe was live-streamed on social media in place of the planned exhibit Heart of the Wa‘a, Voices of Hawaiian Outrigger Canoe Racing.
ARTS ED @ KAHLILU

At Kahilu Theatre, learning is truly the heart of the matter. We understand the value arts bring to the well-being of individuals and our community. Each year, we promote arts education and leverage our work through strong partnerships and collaborations with artists, schools, and other community organizations.

Performances for Young Audiences

This series presents the magical experience of live professional music, dance, theatre, and storytelling from Kahilu Theatre’s stage to island students ages three to thirteen. Season artists also travel out into the community with school performances and workshops across the island.

Performances for Young Audiences Calendar

Mark Nizer Science – Oct 2, 2019
Okaidja Afroso – Oct 23, 2019
HTY Korean Cinderella – Nov 14 & 15, 2019
Rachel Cheung – Feb 12, 2020
Schoolhouse Rock Live – Feb 19, 2020
India Ink Theatre – Mar 2, 2020
Alphabet Rockers – Mar 11, 2020

Kahilu Arts (K-Arts)

Kahilu Arts is a long-standing partnership with Waimea Middle School that provides professional instruction in a variety of arts disciplines. These classes often include dance, ‘ukulele, theatre tech, and more. At the end of the semester, K-Arts culminates with an original show produced and performed by these students for their peers and the public.

Kahilu Performing Arts Classes and Camps

In collaboration with Prince Dance Institute and other educators, Kahilu Theatre offers students of all ages enrichment through year-round classes and camps in acting, singing, dance, hula, aerial silks and more.
VOLUNTEERS:

Another metric of success is reflected in our organization’s 85-member volunteer corps; collectively providing more than 3,100 hours of service in the past year. Our volunteers LOVE working at the Theatre and we LOVE them, too!

Georgette Adams
Susan Akeo
Tilton Akeo
Desiree Ashley
Diane Ashley
Cecelia CeCe Ashton
Hermine Baker
Kelly Barrick
Jean Bassen
Ford Beebe
Dave Brinton
Kathy Brinton
Alice Brooks
Bobbi Bryant
Jim Budde
Madeleine Budde
Sydney Budde
Nanci Cabral
Gary Cassel
Patricia Cassel
Jeanie Cluff
Steve Cotton
Peggy Cox
Ti deL’Arbre d’Estaing
Simon Donley
Janice Eluthesen
Kannan Eluthesen
Trish Flanagan
Virginia Fortner
Daniel Gomez
Mark Gordon
Raynette Guzman
Dorothy Hafner
Tasman Hafner Bulau
Judy Halford
Carol Douglas-Hammer
Betty Hannah
Mike Hannah
Eileen Hartwings
Patty Herrera
January Herron
Cindy Hish
Lois Inman
Cathleen Jardine
Jo Jeter
Chris Kelly
Everett Knowles
Lynn Krieger
Margy Ledward
Elodia Le May
Rona Lee
Leslie Matsuda
Cara McCann
Rebecca McKim
John McLean
Joan Moynahan
Susan Nakahara
Sheila Okin
Anne Olson
Karen Osborne
Janet Pelmulder
John Pelmulder
Pua’ena Perry
Laurie Rosa
Shannon Sidell
Odile Stephan
Tina Stuart
Diana Sugunuma
Phyllis Tarai
Lisen Twigg-Smith
Sweetheart Uchima
Darlene Walenczewicz
Pamela Walenczewicz
Elaine Warner
Ann Westerl
Michael Whelan
Lindsay White
Ray White
Sandy White
Eric Witt
Jeanne Calo-Witt
Camelia Calo-Witt
Henry Wong
Donna Worden
John Wray
Margo Wray

Mahalo nui loa for their support.

MISSION STATEMENT
Making a place where community, creativity and inspiration thrive.

VISION STATEMENT
Kahilu Theatre is a flourishing multidisciplinary arts center on Hawai‘i Island where the community comes together and the arts come alive.

67-1186 Lindsey Road
Kamuela, Hawai‘i 96743
kahilutheatre.org
808.885.6868

OUR LOGO
The Kahilu Theatre “Voices” logo reflects the relationship between the Theatre and our community, how audience and artists, keiki and kupuna, connect and create a greater expression of themselves and each other both on and off our stage.

STAY CONNECTED
Please sign up on our website to stay connected to us, and receive emails to keep you in the loop with Kahilu arts, entertainment and education.