

THE WILDCAT



konawawaenahs.org

Fall 2021

Centennial Edition

100 Years of Greatness



Konaweana High School has a lot to celebrate this year! 100 years ago Konawaena opened its doors providing education in South Kona. Throughout the decades, students, staff, faculty and principals have all contributed to the wildcat legacy.

A dedicated centennial committee has worked hard these past years fundraising and planning a grand celebration including a formal night, tours of the campus, and much more for homecoming 2021. Unfortunately due to circumstances we've all been made aware of, our centennial had to be downsized to a Facebook live stream that was broadcasted for the Konawaena community. Saturday evening, October 9th was the kick-off to the celebrations hosted by Billy V (Class of 1983). *Continued on page 8*

BACK & BETTER

What is KSG?

KSG stands for Konawaena Student Government. Essentially, KSG is the council for the school and has an influence on our peers. Students should run for office because it provides the opportunity to gain leadership skills through genuine experiences. You get to be the change you want to see in our school and work with great faculty, students, and our community. "KSG incorpo-

rates leadership, and it is a way of unity and gathering people together," says Jade Onaka, president of Konawaena Student Government. "It doesn't matter who you are, where you come from, or what you know, it's for everyone to come together and do amazing things for our school. It creates a space for our school to carry on our legacy of Wildcat Pride."

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WILDCAT OHANA

Welcome New Teachers

Our new teachers responded to a suvey and were asked what they think of Konawaena!
The Wildcat would also like to welcome back to our campus Kumu Kaehuaea as Vice Principal.



Mr. Younger - Music

I have been teaching in Hawaii since 2015. I have taught full time at four different schools, and subbed at a dozen more. Every school is different, but they are more alike than they are different. There is so much potential here.



Ms. Ahmed - ELA

Konawaena is different from any other school where I've taught in that I know many of the students and their families. I already feel connected to them and to my school-work environment.

Favorite ice cream flavor is Vanilla Swiss Almond.



Ms. Polina Vyazovkina -Counselor

I used to substitute teach here when I was finishing my master's degree in counseling. I loved being here and spending time with the students. I spent the last 4 years being a counselor at Kealakehe Intermediate School, and am excited for the opportunity to be a counselor here at Konawaena.



Ms. Kovah - ELA

I'm a Wildcat! Class of 1993, Kona born and raised. Returning to the land that fed me to teach at my alma mater is such a gift. This is my third year teaching, after two years at Kealakehe High School and nearly 20 years as a journalist. I enjoy being back in South Kona, closer to home and the mauka lifestyle I grew up in. Ms. Kovah's favoirte ice cream flacor is Cherry Garcia.



Ms. Wakefield - Math

This is my 4th year teaching. Konawaena is a larger school than my previous school. After my interview I couldn't stop smiling and I knew it felt right.

Ms. Wakefields favorite ice cream flavor is Moose Tracks.



Ms. Thorne - Social Studies

This is where I really hoped to teach when my partner and I moved back to Kona. This is where he went to school, and I really hoped to teach in the community where I lived. I'm really happy to be here!



Mr. Reichheld - ELA

I really loved the sense of community and the welcoming environment that Konawaena clearly has, and I also really love this part of the island. This is my first year of teaching, and I think that my favorite thing about it is how different every day is. Favorite ice cream favor is Mud Pie!



Mr. Nahakuelua - Science



Mr. Munjar - Spanish

Meet Your Class Presidents



Lacy Young

2022



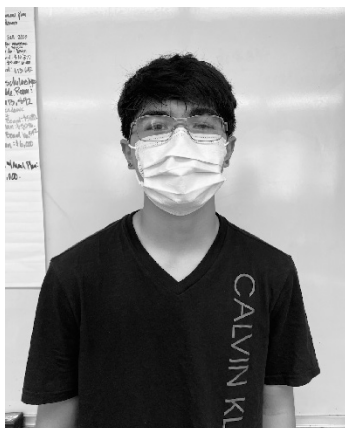
Devlyn Kojima

2023



Regine Aparece

2024



Evin Wong

2025

CLUBS

An Opportunity to Serve...

What is Leo club and why should you join? Leo Club stands for Leadership Excellence Opportunity. This club is about completing services for the community. This year, meetings are held once a month in a physical classroom. Event information is posted in their google classroom for convenience and clarity.

The advisor of Leo Club, Mrs. Hernandez, explains the benefits and advantages of joining the club, “Students join Leo Club to give back to the community to learn from one another to make changes and to become a leader. The benefits of joining include working with the Lions Club, which is an organization of individuals who also wants to give back to the community. Other benefits include learning from different community leaders and earning service hours for your resume, which looks really great when you are applying to college and scholarships. Society benefits from the Leo Club because they go into the community to either pick up



Lacey Young - Leo President

trash or create benches to bring awareness to different issues that are affecting the community.”

The president of Leo Club, Lacey Young, shares similar perspectives on the club’s intentions and the benefits of joining the club. Here is her story: “I joined Leo Club because I was in the company of my friends and I wanted to serve my community that has served me for so many years. The benefit I

found was the satisfaction of doing something positive for my community, whether it be making veteran’s day cards or planting trees.”

Lacey also states, “The personal benefits of being in a role of as a board member is gaining more social skills, connections and obtaining more leadership experience. It also doesn’t hurt that I get to add these experiences to my resume. I also feel society benefits from the students in this club because we are serving the community and providing assistance. We are also, hopefully, being role models or examples of how the youth want to preserve our community and make it a better place. Hopefully, we can influence others to do the same.”



From left to right: Ryli Sasaki, Sophia Burgess, Malia Casabar, Kianna Lim, Syndi Nakamoto, Stacy Nakamoto, David Jimenez, Jordan Fukushima, Lacy Young, Mina Taniyama, Jenna Weigelt, Toko Minoda, Riki Furuto

Leadership
Excellence
Opportunity



Ms. Hernandez - Leo Advisor

THE ARTS OF POLYNESIA

Writer: Jenna Weigelt

The Poly Club (Polynesian Club) is a student organization at Konawaena that provides an opportunity to learn, teach, and perform Polynesian arts. Ro’o Satta-Ellis started the Poly Club this year in hopes that the students would reconnect with their culture(s). Mrs. Satta-Ellis is the advisor, Ro’o the President, Taimane Alo is the Secretary, Taniyah Tripp-Gouveia is the Treasurer, Grace Corpuz is the Historian and I am the Vice President.



Poly Club Vice President Jenna Weiglet & President Ro’o Satta-Ellis: Photo courtesy of Tahoe Obregon

Like me, many students joined the club to be with others who share a love for Polynesian culture. Some of the different arts we learn/teach are hula, Tahitian dance, fire knife performance, and drumming. The Poly Club is currently preparing for a production that will be shown during the virtual Konawaena centennial celebration. The final goal is to hopefully perform at an end of the year showcase. I personally enjoy being in the club because I miss being



Poly Club Secretary Taimane Alo & Dance Trez Uemoto

in a group with other students with a common goal. Dance is the perfect way to connect with others and share our passion of the arts of Polynesia. I hope when you see us perform that you appreciate the time and effort it took us to put it all together.

SCHOOL LIFE

SCHOOL TRAFFIC: AN UPHILL STRUGGLE

Writer: Theodore Eckart

School has finally opened and we’ve all gotten the opportunity to enjoy it in person as we once did. Though as most of the student body could agree, there’s been a few problems caused by our return. The most notable of them being traffic, changing what would normally be a 15-minute drive into a waiting game that lasts twice as long. The fear of traffic forces many people to leave their homes much earlier than they normally would have.

Multiple students drive themselves to school and I’ve asked a few for their thoughts on the current situation regarding traffic. Hunter Prior who’s a senior this year said “Dude, the traffic’s horrible in the morning as well as after school. Half the time I’m sitting in my car waiting for at least 20 minutes just to get out of the parking lot, in the morning we’re literally moving at a snail’s pace trying to get up hill.” Hunter’s statement seems to be the general opinion of most student drivers. The point was further reinforced when I asked Ty Stevens who drives himself to school as well “yeah, the traffic is horrible in the morning. for like the first week of school I got to school kinda late because it was super bad. I gotta leave Palisades by 6:00 am just to avoid the traffic.”

The issue with traffic appears to be one that’s quite persistent as we’ve all come to know. There’s no doubt that this issue has played a significant part in almost all students’ days, whether it be preventing them from getting to school on time or leaving school on time. In reality, the main cause of traffic are the buses and lack thereof for bus drivers. Konawaena student Regine Aparece had this to say, “I usually rode the bus to school and back, but this year there aren’t enough buses/ drivers so it’s kinda hectic. Not only does the lack of bus drivers lessen the number of students who could catch a ride to school but it also adds on to the total amount of cars that have to come to school. Like, let’s say 200 people rode the bus to school normally, but this year only 100 people do... that’s 100



extra cars that have to come to school in the morning and afternoon.”

All in all, we will be dealing with traffic for a while until more drivers can be hired. Whether it be in the morning or the afternoon waiting in our cars for 5 minutes just to move forward a couple inches is such a mood killer. It’s easy to say that it really doesn’t set a very uplifting nor motivating start your school day.

BACK & BETTER continued...

Writer: Civic Gnomes

For the 2021-2022 school year leadership is promoting the theme *Back and Better*. Jade states, “The comeback theme is what KSG came up with to really sum up what we wanted to see this year. Last year was difficult and put a dent in our Wildcat spirit and we wanted to gain that back again by coming back stronger than ever.”

This year, KSG has a goal to create a sense of ‘Ohana’. Jade further states, “I think we take a look around our school and it isn't the same. We've been seeing a lack of respect for others, this place, and people's own self. Konawaena is more than a school, it's a community of aloha that is selfless and giving. We invest a lot of time and energy into events and seeing people have fun and bringing people together is the most rewarding part about being in KSG and Leadership.”



Above: Jade Onaka - KSG President ,
Below: Mrs. Hayashida
KSG & Leadership Advisor
Left: 2021 - 2022 Leadership Class



LET’S RESPECT OUR NEW BOYS AND GIRLS BATHROOMS



The main building bathrooms are renovated! After years of wishing for doors that lock and toilets that flush, students this year returned to shiny new restrooms. The Wildcat would like to thank the DOE for the renovations and the custodians that maintain them. Please remember to take care of these new facilities, after all it took a lot of time to have them approved to be renovated. Let’s all do our best in keeping them functional for future Wildcats.



NEW SCIENCE ROOMS: THIS IS WHAT 21ST CENTURY LEARNING LOOKS LIKE!

Writer: Regine Aparece

After a year’s worth of construction, the E-building is finished! The refurbished science rooms provide features like adjustable ceiling fans and lights (controlled with a remote), new counter space and cabinets, lab tables with outlets and wheels.

Here’s what the science teachers, Mrs. Hashimoto and Mr. Ellis, have to say about the brand-spanking new classrooms: “I love it! The new lights and the ceiling fans are nice. I like that everything in this classroom is good and easy to use. The classrooms are super user friendly,” stated Mr. Ellis. “The lab space has been updated. It’s nice to finally have air circling in the room [referring to the new ceiling fans],” stated Ms. Hashimoto.



Konawaena junior, Civic Gomes, who experienced the rooms before they were refurbished also stated, “They were definitely not as nice and you can tell they have been used for years. There weren’t any fans and if I remembered correctly I don’t think we even had any fans. Now, I like that everything has changed and is repainted. I like the cabinets, as the old ones were definitely “used”. And a super helpful feature was the dimmable lights. It makes it feel more professional like college level.”

We hope students appreciate these rooms for the years to come!

STUDENT OPINION

COVID SIGNAGE: ANYONE FOLLOWING THEM?

Writer: Hunter Prior

Covid-19 has taken over our lives and an aspect of that includes how we distance ourselves. Notably, there have been many changes to our school campus and how the school intends to direct traffic in the halls in regards to promoting social distancing. Hilariously, these efforts to control the general school population rarely ever work. Contrasting with other public spaces, students rarely pay attention to the marked wildcat paws on the ground and in some cases actively ignore them. I personally don’t understand why school officials believed students would adhere to these new guided pathways when students have actively been ignoring attempts to control them since before Covid. It’s okay though, at least students for the most part wear our masks. Stay safe out there Wildcats!



ENTERTAINMENT

What Makes a Good Rapper?

Written by Thoryn Roberson

There is a clear difference between today’s rappers compared to the go’s. From lyrics and storytelling through emotion to gangs, drugs, flow rap and melody rap. Music has changed for good and for worse. In my opinion, music nowadays is better. I really enjoy the flow, melody and not so heavy on lyrics. For example an artist Lil Uzi Vert has one of the most diverse production and flow. It focuses more on keeping the melody matched to his lyrics than telling an actual story.

Compared to other older generation rappers like Kanye, Eminem, etc. they have stated in multiple podcasts that, “the music industry is growing to fit new generation rap and us older generations need to do so as well.”

To fit into new generation rap most artists do collabs with these new gen artists to get the experience which is proved in GODZILLA by JuiceWRLD, ft Eminem. Eminem stated that JuiceWRLD was one of the best melodic and diverse rappers of his time and wished he had got more experience off him sooner.



Book Reviews

A Must Read for Fans of the Cross Over...

“The Playbook-52 Rules to Shoot, Aim, and Score in This Game Called Life”

Review by Malia Casabar

“You gotta know the rules to play the game. Take it to the hoop. Soar. What can we imagine for our lives? What if we were the star players, moving and grooving through the game of life? What if we had our own basketball rules to help us get what we want, what we aspire to, what will enrich our lives?”

I received The Playbook-52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life many years ago, and I have read it from front to back several times since. I happen to have a copy that was signed by the author himself. The book is split into seven parts: Warm-Up: The Rules, 1st Quarter (“Grit”), 2nd Quarter (“Motivation”), Halftime (“Passion”), 3rd Quarter (“Focus”), 4th Quarter (“Teamwork and Resilience”), and Overtime. Each part has a set of inspirational quotes and rules from all kinds of sports stars as well as a story about a famous athlete. One of the quotes inside is, “There may be people who have more talent than you, but there’s no excuse

for anyone to work harder than you do,”-Derek Jeter, five-time MLB World Series champion with the New York Yankees. The stories themselves are very inspiring and have pushed me to do more and try harder. All in all, I highly recommend this book to not just student athletes, but to anyone who is struggling and needs a motivational boost to their day.

Steelheart

Review by Syndi Nakamoto

Steelheart by Brandon Sanderson. Reckoners series.

“At the age of eight, David watched as his father was killed by an Epic named Steelheart, a man with superhuman powers. David saw the rise of a new age, when the Epics rose to power. And ten years later, he joined the Reckoners, a group of people trying to end it. David watched Steelheart bleed. And he will see him bleed again.”

Brandon Sanderson writes yet another book that is fun, magical, dark, and clever. For the sake of humanity, perhaps we could use a little more cleverness. Highly recommend it. It’s a MARVEL quality book with an evil Superman. Plus a little action, science, and vengeance.

Student Poetry

How to write haikus.
Five, Seven, then five. Simple.
No need to rhyme, bro.

This is a poem.
I am writing it right now.
This is a haiku.

The heart cries, they say:
The brain doth lack emotion.
The appendix exists.

Not quite a haiku,
What was just written
above.
But A for effort.

Doo doo Doo doo Doo.
One poetry line written.
And this one’s the last.

by Syndi Nakamoto

"Regine"

My name is Regine
Meaning reign, or royalty
A two syllable name with 6 letters
Seems easy, right?

From Regina, Reagan, Ralph, Reina
Some of these names don't even start
with an "R"

A blessing and a curse
When I left the nest

02-22-2014
I moved to America
I held my name high

To have my name tore apart
into fragments

Regi, Gine, Reg
Are the names that exist for
people's convenience
But the meaning of my name
still stand

R-E-G-I-N-E
Royalty, reign, and queen
Oh Regine,
My beloved

By Regine Aparece

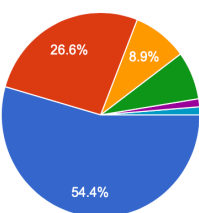
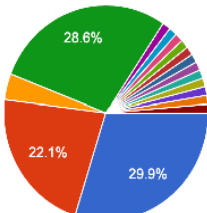
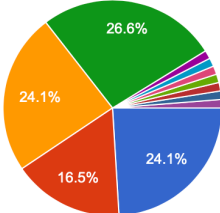
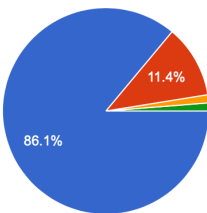
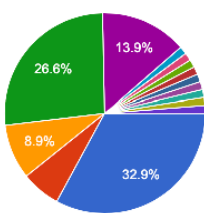
STUDENT LIFE

Survey Trends

Written by Miljeyc Jordan Tungpalan

This fall semester, 75 students at Konawaena were surveyed using google forms. The 5 questions were, What kind of shoe brands do you like? What type of phone/tablet brand would you purchase? For those gamers out there, what platform is better? For those who like to go to the beach what's your favorite leisure activity ? Which island in Hawai'i would you rather live on?

Some of the results from the survey might surprise you. Question 1, the top two picks are Nike with 26 votes(34.7%)



then Vans with 20 votes(26.7%). The least favorite was Jordan with 3 votes(4%). Question 2, the top two picks are Apple with 65 votes(86.7%) then Androids/Samsung with 10 votes(13.3%). Apple completely destroyed androids. Question 3, a lot of people were not gamers but the top two platform picks are PC with 19 votes(25.3%) and PlayStation with 17 votes(22.7%). Trailing behind is Xbox with 13 votes(17.3%). Question 4, the top two activities are swimming, 22 votes(30.1%) and bodyboarding with 21 votes(28.8%). The least selected activity was surfing with 3 votes(4.1%) . For the final question the top two picked islands is Big Island with 41 votes(54.7%) and Oah'u with 20 votes(26.7%). The least picked island people want to go to is Lana'i and Moloka'i with 1 vote each (1.3%)

FASHION TRENDS

What are Konawaena's fashion trends? We have a variety of fashion trends at school this year but, the most popular trends right now include Van's shoes, cargo pants, ripped jeans, colorful Crocs and Converse. Another one that's trending right now are rings and other jewelry and long lush lashes. Hoodies are a classic staple along with board shorts. Crop and tube tops, along with distressed denim short-shorts are also popular with youth, but aren't appropriate for school. Show your wildcat pride by dressing with respect, the staff and faculty would all appreciate it if everyone followed the dress code standards.



High School Relationship Advice

Relationships don't always work out, but we somehow survive them.

There are many reasons why relationships don't work. In my opinion the number one reason for break-ups is cheating, as it is one of the most serious betrayals that can occur during a relationship. The second reason is one person in the relationship is too clingy. No one likes to be treated like a security blanket, dragged around. People need there space and a healthy relationship respects each others "me-time." The third reason is a lack of communication: new couples need to learn the subtle gestures and to not be timid in voicing their needs. Number four is jealousy, which starts from not trusting your partner and also not having confidence that you are worthy of a healthy relationship. When jealousy enters the equation it can be difficult for couples to escape it's wrath. Number five is an over-controlling partner, which leads to resentment. Number six overthinking the relationship. It is best to be present with your partner and not to be thinking about what could go wrong. Number seven is not putting in enough effort. This is the ultimate question in a relationship; is it better to be more in-love or have someone be more-in love with you? Is there such a thing as a perfectly balanced relationship?

If you don't want this to happen then don't get a girl-friend or boyfriend; sometimes the drama just isn't worth it. While you might not agree with our order of reasons,

but we hopefully can all agree cheating is like a knife to the heart, it hurts. Remember, if you are having issues in a relationship, it is highly advisable to seek out a counselor who can give you non-bias advise. While talking to a friend or parent about relationships can be comforting and helpful, having a counselor listen and support you is always a good thing.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The virtual event on Facebook treated us to Taiko Drumming, trivia questions with prizes, interviews with alumni and a tour of the Konawaena living museum. The pre-event also included a music video by class of 2021 graduate Travis Mako.

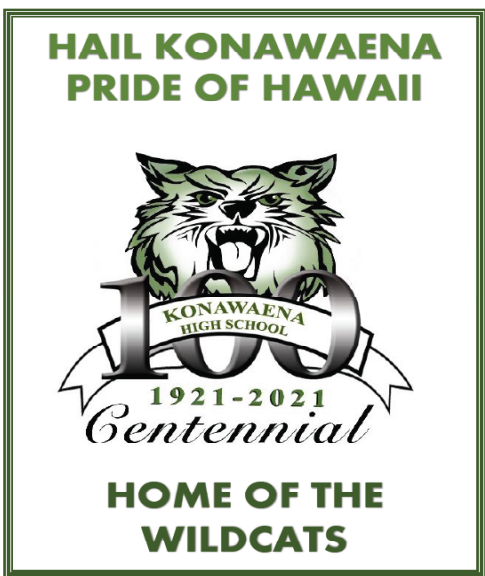
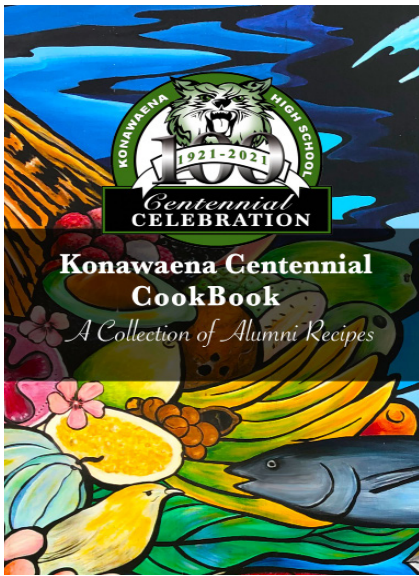
The October 16th, live-stream centennial event was emceed by the talented Ka’ea Lyons and featured alumni singing, give-aways and videos produced by Konawaena students. A new hall of fame inductee was also announced, local artist Hiroki Morinoue who established Studio 7 Fine Arts Gallery in November 1979. Hiroki is a 1965 graduate of Konawaena and is a co-founder and volunteer artistic curator of Holualoa Foundation of Arts and Culture. Hiroki also presented a portrait of Ellison Onizuka to the longest administering principal at Konawaena High School, Shawn Suzuki.

Konawaena principal Shawn Suzuki stated the following about being a Konawaena Wildcat during covid, “This is what I come back to, Konawaena High School’s vision. It really comes down to that, caring for self and ohana. During these times not only for health and taking care of ourselves but for each other as community and family. Growing through adversity, lots of adversity. Going through it, persevering, dusting ourselves off, it’s not how many times we get knocked down it’s how we get ourselves up.”

Senior class president Lacey Young stated the following about the centennial. “It is amazing to see that this school has been the sole source of education for many students for 100 years. It shows the dedication that the faculty and staff have for educating students, since it has stayed up for a century. Having the celebration also allows alumni to gather and celebrate the school that made them who they are today.”

Working quietly behind the scenes was the centennial committee organizing cookbook and t-shirts sales, along with producing a virtual celebration. Class of 1975 graduate Sandra Taosaka states, “The centennial committee was made up of dedicated alumni and supporters that met for over 2 years to plan, fund-raise, and promote the 100 years of our beloved high school. It was a privilege to work on the centennial. It was hard work but there was never a shortage of laughter and support for one another. Many thanks to all who contributed to the successful celebration of Konawaena High School’s centennial! Go Wildcats!”

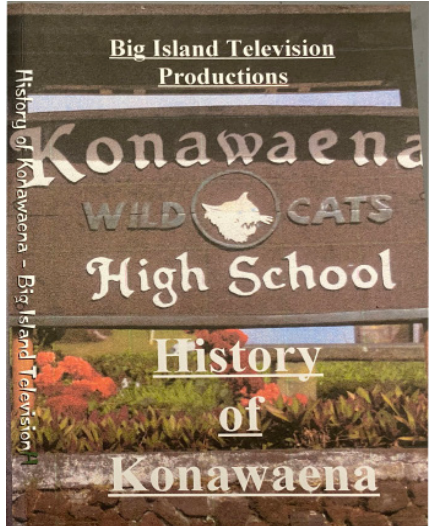
Celebrating 100 years as an educational and community center is challenging enough without a pandemic. The support of our community and alumni was not weakened, only strengthened during Covid-19. It is difficult to express in words what exactly it means to be a Konawaena Wildcat, but when you see it, you know what it means to be *Bleed Green* forever. The virtual live-stream event was one of those times when you could observe the love and pride for Konawaena and are comforted knowing that the next 100 years will continue that **WILDCAT PRIDE!**



Cookbook \$15.00 and Souvenir Book \$12.50, with over 60 pages of pictures and memories. T-Shirts, Adult Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large: \$20.00, Adult 2XL & 3XL: \$22.00



Centennial committee at Kona Commons: Maverick Kawamoto, Sandra Taosaka and Wesley



Upper Left Image: October 9th Facebook live stream preview with Billy V, Sandra Taosaka, Maverick Kawamoto and Susan Suzuki. Mahalo to Ian Shortridge for helping with the coordination of the virtual event.

Upper Middle: Emcee Ka’ea Lyons during the October 16th live stream event.

Upper Right image: Cover of history of Konawaena DVD, Big Island Productions has kindly given Konawaena HS permission to distribute the history of Konawaena HS, produced in the 90’s. Akinori Imai formatted the VHS to DVD and is on sale for \$20.00. For more information on how to purchase the DVD and other centennial merchandise go to the school website, Konawaenahs.org, and click on the tab for 100 year celebration.

Left Image: Hiroki Morinoue accepting his new title as a Konawaena Hall of Fame inductee and presenting his painting of Astronaut Ellison Onizuka. Dylan Nonaka and Maverick Kawamoto helping with the presentation of the painting.

WILDCAT STAFF

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Advisor: Michelle Obregon

VOX POPULI