



Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter

October 2024

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Edited by Denise Stewart

A Message from Our President

Aloha Kunia Orchid Society Members and Friends,

We appreciate all the speakers that have come out to our monthly meetings in Mililani to add to our knowledge of orchids. Our latest speaker at our September meeting, Scot Mitamura, helped us prepare our blooming orchid plants for the Honolulu Orchid Society Show in October. Prior to that we had Calvin Kumano and Mel Waki demonstrate how to use orchid bark and sphagnum moss as a media for planting orchids. At our next meeting, we are scheduled to have Linda Kurihara & Paulette Morimoto. They will be sharing a fertilizer tip and how they use coconut husk as a planting media for their orchids. We look forward to seeing you at our October meeting. We want every one of our members to benefit from our in person speakers so we can grow as a society.

Upcoming events that we will need your help is at the Honolulu Orchid Show set up on October 10. We need help setting up and taking down our display and your blooming orchid plants to be included in our display. We have reserved a booth at the Mililani Orchid Club's Craft and Plant Sale on November 16. We will be offering some orchid plants, some orchid supplies, donated orchid plants and any baked goods that you would like to donate.

We are currently taking nominations for our 2025 officers and additions to our board of directors. We will be electing, if possible, a new president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. Our by-laws mandate that we receive nominations and conduct an election of our officers every year. Our current officers would appreciate a break so if you are in a position to help out, please contact Dawn Furumoto our Nomination Committee contact person. She can be reached on her cell phone at (808) 372-5000. If we can get you to help out and share the load of our KOS leadership staff, it would be greatly appreciated.

One more thought. Your orchids will love you if you water them and fertilize them on a regular schedule. Sometimes treatment for fungus and insects is necessary, along with repotting. You will be rewarded with beautiful blooms. If you neglect them, they will provide some blooms, if you are lucky.

Ken

**Upcoming
General Membership Meeting
7:00 pm, October 1, 2024
Mililani Ike Elementary
Cafeteria**

Grow Orchids Successfully with Coconut Husks

**Linda Kurihara &
Paulette Morimoto**



We have two members in our Kunia Orchid Society that will be sharing their experiences with using coconut husks in growing orchids at our October 1st meeting. They are Linda Kurihara and Paulette Morimoto. Many of us have rarely used coconut husks in our orchid growing practice. The past meetings we learned to pot an orchid with sphagnum moss and with orchid bark. It would be interesting to add another possible medium to potting or re-potting some of your orchids that you have. We will find out about the possible successes or problems that Linda and Paulette have encountered thus far? As a bonus, Linda will be sharing a fertilizer formula that seems to work for her. Is it coconut husks or is it coconut husk? Please join us in learning and getting answers to your coconut husks questions at our

Preparing Your Orchids for a Show



For the benefit of our new members, and as a reminder for our veteran members, we invited Scot Mitamura to provide us with a refresher course on how to prepare our orchids for a show. For us, the next show we get to display our blooming orchids will be at the Honolulu Orchid Society Show on October 11, & 12. The set up for our floor display is on Thursday, October 10, starting at 9:00 am.

Make sure that your orchid is well-groomed. Although flower quality is the main criterion for judging an orchid, the overall condition of the plant matters too. It can affect the

judges subconsciously when they are evaluating the flowers, and it has a significant influence on the exhibit score as well. Remove dead or brown leaves and pseudobulbs from the plant. Trim dead leaves if possible with a clean, sharp cutting edge. When cutting tips of leaves, be sure your cut follows the basic shape of the natural leaf ending. If you cut the leaves in a straight line, it will look unnatural. Make sure your plant is insect and disease free. You may incur the annoyance of other plant exhibitors if your plant has insects or disease. Scot always sprays his plants after exhibiting his plants after they have been exposed to other plants at the show.

Staking the inflorescences to show the flower to its best advantage is a must. Certain plants do not need staking such as Vandas with a firm inflorescence. Some manipulation of the Vanda flower petals may display the flowers better. Cattleyas



may need some staking to separate a cluster of multiple flowers. You may want to guide the direction of the flowers either to the left, right, or facing higher or lower. Moving the blooms away from the rest of the plant may show off the flowers better. You will see further examples of Scot's staked plants at the next show.

Attending our meetings and hearing what our speakers have to share with us can help your orchid growing progress. We can benefit from the many years of growing orchids that they have experienced. We don't have to re-invent the wheel all over. The ability to ask your personal orchid questions to our guest speakers can also help to improve your orchid collection. Happy orchid growing!



A November Fund Raising Event



Donations are now being accepted for our fund-raising efforts at the Mililani Orchid Club's Craft and Plant Sale on November 16, at the Mililani Mauka Elementary School. We need a variety of donations to sell in our booth and some fun activities to promote our Kunia Orchid Society in one of our important areas of influence. We have already received some commitments for donations of orchids, back yard plants from both members, and non-members that just want to help us. The more things that we can sell at bargain prices will go a long way in promoting KOS.

If you have any type of donations for this one-day event will be appreciated. Some specific donations already have been Crown Flower starter plants, Norfolk Pine starter trees, Maxillaria tenuifolia orchid starter plants, small succulent and air plants.

Ken Ching is now formulating a commitment list from anyone willing to donate. We sure could use some baked goods that is always a hit if they are homemade. People just love to buy homemade products. Ken's cell number is (808) 228-2800 or sign up at our October meeting. Mahalo!

Your Blooming Plants & Help Needed!



The Honolulu Orchid Society Show and Plant Sale is upon us. We ask for your help in providing show-quality orchid blooms and supporting greens to be included in our floor display. The show is on October 11, & 12, at the Washington Middle School in Honolulu. We need volunteers to help transport our display equipment to the show, help set up our display on Thursday, October 10, starting at 9:00 am, and help take down the display on Saturday, October 12, at 4:00 pm.

Please call show Display Committee Chairman, Suzanne Yamada (808) 206-4758, if you will have plants for our display or if you would like to volunteer to help with our display. No prior experience

required. For members who have helped before, we welcome you back again to assist our first time participants. It is truly a rewarding experience.

Kunia Orchid Society Plant Culture Winners!

Master Division (11+ years)



Brad Lau
Milt. Moreliana



Ken and Aileen Ching
Den. mirbelianum x helix



Penny and Henry Hattal
Ddc. Magnum

Novice Division (0 - 5 years)



Linda Kurihara
Den. Bracteosum



Leilani Sage
Den. Crumenatum



Paulette Morimoto
Den. Laevifolium

KOS Officers for 2025

Every year we vote in to office a new President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and additional board of directors. Nominations are now being accepted! You can nominate one of our members or you can volunteer for an office. The consent of the nominee must be obtained.

The candidates will be announced at our November meeting and election will take place at our December meeting.

Current Officers

- President – Kenneth Ching
- Vice President – Position is currently vacant
- Treasurer – Laura Figueira
- Secretary – Denise Stewart
- Sgt. At Arms – Guy Mikasa

Board of Directors

Dale Mahi, Paul Mahi, Joy Ann Long, Suzanne Yamada, and Laura Figueira.

There are 4 Board of Directors positions open.