



# *Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter*

## *January 2025*

<http://www.kuniaorchidsociety.org/> or [www.facebook.com/KuniaOrchidSociety](http://www.facebook.com/KuniaOrchidSociety)

### **A Message from Our President**

Aloha Members of the Kunia Orchid Society & Friends,

Thank you so much for being a part of the Kunia Orchid Society family. I hope you enjoyed all the events and opportunities we've offered during the past year. Without the help of our Officers, Board of Directors leadership, and you, we would not have been able to accomplish so much.

I wanted to thank you for your membership support and time. With your help, we were able to:

1. Hold our monthly general meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at the Mililani Ike Elementary School cafeteria. We appreciate the school principal and the Department of Education for allowing us to rent a clean and safe facility for our meetings.
2. We were fortunate to have members or guest presentations at each of our meetings. We learned a lot from their experience of raising various types of orchids.
3. We were able to offer again in 2024, the Kunia Orchid Show & Plant Sale at the Leilehua High School in Wahiawa. After an absence of 4 years, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were able to again partner with the Leilehua High School Athletic Department to bring back this very popular event in our geographical area.
4. The Aiea Orchid Club Show & the Honolulu Orchid Society Show. We were able to create floor displays at these two prestigious orchid shows on Oahu, along with our own KOS Show. We were able to successfully participate in these events because of your help and blooming orchid contributions from our members for each of our large, floor displays.
5. Mililani Orchid Club Craft & Plant Sale. This event was held at the Mililani Ike Elementary School, just down the street from our monthly meeting locations. With member donations and participation, we were able to add to our budget for the new year and make the Kunia Orchid Society known within the general vicinity.

In order to keep up with the expenses of our society, our board of directors have approved an increase of our annual membership dues. It is now \$25 per member, and \$15 for a spouse or partner of a paid member. See details as part of the 2025 Membership Application. We hope that this is not a burden on any of our members.

Our By-Laws state the purpose of the Kunia Orchid Society: The purpose of the Kunia Orchid Society shall be to provide education to members and the general public on the growing, culturing, production, and appreciation of orchids.

With this reminder, I hope we can count on our current membership to support the efforts of the Kunia Orchid Society again in 2025. For those members that are not currently full-fledged 2024 members, we invite you to join us again in the new year to help fulfill the purpose of the Kunia Orchid Society. For those who have never been members and would like to be a part of this organization, we welcome you.

Happy Holidays and see you on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

*Ken Ching*

Cell: (808) 228-2800

## The KOS Holiday Christmas Party

An invitation was included in our December KOS Newsletter inviting all of our members to our Holiday celebration at our December 3, general meeting. On our agenda that evening was a delicious catered meal from the Mililani Restaurant, bingo, trivia and plant giveaways. Denise Stewart was in charge of ordering the food. Dale Mahi and Denise Stewart conducted our Christmas Bingo and trivia. The trivia challenge was won by the very intellectual Team Ho-Ho-Ho. We appreciate the prizes that Dale Mahi gift wrapped and microwave bowl holders donated by Tammy Sennett. As usual, our membership/registration helped with name tags, and made sure that everyone had a ticket for our lucky numbers. Thank you everyone that helped with arranging our food table, setting up of the plant give away tables, donated orchid plants, those that brought desserts to share and our cleanup crew headed by Guy Mikasa our sargent at arms. We hope everyone had a fun time. For those that were not able to attend, we missed you. Photos for the evening were taken by Suzanne Yamada.



Pastor Keith Wolter blessed the meal.



Our food line began with members over 70 years old. I think half the club stood up. Next year we have to begin with members 80 years old and over.



Thank you to all who brought a dessert. Everyone got to select two orchid plants or whatever was on the table. We hope to see these plants again at our Monthly Plant Commentary or one of our orchid shows.



# Kunia Orchid Society: The Year 2024 In Review

## Monthly Guest Speakers

Linda Kurihara & Paulette Morimoto: Growing Orchids with Coconut Husks



Scot Mitamura: Preparing Your Orchids for Showing



Calvin Kumano & Mel Waki: Orchid Repotting



Doug DeMoss: Raising Cattleya



Matthew McKnight: Grammatophyllums



Suzanne Yamada  
Growing Honohono



Bernard Cabilao  
Growing Honolulu



Adam Almeida  
Orchid Species



Roy Tokunaga: Various Types of Orchids



# 2024 Kunia Orchid Show



# *Honolulu Orchid Society 2024 Show*



# *Mililani Orchid Club 2024 Craft & Plant Sale*



## Orchid Tip of the Month by Scot Mitamura

Happy New year everyone! I hope we all had a pleasant holiday season. In starting the New Year, it is good to know that we will slowly get out of our winter doldrums. Our shortest day of the year was December 21, and each preceding day will slowly begin to get longer until summer. This definitely affects the growth of our orchids and their care. Even though it has been a relatively dry winter so far, I have really cut back on my watering. The days are shorter, the cloud cover is much greater, temperatures have been cooler, and the most important is that we are having less trade wind days. I have noticed the greatest determining factor in how fast your orchids dry out is the amount of air movement you have. Even on a cloudy windy day, the orchids will dry out faster than a sunny day without our trade winds. These are all factors in managing your watering in the winter months. The biggest mistake for most beginners, is that they over water in the winter months. Fungus, such as Black Rot or phytophthora sp., can get into your collection and spread rapidly. I have found that it often affects orchids that have not been re-potted for over two years. The media breaks down and becomes mushy and sour, pH becomes more acid, old roots die and begin to rot, as the air spaces are all filled with roots. This becomes a perfect opportunity for the fungus to thrive, so try to re-pot most of your orchids every two years or so.

I re-pot all year long, trying to time it with new root initiations, especially with the mature orchids. With seedlings, you can re-pot almost anytime, as they have not set into their cyclical growth and dormancy patterns. One word of caution; avoid re-potting before any Kona Storm, where we can have several days of heavy rain, with muggy



humid conditions. This is when Black Rot thrives. Whenever you re-pot sanitation is essential, work on a clean tabletop, sterilize all potting utensils especially pruners (with strong soap water or flame), and of course wash your hands. This will stop most of your orchid diseases such as viruses, fungus, and bacteria from spreading. It is also a good idea to resist the urge to water your orchids right away. Let them dry for a few days to let the damaged cut stems and roots heal. Water is the greatest spreader of diseases.



I'm going to make a New Year's resolution to spend more time with my orchids. I know if I do this my orchids will reward me with beautiful flowers the whole year! Happy growing!

Aloha,  
Scot

## JANUARY 2025 SPEAKER

### **How To Make Wooden Baskets for Orchids**

Our speaker for our first meeting of 2025, on January 7, will be Randy Kurihara. He will be explaining his technique of making wooden baskets that could be very advantageous in growing orchids. He retired from the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard after 42 years of service. He was recruited to the Kunia Orchid Society by his wife, Linda Kurihara. We look forward to listening and learning from one of our newest members, Randy Kurihara.





The time has come to renew your Kunia Orchid Society membership for 2025.

To further promote orchid education and activities at our monthly general meetings and in the community, our Board of Directors have instituted a new annual dues program. For 2025, there is a slight increase in our annual membership dues. It is now \$25 for each Member and \$15 for an Associate Member ( an Associate Member would be a spouse or partner of a member). There will be a \$15 membership due for students. Our membership dues, along with money generated from fund raising events, pay for the rental of our meeting facility, insurance, educational essentials, meeting supplies and equipment, and special event costs. The success of KOS depends on the contributions of its members through their expertise, knowledge and time sacrificed. We hope that you can lend a hand to benefit our society. Let us know if you are willing.

Mahalo,  
Kunia Orchid Society Board of Directors

## Kunia Orchid Society – 2025 Membership Application

- ☐ \$25 Annual Membership Dues
- ☐ \$15 Associate Membership (Spouse/Partner of paid member)
- ☐ \$15 Student Membership (Please include copy of student ID)

Tax Deductible Donation, if any:

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\$10   \$20   \$50   \$100   Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_   Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make Check Payable to: Kunia Orchid Society. Your cancelled check will be your receipt. Mail to P.O. Box 893956, Mililani, HI 96789

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Talent/Experience (i.e. Finance, Carpentry, Graphics) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_