



Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter

August 2023

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Edited by Denise Stewart

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha Kunia Orchid Society Members & Friends,

Congratulations to the Aiea Orchid Club for their successful show this past July 9, & 10. We were invited to set up a guest display and joined Honolulu Orchid Society in setting up a floor display. Thanks to everyone that helped with the setup, take down and contributing blooming plants and accessories for our display. As far as I can remember, I have always attended their show at the Aiea Elementary School Cafeteria. Everything related to an orchid show was enjoyed by those that attended: beautiful orchid displays, orchids and other plants for sale, and an area that sold member donated items including food items.

An item of importance for our Board of Directors to discuss real soon is will it be in our best interest to have a Kunia Orchid Show in 2024? We are only about 7 months away from our regular March show time. Since the re-start of orchid shows last year, I noticed two important changes in Oahu orchid shows. The first one is that shows no longer go from Friday to Sunday, it has now been shortened to Friday and Saturday. The other is that the Windward Orchid Society, who has been having their past shows like a big gymnasium on the grounds of the King Intermediate School, switched their show location to the school's cafeteria. They sized down to save on the rental fees of a bigger facility. We've held several small, successful fundraisers to meet our operation requirements the past years. Can we sponsor an orchid show, without stressing everyone, with the current membership that we have?

The Honolulu Orchid Society has sent us an invitation to participate in the annual Orchid & Plant Show on October 13 & 14. I recently concluded that if I watered my orchid plants on a regular schedule and fertilized them weakly, weekly, I would have some great blooming orchids. I would like to propose a fun challenge to all our members. If you will water and fertilize your orchids weekly, weakly for the next two months that are leading up to the HOS Show, I will reward you with an orchid plant. So, the time starts the week of August 1, and ends the week of October 2. Sign up to be eligible to join this challenge at our August meeting or call me to be official. All those that meet the requirements, I will bring an orchid plant for you at our October 3, meeting. As you can figure out, the challenge is especially for me. I need some incentive to get my orchid collection in better shape for the HOS show in October and future benefit to me. I am currently making divisions from large orchids that need dividing or repotting.

I hope everything is well with you and your family. See you at our August 1, meeting.

Ken
Cell: (808) 228-2800

**Upcoming
General Membership Meeting
IN PERSON!
August 1, 2023, at 7:00 pm**

VANDAS



Leland Nakai

Vanda Connoisseur

Tired of repotting orchids year after year? Dive into Vandas with KOS member Leland Nakai. Our August General Meeting will feature Leland as he shares his secrets growing Vandas which don't require pots! Native to tropical and subtropical regions of Asia and the Pacific, Vandas are perfect to grow in Hawaii. Learn how to grow these beautiful plants.



Our Helpers at the Aiea Orchid Show



Back row, left to right: Gerald Miyasato, Guy Ransom, Gary McCurdy, Laura Figueira, Penny Hattal, Henry Hattal, Karen Yamamoto, Cindy Fuentes, Stan Fuentes, Amy Teves.
Front row, left to right: Ken Ching, Aileen(The Mask Rider) Ching, Noelle Sutherland, Julianne Puzon, Larry Yamamoto, Inez Brunson.

KOS AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, August 1, 2023
7:00 PM**

Mililani Ike Elementary School Cafeteria

Speaker: Leland Nakai

Topic: Vandas

Hono Hono Orchid Culture

By Scot Mitamura

Rev. 2/7/2018

The Hono Hono Orchid or *Dendrobium anosmum*, has been a Hawaiian favorite for many years. The Hono Hono in Hawaiian refers to the plants' growth habit of alternating leaves, very similar to the introduced weed, *Commelina diffusa* or Wandering Jew. Oddly it's the flowers and their exquisite fragrance and not the leaves that keep people excited about growing this orchid. Another interesting fact about this orchid is that its botanical name *anosmum* actually means without scent! My only guess is that some taxonomist was probably looking at a dried sample, because there is no mistaking the unique fragrance that the Hono Hono has, For this article and simplicity sake, I am including the related species and hybrids of *Dendrobium anosmum* together, since they share similar cultural requirements.

To grow the Hono Hono orchid well we must first learn a little about it and where it comes from. Its origin is quite widespread throughout Southeast Asia. This tells us that their dry season is opposite from ours in Hawaii, therefore we need to manipulate our culture to provide the proper environment, enabling us to flower the Hono Hono well.

Here is a Hono Hono checklist.

Dormant Cycle

This cycle runs from December to February. Dormancy begins when nighttime temperatures drop and watering is reduced. Keeping the orchids dry during our wet season could be difficult, One way is to move them under cover (Polypropylene roof or under the eaves of the house), If the Hono Hono does not go into dormancy, flowering will be poor, Next season's new growth will emerge before the buds and will compete with bud formation.

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| December | Decrease watering to two times per week, making sure that the orchids |
| January | are drying between waterings. Do not fertilize, tap out any timed released fertilizer from the pots. The Hono Hono Rule: The day that you wish eat the most (Thanksgiving Day), is the day that you starve your Hono Hono. It is a good sign when the leaves begin to turn yellow and fall off. The Hono Hono is actually pulling back and is storing all of its energy into the plump and bare stems (pseudobulbs). |
| February | Buds should begin to form along bare stems. At this time they are very vulnerable to flower thrips, which will turn the small buds brown, resulting in few to no flowers. Next years' shoots will start forming from the base of the flowering cane. |

Flowering Cycle

The flowering cycle normally occurs during the months of March to May. Using several different species, hybridizers are making new crosses that bloom at slightly different times. But generally, most Hono Hono will flower during this time of year.

March	The flower buds should become larger and begin flowering. Increase watering to once per day. Check flowers for unusual markings or crippling. This could be symptoms of virus. These plants need to be culled, as there is no cure for viruses. Try to keep water off the flowers. The delicate flowers are susceptible to Botrytis or Flower Blight Fungus. Continue to watch for flower thrips.
April	
May	

Planting Cycle

This is the best time of year that the Hono Hono should be planted or repotted. As new shoots develop so will the new roots. Planting should be done when the new shoots are 4-5 inches long and the emerging roots are one to two inches long. Avoid damaging the tender root tips. The most common media used with pots, is a bark mixture (Approximately 3 parts medium orchid bark, 3 parts peat moss, and 1 part perlite). My favorite is New Zealand Sphagnum Moss. Others like to mount them on Hapuu (Hawaiian Tree Fern), or onto cork. One caution when mounting is that you really need to water often as they tend to dry a lot quicker.

May	Continue watering every day or more if possible. Begin fertilizing with a water soluble type of fertilizer, The new growths emerging from the base of the recently bloomed stems should be about four inches long with new roots forming, before the old stem is removed. Make sure that you sterilize your pruner between plants (A propane torch is best), Viruses are the most deadly disease of Hono Hono and is mostly spread by your pruner. Label cut stems and cut them into 4-5 inch segments. Remember that keikis will only form on areas of the stem where the nodes that have not flowered. Place them in a shallow tray containing 3 parts peat moss and 1 part #2 perlite mix. Keep them in a shady area and allow the keikis to emerge. Grow keikis in these Oays for a year. Repot them into their flowering pots when new growths and roots begin to appear. These plants should flower for the first time in two growing seasons. Treat the area for slugs as they love to feed on the tender new shoots.
June	
July	

Older plants should be repotted every two years. As the media ages, it begins to breakdown, becoming sour and soggy. Fertilization causes pH of the media to become too low or acid. Salts begin to accumulate to toxic levels. The root system soon dies. From the third year and beyond, you will notice that the stems will become shorter, and the flowering will become less and less.

Growing Cycle

During this time the Hono Hono is in its most active growing stage. They are heavy feeders and want abundant water. Grow them in an area of filtered sunlight. Avoid direct midday sunlight, unless you are close to the mountains and have a lot of cloud cover.

June	Continue watering once per day or more. Fertilize twice a week with a
July	one half strength, balanced, water-soluble fertilizer. Inspect new shoots
August	for thrip damage (browning of the new leaves in the whorl). Also,
September	caterpillars can affect the new leaves. Inspect the undersides of the leaves
October	for spider mite damage (silvery to browning, with tiny red dots). Stop
November	fertilizing by mid-November.

By following some of these basic rules of growing the Hono Hono, you too can be successful. By collecting the different types of Hono Hono, you may be able to stretch their blooming season from February to June. Just imagine having the beautiful flowers and wonderful fragrance for one third of the year! The best thing about growing Hono Hono orchids is that everyone is able to share their extra keikis with friends. This is truly what makes orchid growing fun in Hawaii!

**This was distributed to members at our February meeting.*

Scot Mitamura is an Orchid Horticulturalist for the Honolulu Botanical Gardens and has been growing and hybridizing orchids for over 54 years. He can be reached at smitamura@honolulu.gov.





The time has come to renew your 2023 Kunia Orchid Society membership!

Last year, your membership dues and donations helped fund our KOS monthly meetings, newsletters and participation in this year's HOS Orchid Show. We are excited to announce that we will resume in person meetings next month!

We plan on reaching out to the community with events and educational opportunities. Until then we appreciate your kokua by completing the membership renewal form found at the end of this newsletter and sending it back with your check. Please encourage any of our past members to join us once again.

Mahalo,
Kunia Orchid Society Board of Directors



Kunia Orchid Society – 2023 Membership Application

\$20 New Membership (Jan 1 to Dec 31)

Tax Deductible Donation, if any:

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Complete and mail to: \$ _____ 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

o Check if your address has not changed.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____