



Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter

June 2022

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Edited by Denise Stewart

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Kunia Orchid Society Members & Friends,

Despite the many challenges we are currently experiencing, I am so glad that we can continue to offer you interesting speakers at our scheduled virtual meetings, local orchid information, pictures of blooming orchids to enjoy and tips to assist you in your efforts to cultivate wonderful orchids. We can thank our Education Committee, Jan and Brad, for the great work that they continue to do.

We enjoyed putting on an orchid & plant sale on Saturday, May 7. It was our largest activity that we have had in a long time. Thank you, members, and friends of KOS, for your donations and time contributions so that we could have this fund-raising event. The sale enabled us to provide new homes for many of the orchid plants donated by Henry & Penny Hattal and from the Keith Higuchi collection. We appreciate the leadership of Laura Figueira, who was our chairman for this event. She worked closely with T. J. Cuaresma, so we could have this event at the old Dot's parking lot. T. J. helped us greatly by providing 4 tents and a number of folding tables for our use. The proceeds from the sales will greatly help pay for the cost for our future guest speakers, other education needs and insurance costs. A big bonus for the day was we were able to sign up two new members and receive several membership renewals. A big Mahalo to you all!

As soon as we can re-evaluate the current health environment, sometime in June and July, we hope we can invite you to our first in-person meeting in a long time, in August.

Ken Ching

**Upcoming
General Membership Meeting
via Zoom Video Conference
July 5, 2022, at 7:00 pm**

**NOTE: Input for August
Newsletter is due by
June 20, 2022
Send to
denityler@sbcglobal.net**



**KOS Members on March 24, 2019,
at Leilehua High School**

NO KOS MEETING IN JUNE

We had planned to have our first in-person general meeting of the Kunia Orchid Society on June 7, at the Mililani Ike Elementary School cafeteria. Due to the recent COVID infection numbers that have soared in the past weeks, your board of directors decided that it is in the best interest of our members to delay our first in-person meeting to possibly August 2.

We will have our scheduled virtual meeting on July 5. We will be sure to notify you of our future meetings in our monthly newsletter.

KOS MAY EVENT



A BLOOMING SUCCESS!

The KOS Orchid & Plant Sale on May 7th was a blooming success! There was a tremendous number of donated plants and flowering orchids for sale. Thanks to the hard work of team leaders President Ken Ching and Event Chair Laura Figueira in the weeks and days prior to the event, things ran smoothly that day, netting nearly \$2,300 for the Society. Member vendors Penny & Henry Hatal's Orchids, Gerald Miyashiro's Orchids and Perla Alvarez's Succulents appeared to be doing a brisk business as well.

The location proved to be ideal for the crowd that attended in spite of limited publicity. KOS members who helped during the event were Ken & Aileen Ching, Laura Figueira, Sherry Hunt, Bard Lau, Dale & Paul Mahi, Gary McCurdy, Julianne Puzon, Virginia Puzon, Guy Ransom, Bob Speer, Noelle Sutherland, Wendel Takase and Amy Teves. Special thanks to T.J. Cuaresma with the Oahu Community Events Center for the loan of her tents and tables as well as her help on site the day of the event. Mahalo to Denise Stewart for the publicity in the KOS newsletter and to Dawn Furumoto for her help itemizing the inventory in storage.



KOS members themselves purchased a good number of the plants that were priced so reasonable as to make them irresistible to plant people! In addition to orchids and a wide assortment of backyard plants, there was a bonanza of vegetable starters and pots of assorted older plants that sold well! Kountry Store sales also did well, selling all of the large vanda pots and wire trellises and the remaining bags of chicken manure!

A big mahalo to everyone who donated plants, their time and talent to the event. It was obvious that people were enjoying the social contact after the long hiatus. Hopes are high that event was a pleasant warm up to a possible show next March!

KOS OFFICERS

President: Kenneth Ching
Vice President: Karen Yamamoto
Treasurer: Robert Speer
Secretary: Denise Stewart

Choosing Plants to Grow with Orchids

By Brad Lau



Some of us grow only orchids while others like variety and mix other plants into our plant collections. This makes sense because the climate in Hawaii is good for many types of plants and it's easy to find tropical plants.

Let's examine a few common choices for companion planting with orchids in a home environment. Plants that require the same levels of light and watering are good. But even if they are watered less or more you can put them with orchids that have similar requirements on different benches or areas.

Sometimes you can use plants that grow taller to provide shade to orchids below as with palms from very tall to mid sized under 4 feet. I have several palms growing in 3 gallon pots that I can move around near orchids and under trees. Palms like porous soil with good drainage and bright filtered light.

Sometimes we choose plants that are an uphill battle to keep disease or pest free such as roses. In Hawaii the common fungus infections and rose beetles pose an ongoing threat. Regular spraying is often required to keep the plants healthy but the reward of flowers can make the effort worthwhile. Be aware that fragrant flowers like gardenia attract thrips which can spread to threaten orchids.

Palms are common and easy to find. They come in many sizes and grow in medium to large pots which can be moved. I use them for a little shade at 3-5 feet height and water them about 2-3 times a week. If the palms are in the landscape, they will provide a vertical surface for orchids to be tied or hooked to.



Succulents are very easy but have a potting mix which is unique to hold moisture and require less frequent watering. Their light requirements vary but are more in the shade spectrum. Many are small and grow slowly but divide or keiki easily. I put orchids that need more shade nearby but still water as required.

Bromeliads are very hardy, can tolerate shade to full sun and work well to dress up the areas around orchids. They come in a variety of colors and sizes and once mature will flower and keiki. I don't find any problems with mosquitoes and use minimal to no media other than lava rock. I water enough to not let them dry out on their crowns.

Finally, tillandsia are versatile, easy to find, and do well with orchids. I use telephone wire and braid a harness to place the plant for hanging. They grow in shade to full sun and need good air flow. I water once or twice a week. They will eventually flower and have keiki. Sometimes they just grow into a large ball so using a spinning ring helps the plant to rotate in the light.



If you don't already have these companion plants, you can try a few and see what works for your area and location. Be careful not to expand your collections and run out of space. At the same time, you can always share extra plants with friends and family or find creative locations in your home or yard. Be happy, grow plants.

- Photo 1: Stanhopea above bromeliads
- Photo 2: Palms with Vanda
- Photo 3: Orchids with Succulents
- Photo 4: Various size bromeliads
- Photo 5: Hanging tillandsias

KOS JUNE GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, July 5, 2022

7:00pm

Click link to join meeting: [KOS Zoom Meeting](#)

If you are still having issues with Zoom and would like personal attention, please leave Denise a message at 818-679-2369.

KUNIA MEMBERS SHARE



Top left :
Den. Chrysotoxum - Ken & Aileen
Ching

Center:
C. Angel Bells 'Suzie' AM/AOS
Bill Takamatsu



Top right: *Coelogyne pendurata*
Bill Takamatsu

Bottom left:
Blc. Gold Green 'Hair Pig'
Bill Takamatsu



Bottom right:
V. Beeva 'Carmela' / Ken & Aileen Ching





The time has come to renew your 2022 Kunia Orchid Society membership. Last year, your membership dues and donations helped fund our KOS monthly meetings, newsletters and other KOS expenses. With the challenges and restrictions brought about by COVID-19, we still plan to provide continued orchid education opportunities for our members and the general public for the coming year.

As soon as permitted, we would like to resume our past fund raising efforts, such as our annual orchid show and other fund raiser opportunities to meet our future association expenses. 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 – 2022 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

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____