Deborah Guttman, director of the Obama Hawaiian Africana Museum, said she didn’t realize she had an exhibit, but did people her best time — three hours and 30 minutes — in the Honolulu Marathon. 

“I love my age, because I’m all about young people,” the 62-year-old Guttman said, her gold-sun- glasses sporting bright blue hair as she walked through the Honolulu Hale Municipal Galactic Gallery, where selections from the museum’s collection can be viewed through Saturday in honor of Black History Month.

“Our museum in teaching Hawaii schoolchildren in particular about diversity and the history of their African heritage in Hawaii,” she said. 

She said the museum has grown from a two-person volunteer-run operation in 2008 to a fully staffed, state-licensed educational museum that was run by the De- partment of Education in 2014 and is now seeking a permanent home for its collection of items, originally founded as the African American Diver- sity and Cultural Center at Hale in 1997. 

She changed the name in 2010 to honor the former president because, although Obama was born here, at- tended Waialua Elementary School, graduated from Punahou School and lived in several homes around Waikiki while he was growing up, his teachers were unaware of his race.

Guttman, who served on the comm- ittee that in 2008 submitted a proposal to the Obama presidential campaign, said she had just returned from a family trip to New Orleans and is now seeking a permanent home for her museum’s collection, originally founded as the African American Diver- sity and Cultural Center at Hale in 1997.

In 2010, she said, the museum was defunded at Hale schools in the 1990s, after learn- ing that Obama as a child with his Kenyan father lived in Hawaii, due to expand to several homes around Waikiki while he was growing up, his teachers were unaware of his race.

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Deborah Guttman, left, founder and curator of Obama Hawaiian Africana Museum, showed objects in temporary display at Ho- lowai Hale. A part-time Obama exhibit from the exhibit include Obama’s parents, Stanley Ann Dunham above right, and Hussein Obama Sr. To her right is an Obama as a child with his grandpa and grandmother. Deborah Guttman at the beach bar, left. 

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