

For Immediate Release

Contact: Janis Wong, media relations
The Kohala Center
jwong@kohalacenter.org
direct: 808-325-1114, office: 808-887-6411

“Papayas and Bitter Melons” storytelling at La ‘Ike Day at Kahalu‘u Bay

KAMUELA, Hawai‘i—June 17, 2009—Life brings sweet papayas and bitter melons.

In their “Papayas and Bitter Melons: Tales of the Bitter and Sweet,” five women share how they have managed, survived and thrived in the sweet and bitter times of their lives at the Keauhou Beach Resort Kalani Kai Grill from 1–2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 28, as part of La ‘Ike Day at Kahalu‘u Bay.

Lucy Gay, Puanani Burgess, Ho‘oipo DeCambra, Karen Young, Karen Hackler-Director, and Grace Caligtan of Oahu describe themselves as “community builders/activists/teachers/healers/friends who dive together into a lifetime of memories and surface bearing stories. We then winnow through the layers of these stories in search of the truths of our lives.”

“Stories feed the soul,” said storyteller Hackler-Director. “In telling and retelling and reflecting, we still have epiphanies about our parents and grandparents. Gems will pop up, and we’ll have one more pearl to share.”

They will have you laughing, reaching for Kleenex, and nodding your head in recognition with their stories of ‘*ohana* (family)—mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, grandparents, neighbors and the communities where they grew up, live, love, and work. Their stories—how they got through with less—resonate and inspire in today’s uncertain times.

“Our stories remind us of the joy and resiliency of the ‘*ohana* and the human spirit. When we look back at our lives, we started with very little but with great love in our ‘*ohana*. We are so grateful that we had loved ones who helped us through the difficult times,” Hackler-Director said.

For folks wanting additional sustenance, a free ‘ono lunch will be served before the presentation from noon to 12:45 p.m. in the Kahalu‘u Beach Pavilion. *E komo mai*.

This La ‘Ike Day at Kahalu‘u Bay presentation is sponsored by The Kohala Center, Keauhou Beach Resort, Hawai‘i Tourism Authority, County of Hawai‘i Department of Research and Development, and Wailea Village Historic Preservation Community in collaboration with Lo‘i Theatre.

For more information, contact Cindi Punahaole at 895-1010 or [cpunahaole @kohalacenter.org](mailto:cpunahaole@kohalacenter.org).

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[photo caption] Storytellers Lucy Gay (left to right), Puanani Burgess, Ho‘oipo DeCambra, Karen Young, Karen Hackler-Director, and Grace Caligtan share “Papayas and Bitter Melons: Tales of the Bitter and Sweet” at Kahalu‘u Bay’s La Ike Day.