



Joelladean Hinano Keli'ikoa-Lee founded Ke Ali'i Victoria Ka'ulani Hawaiian Civic Club. She has passed away, but today, her daughter runs the club.



The Office of Hawaiian Affairs visited Chicago to raise awareness for the Kau 'Iinoa native Hawaiian Registry, and as a prelude to the arrival of the first Midwest Hawaiian Civic Club.

From the Heartland

Hawaiians living in the Midwest use their civic club as a cultural home.

Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole founded the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AOHCC) in 1918, making it the oldest Hawaiian grassroots organization. The AOHCC is now 58 clubs strong, with the majority based in Hawai'i and more than a dozen scattered across the Mainland, including the Ke Ali'i Victoria Ka'ulani Hawaiian Civic Club (KVKHCC) in Chicago.

Founded in 2005, KVKHCC was the vision of its first *pelekikena* (president), Joelladean Hinano Keli'ikoa-Lee. A Hawaiian whose job in the Air Force brought her to Chicago in the late 1950s, Keli'ikoa-Lee found it challenging to stay true to her roots while so far removed, both physically and culturally, from the Islands. "She realized that there wasn't anyone here who actually spoke or taught [Hawaiian] or was perpetuating the culture in the ways she recalled growing up," says Keli'ikoa-Lee's daughter, Carole Lanialoha Lee-Sumberg, KVKHCC's current *pelekikena*.

The club, which has 33 members residing in both Illinois and Hawai'i, is named for Princess Victoria Ka'ulani, a fitting choice given members' blended backgrounds. "What we found very interesting is that she was mixed, or hapa," says Lee-Sumberg. "She was half-Hawaiian and half-Scottish, like many of the Hawaiians here in the Midwest."

KVKHCC will host a Festival of Aloha, May 24 to 27, which will include a health-awareness brunch and workshops on the Hawaiian language; Prince Kuhio; the nuts and bolts of starting a civic club; and what it means to serve the Hawaiian community. And on May 26, approximately 1,800 'ukulele players will gather at Welles Park in Chicago to try to earn a spot in the *Guinness Book of World Records* for the world's largest 'ukulele lesson. "The song that we're teaching—'E Huli Mākou—is a traditional Hawaiian song that will help others to see that we are, in fact, connected to the Islands," says Lee-Sumberg.

A DEEPER REACH

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association are working on a Community Engagement Project, and have a survey that aims to enable a deeper connection with those living beyond Hawai'i. The survey results will help provide an overview of Hawaiian communities across the United States to build relationships and strengthen coalitions. If you want to share who you are, what you're doing and where you're doing it, go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/BMSLZQ2 to take the survey.