

Dedication of Lanihuli Observatory
12 October 2007
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Like a voyaging canoe, an observatory can transport us on long journeys of discovery.

And, so it's symbolically appropriate that we dedicate Windward's Lanihuli Observatory today—Discoverers' Day. In fact, all the venues of our Center for Aerospace Education (CAE) were dedicated on this date. Although I would like to take credit for arranging it, the Blue Angels performance over Kaneohe today is pure, but wonderful, coincidence.

This day of celebration belongs to not only to the college ... but also to the entire community ... for sharing in this dream and acting as a driving force in making it a reality. I am deeply touched by the support you all have generously given to this project and honored by the recognition your participation brings to it.

Lanihuli takes its name from the majestic Ko'olau mountain range that graces the foot of our campus. Just to the south of Keahiakahoe, the prominent landmark peak that fronts Windward, is the second highest peak in the Koolau's — Lanihuli. *Lani* means "heaven" and *huli* means "to turn or rotate." So, Lanihuli literally means the "spinning sky" or "swirling clouds." From WCC's Lanihuli Observatory students and children will learn more about the stars and clouds that swing around our skies ... much as ancient Polynesian navigators were keen at doing.

Lanihuli houses various instruments:

- Radio Telescope, which is operated in conjunction with NASA Goddard, was installed in 1999 and upgraded in 2000.
- Solar Telescope for observing sunspots and leaping arches of gas called prominences was installed last September 2006.
- NOAA Weather Satellite Tracking Station, which monitors real-time images of the Hawaiian Islands, was installed in 1997.
- our 16-inch Optical Telescope, which sits under our its 16-foot rotating dome, was just recently installed this Fall.
- in the near future Lanihuli will also operate a cosmic ray telescope in collaboration with QuarkNet.

Lanihuli is the latest venue in the complex of educational resources developed and operated by WCC's CAE.

The CAE provides resource support and services to the college's educational program and Space Grant efforts as well as outreach to K-12 students and teachers and the community in general across the State.

The CAE was established in 1985 as a direct result of my participation as one of Hawaii's Teacher-in-Space. Since then, it has grown to include our Aerospace Exploration Lab. The AEL, which officially opened in mid-1980s, was temporarily housed at Puohala Elementary. In 1997, AEL moved to its permanent home in the Science Building (Hale 'Imiloa).

The Imaginarium was dedicated in October 2001. It was followed the next year by our NASA Flight Training center, which is operated in affiliation with NASA Glenn Research Center.

The Lanihuli Observatory, which was developed over a ten-year period, began operation in 1997 when our NOAA weather tracking station was installed at Lanihuli Iki, the small building adjacent to Lanihuli Observatory.

In 1999, a dear friend and strong supporter for Windward's CAE, Hazel Valier, made a major donation to expand the Observatory. Over the years many private foundations, organizations and individuals have joined forces to make this observatory a reality. There are so many, like the Harold Castle Foundation and the Minami Foundation. And we thank you all for your generosity.

We view Lanihuli and the other resources offered by Windward's CAE as treasures to be shared with our community. Our aim is to create the greatest impact with these resources by reaching as many people as possible.

Here are some of the accomplishments we've made and where our future projects will take us:

- Each year, the CAE is visited by approximately 10,000 visitors K-12 and the general community.
- We've provided college credit in astronomy for our high school Upward Bound students and expect to offer a hands-on astronomy lab this summer at our new observatory
- Through a No Child Left Behind grant we are training scores of teachers in science education as well as providing them professional development credit with the DOE

- We provide educational activities for all the family to share in. Upcoming in October will be our 7th Annual Haunted Village, which is attended by over 1,000 visitors each year.

- Three of our former students are currently operating telescopes on Mauna Kea; and several other have gone on to major in physics and astronomy

- Just recently, four of our Space Grant students returned from Nevada where they entered an international rocketry competition. and took first place.

- Several WCC students have taken flight aboard NASA's KC135 to experience the thrill of weightless.

- This summer WCC's Lanihuli Observatory will engage in a joint research project with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and Kochi National College of Technology of Japan.

- By November, Lanihuli will also be made available to the general public after our evening Imaginarium shows.

These formal and informal learning experiences have major developmental impact on our students and children. In the words of Albert Einstein, "play is the highest form of research." Our goal is to make the two indistinguishable.

Our next task is to ensure the sustainability of these valuable resources managed by the CAE. Already the State has recognized and supported our mission through the creation of two part-time positions at the Imaginarium, as well as the appropriations of funds for annual operations and equipment replacement.

As we look to the future, our task will be to establish an endowment to preserve and improve the services provided by the CAE.

Your support has already taken us to new horizons. Our goal is to keep expanding those horizons for the youth of today. One day, the youth of today will literally voyage to the planets and stars they first become acquainted with at Lanihuli Observatory. In a major way, you've all already touched the future and imagination of our children—the true resources of our islands. Before I ask Kelikokauaikekai Hoe to bless the observatory

Afterwards, enjoy more refreshments prepared by Jacquie Maly.

Nancy Ali will give a tour of other CAE venues.

Dick Flagg will be available at the radio telescope for questions.

Marv Kessler will be at the 16-inch optical telescope.

Jake Hudson will show you the features of our NASA Flight Training center.

Liko ... would you please do us the honor of performing an *oli* for Lanihuli.