

# **KA'U COFFEE FESTIVAL**

Five young women are vying for the title of Miss Ka'ū Coffee, with the pageant to be held on Saturday, March 27 at Ka'ū High School Gym. The doors open at 6 p.m., with the Miss Peaberry Pageant at 6:15 p.m. followed by the Miss Ka'ū Coffee Pageant. Tickets are \$5 each and available from contestants and their families, as well as members of the Ka'ū Coffee Cooperative. Miss Ka'ū Coffee will receive a \$1000 scholarship from the Edmund C. Olson Trust. First runner up will receive \$500 and second runner up \$250, awarded by the Ka'ū Coffee Festival Committee.

The judges are: Melba Asido, Coordinator of Miss Filipina pageant for Hawai'i Island and owner of an eldercare home in Hilo; teaches Filipino Dances; resident of Hilo. Kilohana Domingo, hula dancer, leimaking and Hawaiian language and cultural expert; resident of Kalaekilohana, Nā'ālehu. Sammi Fo, choreographer, dancer, singer, retired producer of multicultural entertainment shows for visitor industry on O'ahu and Maui; resident of Ocean View. Cheryl Weaver, Manager of Ka'ū Federal Credit Union. She grew up on O'ahu, volunteers with youth on learning financial management, dances Hula; resident of Fern Forest. Nona Wilson, Hawaiian entertainer, retired Director of Emergency Services, Kaiser Hospital on O'ahu; currently Director of Nursing at Ka'ū Hospital; resident of Volcano.

The Miss Ka'ū Coffee contestants are:

**Deslynn Malialoke Andrade Castaneda**, 21, of Nā'ālehu. She is the daughter of Cleotilde and



Isidoro Castaneda. She attends Hawai'i Community College and is majoring in architectural engineering. "I want to become an architect. It has been a dream of mine to help perpetuate Ka'ū and its beauty with architecture that works for the community and works with the community to help keep Ka'ū country but protect and perpetuate the beautiful environment we live in, along with economic security."

**Jadelyn Domondon**, 16, of Pāhala. She is the daughter of Anthony and June Domondon. She attends



Ka'ū High School and plans to attend college to earn a degree in sports medicine. She also plans to become licensed in massage therapy. She said she "loves the country. I'm not one to spend most of my time in the city. It's like a quiet getaway, like nowhere else, plus everyone is close in this big district in many relationship bonds." Her talent is hula.

**Eunice Nika Longakit**, 15, of Pāhala. She is the daughter of Franco and Alejandra Longakit.



She attends Ka'ū High School and wants to go to college, become a registered nurse and see the world as a flight attendant. She said she enjoys the "rustic beauty and the love from all the people" of Ka'ū. Her talent is singing.

**Alesha "Ulu" Makuakane**, 17, of Wai'ōhinu. She is the daughter of Winona and Paul Makuakane.



She attends Ka'ū High School and plans to attend college and major in health and human nutrition. "Obesity has become a major issue for Hawaiians, and I want to help these people lower these statistics so they can live healthy and active lifestyles." She said she enjoys Ka'ū "because it is an undeveloped district with agriculture and pristine beaches. As a native Hawaiian, it is my duty to perpetuate the area for future generations to enjoy." Her talent is hula.

**Brandy Kayumi Haunani Shibuya**, 21, of Nā'ālehu. She is the daughter of Dane and Terry-Lee



Shibuya. She attends West Hawai'i Community College and plans to work in early childhood education. "Ka'ū has been known to be my heart and soul therefore I must give back to my roots by preserving and perpetuating our environment and community," she said. "I really enjoy the people here in Ka'ū because they are so diligent, respectful and very hard working. Here I found the most pristine oceans and lush green forests, which holds a strong history, a history that stands firmly behind the land, the people and their uniquely diverse cultures." Her talent is hula.

Seven young beauties will vie for the title of Miss Peaberry. The Peaberries will present their gowns and talent. They are:



**Jennifer Abalos**, 9, of Pāhala. She is daughter of Zenaida and Jose Abalos. She attends Pāhala School and said she aspires through education “to become a veterinarian because I love animals.” She says she enjoys living here because “my relatives live here. My favorite thing about Ka‘ū is the Punalu‘u Beach.” Her talent is dancing.



**Ua Kanoelehua Alencastre-Galimba**, 8, of Hīlea. She is the daughter of Michelle Galimba and Timothy Alencastre. She attends Volcano School of Arts & Sciences. Her favorite subjects are math, science, and geometry. She would like to study politics when she gets older because “it’s interesting.” She likes living in Ka‘ū “because of the educational resources like Punalu‘u Beach, the Ninole Hills, and Ka‘ū Coffee.” Her talents are hula and horseback riding.



**Shacy Davis**, 6, of Pāhala. She is the daughter of Daniel and Stacy Davis. She attends Pāhala School and hopes to grow up to become a teacher. She loves Ka‘ū for going to the beach and riding horses. Her talent is dancing.



**Karlee Kaliya Kea‘aikamaile Fukunaga-Camba**, 8, of Pāhala. She is the daughter of Keala and Justine Camba. She attends Pāhala School and wants to be a teacher when she grows up. She loves Ka‘ū for being able to “go to the beach and playing in the water.” Her talent is hip-hop dance.



**Kailee Kuhaulua-Stacy**, 8, of Pā-hala. She is the daughter of Cheyenne Kaluahine and Sheldon L. Salmo. She attends Pāhala School and wants to learn to be a better person to help other people. She loves Ka‘ū for “Punalu‘u Beach – nice and peaceful.” Her talent is Poi balls and karate.



**Melia Kate Tabilin Okimoto**, 8, of Pāhala. She is the daughter of Sheilah and Malcom Okimoto. She attends Nā‘ālehu School and wants to be a scientist when she grows up “because you can discover new things.” She said she loves that it doesn’t rain a lot in Ka‘ū, “and I can go hunting and swim at the beach.” Her talent is hip-hop and singing.



**Alyson ‘Aly’ Panglao**, 7, of Pāhala. She is the daughter of Jayson and Malia Panglao. She attends Pāhala School and wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up. She loves riding horses. She said she enjoys living in Ka‘ū. “The ocean and land are nice.” Her talent is singing and hula.

*Photos by Julia Neal*