

# Kahilu Hall

A historical timeline



**PARKER SCHOOL**

## Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Kahilu Hall

*Kahilu Hall, also known to many as Barbara Hall, has been at the heart of the Waimea community for generations. Parker School is proud to honor her legacy as a gathering place for all of Waimea.*

*The oldest known photo of Barbara Hall (1921). Photo courtesy of the Paniolo Preservation Society.*



*Soldiers at the USO (Barbara Hall) during World War II. Photo courtesy of the Paniolo Preservation Society.*



*Soldiers wait in line to enter the newly constructed theatre during World War II. Photo courtesy of the Paniolo Preservation Society.*



*The 125th Parker Ranch Anniversary Holoku Ball on January 12, 1962 in Kahilu Hall. Photo courtesy of Parker Ranch.*



*Kahilu Hall circa 1965.*



**1915**  
Barbara Hall is built at a cost of \$6,954.02 by Parker Ranch as a place of rest and relaxation for ranch employees and is named in honor of the daughter of then Parker Ranch Manager, A.W. Carter.

After World War I (1914 – 1918), Barbara Hall is one of few buildings in Waimea with electricity. Residents enjoy silent films and dance the waltz and Charleston in the hall.

*Please note: various sources attribute the construction of Barbara Hall to differing dates; it is our best estimate that 1915 is the accurate date of completion.*

**1924-1942**  
In addition to R&R for Parker Ranch employees, Barbara Hall serves as a community hall for social gatherings, flower shows, community plays, fashion shows, club activities, baby clinics, dance classes, and other community events. Parker Ranch hosts an annual Christmas party and New Year's Eve luau inviting all residents of Waimea to Barbara Hall.



*Barbara Hall in 1940. Photo courtesy of Parker Ranch.*

**December 1943**  
Barbara Hall becomes a United Service Organizations (USO) facility for more than 55,000 United States Marines and Navy personnel (two waves of roughly 25,000 soldiers over a two-year period) who train at Camp Tarawa on Parker Ranch during World War II. In two weeks, Waimea's population explodes from approximately 400 to 25,000 people. Parker Ranch's town-wide Christmas parties are suspended.



*Barbara Hall serves as a USO for more than 55,000 soldiers during World War II. Photo courtesy of the Paniolo Preservation Society.*

**Summer 1944**  
Soldiers build additional structures around the USO (Barbara Hall), including Parker School's current theatre and lower hall. The 177-member Waimea unit of the American Red Cross gathers in Barbara Hall every Tuesday to knit mittens, scarves, socks, sweaters and hats to support the war, using yarn purchased by Parker Ranch.

*New Year's Eve luau helps in front of Barbara Hall. Photo courtesy of Momi Naughton and NHERC.*

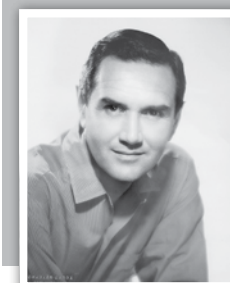


*The interior of Barbara Hall circa 1940s. Photo courtesy of the Paniolo Preservation Society.*



**Spring 1945**  
Camp Tarawa closes with the end of World War II. Barbara Hall is restored to the Waimea community as a gathering place. Parker Ranch resumes hosting a town-wide Christmas party and New Year's Eve luau in Barbara Hall.

**1960**  
Richard Smart, sixth generation Parker and owner of Parker Ranch, renames Barbara Hall "Kahilu Hall" in honor of his mother, Thelma Kahiluonapuaapiilani Parker, and makes extensive interior and exterior renovations in anticipation of the ranch's upcoming 125th Anniversary. The hall gets a new sign "Kahilu Hall" using lettering in the Monarchy typeface.



*Richard Smart, sixth generation Parker and owner of Parker Ranch. Photo courtesy of the Paniolo Preservation Society.*

**January 1962**  
Parker Ranch celebrates its 125th Anniversary with a Holoku Ball in Kahilu Hall January 12 from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. The theme is the Monarchy period of King Kalakaua and is the first Holoku Ball held on the ranch in over a half century. Local and international reporters attend, including Time and Life magazines. Kahilu Hall is grandly decked in greenery. Attendees said, "Kahilu Hall was never lovelier" and it was "the party of the century."

**1963**  
For the next twelve years (1963 – 1975), Kahilu Hall hosts hundreds of events as Waimea's community town hall including symphony concerts, church bazaars, boy scout troops, exercise classes, fashion shows, movies, concerts, Easter gatherings, Waimea Women's Club, 4H Club, Aloha Week festivities and more.

Due to the growing Waimea community, the Parker Ranch Christmas party at Kahilu Hall is held for ranch employees and their families only. The Ranch's New Year's Eve luau at Kahilu Hall remains open to all residents of Waimea.

**1964**  
Richard Smart renovates Kahilu Hall, closing it for November and December while doffing its Cinderella dull green for crimson red and white monarchy trim to match the theatre. The hall reopens on New Year's Eve with a Holoku Ball for all residents of Waimea at 9:00 p.m. Inside, the hall is adorned in the same Monarchy theme with gold, white and red.

*Kahilu Hall circa 1960. Photo courtesy of the Lyman Museum.*





*Parker Ranch's employee Christmas Party in 1969 at Kahilu Hall. Photo courtesy of Parker Ranch.*



### December 1969

Parker Ranch's employee Christmas party is held at Kahilu Hall on December 23 and starts at 7:30 p.m. The Ranch's Annual New Year's Eve party is also held at Kahilu Hall on December 31 from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. with music by Billie Brook's band, After Hours.

*Parker Ranch's employee Christmas Party in 1976 at Kahilu Hall. Photo courtesy of Parker Ranch.*



### September 1976

Parker School (grades 9 – 12) is established and opens in the side downstairs portion of Kahilu Hall September 3. This space is generously loaned by Richard Smart to Parker School and serves as the first five classrooms, including a science lab and library-study hall. Enrollment is 58 students in the school's first year of operation.



*Parker School in 1979. Photo courtesy of Momi Naughton and NHERC.*

*State of the Ranch Meeting in 1976 at Kahilu Hall. Photo courtesy of Parker Ranch.*



### 1979

Parker Ranch and Richard Smart make available all of Kahilu Hall, plus two additional ranch buildings, to meet the school's need for more space after adding middle school grades two years prior. Richard Smart establishes the Parker Ranch Trust to administer school funds and oversee operations on January 1, 1979. Enrollment is 115 students in the school's third year of operation.

*Parker School becomes one of four beneficiaries of the Parker Ranch Foundation Trust.*



### April 1993

Parker School is named one of four beneficiaries of the Parker Ranch Foundation Trust April 15, after the passing of Richard Smart in 1992. Parker School receives 16% of the annual disbursement to beneficiaries.

### March 1995

Parker School welcomes World War II veterans once stationed at Camp Tarawa to the former USO (Kahilu Hall) for a special ceremony and luncheon March 19 as part of town-wide festivities to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Camp Tarawa. On September 9, Parker School hosts the final 50th Anniversary celebration with a dance for veterans and the community at Kahilu Hall.



*Parker School students in 1991.*

### April 1995

Parker School Trust purchases 17.5 acres of land from Parker Ranch for campus expansion. Land includes Kahilu Hall, in addition to land between Kapi'olani Road and the Waikoloa Stream. Enrollment is 178 students in the school's nineteenth year of operation.

### November 2007

Parker School adds a student library in Kahilu Hall. The library features the original fireplace and original hardwood floors.



*Parker School adds a library inside Kahilu Hall in 2007.*

### January 2007

Part of the original lava rock chimney in Kahilu Hall is removed for safety reasons January 30 after sustaining damage in the October 15, 2006 earthquake measuring 6.7.



*Kahilu Hall's chimney is damaged in 2006 earthquake.*

### August 2007

Parker School's elementary program serving kindergarten through grade 5 moves into its new home with the completion of a lower school campus. Enrollment is 300 students in the school's thirty-first year of operation.

### September 2015

**Kahilu Hall turns 100 years old.** Parker School honors and celebrates this beloved and historic Waimea icon with a 100th Anniversary community celebration on September 26. Enrollment is at the highest in the school's history with 322 students in grades K-12 for the school's thirty-ninth year of operation.



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\* As proud stewards of Kahilu Hall, this timeline was carefully prepared to the best of our ability. Please accept our apologies and notify the Advancement Office if any errors or omissions are discovered. If you have photos of Kahilu Hall and/or Parker School you would like to share for our archives, please contact the Advancement Office at 885-8709.