

## The Ka'ū Calendar

August 25, 2013 ·

NINETY-YEAR-OLD JEANETTE HOWARD was honored last night at Pahala Plantation House by community, friends and family. A native of Punalu`u, she is the eldest member in the halau of Kumu Lori Lei Shirakawa. Shirakawa said she remembers Jeanette coming to hula in 1993 when she first started teaching in Na`alehu.

Relatives, including members of the Akiu and Kawanui families, came from around Hawai`i and the mainland, recalling stories of days gone by. Irene Kawanui Norman said her father, Samuel Kawanui, was hired on a ship at Honu`apo when he was 16 and left Ka`u to see the world. He trained to bring pineapple barges coming from Lana`i to O`ahu. Howard was raised by the Kawanui family, she said.

The party was a surprise, with Howard being told she was going to a Keoki Kahumoku concert at Pahala Plantation House, said daughter Myra Sumida. When Howard arrived, she found that the gathering of hundreds of people was for her.

Entertainment was provided by Ernie Kalani, friends and family.

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