



5th Annual Parade & Festival For the United Nations International Day of Peace September 18, 2011

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PEACE, DRUMS AND ROCK & ROLL
Join the Parade & Festival for United Nations International Day of Peace
Sunday, September 18, 2011

HONOKAA, HAWAII-THE BIG ISLAND—Taiko drums, marching bands, bon dance, jazz, rock & roll, hula and more—Honokaa town is tuning up for the 5th Annual Parade & Festival for the United Nations International Day of Peace, Sunday, September 18, 2011. Stepping off at 11 a.m. from Honokaa High School, the Peace Day Parade is a “moving stage” of music, dance and entertainment with a message.

Concurrently, a Peace Day Festival takes place at the Honokaa Sports Complex from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with great local and ethnic foods, artists and crafters, live entertainment and a large community Bon Dance for everyone to join. The Peace Committee of Honokaa Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist temple, producers of the annual festivities, are now accepting booth applications from community groups, food and other vendors for the Festival.

The Peace Committee is also planning its first ever 5K “Peace Run,” (Details coming soon to www.peacedayparade.org), support programs for the Carteret Atoll education projects, and popular annual Peace Poster Contest.

The Peace Poster Contest welcomes entries from students in grades kindergarten through 12, willing to take time to express their thoughts on the theme “Peace means...” by Friday,

September 9, 2011. The contest is free to enter, and cash prizes are awarded to the winners in several categories. Detailed information is available at: www.peacedayparade.org

On Friday, September 2, the Wailoa Art & Cultural Center in Hilo will open an exhibit of previous Peace Poster Contest entries in its Fountain Gallery. An opening reception on September 2, 5-7 p.m. kicks off the exhibit and everyone is invited. The children's posters will be on display from September 2-29, and the gallery is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday from noon to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. (For additional information about the Center please call 933-0416 or email wailoa@yahoo.com).

Peace-related events continue throughout the month of September. On Thursday, September 22, the Sakura Ensemble will perform a concert of peace music at Honokaa Library at 6 p.m., sponsored by the Friends of Hamakua Libraries and the Peace Committee.

"We take a lot of pride in our Peace Day Parade and Festival and all of our related events," said Peace Committee Chairman Mile Okumura, "The entertainers, whether they're marching down the street or performing onstage, the ceremony, the booths, the food, everything has a certain quality, style and spirit. And that's what sets our Peace Day events apart and makes people want to come back year after year--residents and visitors from Hawaii, the mainland, Japan and everywhere."

The Parade for the United Nations International Day of Peace is produced by the Peace Committee of the Honokaa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, an affiliate of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, a registered not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Artwork and the words "United Nations" are used with permission.

Honokaa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, PO Box 1667, Honoka`a HI 96727 808 775-7232

Last year's events gave the small town a big voice, with more than 2,000 participants and news coverage on all the major local television network stations. Plus, live streaming video linked the Parade & Festival with Peace Day concerts around the world for a potential 2 million viewers.

The United Nations has been celebrating the International Day of Peace for more than 25 years, but Peace Day became law in Hawaii in 2007 as a result of lobbying by the teen group, United Junior Young Buddhist Association. Proceeds go towards community services, including educational programs, charities, environmental activism programs and various peace initiatives year-round.

The 5th Annual Parade & Festival for the United Nations International Day of Peace are presented by the Peace Committee of the Honokaa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in cooperation with the United Nations and numerous community organizations. Major financial support has been provided by the County of Hawaii Department of Research and Development (Tourism Division) CPEP and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

For more information visit www.PeaceDayParade.org or email info@peacedayparade.org

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