

Waimanalo Girds For ACS Relay

By LINDA DELA CRUZ

Waimanalo's American Cancer Society Relay For Life will open at 5:30 p.m. Friday at Waimanalo Beach Park with food, entertainment and activities for everyone, whether or not they are part of a relay team.

The 12-hour fundraiser will honor cancer survivors, stage a luminaria ceremony and awareness campaign, and acknowledge all teams for their support.

"Some teams are supporting loved ones among their family and friends who have been touched by cancer," said Gail Rombaoa. "Cancer touches everyone," added the four-year cancer survivor who knows well the meaning of the familiar phrase.

Rombaoa has been involved with the relay for three years, and this time she'll do it in memory of her older brother, Owen Maruma, who died last November of cancer. Her

2009 co-chairs are daughter Naomi, and Mabel Spencer.

Native Roots, Gigo Band, Fatsahjah, 41-Dash and Easy Kine Ohana will entertain on stage. There also will be a country store, silent auction and a "germ city" exhibit by the 4-H Club.

Opening ceremonies at 6 p.m. feature a presentation by ACS Hero of Hope Sandra Hoggan, followed by a survivors victory lap and a parade of the 27 relay teams. Dinner for survivors will be served from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m.

"We want to get as many cancer survivors as we can to come to our dinner as they are the guest of honor," Rombaoa said, noting that it will be a Hawaiian menu with entertainers from Lighthouse Christian Fellowship.

A touching luminaria ceremony starts at 8:30 when white paper bags are illuminated and dedicated to cancer's victims and brave fight-

ers. A "fight back" ceremony at midnight will have participants pledge to do something healthy, followed by a showcase to recognize each team. The final lap and closing ceremonies are at 5:30 a.m. Saturday.

With the help of 27 teams of friends, families, church groups and organizations, the event carries out the national relay theme of 25 Years of Hope.

"This gives us an opportunity to remember our loved ones lost to cancer," added Rombaoa, "to celebrate our cancer survivors and their caregivers, and to fight back so we can do what we can to raise money for cancer research, for cancer education and programs, and to get the word out to our lawmakers to support cancer screening."

"Come out and join us at the park."

For more information, call 295-7129.

Kailua's Relay For Life is set for July 24-25 at Kailua High School.



Rev. Bob Nakata (left) gets a helping hand from representatives of World Peace Prayer Society as church member Myron Murakami pours gravel to secure the newly installed peace pole during a May 29 ceremony at Kahaluu United Methodist Church. Later the congregation and their Japanese guests (below) gathered to reflect on the theme 'to let peace prevail in the world.' Groups and individuals have erected more than 200,000 peace poles throughout the world, including Hawaii, since the project began in 1955, inspired by Japanese poet Masahisa Goi. Photo by Nathalie Walker, nwalker@midweek.com.

Reynolds Recycling Opens Ahuimanu Site

Koolau Center's former Arco service station site is being recycled into a ... recycling center.

Next Tuesday (June 16) it will become the new home for one of the Reynolds Recycling trucks, which will accept and pay for HI-5 plastic, glass and aluminum beverage containers from 9

a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday.

Last year the company recycled more than 28 million pounds of materials that might otherwise have gone into Oahu's landfill.

Koolau Center is located off of Kahekili Highway in Ahuimanu Valley, across from Valley of the Temples.

LETTERS NOTE ...

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