



March 31, 2011

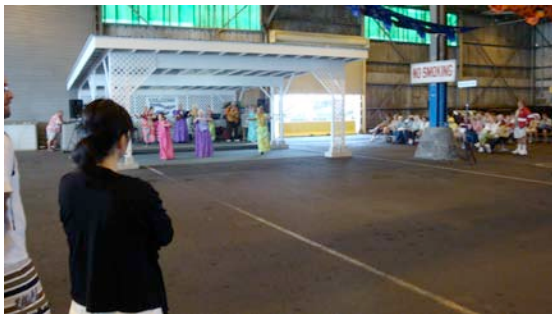
From the President

E komo mai – Welcome. Destination Hilo launches its upgraded website in April 2011. We will be adding information about our members and providing links. We hope this will encourage the visitors to our website to check out the links. Our members represent a diverse group of businesses and visitor destinations, and we are grateful for their continued support of our projects.

Aloha nui loa, Dinnie Kysar



The Sapphire Princess arrived at Hilo Pier on March 31 after five days at sea. Over 5000 passengers and crew descended on our little town, visiting botanical gardens, black sand beaches, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, museums, and waterfalls. It was a beautiful day, sunny and warm.



Destination Hilo has served the Hilo Port since the 1990's, providing Hawaiian music and dance for cruise passengers as

they debark for a day in Hilo. Our Kupuna (elders) perform and sometimes invite our visitors to join them on the stage for a lesson.



In the Aloha Room at the corner of the Pier Shed, Aiko (photo above) is one of our Aloha Ambassadors. She greets passengers with her beautiful smile. She will answer their questions about our historic town and neighboring communities. She will show them how to reach the many interesting sites and adventures. We are grateful to ALL our volunteers who exemplify the spirit of Aloha and love to share it with our visitors.



A view of Mauna Kea from one of the parks in Hilo. This almost 14,000 foot high mountain is culturally important to the Hawaiians. The top of the mountain is also a vital link in the modern world with its observatories. One has a clear view of the heavens from this ideal spot in the middle of the Pacific.