# Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

October 2026

Date: Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026
Time: **1:30** Informal "talk story"
**2:00** Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Leslie Hayes-Cullins
Program: Hands-on Repotting Session

Potting orchids is different from potting other plants, because they don't grow in dirt. It's not hard; it's just different. It's hard to describe in words, but it's easy to learn by watching someone else do it, or even better, doing it yourself.

This month, Leslie Hayes-Cullins will lead a hands-on repotting session, where you get to learn how to repot an orchid by actually doing it.

We're also going to try a fun experiment attaching Bulbophyllums to little plastic balls so they can grow into a floral sphere.

Leslie is originally from the Bay area in California, but with Hawaiian roots – her mother was born in Hawi. Leslie and her husband moved to Hawi in 2003 where they own and operate a small plumbing business. Her love for orchids started very early with Cymbidiums, and it became a full-fledged obsession after moving to Hawaii, growing Dendrobiums, Vandas, Bulbophyllums, and more. Her current favorites are miniature species, the more unusual the better. Leslie is an AOS judge.

If you'd like to learn how to repot your orchids or brush up your repotting skills, and don't mind getting your hands dirty, this meeting is for you! And as an extra bonus, you get to take home the orchid that you repot. Don't miss this meeting!

## Sign Up for the Holiday Party

There will be no regular meeting in December. Instead, we're holding our annual Holiday Party and Auction on Sunday Dec. 13 at the Hilo Yacht Club.

The event includes a delicious buffet lunch, followed by an auction of donated plants, where you have the chance to obtain some special orchids and benefit your Society at the same time.

You must sign up and pay in advance. The price is $30 per person for HOS members. This price is heavily subsidized by HOS (the actual price is $60). Because space at the Yacht Club is limited, we can only sign up HOS members at present. If space is available in November we may be able to sign up guests at a price of $60.

You can sign up at the October or November meeting.

## Orchid Isle Calendars for Sale

You can buy our 2027 Orchid Isle calendar at the October or November meeting for $12. It features beautiful orchids grown by our members right here on the Orchid Isle. It makes a great Christmas gift. Pick up a bunch of them for friends and family!

# Orchid Stories
# What's My Name? Part 1

Do you have orchid labels like the one above, that just lists the parents of a hybrid orchid, but not the hybrid's name? Did you know that our HOS website can help you find the name?

Go to www.hiloorchidsociety.org and in the Resources menu, click on RHS Orchid Register Search. RHS stands for Royal Horticultural Society, the place where all hybrid orchid names are registered (more on that later).

Under "Parentage Search", enter the names of the two parents. But beware! Don't enter the genus; leave it blank. Just enter the grex.

In our example, the first parent is listed as Pot. Hsinying Pink Doll. Pot. (an abbreviation for Potinara) is the genus, and the grex is Hsinying Pink Doll. The second parent is listed as C. Motte Spot 'Paradise'. C. (an abbreviation for Cattleya) is the genus, the grex is Motte Spot, and the clonal name in quotes is 'Paradise'. Don't enter the clonal name on the search screen, either, just the grex.

So in our example, for Seed Parent grex we enter Hsinying Pink Doll, and for Pollen Parent grex we enter Motte Spot. Then click the Search button.

If the hybrid hasn't been registered, it will say there are no matches. That means that this hybrid doesn't have an official name yet.

But if the hybrid has been registered, the result will show the hybrid name. In our example, the result is Cahuzacara Lovely Liza. You can then click on the hybrid grex name (Lovely Liza) and it gives you more information, like who made the cross (G. Takasaki – our own Gerrit Takasaki of Hawaii Hybrids) and when it was registered (2022).

Why didn't we enter the genus names? Because it's optional in the search, and so many genus names have changed recently. If you enter an old genus name, the search will fail. In our example, the first parent used to be a Potinara, but the names have changed, so it's not a Potinara anymore. If you enter the old genus Potinara, the search fails, but if you leave it blank, the search succeeds.

By the way, what's a Cahuzacara? It's a new genus name, but what is it a combination of? We'll see how to find that information (also from our HOS website) next time.

Now, how did Britain's Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) become the official place to register orchid hybrids? In the late 1800s, Frederick Sander, known as the Orchid King, was Royal Orchid Grower for Queen Victoria. Eventually, his grandson, David Sander, ran the family orchid firm, and in 1906 he began publishing Sanders' List of orchid hybrids. This became the unofficial list of orchid hybrids for several decades.

In 1960 the RHS hosted the 3rd World Orchid Conference in London. At that conference, it was agreed that the RHS would become the official international keeper of the list of orchid hybrids, which it has been ever since.

Larry Kuekes

Royal Horticultural Society

# Orchids on the September Show Table

Photos by Dana Culleney

*(C. San Diego Revelry 'Pinnacle' x Blc. Beau Arts 'Newport')*
grown by Dana Culleney

*Bulbophyllum biflorum*

*Beallara* Hilo Ablaze 'Hilo Gold'

*Cochleanthes amazonica*

*Dendrochilum magnum*

*Miltonia moreliana*

*Psychopsis* Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC-AOS
Grown by Dana Culleney, photographed earlier outside.

*Vanda* (Thailand x *perlata*)

## Thanks for Helping at the Show

At the September meeting, Show Chair Karl Mendonca thanked the people who helped with the orchid show. Above, Karl thanks the people who designed and put together the HOS exhibit. From the left: Karl, Larry Kuekes, Tom Mirenda, Rachael Roditti, Sara Wagner, Jennifer Hayes, Steve Forman. The show theme was Orchids: Legends and Lore, and these people helped with the construction of the HOS exhibit and the design and creation of posters and vignettes explaining various orchid legends and lore.

## Hilo Orchid Show Theme

We are asking for your ideas for the 2027 Orchid Show Theme. Thank you to some members who have already submitted their ideas. Please email your ideas to hiloorchidsociety@gmail.com. The deadline is October 7. The membership will vote on the theme at our October 10th meeting.

Traditionally, we announce the theme of the Show at the Holiday Party in December.

## Silent Auction Correction

We erroneously reported that members may sell up to 6 orchids at the Silent Auction table at monthly meetings. The actual limit is 5 orchids.

Bulbophyllum rothschildianum, grown by Rick Kelley

# Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

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