



MOLOKA'I FESTIVALS

ISLAND FLOWER

Moloka'i girl Raiatea Helm has a voice full of color, joy and energy. Her newest album, *Hawaiian Blossom*, brings out the poet in everyone who hears it. "A bouquet of sound" and "blossoming talent" are among the praises. The truth is this multiple winner of Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards (Hawaiian Grammys) has



picked a primo crop of talent to join her as she sings Hawaiian classics in the high-voiced *leo ki'eki'e*

falsetto style. She sings originals from Tony C, Moon Kauakahi and Hawaiian-language specialist Puakea Nōlgemeier. She is joined on various cuts by Robert Cazimero, Ledward Ka'apana, Hōkū Zuttermeister and Moon Kauakahi. Don't recognize all the names? Check out the nearest music store. Snap on the headphones and take a trip to Hawaiian music nirvana. Oh, by the way, Raiatea is part of former Fleetwood Mac leader Mick Fleetwood's new Island Rumours Band, in which she rocks out with a Stevie Nicks classic and glides through "Pua Tubarose." For information, go to mountainapplecompany.com

The volunteer job of representing the royalty of the Islands is taken very seriously. On Oct. 4, at Mitchell Pau'ole Center, the Moloka'i investiture of the court is a regal and public event. Called the Ka Ho'ola'a o Nā Ali'i, the elegantly costumed *mō'i kane* and *mō'i wahine*, or king and queen, accept their ornaments of reign. Gifts of lei and music are presented. Following the ceremony, the Poke Recipe Contest tasting begins. On the evening of Oct. 5, the town of Kaunakakai turns into a party place. The Hō'ike Town Show includes more music, food booths and dance.

On Oct. 6, the Moloka'i Aloha Festivals Parade brings *pā'ū* riders on horseback, marching bands and country-style floats covered in tropical flowers through town to the Moloka'i Ballpark. Following the parade, the annual *ho'olaule'a* features entertainment, games, arts, crafts and food booths.

September is the month to cheer on the women paddlers in the Nā Wahine o ke Kai outrigger canoe race. Visitors



will have to rise before the sun if they want to wave aloha from Hale o Lono Harbor. The teams race across the Kaiwi Channel, ending the race on O'ahu. A month later, the Moloka'i Hoe outrigger canoe race pits the men's teams against the open ocean, traveling the same route. Televised from the escort boats, see amazing shots of crewmembers jumping into the waves to trade places with other crewmembers. Visit ohcra.com for information.

The way to see the undisturbed mountain forest of Kamakou Preserve is to take a guided tour, offered monthly by The Nature Conservancy. More than a walk, the trek allows a rare view of more than 250 kinds of native plants. Ninety percent of them live nowhere else but Hawai'i. The bog in the preserve is inhabited by closely crowded, dwarf versions of endemic plants. The Nature Conservancy built a boardwalk across several miles of the preserve, to keep hiking shoes from sinking into the bog or treading on the plants. The trails run between two overlooks, with a view down into valleys, which cut deep into the island and reach to the sea. The \$25 hiking fee supports maintenance of the trail. For a hike schedule, visit www.nature.org/hawaii or call the Moloka'i Nature Conservancy office at 553-5236.

