ONE DATE ONLY: Monday, January 6, 2020, 3:00-4:30 P.M. AND AGAIN FROM 7:00-8:30 P.M. Richard Smart and the Year 2020. The year was 1970 when Richard Smart, owner of the sprawling and historic Parker Ranch in Waimea, Hawai‘i, made two seminal personal promises: To leave the Ranch intact upon his passing, while codifying the design of the community for the ensuing half century, in his Parker Ranch 2020 Plan. That year has now arrived, and the Hawai‘i Island community celebrates the fulfilment of Smart’s promises. The Ranch remains intact as a charitable trust with four beneficiaries—North Hawai‘i Community Hospital, Hawai‘i Preparatory Academy, Parker School, and Hawai‘i Community Foundation—while the community has been blessed with the municipal infrastructure to accommodate Federal, State, County, and private amenities. Renowned veterinarian and author Dr. Billy Bergin has been associated with Parker Ranch since Smart’s Plan was first implemented in 1970. With Dexter Keawe‘ehu Vredenburg, in 2011 he co-authored Richard Smart of the Legendary Parker Ranch. Dr. Bergin draws on the book, and particularly on his in-depth knowledge of the Ranch’s history and benefits to the community, twice on Monday, January 6: once in the afternoon, and again in the evening.

Monday, January 20, 2020, 7:00-8:30 P.M. AND Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 3:00-4:30 P.M. Harbors and Landing Places of Ka‘ū. Their names fall upon the ear like notes from a lovely mele: Keauhou, Kamehame, Punalu‘u, Ninole, Honu‘apo, Ka‘alu‘alu, Ka Lae, Waio‘ahukini, Ka‘iliki‘i, Pōhue, Manukā … and yet, beautiful as these names are in and of themselves, how many of us realize their special places in Hawai‘i’s history? The great Hawai‘i Island chief Kalani‘ōpu‘u died in Waio‘ahukini in 1782 … Henry ‘Ōpūkaha‘ia, Hawai‘i’s first Christian, spent the early years of his life in Ninole in Ka‘ū district … and later, the excellent Ka‘u bays of Keauhou, Punalu‘u, Honu‘apo, and Ka‘alu‘alu became the shipping points of schooners and steamships for the district in the late 1800s. Sailor and canoe builder Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa (“Captain Kiko”)—who personally knows these harbors and landing places as well as anyone—tells us how these famous (and less well-known) places figured in travel and transport on Hawai‘i Island, in the days before horses, railroads, and highways … and, in some cases, well afterward, with a look to their possible futures! Kiko’s one-of-a-kind presentation is a must-see on two occasions: Monday evening, January 20, and the following afternoon, January 21.

Monday, February 3, 2020, 7:00-8:30 P.M. AND Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 3:00-4:30 P.M. The Prison Songs of Lili‘uokalani. For more than a century, the original manuscripts to seven of Queen Lili‘uokalani’s original songs have been kept under lock and key at the Hawai‘i State Archives. This singular presentation—by musicologist Cynthia Morris—finally brings to light these poignant songs, composed by Lili‘uokalani during her incarceration at ‘Iolani Palace from February to September 1895. Although the Provisional Government destroyed the Queen’s personal papers and journals from the beginning of her reign to the end of her incarceration, her prison songs stand as important contemporaneous testimonials, composed in the midst of turbulence and upheaval. They are songs of resistance, hope, spiritual protest, and subversion. As all art does, these mele provide us with valuable insights into the mind, soul, and spirit of the artist—in this case, a dethroned and imprisoned Queen, still actively engaged in a fight for the sovereignty of her native lands. Share in this rare historical perspective on your choice of two occasions: Monday evening, February 3, or the following afternoon, February 4.
Monday, February 17, 2020, 7:00-8:30 P.M. AND Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 3:00-4:30 P.M. New Discoveries in Hawai‘i’s Lava Tubes. Who dares describe Hawai‘i’s iconic lava tubes as fossilized tunnels, bereft of life?! Since 2015, UH-Mānoa’s Dr. Megan Porter and a team of cave biologists from around the U.S. have been studying the communities of animals living in lava tubes on the island of Hawai‘i. In general, such ecosystems existing on our volcanoes of different ages consist of very similar assemblages of invertebrates—planthoppers, spiders, millipedes, crickets, and others—all dependent on roots penetrating the lava tube from surface forests above. Molecular tools have helped identify the roots in these systems as being mostly ‘Ōhi‘a, linking Hawaiian subterranean ecosystems directly to the surface forest landscape. In surveys of lava tube systems not previously studied for biology, the research team has discovered a remarkable number of new species, including unique cave-adapted planthoppers, beetles, cave treader, and thread-legged bugs (who knew?!). These new discoveries highlight the singularity of Hawaiian lava tube ecosystems, and how they are intimately connected to conservation of native forests on the surface. Learn all about these creatures and their nether world, on two occasions: Monday evening, February 17, and the following afternoon, February 18.

Monday, March 9, 2020, 7:00-8:30 P.M. AND Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 3:00-4:30 P.M. Dark Skies and Hawai‘i’s Wildlife. What happens to Hawai‘i’s wildlife when we turn on—or off—the lights? For billions of years, life on Earth evolved according to nature’s rhythm of daylight and darkness; animals and plants evolved their circadian rhythms to sun-illuminated days and to dark skies bearing the distant light of stars and the moon at night. For some species, nightfall meant rest; for others, activity. Then, in 1879, Thomas Edison debuted his brilliant bulb, and darkness began a steady retreat. Since then, the presence of light at night has affected animals and plants in unanticipated ways. Jay Penniman, of the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project, discusses some of these documented impacts, with a focus on Hawai‘i’s wildlife and particularly the native seabirds of our islands—as well as ways in which everyone can help minimize light pollution and its effects on wildlife—on two occasions: Monday evening, March 9, and the following afternoon, March 10.

Monday, March 16, 2020, 7:00-8:30 P.M. AND Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 3:00-4:30 P.M. Aloha Rodeo: Three Hawaiian Cowboys, the World’s Greatest Rodeo, and a Hidden History of the American West. How many Americans know that there were cowboys in Hawai‘i long before cowboys roamed the Great Plains? Or that a Native Hawaiian took the world championship in steer roping from the favorite sons of Wyoming in the early years of the 20th century? Or that this young man and his two cousins became national celebrities, and in so doing refuted deep-seated notions of racial and cultural superiority? Aloha Rodeo, by David Wolman and Julian Smith, was published in 2019 to national acclaim, and tells the extraordinary story of the Hawaiian cowboys who became rodeo champions, challenging the mythology of the American West. Experience this story as told and illustrated by David Wolman, on two occasions: Monday evening, March 16, and the following afternoon, March 17. Copies of this exceptional book will be available for purchase, and Mr. Wolman will be happy to inscribe them.