

# Local artist captures culture in a necklace

By Anna Sajecki

When Frank Pave makes a necklace, he does so with the intention of creating a new niche for Hawaiian culture.

While he says each of his necklaces, which he calls Hawaiian Opihi Crafts, are unique and have their own personality- each is connected by their Hawaiian roots.

"They're all made from Opihi shells, and on what I make, I put a turtle, a shark, a nene bird...they're all connected to our own culture," says Pave, who is a caretaker for the Kaupu family.

Pave started making the necklaces as a hobby back in January, when he would go out with a group of fisherman, including John Dudoit and Walter Naki.

"They're good men, they're watermen...they're legendary," said Pave.

Pave would gather the Opihi shell with them and carve shapes into them, often using the turtle as a template.

"Every Opihi shell has its own personality...when you sand it down, you get a rainbow- the last layer, the color becomes a pearly white" he said.

Pave's first carving in January took him two and a half hours, but now, with proper equipment, he can carve 20 in half an hour.

Pave mixes the Opihi shells with other natural items found on Moloka'i, such as the Uli Uli and the Kukui nut.

In the beginning, Pave only made



Frank Pave

necklaces as gifts, but when people began paying him out of gratitude, he thought he might be able to make a business.

He says what solidified the idea was when he had a necklace workshop for about 30 students;

each child got a necklace and loved it.

"The necklaces are like a painting done by an artist," said Pave. "It's a lifetime thing, and you can pass them on to your kids."

Pave has been selling the necklaces since June and they go for \$50 and up. However, he says they are worth more than he sells them for.

"I have to charge because of the time and effort I put into them," said Pave. "I'm climbing mountains, swimming in the ocean, dodging the big waves trying to get materials."

He says if he is successful with his business, he will start a rich aqua-culture, bent on preserving native Hawaiian habitat.

"It would be along the coastline... Opihi, fish...whatever our culture is...I could start something good to balance what I've taken," Pave said. "I hope this expresses a new generation of Hawaiian culture...I'm not trying to be commercial, but if it becomes successful...I could start something good."