

2020 Slate of Officers :



President: Rick Kelley (Incumbent)

Rick arrived at his new Orchidland Estates home in 2012 after retiring from a career in genetics research in Houston. Rick was completely new to palms, but has begun to learn about the many species through the HIPS garden tours. He has been busy filling in low spots in his lava field with cinder so baby palms can be planted. Rick has been on the HIPS board for six year, helps out at with the Zoo Crew, and has served as president starting in 2019.



Vice President: Rick Jones (Incumbent)

Rick Jones is a fairly recent arrival to Hawaii having moved here permanently in 2016 after a career that included operating a landscaping business. Rick has created new palm gardens in each of the homes he has lived in over his life. He and his wife Faith are currently planting a new 2.5 acre garden in Pepeekeo. This will be his second year as vice president.



Treasurer: Chris Friesen

Chris Friesen and his wife Amy bought an abandoned ornamental plant nursery in Pahoia shortly after the 2018 eruption stopped. A semi-retired mathematician from Canada by way of Ohio, Chris and Amy are beginning a grand project to reclaim a beautiful tropical forest from the weedy overgrowth. They are both active in the orchid society and other gardening groups.



Secretary: Mike Arends (Incumbent)

Mike arrived in Puna in 2012 after retiring from San Diego. Mike is a lucky guy. He is fortunate to live in beautiful Hawaii, but more significantly, the river of lava from the 2018 eruption stopped at the back of his Leilani Estates property after covering his neighbors' homes. His four-acre garden is again flourishing after bouncing back from the VOG damage associated with the 2018 eruption. New palms are always being planted. Mike has served on the HIPS board for many years and also helps organize the Zoo Crew. Mike is currently serving as secretary.

