



Hula Preservation Society

SPECIAL CONFERENCE ISSUE • SUMMER 2005

Aloha from HPS

On behalf of all of us at the Hula Preservation Society (HPS), we extend a warm aloha to each and every one of you. Welcome to Ka `Aha Hula `O Hālaauaola, and welcome to Maui! HPS is blessed to be able to present four conference sessions featuring our kūpuna, one of the many ways that HPS continually seeks to honor our senior-most hula elders.

The group of elders that HPS works with is unique in that these kūpuna were raised by men and women who lived during the time of the recognized Hawaiian kingdom, spoke their mother tongue, and lived a Hawaiian life. As such, they represent the last living link to a tremendously significant time in our history. Further, their upbringing coupled with their lives in hula during a century of tremendous change offer incomparable insight into what it was like to be a Hawaiian practitioner in the 19th and 20th centuries. We are so lucky that they are still here to share their mana`o with us!

As leaders of HPS, we are humbled to be able to contribute to the effort to honor our kūpuna, who represent the link to tradition, and help ground the future of hula for us all. None of this would be possible without the generosity of our supporters, and the desire of haumana such as you to learn and share hula. Mahalo iā `oukou!

Aloha and Enjoy!

Mamie `Āmaikalani Beckley Lawrence & Maile Beamer Loo

Twilight at Kalahuipua`a

On April 23, 2005, HPS presented a very special panel as part of the Mauna Lani Resort's monthly "Twilight at Kalāhuipua`a" program. Under the light of the full-moon, attendees listened to the stories and songs of Uncle George Naope, Auntie Queenie Ventura Dowsett and Auntie Nona Beamer. They remembered their hula teachers, spoke of Pele and Mt. Hualālai, and shared songs and hula, not often heard anymore.



Programs such as this are one way we are able to offer the community an opportunity to share and interact with our kūpuna in meaningful ways, centered around hula, this cornerstone of our culture. In these discussions our kūpuna narrate history, what they lived through and how they were taught. Further, they offer valuable insight on what they see happening in hula today. Mahalo to the Mauna Lani Resort, and the generosity of the Cooke, Harold K. L. Castle, and Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundations for allowing us to share such a special evening with the gracious people of Hawai`i Island.

HPS Mission

NĀ KUMU HULA: (with HPS as of 7/05)

Nona Desha Beamer

Dorothy Johnston Beyer

Kahili Long Cummings

Lorraine Joshua Daniel

George Kananiokeakua Holokai

Hilda Akahane Keanaina

Mae Kamamalu Klein

Blossom Joshua Kunewa

Gordean Leilehua Lee Bailey

Joan Sniffen Lindsey

Edith Kawelohea McKinzie

George Lanakilakeikiahiali'i Na'ope

Minerva Malakaua Higa Pang

The late Pulu`elo Naipo Park

NĀ PUA O NĀ LOEA HULA:

Rhea Enos Akoi

Edna Farden Bekeart

Gladys Joshua Brash

Pauline Wessel Chillingworth

Lei Desha Becker Furtado

Kent Kekaniholea Ghirard & "Hula Nani Girls"

Myrtle Kahea Hilo

Betsy Jhun Hinau

Emma Stone Kauhi

Elizabeth Ho`opi`i Lee Loy

Irene Wakinekona Lum Ho

Martha Medeiros

Helie Koehnen Rohner

Kamakanoenoe Hapai Sagote

Kenneth Nohealani Sharpe

Marge Murray Sumner

Queenie Ventura Dowsett

Laua`e Maluo Yung

About HPS

The Hula Preservation Society is a Native Hawaiian educational not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving and providing access to the oral histories of our senior-most hula elders. The kūpuna we work with fall within two general categories:

Nā Kumu Hula ~ Many of the kūpuna we work with are Kumu Hula who collectively embody commitment to perpetuating our Hawaiian culture. As they all are in their 70s, 80s, and 90s, they are men and women who devoted their lives to hula when it was difficult to do so. Trained traditionally but needing to make a living in a changing Hawai'i, they successfully carried on ancient traditions by weaving them into their daily work through their own Hula Studios and entertaining the increasing numbers of visitors and military to the islands. Most importantly though, they have given their lives to teaching hula to hundreds and thousands of us. For that gift, we are all forever indebted.

Nā Pua O Nā Loea Hula ~ Another group of kūpuna that HPS has been privileged to come to know, are elders whose lives have involved hula in significant ways. Some were born of hula and music families, shaping their upbringing, and grounding their cultural knowledge. Others studied with hula masters no longer with us and have vivid memories of those experiences. Some became accomplished solo dancers and Hollywood film stars, while still others became skilled in unique hula forms, such as comic hula. This group of capable and varied practitioners gives us a more broad perspective of the many ways that hula was taught and shared within families, in small remote communities, between islands, and beyond the island chain. Most notably, all were trained and mentored by our hula greats, namely `Iolani Luahine, Emma Sharpe, Rose Kuamo`o, Helen Desha Beamer, and Mary Kawena Puku`i, just to name a few.

HPS meets with kūpuna one-on-one to digitally document their respective life stories. The footage gathered is then processed and analyzed so that it may be shared via learning resources such as an online Hula Kahiko Research Library. In 2002, HPS developed a prototype to demonstrate the potential of this technology to share the precious voices of our giving elders (still accessible at www.hulapreservation.org - click on "Hula Library"). Due to our need to focus on spending time with our elders while they are still with us, the prototype is relatively unchanged since 2002, but the promise is there for the future. Imagine the possibilities!

"HONORING THE PAST, GROUNDING THE FUTURE"

Malama'ana

2004-2005 Support for HPS

HPS's ability to honor kūpuna depends upon community support for its programs. Over the past couple of years, we have been blessed to receive the following grants:

Kamehameha Schools

Hawai'i Council for the Humanities

Cooke Foundation, Ltd.

National Endowment for the Arts

National Park Service

Harold K. L. Castle Foundation

Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

James & Abigail K. Campbell Foundation

These grants support one-on-one oral history sessions, documenting physical collections, and presenting public panel discussions. Further, all donations to our 2004-2005 Annual Giving Campaign went directly to our general operating fund, allowing us to continue to house our growing archives. Mahalo nui loa to all who contributed!!!

HPS in Action



Kumu Hula Joan Sniffen Lindsey speaks to HPS of the balance of career, hālau, and family in a one-on-one oral history session at her home in Pearl City this year.

Last November and recently out of the hospital, Kent Ghirard danced "Nani Kaua'i" accompanied by two dozen of his 1950's "Hula Nani Girls" at a tribute held in his honor. As part of the tribute, Uncle Kent was honored as a Living Treasure of Hawai'i.



In Hilo, dancers of Helen Desha Beamer (from the 1920's- 1940's) Marge Sumner, Pauline Chillingworth, Nona Beamer, and Helie Roehner look over a 1928 photograph of the troupe, trying to identify fellow dancers. HPS videographer Gene Kois (shown in the background) oversees technical matters in HPS oral history sessions like this.

"HONORING THE PAST, GROUNDING THE FUTURE"

Hō'omaui

How You Can Help

There are many ways that you can help support this important work:

* **As a Hālau** ~ Last year, members of a Maui hālau voted to increase their tuition by \$1 a month to contribute to HPS as a group. As a result, they are able to send regular donations to help preserve and perpetuate the voices of our kūpuna.

* **As an Individual** ~ Each year, HPS runs an Annual Giving Campaign to support its ongoing operations and ever-expanding kūpuna work. All contributions are 100% tax deductible and can be made online via paypal (at www.hulapreservation.org) or mailed to:

Hula Preservation Society
P.O. Box 6274
Kāne`ohe, HI 96744

* **As a Volunteer** ~ If you are on the island of O`ahu, we invite you to visit our Office & Archive Center in beautiful Kāne`ohe and lend a hand. Please call (808) 247-9440 or email hulapres@hula.net for more information.

HPS at Halauaola



MONDAY July 25 10:30am - 12:00pm:

Voices of Our Kupuna *hula panel discussion featuring Auntie Kahili Long Cummings, Uncle George Naope, and Auntie Nona Beamer sharing about their 70+ years each in hula.*



WEDNESDAY July 27 8:30am - 10:00am:

The Nuances of Hula and Storytelling *hosted by master Auntie Nona Beamer who shares her mana`o on this subject important to all Kumu and haumana hula.*



WEDNESDAY July 27 1:30pm - 4:30pm:

Tribute to `Iolani Luahine *a rare showing of two films on Auntie `Io (from 60's & 70's), followed by a talk-story with the filmmaker and two of today's hula elders who were close to Auntie during her lifetime.*



THURSDAY July 28 1:30pm - 4:30pm:

The Legacy of George Holokai *featuring master Uncle George Holokai sharing about his life in hula and the Holokai Hula tradition. He will be joined by some of his haumana.*