



# Hula Preservation Society

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## Welcome!

We are happy to present the first edition of Hula Preservation Society's Newsletter. We hope this endeavor will help familiarize you with our organization and bring you up to date on our activities and accomplishments... many of which were made possible by your kind and generous support, help and interest. ENJOY!

## Mission —

### PRESERVATION

Using digital technologies:

- **Capture** the unique spirits and authentic voices of our treasured elderly Kumu Hula to share with future generations
- **Document** information from kupuna interviews about ancient hula\* and the evolution of hula from ancient to modern times

*\*ancient hula is defined here as hula developed and danced prior to the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893*

### PERPETUATION

- **Build** an Online Hula Library\* for research purposes. The Library consists of a series of databases with information from our kūpuna on ancient hula, implements and instruments, chants, and their own hula backgrounds, experiences, opinions, and training
- **Gather** and make available to an expanding global audience existing documentation of hula and oral histories of our kūpuna
- **Share** this wealth of hula resources with the global hula community via the Internet and other advanced technologies

## History —

HPS was founded in July 2000 upon the inspiration of Auntie Nona Beamer, a lifelong teacher who has influenced countless hula and culture students to expand their love of all things Hawaiian. Since HPS' official IRS recognition as a not-for-profit 501(c)3, our dedicated volunteers have successfully applied for and received four grants to support the work of the Society. Mahalo nui loa to the Atherton Family Foundation for their two-year support of our PRESERVATION efforts with kūpuna; the Hawai'i Community Foundation for providing a grant to launch the PERPETUATION focus of our mission, development of an Online Hula Library prototype; and the Nadao and Mieke Yoshinaga Foundation for funds to purchase the necessary equipment to further our goals.

We are also grateful to all the individuals who have made donations to HPS since 2000. Although we are a volunteer organization, we have many regularly occurring expenses (office rent, phone, supplies, etc.) and appreciate any kōkua you are able to provide. See the back page for donation information. HPS is a 501(c)3 organization, so all contributions are fully tax-deductible.



# Preservation

Welcome to the heart of HPS' Preservation efforts — our beloved kūpuna. They are living treasures who hold unique and irreplaceable hula knowledge, gained from having grown up and studied hula in a Hawai'i that no longer exists. HPS strives to foster, by example, a continued reverence for our community's elders, offering them the opportunity to share their stories, lives, knowledge, and unique voices with us today, and generations to come.

All kūpuna oral history sessions are videotaped using digital cameras and wireless microphones. With this technology, future generations will be able to see and hear our kūpuna, and actually experience the gifts and talents they possess and the aloha they have for hula.

Here are a few of the inspiring kūpuna who are sharing their lives and hearts with us on camera.



*Auntie Leiana Woodside,  
from the talented Long family*



*Auntie Pulu'elo Park,  
celebrating 50 years  
of teaching in 2002*



*Beloved Nā Kumu Hula Nona Beamer  
and Mae Kamāmalu Klein*



*Native speaker Auntie Emma  
Kauhi sharing a favorite hula*



*A hula by Laua'e Yung,  
daughter of Kumu Hula  
Rose Kuamo'o*



*Talking story with former hula  
teacher Kent Ghirard*

# Perpetuation



The core of HPS' Perpetuation efforts is the development of the first Online Multimedia Hula Library. The Library of hula kahiko (ancient hula) is intended to serve as a research tool for hula teachers, their students, and members of the general public desiring to learn about Hawai'i, its native language, and culture. It is not intended as an instructional tool for specific dances or styles. The Online Hula Library also provides a means for HPS' Preservation activities with the kūpuna to be experienced and shared.

Thanks to the Hawai'i Community Foundation, we have had the opportunity to develop a prototype of the Library. Mahalo to Auntie Nona Beamer for graciously providing the bulk of the content used in the prototype development.

In terms of content and functionality, a prototype is a scaled-down version of a larger project, which allows for testing of and feedback on the general concept. Once this prototype is available for research purposes (September 6, 2002), we will pursue additional financial support to make revisions based on your feedback, expand the Library's functions, and increase the content base in the Library's four main areas.

The four databases that make up the Library prototype are:

- 1) Ancient Hula Types
- 2) Implements/Instruments
- 3) Chants
- 4) Kūpuna

The multimedia Library allows researchers to: (1) Obtain background information on each entry in each database of the Library; (2) View photos; (3) Hear pronunciations in Hawaiian; (4) Listen and/or view kūpuna discussing hula, performing chants, using different implements, or dancing a range of ancient hula types; and (5) Find references to important hula research and historical publications for further detail and information.

Please visit our site, and be sure to check out the prototype of the Hula Library after September 6, 2002, when it becomes available on the Internet ([www.hulapreservation.org](http://www.hulapreservation.org)). Don't forget to give us feedback! We value your input.



*Auntie Queenie Ventura Dowsett*



*Uncle George Holokai  
sharing a hula he learned  
from his Kumu Tom Hiona*



*Auntie Rhea Akoi  
performing one of her  
own compositions*

# We Need Your Help!!!!

Our efforts to preserve and perpetuate the knowledge of our elders and ancient hula have only just begun. We are in need of financial support to assist with ongoing expenses. We gladly and appreciatively accept donations from individuals at any time. Your contribution is 100% tax-deductible.

If you are aware of grant opportunities in accord with HPS' mission or would like to offer corporate sponsorship, please contact us at the phone number or email listed on the bottom of the front page.

Please consider giving at whatever level you can:

- **Po`o** (Head) ..... \$10,000 or more
- **Kumu** (Teacher) ..... \$5,000 – \$9,999
- **Alaka`i** (Leader) ..... \$1,000 – \$4,999
- **Ho`opa`a** (Accompanist) ..... \$500 – \$999
- **`Olapa** (Dancer) ..... \$50 – \$499
- **Haumana** (Student) ..... \$25 – \$49 – For students and seniors

Please make your check payable to HULA PRESERVATION SOCIETY, and mail to PO Box 6274, Kāne`ohe, HI 96744. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, fax number and email address. We will send you a receipt for your tax-deductible contribution, and place you on our newsletter and activity mailing list. Mahalo.



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