

# Hula Preservation Society

"Dedicated to the Preservation and Perpetuation of Hula"



## NEWS PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Office of Hawaiian Affairs honors Kupuna

**Kane`ohe, HI – July 6, 2005** - The Hula Preservation Society (HPS), founded in the summer of 2000 by a diverse group of Hawaiian cultural experts, hula practitioners and business people, was recently granted \$72,882 by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to continue documenting the hula lives of the most senior hula elders in our community.

The Hula Preservation Society is a Native Hawaiian educational not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving and providing access to the oral histories of hula kupuna alive today. Founded in 2000, HPS is the only organization, both locally and nationally, completely focused on documenting the hula lives of a very specific and meaningful group of hula elders to ensure that the history and language of Hawai'i may be shared with future generations.

HPS honors the past through the voices of kupuna alive today to ensure a more grounded future for hula and for Hawai'i. These elders represent the last link to their kupuna, men and women who lived

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during the time of the recognized Hawaiian kingdom, spoke their mother tongue, and lived a Hawaiian life. Born primarily around the 1920's, the kupuna we honor began their lives in hula during a time in Hawai'i when being Hawaiian was not cherished, speaking their native language was outlawed, and ancient hula and chant were not appreciated and practiced openly. And yet, due to their determination, hula lives on. Their accounts of the joys and struggles augment and challenge our suppositions of what it was like to be a Hawaiian practitioner in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Further, they offer valuable insight and perspective on what they see happening today.

To date, HPS has worked with over 30 treasured kupuna. This is but a fraction of the many hula elders we are fortunate to still have among us. With Office of Hawaiian Affairs support, HPS will be able to bring more kupuna into its circle of honor. For more information on the Hula Preservation Society and its work honoring kupuna, visit us at [www.hulapreservation.org](http://www.hulapreservation.org).

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