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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **HPS PRESENTS ON TWO INSPIRATIONAL KUMU HULA OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

*Kāne`ohe, Hawai`i – March 30, 2015*

The non-profit, Hula Preservation Society, is excited to be presenting during this year's Merrie Monarch Festival in Hilo, as part of 'Imiloa Astronomy Center's Merrie Monarch Enrichment Series. Our unique programs honor two inspirational women from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the late Hula Master 'Iolani Luahine and Hawai'i's beloved Auntie Nona Beamer.

HPS has a tremendous track record of presenting engaging, entertaining, and educational programs statewide, featuring unique pairings of highly respected hula elders and masters, and significant historical footage the non-profit has worked to digitally preserve before it is lost to time. Through the speakers' live talk-story and performances, and sharing of rare images of the late greats, the esteemed Masters come to life for eager attendees to learn and be enriched.

Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 10:00 - 11:30am, HPS presents *'Iolani Luahine: Legacy of a Hula Master*

Regarded as one of the most ardent and beloved practitioners of ancient Hawaiian hula and chant, 'Iolani Luahine helped bring international recognition and respect to the traditional art of hula. On this 100th year since her birth at Nāpo`opo`o, South Kona in 1915, Hula Preservation Society presents digitally-preserved film and video of "Aunty 'Io" and recounts her contributions to the preservation of hula and the Hawaiian culture. Special guests include two of her students, Queenie Ventura Dowsett (1940's) and Kawaikapuokalani Hewett (1970's), and Tip Davis, producer of the film "'Iolani Luahine, Hawaiian Dancer."

Thursday, April 9, 2015, 1:00 – 2:30pm, HPS presents *Remembering Auntie Nona Beamer*

Winona Kapuailohiamanokalani Desha Beamer (1923-2008) dedicated her life to teaching and sharing Hawaiian culture through stories, mele, chant and hula. She was a pivotal influence in reviving the Hawaiian art of storytelling and ancient hula. Join Aunty Nona's hānai children Maile Loo and Kaliko Trapp, along with her dear friend, Calvin Hoe, in celebration of this beloved kupuna and teacher who embodied aloha and touched and inspired hearts around the world.

All of HPS's programs feature exclusive video segments from HPS's Oral History Library.

Please see attached flier, and for more information, visit [www.imiloahawaii.org](http://www.imiloahawaii.org) and click on "Explore" --> "Merrie Monarch Events". Or contact Hula Preservation Society at (808) 247-9440, [workshops@hulapreservation.org](mailto:workshops@hulapreservation.org). Tickets are required and can be purchased through 'Imiloa.

*Hula Preservation Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit, established in 2000 under the inspiration of the late Kumu Auntie Nona Beamer, and is dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of hula through documenting and sharing the legacies of Hawaii's esteemed masters.*

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