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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF HALE PULELEHUA

Kāne`ohe, Hawai`i – March 23, 2009

Hula Preservation Society invites the public this Saturday, March 28, to the Grand Opening of “Hale Pulelehua,” a new community studio dedicated to the late inspirational Founder of HPS, Auntie Nona Beamer. As the one year anniversary of her passing approaches, HPS wanted to honor Auntie and her lifetime of giving.

Hale Pulelehua was the name of Auntie Nona’s home in Puna Hawai`i, and it means “House of the Butterfly.” It is HPS’ hope that those who spend time within its walls will be personally transformed like the butterfly and motivated to give back to the community in their own ways, just as Auntie did her entire life.

Hale Pulelehua was designed to be a safe and clean environment that students of all backgrounds can utilize to further their cultural pursuits and dance skills, and/or increase their personal health and well-being. With the current economic challenges, affordable rental studios can be especially difficult to find, and HPS feels blessed to be able to provide a space to local groups in need that can accommodate dance, exercise, music, and cultural study on a reasonable budget. Times are available days and evenings.

The conversion of HPS’ warehouse space to Hale Pulelehua was funded in large part by HPS Kupuna and legendary 1950’s hula troupe leader Kent Ghirard, with labor donated by Maile Loo’s hālau. Uncle Kent turned 90 years old in 2008, and hula still brings him great joy every day. He will be recognized at the Grand Opening for his generation donation to HPS, along with Uncle George Naope for his leadership to HPS.

The Grand Opening festivities will feature a performance of Kent Ghirard’s renowned Hula Nani Girls, dedication and blessing by Auntie Nona’s grandson Kamanamaikalani Beamer, and music by Na Hōkū Hanohano award-winning group Pali. Come help HPS toast this new venture and celebrate the legacy of giving that was Auntie Nona Beamer.

Public is welcome between 3:30 – 6:00pm. Hale Pulelehua is located at 46-022 Alaloa Street in the Windward Business Center. Parking in WBC lot or on the street. Look for white tent.

HPS was established in 2000 under the inspiration of Auntie Nona to document the life stories of the eldest living hula masters who represent our last link to the time of the Hawaiian Kingdom and a Hawai`i never to be seen again.

Each year, HPS also tries to expand its educational outreach work in the community, and 2009 will be highlighted by the opening of Hale Pulelehua, and partnerships with Hakipu`u Learning Center (Hawaiian culture-based charter school) and the State Foundation Culture & the Arts for their hula exhibit opening in September.

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For more information on HPS, please call, email, or visit us at www.hulapreservation.org.

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