FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF HAWAIIAN ROOM DANCERS & SINGERS TO NEW YORK CITY AFTER 50 YEARS!

Kāne`ohe, Hawai`i – September 4, 2014

October 6, 2014 marks the New York City return of over dozen original talents from the renowned establishment - the Hawaiian Room. These now elder arts professionals will descend upon New York together for the first time since its closing in 1966 to share their stories and hula. They will also help celebrate the newly completed documentary film, “The Hawaiian Room”, which will be shown on Friday, October 10th 2014. The film captures their varied experiences as young men and women who ventured from one island to another, 5,000 miles away. Located in the Hotel Lexington, the Hawaiian Room established itself as an off-Broadway success for an amazing three decades.

From 1937-1966, in the heart of what was the largest city in the world at the time, the Hawaiian Room was a pioneering venue where authentic hula and Hawaiian music were shared with millions from around the world. Its performers represented the finest talent Hawai’i had to offer, and they were readily embraced and celebrated by the diverse New York community.

A few notable standouts who helped “make” the Room over the years included Ray Kinney, Lani McIntire, Pualani Mossman, Alfred Apaka, Jennie Napua Woodd (Amy Gilliom’s grandmother), Kui Lee, Manu Kanemura, Ed Kenney, Tutasi Wilson, Lei Becker, and Keola Beamer, to name just a few.

The Room itself was the first of its kind and featured a glamorous dining room with island decor, large dance floor and American orchestra, and a Hawaiian music and floor show that was unmatched in its professionalism, elegance, and beauty. It was New York after all – the land of Broadway shows, fast-paced lifestyles, ethnic diversity, and celebrities.

The Room’s professionals were regularly written up and featured in local New York newspapers and three-dot columns, and appeared on major television shows with stars like Arthur Godfrey, Steve Allen, and Perry Como, to name a few. Movie and music stars frequented the Room, too, as it was “the” place to be. Celebrities like Richard Burton, Sidney Poitier, Ella Fitzgerald, Marlon Brando, and Frank Sinatra have been mentioned to us, among many others over the 30 years.

For the local “kids” from the remote islands of Hawai’i, the Room represented an opportunity to literally meet the world, because the world came to the Room. It also led to financial independence (especially for the young women) that they might not otherwise have been able to achieve at home, Broadway stardom for others, and a stepping stone for worldwide travel, entrepreneurial adventures, and real-life learning and growth in the hustle and bustle of the city.

The Hawaiian Room and those who made it such a success is a truly “feel-good” story, and a direct historical and cultural tie between Hawai’i and Manhattan.

HPS is pleased to announce that Hawai’i’s top-selling female vocalist and 5-time Grammy nominee, Amy Hānaiali‘i Gilliom, will be joining the Hawaiian Room Delegation in honor of her grandmother who was a featured artist in the Hawaiian Room starting in the late 1930’s. Amy will be sharing her talents in HPS’s feature program on the evening of October 10th, 2014.

Page 2 of this Press Release has the full schedule and program details for October 7th - 11th, 2014. For more information or to set up interview times, please contact the non-profit Hula Preservation Society.

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Schedule of 2014 New York City Public Appearances

Tuesday, October 7th – Meet & Greet Original Hawaiian Room Dancers & Singers!

Come meet the men & women from the islands who worked at the Hawaiian Room those many years ago. Reception takes place where it all happened – at the Hotel Lexington!

Details: Lobby of The Lexington NYC (48th & Lexington Ave)
6:00pm – 7:30pm / FREE

Friday, October 10th – Hula Preservation Society presents “The Hawaiian Room”

A new documentary film by Ann Marie Kirk about New York City’s historic hula and Hawaiian music revue. (On YouTube.com, search “Hawaiian Room Trailer”)

Film will be followed by Q&A, a special guest appearance from Hawai‘i’s premiere artist, Amy Hānaiali‘i Gilliom, and hula from the original Hawaiian Room Talents!

Details: The Nightingale-Bamford School’s H. Dale Hemmerdinger Auditorium
(20 E. 92nd St, between 5th & Madison Avenues)
8:00pm – 10:30pm / $16 (tickets must be purchased ahead of time)

Saturday, October 11th – Concurrent Workshops (6:00pm – 7:30pm)

**DANCE: Hapa-Haole Hula, Hawaiian Room Style!**

Come learn an actual routine the women danced in this renowned revue!

All hula levels welcome!
Workshop led by TeMoana Makolo
(Hawaiian Room Dancer & Choreographer 1962-1966) along with her fellow “Ex-Lexes”.

**CRAFT: Weave a Lauhala Bracelet!**

Make your own lauhala bracelet! Supplies included.

Caroline Affonso has been weaving for 20 years. She trained under NEA Awardee Gladys Grace and heads the lauhala group Ulana Me Ka Lokomaika‘i. Auntie Caroline used to live in NYC and is a longtime “Friend of the Lex.”

Location: Westbeth Community Center (155 Bank Street, West Village) / $16 (tickets must be purchased ahead of time)

Saturday, October 11th – Talk-Story, Kanikapila, & Pa‘ina with the Hawaiian Room Delegation

Come meet, talk-story with, and experience the hula & music of original talents from New York’s famed Hawaiian Room. Bring your instruments, voices, hula hands, and aloha!

Hosted by the Gracious Ladies of NY, with support from Halawai & the University of Hawai‘i Alumni Association-East

Details: Westbeth Community Center (155 Bank Street, West Village)
7:45pm - 9:15pm / FREE

How To Purchase Tickets:
Go to [www.hulapreservation.org](http://www.hulapreservation.org) • Click on “Activities” • Find your event • Enter # of tickets • Click the button to purchase. You will be sent to Paypal for processing. Each event must be purchased separately. Space is limited.

Hawaiian Room event tickets are available exclusively through HPS’s website. If you cannot purchase online, please contact HPS at (808) 247-9440 for further instructions.