



CONTACT:

Ms. Kahikina Whittle
(808) 247-9440
workshops@hulapreservation.org
www.hulapreservation.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Join HPS for Free Community Presentation of Rare Historical Footage

Kāneʻohe, Hawaiʻi – March 29, 2014

On Saturday, March 29, 2014, 10:00am – 12:00pm, HPS will be presenting a FREE community cultural program at the Polynesian Cultural Center's Hawaiian Journey Theatre (IMAX theatre).

The presentation will showcase our digital preservation work on a rare collection of moving images, namely the 1980's "Nā Mākua Mahalo 'Ia" Concert Series, which honored some of our foremost elder Kumu Hula, musical talents, composers, and scholars of that time. Our partnership with the BYU-Hawaiʻi Archives, along with funding from the Hawaiʻi Tourism Authority and the Atherton Family Foundation, has allowed us to continue to salvage and share these rare and one-of-a-kind moving images that haven't been seen since the 1980's when the programs took place.

This upcoming program in Lāʻie is timely given the recent passing of the originator of this landmark series, Dr. Ishmael Stagner, who was a young professor at BYUH then. Back when the Hawaiian Renaissance movement was growing, he saw a need to honor the esteemed elders of that time who had paved the way for what was building passionately in the 1970's.

He established the "Nā Mākua Mahalo 'Ia" award to honor kūpuna leaders, such as Edith Kanakaʻole, 'Iolani Luahine, Johnny Almeida, Alice Namakelua, to name a few, as this generation was passing away in great numbers. (Dr. Stagner said he modeled the format after the Kennedy Center Honors.) "Uncle Ish" not only organized and presented these award programs, but he made sure they were documented. This is the footage HPS is now in the process of digitally preserving so it can be shared with generations today and into the future.

On March 29th, free parking is available in the BYUH Admin Parking Area (entrance thru Admin gate behind PCC). Please call HPS at (808) 247-9440 or email at workshops@hulapreservation.org for more information. No RSVP is required for the program. Please see enclosed flier.

Additional project background:

- A series of 5 concerts was held at Brigham Young University-Hawaii between 1980-1989. They were produced by the late Dr. Ishmael Stagner (son of Kumu Hula Pansy Kaula Akona Stagner) to honor the leading talents of the day in Hawaiian music, hula, composition, and scholarship.
- Elders honored in this series included: Auntie Alice Namakelua, Bill Ali'iloa Lincoln, Sally Wood Naluai, Alvin Isaacs, Genoa Keawe, John K. Almeida, Kent Ghirard, Alex Anderson, Sol Ho'opi'i, Kawai Cockett & mother Rachel Mahuiki, Blossom Clark & daughter Olana Ai, the Farden Ohana, the Kanaka'ole Ohana, the Beamer Family, the Long Family of Maui, and the legendary master 'Iolani Luahine, among many others

Mahalo nui loa!

###