



HAWAII
STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

No.1 Capitol District Building
250 South Hotel Street
Second Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Governor
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Executive Director
Ronald K. Yamakawa

Administration
808.586.0300

Art in Public Places
808.586.0305

Contracts
808.586.0302

Fax
808.586.0308

TT: 808.586.0740

Website
www.hawaii.gov/sfca

HAWAII STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS NEWS RELEASE

LINDA LINGLE
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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HULA MASTERS IN PRESENTATIONS AT TENNEY THEATRE MAY 25, 2010, 9:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

HONOLULU – In celebration of cultural programming featuring hula as an art form, the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts is hosting demonstrations and discussion by Kumu Hula Hokulani Holt Padilla, Maile Beamer-Loo and Kekuhi Kealiikanaka'oleohaililani at Tenney Theatre on Tuesday, May 25. The public is invited. Admission to the event is free.

The three master kumu hula are well respected for their knowledge of deep rooted traditions in Native Hawaiian dance that date back generations. All have contributed to the HSFCA's cultural programming over the years, particularly through the agency's Folk Arts Program, which provides for apprenticeships in traditional arts through 1:1 study between a master and selected apprentice.

"We are very grateful for the guidance and mana'o shared by Hokulani, Maile and Kekuhi," observed HSFCA executive director Ronald Yamakawa. "Our agency's commitment to the perpetuation of Hawaii's host culture is longstanding. The performances at Tenney commemorate our recent efforts with Hawaiian artists in the performing and visual arts and their contributions to our programs."

(more)

The Hawai'i State Art Museum is currently showcasing hula in its Diamond Head Gallery through two exhibitions, "Ho'oulu: The Inspiration of Hula," and "Hi'iakaikapoleopele: Visual Stories by Contemporary Native Hawaiian Artists." Holt Padilla, Beamer-Loo and the Kanaka'ole family also lent their expertise to the development of these exhibitions. HSFCA Collections Manager Wanda Anae-Onishi curated "Ho'oulu" and worked with the Maui Arts and Cultural Center to travel "Kahekili" to O'ahu.

Recent Native Hawaiian projects featuring hula include original choreography for "Keaomelemele: Honoring the Elements," and support of an exhibition of Kent Ghirard photographs and memorabilia in Honolulu Hale, both initiatives designed by HSFCA arts program specialist Denise Miyahana for American Masterpieces grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tenney Theatre is located at St. Andrew's Cathedral and is managed by the Honolulu Theatre for Youth (808) 839-9885. The Hawai'i State Art Museum is located at 250 South Hotel Street on the second floor. The museum is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission to the museum is free. For more information on the museum, call (808) 586-0900.

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