part of Hawai‘i’s effort to host the 2008 festival, extending the very best we have to offer to fellow Pacific islanders.

Hula preservation

The Hula Preservation Society is soliciting community support to assist in their effort to document hula styles. Led by Nona Beamer, noted hula master and culturalist, the society is dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of hula.

According to Beamer’s research, there are 242 types of ancient hula, 25 dance instruments and 82 animal dances including those for the manō (shark), ‘ilio (dog) and the kōlea (plover). Contributions to the 501(c)3 organizations will assist in documenting the varying nuances of the hula as practiced by hālau throughout Hawai‘i. Beamer learned her hula from her grandmother, Helen Desha Beamer, great-grandmother Isabella Hale‘ala Miller Desha, and mother, Louise Beamer.

Marking its first anniversary this month, HPS has received numerous donations from businesses, education institutions, foundations and individuals. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to the Hula Preservation Society, 3319 Pāhoa Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816.

Warrior priest ‘ūniki

For the first time in 23 years, four Hawaiian men will ‘ūniki “olohe lua aiwaiwa,” masters and ministers in the bone-breaking art of lua. As olohe, they can teach the art of lua which combines lomilomi, lā‘au lapa‘au, traditional protocols and fighting arts.

Those graduating in the private ceremony this month are Thomas Ka‘auwai Kaulukukui Jr., Kapi‘iohookalani Lyons Naone, Billy Kahalepuna Richards and Leighton La‘akea Kanoeolaka‘i Lono Suganuma.

Their chief instructors, Dr. Mitchell Eli, Dr. Dennis Eli and Jerry Walker, said that lua is experiencing a resurgence of interest in the Hawaiian community, and after nearly eight years of intensive training, these graduates will fill the growing need for qualified, traditional instructors to ensure future generations.

Hakipu‘u learning

In accordance with the state legislature’s authorization of 25 charter schools, Hakipu‘u Learning Center has been established on the windward coast of O‘ahu. HLC is accepting applications for students entering grades seven and eight, as well as staff positions. Deadline is June 25 after which students will be selected in a lottery format. The school’s curriculum is based on Hawaiian collaborative culture, tradition and values, and is dedicated to academic excellence, individual responsibility, fostering a personal connections with the natural environment. For information, email Meala Bishop at mealaaloha@aol.com or write to 47-200 Waihe‘e Rd., Kāne‘ohe, HI 96744.