



BLOSSOM "BEE" KAILIPONI KAIPO

Age 93 of Wahiawa, Oahu, passed away on February 3, 2006 at Wahiawa General Hospital. She was born on January 13, 1913 in Pearl City, Oahu. She was a Hula Instructor in Wahiawa from 1946-1975. She had learned the rudiments of hula basics and Hawaiian hula traditions from her mother, Annie Kaleikaulana Ka'ihe Clark, while growing up in Wahiawa. When widowed as a young mother, she moved to California to live with an Aunt, where she was invited to dance at the Tahitian Hut, and later, the Hurricane Club. She learned traditional dances of the South Seas and was promoted to Lead Dancer and Choreographer before returning from San Francisco in 1946. Her first work in Honolulu was as a Tahitian dancer in a local night club. She founded Blossom's Hula Studio on Kilani Avenue, while giving private lessons in Schofield and Wheeler Air Force Base. Very soon, she became employed by the City & County and inspired hundreds of students in hula classes at the Hale Koa Recreation Center through the following three decades. Blossom was also the Hula Instructor in the Adult Education program at Leilehua High School for nearly twenty years.

Always admired for her heart-felt chanting and her graciousness both on and off stage, Auntie "Bee" is beloved as a gentle teacher of hula and the traditions of Hawaii. In 1975, Blossom Kailiponi Clark Kaipo turned her hula lineage over to her youngest daughter, Olana Margaret Kaipo Ai and helped her to found Halau Hula Olana, one of the world's highest acclaimed hula schools. Here her legacy is perpetuated five generations and her invaluable counsel and teachings continued to her final days.

One of Blossom's four sons, Larry DeRego, started a halau in 1985 with his wife Hokulani. A niece, Annie Kaleikaulana Clark, teaches ukulele and hula to kupuna at the Hale Koa Recreation Center as did her Aunt, Louise Obatay until her passing. Donald Kaleo Tom, one of Blossom's first students also teaches the elderly. These added to her joy.

She was preceded in death by husband, Richard R. Kaipo and son, Andrew Kilani Choy. She is survived by her children, Beverly Mae Kuuleinani "Nani" Higa, Waldemar Doug Whee Kaohuokala (Minerva Julita Holt) Choy, Dexter Kilohilani (Rachel) Choy, Lawrence "Larry" (Hokulani) De Rego, Teuila-Lani Blossom Rodrigues, Olana Margaret (Howard) Ai; 39 grandchildren; 85 great-grandchildren; 31 great-great-grandchildren; sister, Viola Akina; brother, Francis K. Clark.

VISITATION 5:30 PM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT MILILANI MORTUARY MAUKA CHAPEL; WAKE SERVICE 6:30 PM. VISITATION ALSO 9:30 AM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 AT CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, MILILANI STAKE (95-1039 MEHEULA PKWY., MILILANI); FUNERAL SERVICE 11:00 AM. COMMITTAL SERVICE 1:00 PM AT NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC (PUNCHBOWL). CASUAL ATTIRE.