



HALAU HULA O POHAI KEALOHA

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KALIHI PALAMA CULTURE AND ARTS PROJECT

"NANA I LOEA HULA"

KEALOHA KALAMA

KEALOHA KALAMA IS A KUMU HULA, PRODUCER, ENTERTAINER, MUSICIAN, AND RECORDING ARTIST. BACK IN 1971, ON THE PREMISES OF THE BISHOP MUSEUM, I OPENED MY HULA HALAU AND NAMED THE HALAU, AFTER 2 YEARS (HALAU HULA O POHAI KEALOHA) WHICH MEANS-HULA STUDIO OF ENCIRCULING LOVE. GROWING UP TO LOTS OF MUSIC, HULA AND MOST OF ALL A GOOD LIFE, RAISING IN THE COUNTRY. HOW I FEEL IN MY MUSIC, IS HOW WE GREW UP, LOTS OF FLOWERS, GOOD MUSIC, HUGE PLACE FOR US TO RUN AROUND, A PARENTS WHO GAVE ALL OF US WHAT THEY COULD, EDUCATION AND A BEAUTIFUL HOME IN "NANAKULI". I SOME HOW ALWAYS GOT INVOLVE IN MUSIC, SINGING, LEARNING HOW TO PLAY UKULELE, PIANO, ^{and} EVEN TRYED TO PLAY THE GUITAR. MY BIG LOVE WAS THE HULA. I LEARNED ^{the} HULA IN ^{at} SCHOOLS (ELEMENTARY AND INTERMEDIATE) FROM OUR TEACHERS, ^{and} OR SOME TIMES ^{from} OUR KUPUNAS IN THE COMMUNITY. AND MY MOTHER WAS PART OF ALL OF THIS FOR ALL THE SUDENTS. ^{TP} MY MOTHER " MRS VIRGINIA HAMAU KALAMA" WAS THE COMMUNITY ASSCIATION, ^P "PRESIDENT", ALSO THE NANAKULI HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB PRESIDENT AND WAS VERY MUCH INVOLVE IN POLITICS, ^a TRUE AND TRUE REPUBLICAN. SHE WAS THE PRESIDENT FOR THE LEEWARD SIDE. WHILE GROWING UP I ^{had} SEEN HER WORK HARD FOR THAT COMMUNITY. SHE ALWAYS PLAYED A LOT OF MUSIC AND ALWAYS GOT ^e US CHILDREN INVOLVED TOO. I ALWAYS SAY THAT MY MOTHER WAS MY BIGGEST INSPIRATION IN MY ENTERTAINMENT LIFE AND WILL ALWAYS BE. ^{TP} MISS PUANANI ALAMA WAS ABOUT MY FIRST HULA INSTRUCTOR. SHE WAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL HULA DANCER AND WONDERFUL



(2)

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INSTRUCTOR. BACK IN THE 50's, HULA WAS A BIG THING IN HAWAII. WE DIDN'T DO ^{because} TOO MUCH CHANTS, IT WASN'T AS IMPORTANT AS IT IS NOWADAYS. I MET JOHN PIILANI WATKINS AND WAS VERY HONORED TO PERFORM FOR HIS GROUP. AND HE WAS ALSO MY KUMU IN HULA AND SOMETIMES MUSIC. BROTHER JOHN WAS SUCH A GREAT COMPOSER, BEAUTIFUL SINGER, MUSICIAN, AND FANTASTIC ENTERTAINER. BACK IN THE LATE 50'S, WE WERE VERY BUSY PUTTING ON SHOWS IN THE MILITARY BASES, ^{the} OLD KAPAHULU TAVERN, ^{the} WAIKIKI SANDS CLUB, ^{and on the} NEIGHBOR ISLANDS. AND OF COURSE IN THE EARLY 60'S, WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF GOING TO THE MAINLAND FOR ABOUT A MONTH, ^{where} WE ENTERTAINED FROM LOS ANGELES UP TO WASHINGTON STATE. I WAS VERY EXCITED BECAUSE IT WAS MY FIRST TRIP TO THE MAINLAND. I MET "JOSEPH KAMOHA'I KAHA'ULELIO" THROUGH BROTHER JOHN, AND ^a THEY (JOSEPH AND AUNTY PAULINE KEKAHUNA) WERE LOOKING FOR HULA DANCERS FOR THEIR BIG SHOW IN THE PRINCESS KAIULANI HOTEL AND THE MOANA HOTEL. I WAS VERY HONORED TO DANCE FOR THIS GREAT ENTERTAINERS, THEN I ALSO DANCED FOR AUNTY VICKIE Ii, GENOA KEAWE AND HER GROUP, UNCLE BILL ALIILOA LINCOLN, LOUISE KALEIKEI ALSO WITH JOSEPH KAHAULELIO, LEINAALA HAILE(WHOM I LOVE AS A SISTER) ALSO A WONDERFUL LADY "LEINAALA SIMERSON AND HER GROUP.

BEFORE I STARTED TAKING HULA LESSONS WITH JOSEPH K. KAHAULELIO I GOT MY BLESSINGS FROM "JOHN PIILANI WATKINS" TO GET MORE AHEAD IN MY HAWAIIAN AND LEARN GREAT AND BEAUTIFUL OLAPA'S. I WAS BLESSED AND ENJOYED TAKING LESSONS FROM TWO OF HAWAII'S OUTSTANDING AND WONDERFUL KUMU'S. I ALSO HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF TRAVELING WITH UNCLE SOL, BRIGHT AND HAWAII'S SONG BIRD "AUNTY LENA MACHADO" TO JAPAN, AND THE MAINLAND.



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WHEN I RETURNED FROM THE ORIENT, I STARTED TO WORK FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AS A VISITORS' INFORMATION HOSTESS, ^{and} ALSO IN THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT AS A PAGER SYSTEM ANNOUNCER. AUNTY LEI CULLENS (~~ONE OF~~ HAWAII'S GREAT LADYS IN MUSIC) AND UNCLE JOE KAHAU'LELIO WAS ^{my} ~~OUR~~ IMMEDIATE SUPERVISORS. WE ALSO DID ALOT OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL THE BIG V.I.P'S WHO ARRIVED IN TO HAWAII. WE GREETED PEOPLE AT HICKAM AIRFORCE BASE TOO, EVEN THE "PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES". OUR BIGGEST THRILL WAS GREETING "ELVIS PRESLEY" WHEN HE DID A CONCERT HERE IN OUR OLD STADIUM. ~~MANY~~ ~~MANY CELEBRITIES, AND DIGNETARIES WE ALSO GREETED.~~ THEN IN THE EVENINGS I USE TO DANCE AT THE "HALEKULANI HOTEL" ON TUESDAYS. WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT THE MOANA HOTEL, THEN I WAS ASKED TO BE THE GROUND HOSTESS FOR ALOHA AIRLINE, WORKING THEIR WAS THE BIGGEST BLESSING IN MY LIFE NOT ONLY FOR ME, BUT MY CHILDREN. I ALSO TRAVELED FOR HAWAII VISITORS BUREAU, AND TRAVELED ALL THROUGHT THE MAINLAND, THE ORIENT, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND MANY OTHERS GREAT PLACES. TH IN 1969, I STARTED MY OWN HAWAIIAN REVUE AT THE BEAUTIFUL ULUMAU VILLAGE DOWN IN KANEOHE FOR ABOUT 2 YEARS. THEN I WAS ASKED TO OPEN A BIG POLYNESIAN REVUE FOR "WAIKIKI RESORT HOTEL" I HAD THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DANCERS, WONDERFUL MUSICIAN'S. ^{they were} (ATTA ISAAC'S, HAROLD HAKUOLE BILLY HEW-LEN, LARRY ASING, PETER MENDIOLA, ARTHUR HEW-LEN AND SOME TIMES I ALSO HAD PUA ALMEIDA. TWO GREAT SINGERS " GARY AIKO AND FRANCES KAMAHELE". SAMOA'S FANTASTIC FIRE DANCER " FALANIKO ". I ALSO PRODUCED ~~SHOWS AT THE REEF HOTEL~~ ~~EXCITING, INTERESTING AND WONDERFUL SHOWS AT THE REEF HOTEL.~~



(4)

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HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, HALEKULANI HOTEL (SUNDAY NIGHTS)
HAWAII VISITORS BUREAU, ALSO THE BISHOP MUSEUM SHOWS (STILL
THEIR AFTER 24 YEARS) I ALSO LIKE TO SAY THAT I'VE HAD THE
PLEASURE OF ENTERTAINING WITH MY FRIENDS WHO IS GREAT IN
BOTH AWANA AND KAHIKO-- BROTHER GEORGE HOLOKAI AND KIMO
ALAMA KEAULANA, WHO ALSO WORKED ON MY POLYNESIAN REVUE IN
WAIKIKI. I MET A LADY WHO HAD SUCH A BEAUTIFUL STRONG VOICE
AND SOME TIMES SANG WITH THE LATE "ALFRED APAKA" AUNTY ROSALIE
STEVENSON. I USE TO GET THE HULA DANCERS FOR HER, BEING HER
LEAD DANCER, WE HAD SUCH A WONDERFUL TIME TRAVELING DOWN
UNDER " KAWAJELIN, JOHNSON ISLAND, OKINAWA, GUAM, SAIPAN
AND MOST OF THE MICRONESIAN ISLANDS. WE HAD A LOT OF NEIGHBOR
ISLAND JOBS TOO. FOR THE PAST 2 YEARS I'VE BEEN WITH THE
KUPUNA/KUMU HAWAIIAN STUDIES PROGRAM, UNDER THE STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AT "ADMIRAL NIMITZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

IT HAS REALLY BEEN A CHALLENGE TO TEACH MILITARY CHILDREN
BUT I REALLY ENJOY THEM, LEARNING OUR CULTURE, SINGING HAWAIIAN
SONGS, ESPECIALLY LEARNING HOW TO PRONOUNCE OUR HAWAIIAN WORDS.
I STILL HAVE MY HULA HALAU "HALAU HULA O POHAI KEALOHA" AFTER
25 YEARS, BEFORE THAT I ALSO TAUGHT HULA AND HELPED AROUND THE
HALAU FOR MY PAST KUMU'S. IN WHAT EVER I DO, I ALWAYS THANK
THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED ME AND I MAKE SURE THAT I WORK HARD IN
MY ENTERTAINMENT LIFE. AFTER BEING IN THE ENTERTAINMENT FIELD
FOR OVER 35 YEARS I FEEL THAT I'VE PAID MY DUES.

BEING A JUDGE FOR MANY COMPETITION(HULA) HERE IN HONOLULU,
"MERRY MONARCH FESTIVAL" IN HILO, ON THE MAINLAND THAT I FIND



(5)

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OUR CULTURE IS EXPANDING ALL OVER THE WORLD, IS IT TIMES
FOR THE GOOD, I REALLY DON'T KNOW. I ALSO FIND THAT SO MANY
YOUNG INSTRUCTORS ARE COMING OUT FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE. I
FIND A CHANGE IN OUR BEAUTIFUL HULA'S AND OUR OLAPA'S, I
GUESS IT HAS TO BE BECAUSE NOWADAYS ITS SO COMPETITIVE, IN OUR
STEPS AND MOVEMENTS, I FIND VERY INTERESTING. THEIR IS SO MUCH
MORE I LIKE TO SHARE BUT-- I LIKE TO SAY MAHALO ANUI LOA TO
ALL MY HAUMANA'S (STUDENTS) MY MUSICIANS, ESPECIALLY MY CHIDREN
MY LOVELY GRANDDAUGHTERS, AND MY WONDERFUL HUSBAND " WILFRED T.
CABRAL" WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A BIG HELP IN HELPING ME WITH
GETTING ALL MY THINGS TOGETHER FOR MY SHOWS, AND WHO ALWAYS MADE ME
FEEL GOOD ABOUT MYSELF, NEVER A NEGATIVE WORD, AND ALWAYS FILLED
MY LIFE WITH SO MUCH LOVE. A HUI HOU E MALAMA PONO--

ME KEALOHA PUMEHANA

Kealoha Kalama