

April P. Chock
Born April 1, 1939
Honolulu, Hawaii

I attended the Kamehameha School for Girls and graduated in 1957. In 1957 I began hula lessons from the late Maiki Aiu Lake who had her studio on the corner of Ke'eaumoku Street.

In 1958 I started performing at Lau Yee Chai Restaurant (The Ambassador Hotel) during the weekends. I also performed at the Halekulani Hotel once a month with Maiki Aiu Lake. When not performing, I was studying with her at the studio. I was fortunate to have danced at the Queen's Surf with Terii Rua and at the Long House at the Hilton Hawaiian Village with Danny Kaleikini. I also performed at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel for special events. I traveled to Washington, D.C. and the World's Fair with the Kamehameha Alumni Glee Club. I worked in Nara, Japan at Dreamland for three months. I also traveled to Moloka'i to perform for the canoe races and to Maui to participate in the Aloha Week activities there. I performed at Paradise Park, Honolulu as a singer and dancer, and sang with Ed Kenney in the Tapa Room at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. I worked with Maiki Aiu Lake on many Aloha Week functions. I performed at the Waikiki Shell in the "Aloha 'Oe" play written by Lloyd Stone. I also taught for Maiki in her halau in 1963.

In 1969, I started teaching hula to some of my friends--with the permission of my teacher. From four friends, my studio grew in number. I continue to teach and have my own Ho'ike every two years. On August 18, 1985, I puka with Kamamalu Klein in Kane'ohe.

I have been teaching in the Kaimuki Adult Education Program with the State of Hawaii since 1983. I taught at the Kamehameha Schools Continuing Education Program for two semesters, and also at the Performing Arts Academy in 1991 with Mr. David Bandy. In 1992 I was hired to teach hula to students attending summer school at Kamehameha.

I also participated in the Kupuna program with the State of Hawaii at Noelani Elementary School in Manoa since 1986.

I also taught senior citizens in Palolo since 1986, many of who are included in my ho'ike. My halau, Halau 'o Apelila (Uluwehikalikolehuaikauano-e-given to my halau in 1992 by Kamamalu Klein). I do not enter into any competitions. My students come to learn the art of hula for enjoyment.

My halau has performed in Aloha Week festivities, at Ward Warehouse, Restaurant Row, private parties, conventions, etc.

At one time I had students from Mexico City studying with me. They now have studios of their own.