

KA 'OHI NANI O MANA'OLANA-MATAROA
WITH KOLOHE
PRESENTS:



MANA O NĀ MOKU

ENERGY OF THE ISLANDS



NOVEMBER 8, 2025 • 1:00PM & 6:00 PM

DOUGHERTY VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, SAN RAMON



Program

ACT ONE

‘Ohu’ohu ‘Oahu i Ka La’i
E Ho’i Ke Aloha i Ni’ihau
Kalākaua He Inoa
Hilo Medley
Ku’u Ipo Holo Lio
Ka’iulani
Lahainaluna
Na ‘Ale o Ni’ihau
Pāpālina Lahilahi
A Ti’aturi + Na Te Ra’i
Tane ‘Ōte’a
‘Ōte’a Anuanua

ACT TWO

Lāna’ihale
Hawaiian Rainbow
Nui Ke Aloha No Kaua’i
Maui Medley
I Kahakai
Ola’a Beauty
Lei Ho’oheno
Aia Emalani La
‘Ori!
Māru Te Nakau
Tangata Huruhuru
‘Ōte'a Tama no Te Fenua
‘Ōte'a Ōviri
Ro’o Te Fenua

ACT ONE

‘Ohu’ohu ‘Oahu i Ka La’i

Traditional chant, choreographed by Fatima Angeles

This *kahiko* describes the beauty and majesty of the island of O‘ahu. From the island’s fiery origins born of Pele’s pits to the tranquil waters that cradle Honolulu’s shores, the *mele* takes us across the island’s most cherished sites. We honor the towering majesty of Ka‘ala, the humble lands of Pu‘uloa, and the protective embrace of the bay that once sheltered canoes. The valleys of Nu‘uanu whisper of chiefs who fell with dignity, while the powerful blowhole and soaring ‘iwa bird at Makapu‘u remind us of O‘ahu’s living energy. We perform this *hula* with ‘ili‘ili, smooth river rocks.

E Ho‘I Ke Aloha i Ni‘ihau

Traditional chant, choreographed by Fatima Angeles

This *mele* is a journey of love and remembrance, returning to the cherished island of Ni‘ihau — a place of hidden waters and storied beauty. It honors the life and legacy of Queen Kapi‘olani through images of abundance and strength: the breadfruit blossoming upon the flats, the sugar cane of Hālali‘i pulled by hand, the glimmering reefs of Nihoa beyond the horizon. As the sun warms the open plains and turns its face toward Kaua‘i, the chant becomes an offering of praise — a *lei* of words woven for a beloved chiefess.

Kalākaua He Inoa

Composed by Helen Beamer, choreographed by Kristen Apodaca

This traditional *kahiko* pays tribute to King David Kalākaua, who reigned as Hawai‘i’s last king from 1874 to 1891. Known as the “Merrie Monarch,” Kalākaua is celebrated for his visionary leadership and his steadfast commitment to reviving Hawaiian culture, language, and arts. Our presentation reflects the deep aloha, respect, and reverence the Hawaiian people hold for their beloved king — a leader whose legacy continues to inspire generations.

Hilo Medley: Mahalo e Hilo Hanakahi & Hilo E

Mahalo E Hilo composed by John P. Watkins, choreographed by Fatima Angeles

Hilo E by Na Palapalai, choreographed by Theresa Kailokole

This medley of two songs is a heartfelt expression of gratitude and *aloha* for Hilo. It honors the beauty of Pana‘ewa’s blooming *lehua* and the fragrant *maile*—symbols of love, hospitality, and connection to place. The *mele* praises the verdant landscape and the warm spirit of Hilo’s people, whose generosity and kindness leave a lasting impression on every visitor. It is both a love song and a tribute—an offering of deep appreciation to the people and the land that embody the essence of *aloha*.

Ku‘u Ipo Holo Lio

Composed by Steven Espaniola, choreographed by Amanda Morales

This beautiful *mele* is about passion and joyful romance. A *paniolo* has found his love! The object of his adoration is a beautiful, horse-riding sweetheart who is sought after by many. But our *paniolo* wins her heart and together they enjoy both strenuous and relaxing activities.

Ka‘iulani

Traditional chant, choreographed by Analette Ochoa

Ka‘iulani is a traditional *kahiko* Hawaiian chant honoring Princess Ka‘iulani, the last heir to the Hawaiian throne. Born in 1875, she was the daughter of Princess Miriam Likelike and the

niece of King Kalākaua and Queen Lili'uokalani. Before turning eighteen, the Hawaiian Kingdom was overthrown. Known as the "Hope of Hawaii," Princess Ka'iulani's legacy endures as a symbol of resilience and resistance.

Lahainaluna

Composed by Albert Kaleikini and Samuel Mo'okini, choreographed by Theresa Kailikole

In 1898, Lahainaluna boarding student, Albert Kaleikini, went on an excursion to Pu'u Pa'upa'u, a hill overlooking the school. Beholding the spectacular view, he was moved to write "Lahainaluna". He wrote "*Ipu kukui 'a ā mau pio 'ole i ka makani Kaua'ula*" which translates to "the ever-burning torch which cannot be extinguished by the fierce winds of Kaua'ula". The passages were set to music by Samuel Mo'okini, a music teacher at Lahainaluna school from 1906 to 1922. "Lahainaluna" soon after became the school's Alma mater. The school is one of the few public schools in Hawai'i to have an alma mater in 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

Na 'Ale o Ni'ihau

Composed by Randy Ngum and Many Boyd, choreographed by Fatima Angeles

This *mele* is a lyrical homage to Ni'ihau, the "forbidden island" known for its beauty and enduring traditions. It begins with the rhythm of the waves that shape the island's famed *Kahelelani* shells—tiny treasures born of the sea and polished to brilliance. The piece honors Pu'uwai, the heart of Ni'ihau, and the *aloha* spirit of its people, whose warmth and pride shine across generations. Our *hula* celebrates the artistry of Hawaiian women stringing shell lei *pūkake*-style upon soft *makaloa* mats, preserving an ancient craft that continues to embody love and identity. The refrain calls us to return—again and again—to Ni'ihau, to its heritage, and to the affection that connects the island, its people, and tradition.

Pāpālina Lahilahi

Composed by Alice Johnson, choreographed by Analette Ochoa

A favorite 'auana hula, Pāpālina - referring to dainty cheeks—is a rascally song with "*kaona*" a hidden meaning. The love and intimacy in this *mele* are poetically referred to as mist, rain, or sea spray.

Na Te Ra'i

Composed by Meari U, choreographed by Hiro Tematahotoa-Graffe

This piece is about a journey of resilience, love, and unity. Through grounded strength and sweeping movements, the dancers embody the search for a safe place to belong— "a secure place for me, for you, for us." The choreography reflects the struggle against obstacles—the circling sun, the crashing waves—while lifting toward hope and connection. With each refrain, the dancers return to the heavens as a reminder that no matter the storms, sorrows, or passing of time, love endures.

Conch Blowing

By Gavin Sayao

Tane 'Ōte'a

Choreographed Hiro Tematahotoa-Graffe

This 'ōte'a embodies the essence of masculine strength and the warrior spirit. Through bold, commanding movements and powerful drumbeats, it showcases the endurance, pride, and

unity of Tane—honoring the strength that lies not only in physical power, but in discipline, courage, and heart. We dedicate this presentation to our beloved fellow hula dad, Chul Dokko.

‘Ōte’a Anuanua

Beats by Nic Ballesteros, choreographed by Christiana Peralta

This ‘ōte’a celebrates the beauty that follows hardship, symbolized by the rainbow that appears after the storm. Through powerful rhythms and energetic movements, it expresses resilience, renewal, and the joy that emerges after enduring dark days—reminding us that hope and happiness always return.

ACT TWO

Lāna’ihale

Composed by Kaumakaiwa Kanaka’ole, choreographed by Fatima Angeles

This mele honors the gentle, calling wind of Lāna’i — a wind that carries love, memory, and connection across the island’s ridges and valleys. Cloaked in the mist of Maunalei and blessed by *Lāna’iokāulawahine*, the dance evokes the island’s spirit as dawn greets Makaiwa Point and the sun sets at Ka’ena. Our hula is a tribute to the land and its guiding forces — a call of affection that whispers, “Return, beloved one.”

Hawaiian Rainbow

Composed by Richard Ho’opi’i, choreographed by Kristen Apodaca

Hawaiian Rainbow is a heartfelt and melodic *mele* that celebrates the natural beauty of Hawai’i, particularly the iconic rainbows that grace the islands’ skies.

Nui Ke Aloha No Kaua’i

Composed by Kale Hannahs, choreographed by Fatima Angeles

The songwriter wrote this *mele* about a memorable vacation that he and his wife spent in Kaua’i. The song describes the beautiful places on the island and the fun adventures they experienced, including an exciting ride in a helicopter! We perform this hula with *pū’ili*, a pair of split bamboo rattles.

Maui Medley: Mauna Kahalawai & Lei Ana O Maui

Mauna Kahalawai composed by Mele Pana, Lei Ana o Maui composed by Kuana Torres Kahele, choreographed by Sheri Talusik

This *hula* brings together two beloved *mele* — Mauna Kahalawai and Lei Ana ‘O Maui — that celebrate the beauty and spirit of the island of Maui. From the mist-covered slopes of Mauna Kahalawai to the fragrant blossoms woven into a *lei*, each movement tells a story of love for the land and its people. Our *kaikamahine* honor the gentle rains, the blooming *pua*, and the soft breezes that carry the essence of aloha through the valleys and shores. This performance is a tribute to the *‘āina* and the spirit of *aloha* that binds our *‘ohana* to the land — a heartfelt expression of gratitude for the beauty, life, and love that Maui shares with us all.

I Kahakai

English words by Harold Atteridge, Hawaiian words by Natalie Kamau’u, music by Harry Carroll, choreographed by Theresa Kailikole

By the Beautiful Sea was a popular song written in 1914 with music written by Harry Carroll and lyrics written by Harold R. Atteridge. In 2019 Natalie Ai Kamauu translated the lyrics into Hawaiian. This jaunty little song embodies the fun one can have on a trip to the beach.

Ōla'a Beauty

Composed by Frank Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, choreographed by Fatima Angeles

This *hula* is a tender expression of love and remembrance, inspired by the delicate beauty of the Ōla'a flower. It speaks of a cherished sweetheart—like a fragrant blossom or an unfading *lei*—whose presence lingers in memory and heart. The imagery of fragrance, blossoms, and *lei* evokes the natural splendor of Hawai'i's rainforests, where love, memory, and beauty intertwine.

Lei Ho'oheno

Composed by Kainani Kahaunaele, choreographed by Fatima Angeles

This *hula* expresses affection, admiration, and enduring love. Like a cherished *lei* resting gently upon one's shoulders, the relationship it honors is both beautiful and delicate—alive in memory and feeling. The imagery of glistening sea spray and the soft *kanilehua* rain evokes Hilo's tender landscape, where love and nature intertwine. The *mele* captures the warmth of companionship, the sweetness of shared moments, and the deep emotional bond that, like a *lei*, encircles the heart with love. A perfect song for mothers and daughters.

Aia Emalani La

Traditional chant, choreographed by Theresa Kailokole

Like many of the Hawaiian ruling chiefs from ancient times, Queen Emma was fond of travelling, both as a pleasant change from the rigors of Honolulu life and as a chiefly responsibility – to see her realm and to hear and witness the status of her people. She travelled to Kaua'i often, where she had family and property. This *mele* from the Bishop Museum mele book 71, honors Emma's travels to Kaua'i and the love her people bestow on her.

'Ori

Beats by Nic Ballesteros, choreography by Tawny Matsukado, Mylea Bautista, Makena Calamba, Vivian Penaflor, and Maive Sayao

Our dancers participated in a recent 'ori Tahiti competition where they danced so beautifully and joyfully. Their performances were too good not to share with you!

Māru Te Nakau

Composed by Paka Issoré, choreographed by Amy Matsukado and Hiro Tematahotoa-Graffe

Māru Te Nakau is a serene reflection of Rapa Iti under the moonlight. The dance evokes the rising wind, the soothing calm of night, and the gentle glow of the moon illuminating ancestral lands. Sparkling pathways and shimmering stars guide both children and parents toward peace and unity. Through graceful movement and heartfelt expression, this piece celebrates the enduring bond between people and their homeland, where hearts find comfort and harmony.

Tangata Huruhuru

Original song by Eddie Lund, recent version by Mevina Liufau; choreographed by Michaela Ballesteros, Ke'olani Ka'ai, Misaki Nguyen, Makena Talusik, and Natalie Wong

The words of this song tell of a *hairy man* — or perhaps a man adorned with feathers — yet its meaning reaches far beyond the literal. It speaks to the sacred cycle of life and death within the Tuamotu Islands. This song honors both the hardships and blessings encountered

along life's journey. It calls on the people of today to remember, embody, and renew their enduring connection to heritage in the modern world.

'Ōte'a Tama o te Fenua

Beats by Nic Ballesteros, choreographed by Tawny Matsukado and Hailey Sellers-Francisco

This 'ōte'a celebrates the children of the land. Through this 'ōte'a, the dancers bring the energy of celebration to life, embodying joy, beauty, and the enduring cultural heritage of Tahiti.

'Ōte'a Ōviri & 'Ōte'a O Tahiti Nui

Choreographed by Hiro Tematahotoa-Graffe

This dynamic suite of 'ōte'a brings together two powerful expressions of Tahitian spirit. The first, 'Ōte'a 'Ōviri, channels raw energy and primal strength. With sharp movements, pounding rhythms, and fierce precision, the dancers embody the wild, untamed side of nature and humanity—"ōviri," the savage. It is a celebration of courage, vitality, and the fire that drives us forward.

The second, 'Ōte'a O Tahiti Nui, explodes with joyous intensity. Fast footwork, synchronized patterns, and relentless drumbeats honor the vibrancy and pride of Tahiti Nui. This piece bursts with color and energy, capturing the heartbeat of an island alive with culture. Together, these two 'ōte'a form a journey from raw power to exuberant celebration, leaving the stage reverberating with the pulse of the *tariparau* and the spirit of Tahiti.

Ro'o Te Fenua

Composed by Nohorai Temaiana, choreographed by Hailey Sellers-Francisco

Our finale brings together all dancers — *tamari'i* and *tūpuna* alike — in a united expression of our connection to the land and to each other. Set to Ro'o O Te Fenua, this piece honors the enduring presence of our ancestral roots and the land that sustains us. The lyrics speak of voyaging from the shoreline, of the harvest of the land called for by our ancestors, of the sacred power woven into our hearts, and of birds that carry the story of the land across generations.

In the choreography, every age and every dancer becomes part of that story. As we move together, we embody the song's message: we are not separate from the land — we are rooted in it, nourished by it, and called to stand together in respect and love. Whether you are a little one just learning, or an elder guiding the way — you belong. This finale is ours — the land's harvest, our harvest.

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Mana o Nā Moku

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Mila Calamba
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Stephanie Corpuz
Jesus Cortes
Ericka Cuenco
Riley Dokko
Joanne Fabia
Taylor Fabia
Lora Fānene Isherwood
Susanne Fernandez
Leia Forbus

Tanja Frey
Phil Froilan
Judy Fuller
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Joy Garcia
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Anne Gilbert
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BJ Talusik
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Makena Talusik
Sheri Talusik
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Emilia Wilbur
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Mahalo! Mahalo! Mahalo!

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Hailey Francisco-Sellers
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Amy Matsukado
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Kolohe
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To all the moms, dads, grandparents, spouses, partners, aunties, uncles, and friends – we are so very grateful. Thank you for your limitless patience, unwavering support, and enthusiastic encouragement. ***Mahalo nui!***