

Distinctive Women in Hawaiian History



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A Celebration of Women's History
He Ho'olaule'a No Nā Mo'olelo o Nā Wāhine

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MEDIA ADVISORY

August 30, 2012

WHAT: **6th Annual Distinctive Women in Hawaiian History Program**
He Ho'olaule'a No Nā Mo'olelo o Nā Wāhine, A Celebration of Women's History
Presented by the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities, the event features a full day of celebrating the little-known stories of the women of Hawai'i.

WHERE: Mission Memorial Auditorium, on the Civic Center Grounds
550 South King Street, downtown Honolulu

WHEN: Saturday, September 15, 2012; 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

REGISTRATION:

- Attendees must pre-register online at www.DistinctiveWomenHawaii.org.
- All sessions are free with advance registration. Optional hospitality packages offered through pre-registration include food, beverages and other services at a nominal fee.

MULTI-MEDIA EXHIBIT:

- To coincide with the Hula Preservation Society's afternoon presentation of "The Allure and Glamour of Hula in New York City's Hawaiian Room at the Lexington Hotel," an accompanying multi-media exhibit, "The Hawaiian Room: Dine, Dance, Romance, The Lexington," will be open for viewing from 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on the 3rd Floor of Honolulu Hale.

MORNING PRESENTATIONS

Kapa and the Hawaiian World View

History shows us that Hawaiian kapa designs were among the most innovative and complex among the Pacific Islands and dominated Hawaiian textiles until European contact. This presentation explores how the Hawaiian world view is reflected in the making of kapa. It also examines the process of kapa making as practiced by women, the dyes used, the beating process, and the diversity of kapa in collections beyond the shores of Hawai'i. Presenter: Maile Andrade, Director and Associate Professor, Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

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Princess Nāhinu Kamehaokalani's Hula Legacy on King Kalākaua's Court

Many of Hawai'i's top kumu hula are descendants of Princess Nāhinu, whose hula innovations helped shape the Hawaiian Renaissance from 1873 to 1893, an era of cultural rebirth following Queen Ka'ahumanu's decree prohibiting hula in the name of Christian values. Princess Nāhinu's influence, even after her death in 1882 of smallpox, was evident at King Kalākaua's coronation ceremony in 1883 and the subsequent public festival that followed twelve days later. Presenter: Ishmael W. Stagner, Ph.D., Brigham Young University-Hawai'i, author of *Kumu Hula: Roots and Branches* (Island Heritage, 2011), with *Ia 'Oe E Ka Lā* (composed by Princess Nāhinu) danced by Hawaiian cultural expert Cy Bridges and his daughter Maelia Bridges.

Queen Kapi'olani and Princess Lili'uokalani's Voyage and Reception Across America En Route to Queen Victoria's 1887 Golden Jubilee

The story introduced in our 2007 program expands understanding of this historic journey by examining Native Hawaiian perspectives as revealed in the era's prolific Native Hawaiian newspapers. This presentation explores how Queen Kapi'olani and Princess Lili'uokalani's visits to San Francisco, Washington D.C., Boston and New York informed their passions on women's higher education and health care modernization, which later broadened the impact of their work back in the islands. Presenter: Kawehi Lucas, Ph.D. candidate, Hawaiian Language Instructor, Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Queen Lili'uokalani's Lost Kingdom

Author Julia Flynn Siler shares Queen Lili'uokalani's contemporary voyage and reception across America in the context of the universal values of faith, leadership and compassion for her people. Presenter: Julia Flynn Siler, author of *Lost Kingdom: Hawai'i's Last Queen, the Sugar Kings, and America's First Imperial Adventure* (Grove/Atlantic Press, 2012).

The Pen That Saved a Stream of Blood: Queen Lili'uokalani's Revolution to Save Her People

Selected as the 2011 Hawai'i History Day Outstanding Project on Women in History, *The Pen That Saved a Stream of Blood: Queen Lili'uokalani's Revolution to Save her People* is a 10-minute documentary that follows how the Queen's written communication to key government officials and Native Hawaiians helped to preserve peace during a turbulent political time and prevented potential bloodshed throughout the Kingdom. Presenters: Youth historians Brittney Saldania and Lacy Chun, Class of 2013, Kamehameha Schools High School – Kapālama Campus, along with their teacher Sarah Razee. Introduction by Robert Buss, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities.

AFTERNOON PRESENTATIONS

Reflections of Love and History in the Music of Queen Lili'uokalani

With over 150 musical compositions, Queen Lili'uokalani left an international legacy that captured the beauty of Hawai'i's people and landscape, and served as a testament of love for her people. Trained in music at an early age, the Queen collaborated with Royal Hawaiian Bandmaster Henry Berger, participated in Glee Club competitions and crafted love songs inspired by traditional Hawaiian chants and gospel hymns. This performance and presentation juxtaposes songs and their historical relevance to the Queen—from her reign, to her visit to England, followed by her overthrow and incarceration. Songs presented include *Ku'u Pua I Paokalani*, *Lili'u E*, *The Queen's Jubilee*, *Ka Huna Kai*, *Kaulana Na Pua*, and *Ke Aloha O Ka Haku*. Presenters: Nola A. Nāhulu, Founder and Master Choral Director of the Kawaiolaonapukanileo Ensemble and members of the Ensemble, which is dedicated to the preservation of Hawaiian choral music. Kuho'okahi, the Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus, will also perform.

Women in Transition: Poetry and Prose in the “Prison Monologues”

This presentation is performed by students enrolled in the Prison Writing Project, a creative writing class at the Women’s Community Correctional Center in Kailua, O‘ahu. Under the guidance of Project founder and teacher Pat Clough, the women use literature, poetry, biography, film and music to become authors of their own stories, writing about themes that address their fears, longings, anger and shame to discover who they really are, and to realize the healing power of their own words. Since the Project’s inception nine years ago, student efforts have culminated in eight volumes of poetry and prose in a series publication titled *Hulihia: Writings from Prison*. The Hawaiian word *hulihia* means “to transform.” The Prison Monologues began as an outreach program and has been performed at high schools, universities and conferences. Presenters: Five students from the Prison Writing Project, Women’s Community Correctional Center.

The Allure and Glamour of Hula in New York City’s Hawaiian Room at the Lexington Hotel

From 1937 to 1966, young “hula ladies” between the ages of 17 and 24 ventured to the Big Apple as hula dancers and singers at the famed Hawaiian Room of the Lexington Hotel in New York City. Away from their island home for the first time, they set the entertainment standard as dancers, emcees, singers, choreographers and show managers, contributing greatly to the interest America continues to have with hula and Hawaiian music. In this 75th anniversary celebration since the show’s opening in 1937, the Hula Preservation Society reunites these women to share insightful stories, stunning visuals, and the hula legacies that are rooted in the magic of the Hawaiian Room. Presenters: Hula Preservation Society’s Kumu Hula Maile Loo-Ching with Hawaiian Room Stars. Hula musical accompaniment by Pua Melia, with Mamo Wassman on the guitar and Pudgie Young playing the ‘ukulele.

Women of the Glades Show Club

From the 1960s to the 1980s, beautiful female impersonators comprised Honolulu’s famed Glades Show Club on Hotel Street in Chinatown and gained a following as a “must see” for visitors, the military, and local families who enjoyed the show and admired its talented performers. Despite a gradual shift from co-existence to a growing bigotry in the context of the era’s social mores and cultural framework, solidarity prevailed in the lives of many of the performers. This presentation illuminates shifts in attitude and behavior toward the Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and Asian cultural identity of mahu, transgendered and gay communities during the 60s, 70s and 80s. It also examines individual civil rights journeys within the marginalized gay community and the larger Honolulu community. Presenter: Connie Florez, director of *The Glades Project* (work in progress).



Remembering Women Cultural Treasures of Hawai‘i: Short essays on the legacies of women who passed away during 2011 and 2012 will be included in the event booklet.