

Hula

Helen Hoakalei Kamau'u moved to Upper Kewalo forty-three years ago and became her aunt's successor. This gave her time to learn the ancient hula and chants from her Aunt 'Iolani with whom she performed for 32 years. She traces her heritage back to the court of King Kalakaua for whom her great-grandmother and the sister danced. Hoakalei has carried on this tradition of hula and has effectively been a "keeper of the culture".

Hoakalei made learning "fun and games" for her own children as well as for those she teaches today by connecting it to friends and family. She nurtures a love for Hawaiian arts by teaching one to prepare for performances the moment one gathers adorning plants.

Kumu Hoakalei teaches Hawaiians to be proud of who they are. She teaches other nationalities to appreciate the culture she cherishes. Hawai'i has become a mixture of peoples and she teaches students to enjoy one another. She emphasizes the need to set many goals for one's lifetime and then to work hard toward them. Kumu Hoakalei advises youth "to be yourself (what you are) and do what you can."



*Whatever your
hand finds to do,
do it with
all your might...*

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Hoakalei has performed on almost every continent, trained others throughout the state and taught at universities. Yet, she still keeps a whirlwind schedule of teaching hula in schools and her own halau.