

TO: PAT BACON

Patience Elmay Namakauahoaokawena'ulaokalaniikiikilananui Wiggins Bacon

Pat Bacon was born in Waimea, Kauai on February 10, 1920 and was adopted into the family of Mary Kawena Puku'i when she was eight weeks old. Known to many as "Aunty Pat", she has been deeply immersed in Hawaiian culture since childhood.

At an early age, she began studying traditional hula from her mother and practitioners: Joseph Ilala'ole, Keahi Luahine and Kapua, cousin of Keahi Luahine.

Pat Bacon is a loea hula and her workshops in ancient hula have been presented in Mexico City, San Francisco, Japan, Okinawa, and Hawaii. Other kumu hula have come from as far as Florida, Colorado, Canada, and Samoa to learn from her. She has shared and continues to share her deep knowledge of things Hawaiian with the people of Hawaii.

She has been employed by the Bishop Museum for over 50 years and continues as the cultural resource specialist at the museum archives where she catalogues chants and other Hawaiian material. Aunty Pat was the editor and technical assistant of publications such as, "Olelo No'eau", "Mele Welo", and "Ke Ao Melemele".

Aunty Pat has served as a judge at the Merrie Monarch Festival, the King Kamehameha Hula Competition, the Queen Lili'uokalani Keiki Hula Competition, the Hawaii Secondary Schools Hula Kahiko Competition, and hula competitions in Mexico, Japan and Okinawa.

In 1989, Aunty Pat received the Pulama Award from the Kalihi-Palama Culture & Arts Society for her contributions to the hula community. She served as Grand Marshall in the 2000 Aloha Week Parade, became the first recipient of the Mary Kawena Pukui Award sponsored by the Rotary Club of West Honolulu in 2002, and received the Award of Distinction at the 2003 King Kamehameha Hula Competition.

She was married to George Bacon and has one daughter, Mary Kawena Bacon Browne.