



Attention: Kimo Keawe

Prince Lot Hula Festival Honoree



AT Nāmaka Bacon was born in Waimea, Kaua'i and adopted at birth in the hānai tradition of the Hawaiians by Mary Kawena Pūku'i. Kawena taught her the dances handed down through her family. Aunty Pat's formal training in

the hula began at thirteen years of age with Keahi Luahine who taught her the pig dance, hula ki'i, hula pahu, kāla'au with papa hehi, and dances that were strictly from Kaua'i.

Aunty Pat went on to study with Keahi's cousin, Kapua, who spoke very little and showed students the dance only once so students would have to absorb as much as they could. During this period, Pat remembers the siren atop Aloha tower that blew the eight o'clock curfew which signaled the end of dancing when students had to pick up their things and hurry home.

At fifteen years of age, Aunty Pat began training under Joseph 'Īlālā'ole who taught her dances with a faster tempo and greater foot movement. She went through two traditional graduations with 'Īlālā'ole. The first night of the graduation was a pā'ina involving only dancers and the ho'opa'a. The second night was a hō'ike when parents and friends were invited.



**PAT
NĀMAKA
BACON**

Aunty Pat recalls that during the years of her hula training, many teachers carried a long bamboo rod which gave students a little sting on their ankles when they made a sloppy motion; every teacher in those days was strict and if they did not feel you were ready to progress, you just stayed put; students in those days did not question their kumu—instead, the kumu questioned the students.

"When I teach someone, it's important that they adhere to what they have been taught," reflected Aunty Pat. "My elders always stressed that ancient hula, the chants, and dances passed down from generation to generation should be taught as it was learned."