



HALAU O KAHEALANI

Motto

Mohala I ka wai ka maka o ka puu

“Flowers thrive where there is water, as thriving people are found where living conditions are good.”

Respect for self, respect for others, and remain humble at all times.

Kumu

The Kumu is the teacher, main choreographer and source for learning hula within the halau. The Kumu will promote and assign haumana (students) to different classes and different positions in the halau based on skill and ability to perform specific tasks.

Po’oPua’a

Administrator of the Halau who enforces the rules of the kumu, levies fines or penalties and collects dues.

Paepae

The paepae is the assistant to the po’opua’a. Each class will have a paepae who will provide students with information regarding upcoming events and performances. Be sure that this person has a way in which to get in contact with you (e-mail and telephone, as well as address). It is your responsibility to regularly check your e-mail or halau website for updated class and event information.

Alaka’i

The Alaka’i acts as the example for the students. She/he models the style and execution of the dance for the other students. The Alaka’i should be the most accomplished dancer within the halau; the one who most closely models the style perpetuated by the Kumu Hula's traditions.

Policy

Non-Discrimination Policy

Halau O Kahealani welcomes all students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition, ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in the halau.

Halau Rules

The Kumu reserves the right to dismiss any student from the halau at her own discretion.

- You will not disturb the previous class in session before your hula class.
- You will not be permitted to enter the halau floor until invited/instructed to do so.
- The front of the room is reserved for the Kumu to conduct business.
- Haumana must keep their belongings in an orderly manner to the side or back of the halau.
- Personal hygiene and grooming are very important in hula. All garments should be clean. Some classes will cause you to sweat. Please bring your own personal face towel.
- All dancers are required to wear a hula *pa'u*, which can be any color of your choosing. Your shirt can either be the halau t-shirt or a loose fitted shirt.
- Please be courteous to the class. If you are running late, are ill, or know you will not be able to attend class, please inform your class representative before class begins.
- If you have plans and know in advance that you are going to miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and catch up with the rest of the class.
- You may ask questions, but please do not disrupt the class. The instructor will prompt you when discussion is open for questions.
- Parents of students are welcome to stay and watch. If young siblings or other family members are brought to class, we do ask that they sit quietly and watch without disrupting the class. The *halau* is not a playground; children should be discouraged from running, yelling, or playing inside the *halau*.

Halau Protocol

- Always show respect to your instructors and *assistants*. *Kumu hula* should be referred to by their title, “*Kumu*,” or by the acceptable honorific or title of “Uncle” or “Auntie.”
- Before and after class all students should help to close the *halau* by clearing away leftover water bottles and trash. When the *Kumu* leaves, ALL students must leave the room as well.
- When your *Kumu* is speaking or showing an example, please keep quiet and pay attention. Listen and learn from what is being said or demonstrated. You will benefit from paying attention.
- Think before asking questions. Use your own eyes and ears first; learn by observing.
- Learn and practice what you are taught so that you can keep up with your class. Practice, practice, practice. All intermediate and advanced members are expected to memorize the *kahea* (first line of every verse) by your next class.
- Always take off your shoes before you enter the dancing area in the *halau* (it’s OK to leave shoes just inside the doorway).
- Cell phones should be turned off or on vibrate **unless you are expecting an emergency call** (if so, please explain to the *Kokua*, *Kumu* or *Paepae* before class).
- Handle your hula attire with respect: hula *pa’u* are considered to be a sacred garment, and should not be treated casually or carelessly. Your hula implements and costumes should be handled in the same manner.
- The *Kumu*’s ipu heke, pahu, and other instruments are kapu and are not to be handled by any one other than the *Kumu* unless the *Kumu* asks you to.
- “*Ai ha’a*,” literally means, “bend down” or “go lower.” “*Ai ha’a*” also means to “be humble,” which is a distinctive characteristic of hula. Please remember to always respect your “hula elders,” my aunt, other *Kumu* (my hula sisters) which means not only your teachers and their assistants, but also your hula sisters who have more experience in this *halau* than you do.
- If you visit a class that is not your own (for example, to review your basics), remain in the back of the class. Keep in mind that you are a guest when you are not in your own class.
- Try to remember to ask the *Kumu* or *Kokua* to help you, and not your classmates. If the *kumu* is not available it is the responsibility of the *Kokua* to help you, and they will be sure to show you the correct movements.

- All students/*haumana* start with the Basics and will be placed in an appropriate class based on skill level as determined by the *Kumu*. Please be aware that consistent attendance is required to be successful in any class, as choreography is learned in each class session.
- It is not appropriate to share what is learned in the halau with non-halau members, including choreography, without permission.

Lastly, if you eventually decide that the halau is not for you, please continue to show your respect by doing one or all of the following: (1) let your *Kumu* know you have decided to leave and why; (2) let your *Kumu* know where you intend to go; and if you choose to study at another *halau*, (3) please let the New *Kumu* know where you've been studying and why you left.