



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 9, 2015

***Honoring the best of traditional Hawaiian music and hula!***

- Contact:** Ann Shinsato 808-392-3649 (HMHF Admin. Assistant)
- WHO:** The Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame (HMHF)
- WHAT:** Lei of Stars 2015, a gala event honoring our 2014 class of inductees: , Sonny Chillingworth, Edith McKinzie, Puakea Nogelmeier, Beverly Noa, Lani Custino and the Hawaii Calls radio program. Includes dinner, induction ceremony and tribute performances.
- WHERE:** Pomaika'i Ballrooms (in the Hōkūlei Ballroom) at Dole Cannery (735 Iwilei Rd.)
- WHEN:** May 1, 2015, Friday. Doors open at 4 pm; dinner served at 5 pm; concert begins at 5:45 pm.
- TICKETS:** Tickets are \$125/person for dinner and concert. For more info, call Admin. Assistant Ann Shinsato at 392-3649. Also see website at [www.hmhof.org](http://www.hmhof.org).
- ENTERTAINERS:** Beverly Noa, Nina Keali'iwahamana, Haunani Apoliona, Ku'uipo Kumukahi, Auntie Edith's hula girls, Natalie Ai Kamauu, Aaron Sala, John Rodrigues, Ian Custino, and much more! Emcee: Kimo Kahoano.
- SPECIAL MŌ'Ī SPONSOR:** Princess Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa.
- SUSTAINING SPONSOR:** 'Ōlelo Community Media will broadcast Lei of Stars live on 'Ōlelo Channel 53.

## Inductee Background Information:

**Sonny Chillingworth:** A master slack key guitarist whose first hit recording was in 1964 playing “Waimea Cowboy.” In the 1970’s with the Hawaiian Renaissance, Sonny became part of the Gabby Pahinui Hawaiian Band for both album recordings and live performances. During this time, Sonny also began to share his knowledge with the next generation such as George Kuo and Ozzie Kotani and many more who were influenced by his recordings. Sonny would become symbolic of an intense revival of slack key guitar. In the decade of the 1980’s, Sonny was featured on multiple compact disc releases on the Dancing Cat Records label (producer George Winston).

**Edith McKinzie:** One of Hawaii’s foremost authorities on Hawaiian culture and hula. She grew up in a musically incline, Hawaiian-speaking family and her love of hula began at a young age with lessons by her Aunt Mary Kapule, a dancer for hula master Antone Kao’o. She trained from age 12 under renowned hula master Joseph Ilala’ole and continued to study under Eleanor Hiram Hoke, a student of hula master Keaka Kanahale and Katie Nakaula. Eleanor Hiram was one of the few remaining teachers trained in the chants and dances associated with the hula pahu. Aunty Edith taught hula throughout Hawaii, the US mainland, Midway Island, Guam and Alaska, and served as a judge for numerous hula competitions. Auntie Edith was also a scholar and earned a BA degree in Hawaiian Studies, an MA in Education and a Ph.D. in Secondary Education from the University of Hawaii. She served as a lecturer throughout the state of Hawaii on Hawaiian chants, hula, genealogy, notable persons, place names and legal Hawaiian translations.

**Puakea Nogelmeier:** Currently a professor of Hawaiian language at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and prolific composer of Hawaiian poetry in both traditional and modern styles. Also a kumu hula, author, respected scholar, multiple Nā Hōkū Hanohano award winner, Executive Director of Awaiaulu (training translators and researchers to work with Hawaiian legacy materials), and the list goes on.

**Beverly Noa:** Hula dancer, fashion model, Miss Hawaii 1952, Hawaii Visitors Bureau poster girl. Beverly studied hula with Louise and Nona Beamer and ‘Iolani Luahine. She was the featured dancer at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel’s Monarch Room for many years with headliners Haunani Kahalewai, Ed Kenney, and Al Harrington. She joined headliners Ed Kenney and Marlene Sai at the Halekulani Hotel and also appeared in many of the top showrooms in Waikiki including the Hawaiian Village’s Tapa room, Cinerama Reef, and Hawaiian Regent Hotels.

**Lani Custino:** Singer, hula dancer, recording artist, choreographer, actress, and entrepreneur. She studied with ‘Iolani Luahine in the art of hula kahiko. Her musical career spanned 5 decades, from teaching hula at a Waikiki dance studio to performances across the mainland U.S. and Japan. Her beautiful soprano and lovely hula hands were featured on Hawaii Calls. She also starred in Hawaii Calls television specials and appeared in Arthur Godfrey’s TV shows. She produced and directed a Hawaiian revue “Return to Paradise” at the Ilikai Hotel’s Canoe House in 1971. Her recording credits include all of the Hawaii Calls albums, 2 family albums, and guest appearances with Don Ho and with her sisters.

**Hawaii Calls:** A radio program that ran from 1935 to 1975 featuring live Hawaiian music usually from the courtyard of the Moana Hotel on Waikiki Beach. At its height, it was heard on over 750 stations throughout the world, and made household names of Webley Edwards who began the show, Harry Owens (the original musical director) followed by musical directors Al Kealoha Perry, Benny Kalama, and regulars Alfred Apaka, John Kameaaloha Almeida, Haunani Kahalewai, Nina Keali’iwahamana, Boyce Rodrigues, Lani Custino, and Pua Almeida.

**ABOUT THE HAWAIIAN MUSIC HALL OF FAME:** HMHF is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is “to promote, preserve, and perpetuate Hawaiian music and hula by celebrating the achievements of significant individuals and groups.” To this end, we sponsor a music curriculum called E Mele Kākou for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders based on the music of the royal composers, Nā Lani ‘Ehā; produce museum quality exhibits our inductees located at Ala Moana Center’s Satellite City Hall and the Embassy Suites/Waikiki Beach Walk; produce Nā Mele Mae’ole (Never-Fading Songs) concert events; produce our annual signature event Lei of Stars in honor of the most recent class of inductees; produced the Nā Hōkū Hanohano Album of the Year, *Nā Lani ‘Ehā*.

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