



Office: 1414 Dillingham Blvd., Suite 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-4891
Moanalua: 1836 Ala Noe Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Phone: (808) 839-5334
Fax: (808) 839-3658
Email: info@moanaluagardensfoundation.org

For Immediate Release
March 16, 2018

Contact: Pauline Worsham
Managing Director
Cell: 808.497.4084
pauline@pmwconsult.com

The Annual Prince Lot Hula Festival Wins aio Media Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Top Award

Honolulu, Hawaii

The Annual Prince Lot Hula Festival took the top award for Best Tourism Events . Heritage and Cultural Event at the inaugural aio Media Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Awards held recently at the Hawaii Convention Center.

Created to recognize leadership and excellence in the tourism industry, the awards honored organizations and individuals in 14 separate categories for their contributions to Hawaii's largest industry, tourism.

The 2018 festival, **Ka Hanohano O Kamehameha...The Glory of Kamehameha**, the 41st Annual Prince Lot Hula Festival, will return to Iolani Palace on Saturday, July 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, July 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival honors Prince Lot Kapu Iwa, who helped reprise hula and reigned as Kamehameha V from 1863 to 1872 at his official residence on the palace grounds.

Admission to the Palace during the festival will be free.

Presented by Moanalua Gardens Foundation (MGF), the festival is the largest non-competitive hula celebration in the islands. We are deeply grateful to aio Media and the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association for this award. This recognition would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our Festival Committee, staff, volunteers, sponsors and donors, and our Board of Directors, who work tirelessly to make the festival the success that it is, said Alikea Jamile, Executive Director and President.



-More-

We also wish to acknowledge the many kumu hula and their hānau who showcase the best of our hula traditions each year. They are the heartbeat of the festival, Jamile said. We encourage the entire community to join us for two days of great hula, food and cultural activities at the palace.

Founded in 1978 by MGF as a gift to the community, the festival now attracts thousands of residents and visitors each year. Opening ceremonies on Saturday will include the Royal Order of Kamehameha, presentation of MGF's *Malia Kau Award* to renowned Kumu Hula Nalani and Pua Kanakaʻole, followed by an impressive line-up of premier hānau hula (hula groups) who will perform both kīhiko (ancient) and ʻāuana (contemporary) hula.

Hānau from every major island will be participating and their kumu have been encouraged to include dancers from their out-of-state branches.

On Sunday, MGF will honor respected chanter Kalena Silva with its *Namakahelu Oli Award* as part of the opening program. The event will also feature a Hawaiian-themed craft fair, cultural demonstrations, and more.

Local food and refreshments will be available for purchase throughout the day. Limited edition tee shirts and souvenir *kōkua* buttons will be on sale. Proceeds from these merchandise sales will help cover the costs of the festival.

The public, and visitors, are welcome and encouraged to bring their beach chairs and mats and enjoy the fun, food and festivities in the magnificent setting of Iolani Palace. **No commercial photography is allowed.**

Festival sponsors and supporters include the Hawaii Tourism Authority, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Iolani Palace, Hawaiian Airlines, Matson Navigation, Pasha Hawaii, First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau, Oahu Visitors Bureau, the Honolulu Star Advertiser, MidWeek, ʻālelo Community Media, and Urgent Care Hawaii.

For more information, please call 808.839.5334 or visit MGF's website at www.moanaluagardensfoundation.org.

A non-profit organization founded in 1970, Moanalua Gardens Foundation (MGF) is committed to preserving and perpetuating the native culture and environment of Hawai'i through education and stewardship of Kāmananui (Moanalua) Valley and celebration of the Prince Lot Hula Festival. MGF depends upon grants and donations to cover festival costs. To make a donation or become a member please visit www.moanaluagardensfoundation.org.

Like us on facebook by clicking on the following Prince Lot Hula Festival link <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Prince-Lot-Hula-Festival-presented-by-Moanalua-Gardens-Foundation/128620033827351>

#####