



Kumu Hula Leilani Kaho'āno has been teaching hula since 1985. Her hula journey, as a young kahiko dancer in 1968, began under the direction of the late Hula Master Hoakalei Kamau'u. She would continue learning hula with the Hula Masters of past: Patience Bacon, Pearl Keawe, 'Ehulani Lum, Mae Klein and Maiki Aiu-Lake, who inspired her so much that she made a lifetime commitment to hula leading to Kumu Hula graduation with Kumu Hula Edward Kalāhiki and Kumu Hula Kaleo Miyasato. Decades of teaching have included teaching keiki to kūpuna, with a special passion for the hearing, visually and intellectually impaired. Her teaching and dancing experiences included competitive and exhibition hula in Hawai'i, Domestic U.S.A. and Japan. Professional experiences have included: Experience Aloha 10-month US Tour, Snoopy on Ice, 49er Halftime performance, Slack Key Masters National Tour, Celebration of Aloha, Hawai'i Stars Extraordinary Abilities and award-winning Aloha Festivals floats. As a non-competitive Kumu Hula, she prepares her dancers for the intense level of competitive execution, however, perpetuates the non-competitive commitment of her Hula Masters. These experiences lead her to an elevated level of knowledge through the cultural wisdom and intimate relationships of treasured Hawaiian cultural practitioners. As the Kumu Hula of Hālau Hula o Nāmamaokeakua and a professional Neonatal Intensive Care Nurse, she has become recognized for the unique combination of cultural and professional skills that have lead to pioneering efforts in the early childhood health, education and advocacy.