

Contact:  
Jenny Fujita  
Joy Miura Koerte  
Fujita & Miura Public Relations, LLC  
Ph: (808) 245-FMPR (3677)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Heather Jose, Manarii Gauthier Take Top Honors at Kaua`i Polynesian Festival**  
Memorial Day Weekend Ablaze with the Fire of Polynesia

LIHU`E, Hawai`i, May 31, 2005 –The Kamanawa Foundation's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Kaua`i Polynesian Festival wowed visitors and kama`aina alike this past weekend by presenting a colorful variety of cultural offerings, including dance competitions, crafts, food, workshops, and other entertainment at the Kukui Grove Park Pavilion. Heather Jose and Manarii Gauthier, both of Te Vai Ura Nui Halau, were named the 2005 Vahine Polynesia and 2005 Tane Polynesia, respectively, the overall winners for the Tahitian Ori (solo) contest.

"I would like to commend all dance competitors who participated this year," said Kaua`i Polynesian Festival director Kapu Kinimaka-Alquiza. "They sure gave it their all and kept us entertained with their skill and creativity. And, of course congratulations to Heather Jose and Manarii Gauthier and all those who took home prizes."

With the Royal Ali`i Court welcoming in another year of Polynesian celebration, guests of the opening night's festivities on Thursday evening at the Radisson Kaua`i Beach Resort were given a feast for the senses. The event included a Polynesian pageant of traditional and contemporary dance costumes, a sumptuous dinner buffet, and Polynesian music and dance from the islands of Tahiti, Samoa, Hawai`i and Aotearoa, New Zealand. Guests were also treated to performances by Halau Hula Olana, Kumu Hula Olana A`i and the energizing 2005 Kaua`i Polynesian Festival House Drummers from O`ahu, Te Vai Ura Nui.

The Festival kicked into high gear on Friday at the Kukui Grove Park Pavilion with an extravaganza of island foods, authentic arts and crafts, and events for children. In the afternoon, a Polynesian fashion show put on by the Kaua`i Polynesian Festival craft vendors took center stage, followed by a welcoming ceremony of the host culture, Hawai`i, for the representatives of New Zealand. After the Maori contingent reciprocated with

powerful chants and prayers of their native New Zealand, the action dance and "poi ball" competitions were held. Excitement continued to build as hula competitions played out with groups of various ages performing ancient kahiko dance and modern auwana dance.

Saturday's entertainment continued with mesmerizing Tahitian group competitions and exhibitions by the 2004 Overall Vahine and Tane Polynesia, Shawna Tamayose and Jerrold Martinez. "Their performances were so inspiring and certainly electrified our audience," stated Kinimaka-Alquiza.

In another protocol ceremony, the islands of Tahiti and Samoa paid respect to host Hawai'i with their cultural gift exchange and dances of welcome. "Hearts were pumping once again to the thrilling drums of Te Vai Ura Nui, during their Tahitian Otea Exhibition," said Kinimaka-Alquiza. "Thereafter, the Samoan Fireknife Dance Competition was ushered in with a fabulous exhibition by 2004's Fire Knife World Champion, Alex Galeai." Tahitian-focused competitions and exhibitions continued on Sunday, culminating in an award ceremony recognizing all competitors and honoring the champions of their given crafts. The solo first place winners from the Tahitian Ori, Maori, Keiki Kahiko, and Opio Kahiko categories took home beautiful black pearl pendants donated by B&B Tahitian Pearls.

Kauai's Mayor Bryan Baptiste acknowledged the outstanding talent showcased at this year's event, before presenting the Mayor's Trophy to the Best Overall Tahitian Group, Te Hamata.

Heather Jose and Manarii Gauthier were presented their titles after vying for the honors by going up against all first place seniors, ages 13 and over, Tahitian Ori (Solo) winners.

"A big mahalo to all those who came out to participate or, simply, just enjoy the festivities and to our wonderful sponsors," noted Kinimaka-Alquiza. "What a joy it's been to have another successful year of sharing and celebrating our diverse island history."

Sponsors for the event included, B&B Tahitian Pearls, County of Kaua'i, Hawaiian Airlines, Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Hawai'i Visitors Bureau, Hilo Hattie's, Kukui Grove Shopping Center, Lomi Records, Polynesian Cultural Center, Radisson Kaua'i Beach Resort, The JK Show, and Wala`au.

Established in 1994, the Kamanawa Foundation is a Kaua`i-based non-profit organization. Its mission is to preserve, promote and perpetuate the Native Hawaiian culture, including the language, social values, arts, crafts and music, primarily through the study of hula. The Kamanawa Foundation hosts three annual events that highlight hula and Polynesian performing arts including the Kaua`i Polynesian Festival, Holiday Hula Celebration, and Kaua`i Hula Exhibition.

The results for the 2005 Kaua`i Polynesian Festival competitions are as follows:

#### TAHITIAN ORI (SOLO) VAHINE WINNERS

Ages 4-6:

1st Place (name, halau): Kalawena Kalehuawehe, Te Tiare O Patetifa

2nd Place: Raita Teriipaia, Tamarii A Hiva

Ages 7-9:

1st Place: Shandy Hopeau, Tiare Ura O Tahiti

2nd Place: Kuulei Tolentino, Polynesian Paradise

3rd Place: Wailele Brown, Heiura

Ages 10-12:

1st Place: Shayna Soma, Tiare Ura o Tahiti

2nd Place: Zakiya Nalei Twiggs, Ka Pa Kanaenae o Kaua`i Iki

3rd Place: Chelsea Clement, Manutahi

Ages 13-17:

1st Place: Toatautali, Tamarii A Hiva

2nd Place: Vaitiare Napa`a, Tamarii A Hiva

3rd Place: Tali Goeas, Maohinui

Ages 18-21:

1st Place: Heather Jose, Te Vai Ura Nui

2nd Place: Keala Whitfor, Te Hamata

3rd Place: Maile L. Landreth, Tahiti Toa

Ages 22-25:

1st Place: Sina Hanohano, Te Hamata

2nd Place: Tiare Tenari, Te Tiare o Petitifa

3rd Place: Keola Eugenio, Te Tiare o Patitifa

Ages 26-30:

1st Place: Kathleen Heinrichs, Independent

2nd Place: Keaukaha Carveiro, Polynesian Paradise

Ages 31-39:

1st Place: Carmen Meilai Twiggs, Ka Pa Kanaenae o Kaua`i Iki  
2nd Place: Leko Shimazu, Heiura

Ages 40+:

1st Place: Mahealani Lee, Polynesian Paradise

#### TAHITIAN ORI (SOLO) TANE WINNERS

Ages 7-9:

1st Place: Brandon Pono Thompson, Tiare O Patitifa

Ages 10-12:

1st Place: Emmsley James Drake, Rohotu

2nd Place: Ben Fonoimoana, Tamani A Hia

3rd Place: Tigi Hill, Nonosina O`ahu

Ages 13-17:

1st Place: Kaihoku Tolentino, Polynesian Paradise

2nd Place: Jed Rivera, Te Tiare o Patitifa

Ages 18-21:

1st Place: Micah Kahaiali`i, Te Hamata

2nd Place: Fareura Isidoro, Te Vai Ura Nui

Ages 22-25:

1st Place: Manarii Gauthier, Te Vai Ura Nui

2nd Place: Kamuela Hepa, Parau api te fa`a ite

Ages 26-30:

1st Place: Lono Hanohano, Te Hamata

Ages 31-39:

1st Place: Scott Kalehuawehe, Te Tiare o Patitifa

#### TAHITIAN COUPLES

1st Place: Miki Akoi & Lono Hanohano, Te Hamata

2nd Place: Kaihoku Tolentino & Keanuhea Kaneo, Polynesian Paradise

#### OTEA

Ages 6-12:

1st Place: Tamarii A Hiva

2nd Place: Heiura

3rd Place: Te Tiare Patitifa

Ages 13+:

1st Place: Te Hamata

#### APARIMA

Ages 6-12:

1st Place: Tamarii A Hiva

2nd Place: Te Tiare Patitifa  
3rd Place: Heiura

Ages 13+:  
1st Place: Te Hamata

#### AHUPURUTU

Ages 13+:  
1st Place: Te Hamata  
2nd Place: Polynesian Paradise  
3rd Place: Te Tiare Patitifa

#### DRUMMING (judged during Otea)

1st Place: Tamariki A Hiva  
2nd Place: Te Hamata  
3rd Place: Heiura

#### MAORI GROUP

1st Place: Polynesian Paradise

#### MAORI SOLO (POI BALL)

1st Place: Keanuhea Kaneo, Polynesian Paradise  
2nd Place: Toatautali Hill, Tamariki A Hiva  
3rd Place: Tiana La Rosa, Polynesian Paradise

#### NA KUPUNA HULA AUWANA (GROUP)

1st Place: Halau Hula Olana, Olana & Howard Ai  
2nd Place: Kalamaolaimaluhialani, Nathan Kalama  
3rd Place: Na Kupuna O Lihue Senior Center, Beverly Muraoka

#### SOLO KAHIKO VAHINE

Ages 6-12:  
1st Place: Uranuihia Fonoimoana, Tamariki A Hiva  
2nd Place: Cheyenne Fonoimoana, Tamariki A Hiva

#### Ages 13-17:

1st Place: Miloli'i Dagupion, Halau Hula Na Pua Pakipika  
2nd Place: J. Keanuhea Kaneo, Polynesian Paradise  
3rd Place: Nohea Catugal, Halau Hula Na Pua Pakipika

#### SOLO KAHIKO TANE

Ages 6-12:  
1st Place: Lanakila Kuhaulua Rita, Halau Palihewa O Kaipuwai  
2nd Place: Brandon Thompson, Halau Hula Na Pua Pakipika  
3rd Place: Kamaka Premacio, Tamariki A Hiva

#### Ages 13-17:

1st Place: Kaihoku Tolentino, Polynesian Paradise  
2nd Place: Aikane Alapa'i, Halau Palihewa O Kaipuwai

1<sup>ST</sup> OVERALL KAIKAMAHINE (GIRL) POLYNESIA: Miloli i Dagupion, Halau Hula Na Pua Pakipika

1<sup>ST</sup> OVERALL KAMAKANE (BOY) POLYNESIA: Kaihoku Tolentino, Polynesian Paradise

#### FIREKNIFE

Ages 6-12:

1st Place: Julius Tafiti, Tamarii A Hiva

2nd Place: James Ahuna, O`ahu

3rd Place: Dallian Muti, Te Hamata

Ages 13-17:

1st Place: Jaz Castillo, O`ahu

2nd Place: Michael Ahuna, O`ahu

3rd Place: Kaihoku Tolentino, Polynesian Paradise

Ages 18+:

1st Place: Tuman Oto, O`ahu

2nd Place: Kap Tafiti, O`ahu

3rd Place: David Ahuna, O`ahu

BEST OTEA COSTUME (GROUP): Tamarii A Hiva

BEST APARIMA COSTUME (GROUP): Te Hamata

2005 VAHINE POLYNESIA (OVERALL WINNER): Heather Jose, Te Vai Ura Nui

2005 TANE POLYNESIA (OVERALL WINNER): Manarii Gauthier, Te Vai Ura Nui

2005 1st OVERALL TAHITIAN GROUP: Te Hamata

1st OVERALL BEST MUSIC AWARD: Kalamaolaimaluhialani, Nathan Kalama

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