

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coveted Tahitian Black Pearls and Polynesian Crafts Available at Kaua`i Polynesian Festival

LIHU`E, Hawai`i, May 23, 2005 – The Kamanawa Foundation's 5th Annual Kaua`i Polynesian Festival this coming weekend, May 26 through May 29, presents Kaua`i residents and visitors with the opportunity to view and purchase the highly-regarded Tahitian black pearl. Last year, Hawai`i Tourism Authority's (HTA) exit survey for the Kaua`i Polynesian Festival noted that craft vendors were the second biggest draw to the event, following the dance competitions, and that many people specifically attended the Festival to purchase Tahitian black pearls.

"We have quite a few Tahitian black pearl vendors this year," stated Kaua`i Polynesian Festival Director Kapu Kinimaka-Alquiza. "Some are known names like B&B Pearls and Majestic Gems, and we're happy to also have vendors straight from Tahiti."

According to Kinimaka-Alquiza, "What makes our Tahitian black pearl vendors and their pearls so unique and special is that these individuals hand pick each pearl themselves to make sure you get the best quality pearl at a reasonable price. The other good thing is that all of these pearl vendors will be available in one location this weekend."

A wide variety of craft vendors will be on hand from May 27-29 at the Kaua`i Polynesian Festival, which will take place at the Kukui Grove Park Pavilion in Lihu`e. The vendors will feature hand-made jewelry, woodcarvings, ceramics, pareos, mother-of-pearl jewelry and accessories, Polynesian CDs and DVDs, Hawaiian and Tahitian implements, designer Maori clothing, jade bracelets, clay flowers, ribbon leis, and much more.

"One of our most popular vendors this year is Tali Goeas of Tali's Polynesia," said Kinimaka-Alquiza. "Tali will bring us the latest styles and fashions of Polynesian attire."

The Kaua`i Polynesian Festival kicks off with a Polynesian pageant, dinner, and entertainment on May 26 at the Radisson Kaua`i Beach Resort beginning at 6 p.m. The cost to attend is \$50 per person. On May 27-29 from 11 a.m. through the evening each day at the Kukui Grove Park Pavilion, the Festival will feature Tahitian, Maori, Samoan and

Hawaiian entertainment, Polynesian arts and crafts, cultural seminars, dance workshops, solo and group dance competitions, food booths, and more. The entrance fee is \$15 for three days or \$8 per day.

Sponsors for the event include 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.

For more information about the Kaua`i Polynesian Festival, visit www.kauai-polyfest.com or call (808) 335-6466.

###