

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –Ayumi Asano, Emmsley Drake Take Top Honors at Kaua`i Polynesian Festival

LIHU`E, Hawai`i, June 4, 2010 – The Kamanawa Foundation's 9th Annual Kaua`i Polynesian Festival hosted visitors and kama`aina throughout Memorial Day weekend with a vibrant variety of cultural offerings, including dance competitions, crafts, food, workshops, and other entertainment at the Vidinha Stadium soccer field. Ayumi Asano of Kalokemelemele was awarded the 2010 Vahine Polynesia title and Emmsley Drake of Rohotu was awarded the 2010 Tane Polynesia title. Asano and Drake were the overall winners for the Tahitian Ori (solo) contest.

The official results for the 2010 Kaua`i Polynesian Festival competitions are as follows:

MAORI ACTION & POI BALLS:

Group:

1st Place: Kia Manava Nui

2nd Place: Te Manawa `O Atooi

Solo:

1st Place: Tia O'Brian

2nd Place: Meigan Barretto

3rd Place: Maddison Lopez

Na Kaikamahine Hula Kahiko solo: Ages 6-12:

1st Place: Tiana Hemakanamakamaeonalani Nihipali

2nd Place: Mahealani Rowland

Na Opio Kaikamahine Hula Kahiko Solo: Ages 13-17:

1st Place: Eolani Mose

Na Wahine Hula Kahiko Solo: Ages 18-54:

1st Place: Katrina Hi`ilani Johnson

2nd Place: Anuenue Mose

GROUP HULA KAHIKO:

Na Kaikamahine:

1st Place: Kalokemelemele

Na Wahine:

1st Place: Kalokemelemele

Na Opio Kaikamahine:

1st Place: Na Hui O Kamakaokalani

OVERALL KAHIKO KAIKAMAHINE POLYNESIA:

Katrina Hi`ilani Johnson

TAHITIAN GROUP OTEA:

Junior Division:

1st Place: Atooi Marama

Senior Division:

1st Place: Otea Atooi

TAHITIAN GROUP OTEA BEST COSTUME:

Otea Atooi

TAHITIAN GROUP APARIMA:

Junior Division:

1st Place: Kalokemelemele

TAHITIAN GROUP APARIMA BEST COSTUME:

Kalokemelemele

TAHITIAN GROUP AHUPUROTU:

Senior Division:

1st Place: Kalokemelemele

2nd Place: Otea Atooi

3rd Place: Atooi Marama

OVERALL TAHITIAN GROUP:

Kalokemelemele

FIREKNIFE COMPETITION:

Junior Division:

1st Place: Hale Motuapuaka

Intermediate Division:

1st Place: James Ahuna

2nd Place: Anson Villatora

3rd Place: Ua Mana Castillo

Senior Division:

1st Place: Richard Siolosega

2nd Place: Julian Maeva

3rd Place: Paul Morimoto

ORI TAHITI WINNERS:

Vahine Ages 4-6:

1st Place: Serena Bryan

Tane Ages 7-9:

1st Place: Oviri Avaeoru

Vahine Ages 7-9:

1st Place: Na Hokulani Santos

2nd Place: Modena Maycong

3rd Place: Adora Kricken

Vahine Ages 10-12:

1st Place: Kao Tomita

2nd Place: Wakana Hirose

3rd Place: Nagisa Takizawa

Senior Division:

Tane Ages 13-17:

1st Place: Emmsley Drake

2nd Place: Kaipolei Awong

3rd Place: Keanu Matias

Vahine Ages 13-17:

1st Place: Tomomi Iguchi

2nd Place: Sandi Nonaka

3rd Place: Cara Mia Kricken

Tane Ages 18-21:

1st Place: Mikaela Oloa

2nd Place: Michael Alan Drake

Vahine Ages 18-21:

1st Place: Ayumi Asano

2nd Place: Lani Costido

3rd Place: Kai`ulani Carr

Vahine Ages 22-25:

1st Place: Roylyn Alisa

2nd Place: Ana Advincula

3rd Place: Pomaika`i Ponimo`i

Tane Ages 26-30:

1st Place: Kamuela Hepa

Vahine Ages 26-30:

1st Place: Yvette Motilla

2nd Place: Kamo`ikalani Sausen

3rd Place: Charito Rivera

Tane Ages 31-39:

1st Place: William Maycong This is the correct category for these two men. There were no winners in the

the Tane 22-25.

2nd Place: Jacob Punzal

Vahine Ages 31-39:

1st Place: Marie Kricken

Vahine Ages: 40 & Over

1st Place: Louise Susen

Tahitian Couples Competition:

1st Place: Pomaika'i Ponimo'i & Julian Maeva

2nd Place: Kaiulani Carr & Emmsley Drake

OVERALL TANE & VAHINE POLYNESIA

Tane Polynesia: Emmsley Drake

Vahine Polynesia: Ayumi Asano

"I would like to extend a warm mahalo to all of our competitors, craft and food vendors, sponsors, volunteers, and Kaua'i's residents and visitors that made our 2010 Kaua'i Polynesian Festival a success," said Kaua'i Polynesian Festival Director Kapu Kinimaka-Alquiza.

Sponsors for the event include Aloha Rainbow Screening, B&B Tahitian Pearls, County of Kaua'i, Deli and Bread Connection, Dollar Rent a Car, Grand Hyatt Resort & Spa, Hawaiian Airlines, Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Hawai'i Visitors Bureau, Hilo Hattie, Hula Girl Bar and Grill, Kaua'i Marriott Resort & Beach Club, Malie Foundation, Oceanic Time Warner Cable, Sheraton Kaua'i Resort, St. Regis Princeville 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 languages, 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.

###