News Release





Hālau o ka Hanu Lehua soloists named overall winners of Hula o Nā Keiki 2024

Maui's solo competition for young hula practitioners returns

Media Kit: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1guBa-e7sPzT2pNuy7AsDmiCMYyFWfPab?usp=drive_link

KĀ'ANAPALI, MAUI - *Hula O Nā Keiki* – a solo competition for young hula practitioners – returned to the OUTRIGGER Kā'anapali Beach Resort this past weekend. All eight contestants represented their hālau and hula lineages, especially the two overall winners, Khandi-Pearl Holi and Luke Hilina'i Aquino – both students of Hālau o ka Hanu Lehua, under the direction of Kumu Hula Carlson Kamaka Kukona III.







Luke Hilina'i Aquino

All participants, their kumu, and their hālau are listed below, in the order of their performance:

- 1. E Kelekona Kukahiko Salvador, Kumu Hula Joy Keōpūolani Salvador, Hālau Keʻala Ka Hīnano o Puna
- 2. Syrena Anakali'a Martinez, Kumu Hula Kawaiola Noelani Deguilmo, Ka Pā Hula o Kawaiolanoelaniokāne
- 3. Khandi-Pearl Holi, Kumu Hula Carlson Kamaka Kukona III, Hālau o ka Hanu Lehua
- 4. Luke Hilina'i Aquino, Kumu Hula Carlson Kamaka Kukona III, Hālau o ka Hanu Lehua
- 5. Railee Jane Carter, Kumu Hula Iola Balubar, Hālau Hula o Keola Ali'i o Kekai
- 6. Jenna Ann Leinaala Wright, Kumu Hula Kēhaulani Enos, Hālau 'Ilima Kū Kahakai
- 7. Keʻalohi Kili Sepulveda, Kumu Hula Joy Keōpūolani Salvador, Hālau Keʻala Ka Hīnano o Puna
- Rhylee Shae Nāmakaonālani Reis, Kumu Hula Carlson Kamaka Kukona III, Hālau o ka Hanu Lehua

This marks 32 years of keiki hula at OUTRIGGER Kā'anapali Beach Resort.

"Hula O Nā Keiki brings an encouraging cheer and energy to community efforts to preserve and perpetuate Hawaiian culture. The kumu have dedicated their lives to teaching hula in the footsteps of their teachers and we celebrate the

passion of the keiki and the power of hula to bring resilience in this time of renewal," said OUTRIGGER Kā'anapali Beach Resort director of 'Imipo'okela and executive director of Hula O Nā Keiki Kahulu De Santos.

In addition to the long-standing support of the resort, this year's festivities were made possible through the sponsorship of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Kilohana, Kāhuli Leo Le'a, Hawaiian Airlines, Kanile'a 'Ukulele, Honua Consulting, Manaola, Williams & Associates, TS Hula Grill Kā'anapali and mele.com.

With production support from Kāhuli Leo Le'a, executive director Zachary Lum shared: "For decades, Hula o Nā Keiki has been a beacon for cultural celebration. This year, we are reminded of the critical role cultural practitioners hold in bringing communities together."

The event broadcast is available on-demand, exclusively at mele.com. For more information and updates, visit <u>mele.com</u> and follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@mele.stream).

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ABOUT OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY GROUP

For more than 75 years, OUTRIGGER has charted a journey of discovery – expanding from Hawai'i to premier resort destinations including Fiji, Mauritius, Thailand and the Maldives. The privately held hospitality company invites guests to 'Come Be Here' with authentic Signature Experiences and the OUTRIGGER DISCOVERY loyalty program – a member of the award-winning Global Hotel Alliance (GHA). OUTRIGGER's multi-branded portfolio includes OUTRIGGER® Resorts, OHANA Hotels by OUTRIGGER®, Hawaii Vacation Condos by Outrigger®, Kapalua Villas Maui and Honua Kai Resort & Spa Maui while also managing select properties from top international hotel brands including Embassy Suites by Hilton® and Best Western®. Find out more at OUTRIGGER.com or visit @OUTRIGGERResorts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

About Kāhuli Leo Le'a and Mele.com

Kāhuli Leo Le'a is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to catalyze aloha 'āina through the education, composition, and presentation of mele and other cultural practices. Mele.com, a program of Kāhuli Leo Le'a, is Hawai'i's first non-profit, community-driven streaming platform that aims to empower Hawai'i-based Creators with economic opportunity within Hawai'i's Creative Industry. For more information about Kāhuli Leo Le'a, visit us at kahulileolea.org, or follow us on Facebook and on Instagram (@kahulileolea).

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