

KALEI 'AMELIKA

The American Lei

May/June 2011

A bi-monthly newsletter of HA`A, the Hula Association of America
Aloha-sponsored by Halau Pulama Mau Ke Aloha Ka`Ohana `Ilima in Pasadena, Maryland



Photo courtesy of Shirley Ann Kaha`i

Aloha 'Oe, Farewell ~ AKONI AKANA

Sharing the following links on the loss of **Akoni Akana**, sponsor-halau hoaloha, Kumu Hula and Founder/Executive Director, Friends of Moku`ula [<http://www.mokuula.com>].

- [Lahaina News](#)

(<http://www.lahainanews.com/page/content.detail/id/501934/Community-loses-cultural-icon-Anthony--Akoni--Akana.html?nav=19&showlayout=0>)

- [Maui News](#)

(<http://www.mauinews.com/page/content.detail/id/547753/Kumu-hula-Akoni-Akana-dies-at-54.html>)

Sponsor-Halau's Kumu Kas enjoyed visits with Akoni and his mom, Auntie Frances, and dad, Uncle Skippy, during her August and November 2010 trips to Hawai'i. Akoni was much respected by HA`A sponsor halau, for as competition chairman, he extended an invite to Hula o na Keiki, which the halau participated in '93 and '95 at the Ka'anapali Beach Hotel, Maui. He was also a judge

Japan Earthquake & Tsunami

HA`A sends ALOHA to all of the Japanese people and visitors in Japan, especially our hula sisters and brothers and the Kumu Hula who maintained the aloha spirit throughout the ordeal - may the Aloha Spirit hold everyone in safety and peace...Click the below link, then slide your mouse back and forth over the pictures for before and after views.

[ABC News](#)

(<http://www.abc.net.au/news/events/japan-quake-2011/beforeafter.htm>)

Distance in miles from
Baltimore, Maryland to Honolulu
Hawai'i...

4849 mi. or 7802.04 km

and from Tokyo, Japan to
Honolulu...

3862 miles or 6216 km

<http://www.distance-calculator.co.uk/usa-distance-baltimore-to-honolulu.html>

Akoni Akana (Cont'd from page 1)

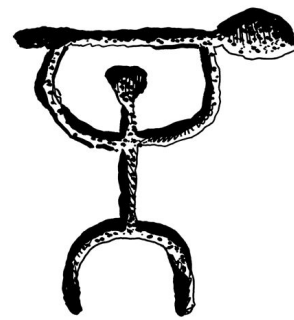
at Ka Hula Le'a ('96/'97/'00). After his presentation at National Geographic in Washington, D.C., he visited halau with his mom and they enjoyed the tour by halau haumana midshipmen of the Naval Academy (Annapolis) and our hula, especially Nani Wai'ale'ale with pu'ili. "Much energy!", he said. He and his mom presented special hand-made lei by Auntie Frances. Akoni jokingly said he would award us extra points at any competition he judged, for he said if he lived here (Pasadena, MD), he could NOT do hula. His visit was in October, he was chilled to the bone and where were the blossoms, green grass, non-polluted sea? And so extra points, for he was impressed we could hula in this so un-like Hawai'i land, so far away from the root. Akoni and Kas also shared some chicken-skin talk story during his visit: Our halau 1st competition at Ka Hula Le'a, we arrived a week early, as usual, so our bodies acclimate to the time zone changes. Told the stage was up, we went to practice. My late hubby, our halau soloist and Kas were the only ones in the room. After practice, Kas' slippers were missing. Went back to hotel room, got another slipper and off to lunch. Returned and checked the ballroom again, and there were the shoes! Then at bedtime, room lights kept coming on, but hotel maintenance could find nothing wrong. The late Auntie Hanai Hayashida, a judge, said not to worry... the ancients were just having fun with the mainland halau... BUT.... did we notice we were the only halau in the hotel wing, all other halau in another wing. Auntie Hanai explained that when the hotel was built, the **ki'i pohaku** (petroglyph field) was moved from the original place, where the hotel wing now stands. The following competition year, halau was placed in another wing. **AUWE!** said Akoni.... that year as a judge, he heard loud noise from outside his room. When he went to ask them to be quiet, no one was there, but back in his room, the loud noise of ancients talking, in the old-style, not book learning language of today. He went down and spent time at the bar...but indicated he now understood, the ancients were sharing with him that they were having fun with that mainland haole halau....LoL!

Be sure to read and enjoy Akoni's "**Ghosts of Hula Past**" in *Hawai'i's Best Spooky Tales, The Original*, by Rick Carroll.

MEMBER Links

Pacific-NW <http://www.holoholonw.com>
Check out the calendar for member competition on July 30!

Send YOUR link to KALEI to share with HA'A members.



New DVD! *Voices of our Kupuna*

Featuring Auntie Nona Beamer, Uncle George Naope, and Auntie Kahili Long Cummings. Brought to you by The Hula Preservation Society. This video has been well received at numerous conferences for the past two years. Your purchase helps to support the work of the Hula Preservation Society. Visit <http://www.hulapreservation.org> for more information.

