



# IMUA POLENISIA

Vol. 2 No. 9

October/November 1996

## Dear President Moore,

As a former employee of the Polynesian Cultural Center, I want you to know that I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked under your, and others', leadership.

Many words that you have said or shared in monthly employee meetings or newsletters have impressed me. The greatest counsel I can remember has been that "we (employees of the Polynesian Cultural Center) are a light to all the world!"

As a missionary in the Las Vegas, Nevada Mission, I have had many opportunities to share the gospel with people who visited the PCC, enjoyed their experience, and were happy with the kindness and generosity showed by the employees. These people felt the Aloha Spirit, and because I used to work there, I have been allowed into their homes.

Please remind the employees, again, that we are indeed a light to all the world. Not only does courtesy to our guests allow us to keep in business, but it allows missionaries into homes.

*Thank you,  
Sister Alison K. Langi  
Nevada, Las Vegas Mission*

### Dear Mr. David Preece,

This letter may not be acceptable in format or syntax, but I hope that you will overlook these mistakes. I wanted to send you a letter expressing my utmost gratitude to you and a fellow co-worker of yours for both of your caring, compassionate and thoughtful personalities.

About two months ago, a friend and I attended the Polynesian Cultural Center and had a bit of trouble concerning our rides home on a tour bus. I am not sure if you remember this incident or not (you being extremely busy with your job). Well to make a long story short, you and a fellow businessman treated my friend and I so well. It surprised me that you went out of your way to give us the opportunity to eat the buffet

that we would have missed without you being so kind as to find us another ride home on another bus.

Let me explain why I was so surprised. In all my life, I have never come across two people that I have never met (let alone one person) who has treated me so nicely. The reason being is that I am only eighteen years old and many adults have the idea that teenagers won't appreciate kindness, or possibly that teens do not deserve respect that adults definitely do deserve. However, when the two of you treated us beyond your duties, I was touched in my heart that not everyone neglects the fact that young adults want so much to be treated with sincerity. I really cannot thank you enough for being so generous.

I truly believe that you and your colleague were not just 'doing your job', but that you were going beyond and being lovely, generous souls. As a Christian, I have prayed many prayers of thanks because of you both and your kindness. You touched my life and heart and you both should be proud that you treat all of Heavenly Father's children the way He would like us to. May the Lord bless you in all that you do and may you have success in your lives. Keep up the excellent work and you may rest assured that you are touching many peoples' hearts. Thank you so much. You two will always be in my prayers.

*CARPE DIEM (Seize the Day),  
Kathleen Ann Costales*

P.S. My dear friend who visited with me was Alyssa Campbell who, I am sure, expresses her thanks. I am not positive, but your fellow colleague may be the Head of Financing. If you happen to know who this man is, please let him know how I feel. Thank you so very much. You made me feel appreciated and it meant a great deal to me.

*(Editor's Note: the other person was Gary Myers, Sr. Vice President of Finance.)*



# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



The Gateway Restaurant would like to recognize Tomwa Tehumu for being an outstanding employee. He has worked in the Food and Beverage Division since January of 1996.

Tomwa is from the island of Kiribati. He's 19 years old and the eldest of four children.

Tomwa loves attending BYU-H as a political science major

especially because he is able to make friends with people from all over the world. He enjoys working in the bakery at the restaurant and explains, "I especially love to prepare the dishes for the VIP's because back home I used to prepare dishes for guests at our parties and I really enjoy it." Tomwa's co-workers have a lot of fun when he's around. A fellow employee describes him as "a clown who always makes us laugh no matter what." "Tomwa 'JC/UT' Tehuma is one of the hardest working individuals that I have worked with. He speaks softly, if at all, and does whatever is asked of him. He is always on the job," his supervisor, Sia Maiwiriwiri, says.

## November Calendar

### Tues 5

Safety Committee Meeting  
9:00 a.m., Islands Conference Room  
PCC Team Meeting  
10:00 a.m., IMAX Theatre

### Thur 7

Judge Clifford Wallace,  
Mary Shroeder, Arthur Alarcon  
Special Guests

### Fri 8

JETS Concert  
5:30 p.m., Pacific Pavilion

### Sat 9

Tongan Dance & Drum Competition  
9:00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m., Pacific Pavilion  
Elder Cree-L Kofford, First Quorum  
of the Seventy  
Special Guest

### Sun 10

JETS Fireside  
7:30 p.m., Cannon Activities Center

### Nov 12

9:30 a.m., Junior Guides

### Thur 14

9:30 a.m., Junior Guides  
Fri 15

President Merrill J. Bateman  
BYUH Special Devotional  
10:00 a.m., Cannon Activities Center

### Tues 19

Safety Committee Meeting  
9:00 a.m., Islands Conference Room

### Fri 22

9:30 a.m., Junior Guides

### Fri 22

Employee Recognition Dinner  
8:45 - 11:30 p.m., Luau Area

### Sun 24

Families First - Celebrate the Joy  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Cannon  
Activities Center

### Mon 25

Management Team Meeting - Update  
8:00 a.m. - 12 noon

### Tues 26

PCC Team Meeting  
10:00 a.m., IMAX Theatre

### Thu-Fri 28-29

Thanksgiving Holidays

### Sat 30

PCC Christmas Lighting  
6:00 p.m.

## October Birthdays

|    |                     |    |                     |    |                  |
|----|---------------------|----|---------------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Taniela Havili      | 19 | Niutupuivaha        | 10 | Raven Singh      |
| 1  | Chiu Nam Paul Lam   | 19 | Mahana Pulotu       | 10 | Samran           |
| 1  | Kazuko Mizuno       | 19 | Dorothy Rodrigues   | 11 | Wiryaphong       |
| 2  | Yvonne Davies       | 19 | Sarah Straub        | 11 | Liane AhNee      |
| 2  | Maile Vi            | 20 | Camilla Stevenson   | 11 | Jared Anderson   |
| 2  | Denita Waltz        | 21 | Vanu Fonoimoana     | 11 | Patsy Moliga     |
| 3  | Emani Ma Sun        | 21 | Vernice Peters      | 11 | Enele            |
| 3  | Sapphire Smith      | 21 | Nehumi Tausinga     | 12 | Ongoogotau       |
| 3  | Faaleaga Young      | 21 | Faleaka Toafa       | 12 | Bat-Erdine       |
|    | Yen                 | 21 | James Walker        | 12 | Danshihoodollin  |
| 4  | Ma'ata Kakau        | 22 | Ana Fonua           | 12 | Iku Ichimori     |
| 4  | Staci Pillmai       | 22 | Maki Inouye         | 12 | Peter Lakatani   |
| 5  | Maggie Chan         | 22 | Rubina Kimiia       | 12 | Susan            |
| 6  | Alfred Ma Sun       | 22 | Ethelyn Tuia        | 12 | Manning          |
| 6  | Pit-Hong Shum       | 23 | Howard Afualo       | 12 | Randal Tiu       |
| 6  | James Worden        | 24 | Miki Ah You         | 13 | Keli Ah-Hoy      |
| 7  | Bella Finau         | 24 | Melinda Hanzon      | 13 | Taiana           |
| 7  | Lucy Unga           | 24 | Meli Racava         | 13 | Fineanganofa     |
| 7  | Diana Walters       | 25 | Samuel Mahi         | 13 | Debra Lawton     |
| 8  | Chin Sik Kim        | 25 | Fulisia Maiwiriwiri | 13 | Leola Moloni     |
| 8  | Lama Pasia          | 25 | Isapela Uliva'a     | 13 | Junko            |
| 9  | Chun-Choi Chan      | 26 | Elizabeth Hill      |    | Tsukayama        |
| 9  | Jiun Shaffer        | 26 | Ilaisaane Tuitavake | 14 | Veronica         |
| 10 | Mei Sung            | 26 | Elena Vesnaver      |    | Hazembuller      |
| 10 | Angela Tom          | 26 | Jared Walters       | 14 | Yolanda Ofa      |
|    | SingVien            | 27 | Mahana Kanofo       | 14 | Hike Tevaga      |
| 10 | Mosaati Yuki        |    | Pulotu              | 15 | Kamatoa Babo     |
| 11 | Michael Bright      | 28 | Julee Hagerson      | 15 | Linda Fields     |
| 11 | L. Pepe Nautu       | 28 | Kasmin Nikora       | 15 | Shirley          |
| 11 | Vao Pauga           | 29 | Jayson Costa        |    | O'Connor         |
| 11 | Malcolm Rabe        | 29 | Noeline Taiti       | 15 | Ula Pula         |
| 11 | Hideko Shikano      | 31 | William Mahoni      | 15 | James Wells      |
| 12 | Fili Fili Alaiasa   | 31 | Yi-hua Yeh          | 16 | Christine Garcia |
| 12 | Eita Asama          |    |                     | 16 | Joyce Garnes     |
| 12 | So'ofau Lefau       |    |                     | 16 | Jonathan Tang    |
| 12 | Moerava Lethuillier | 1  | Leilani Glassie     | 16 | Jeremy           |
| 12 | Wallen Magalei      | 1  | Winona Kua          | 17 | Yamamoto         |
| 12 | Bernice Talanoa     | 1  | Teri-Lee            | 17 | Sonne Campbell   |
| 12 | Sinclair Tarawhiti  | 1  | Lehman              | 18 | Roger Meservy    |
| 13 | Ane 'Ofa Lua        | 1  | Tofaga Maui         | 18 | Petina Ah Hoy    |
| 13 | Kanani              | 1  | Michael Sanft       | 18 | Mareta           |
|    | Niutupuivaha        | 1  | Pule Tuifua         | 19 | Temanaha-Mo'o    |
| 13 | Murphy Soli         | 1  | Paul Versteeg       | 19 | Amiann Bang      |
| 13 | Tommy Taurima       | 2  | Mika Ah-Loy         | 19 | Kyoung Hwan      |
| 13 | Jaddy Toelupe       | 2  | Kawai Tupou         | 19 | Choi             |
| 14 | Elizabeth Anien     | 3  | Keith Awai          | 19 | Melissa Fiatoa   |
| 14 | Ruevita lotin       | 3  | Rebluud Kesolei     | 19 | Hare George      |
| 14 | 'Oto'ota Lavaka     | 3  | Pele Leiataua       | 19 | David Tiave      |
| 14 | Ying Ying Lin       | 4  | Nancy Griffiths     | 21 | Bill Warren      |
| 14 | Christina Mauigoa   | 4  | Chun Wai Lok        | 21 | Martin Ferrucho  |
| 14 | Aaron Requilman     | 5  | Donna Coyne         | 21 | Natile Mapu      |
| 14 | Talao Solitua       | 5  | Hyun Oak Kim        | 22 | Alaniete         |
| 14 | Patisela Tevaga     | 5  | Uisa Peseta         | 22 | Sigavata         |
| 14 | Yu-chun Wang        | 5  | Semisi              | 23 | Susan Madsen     |
| 15 | Frances Anderson    | 6  | Rokobuludrau        | 24 | Yvonne Ho Kum    |
| 15 | Shawn Pukahi        | 6  | Daniel Chase        | 24 | Darin Allred     |
| 16 | Epanaia Christy     | 6  | Jason Green         | 25 | Valetta          |
| 16 | William Ernestburg  | 6  | Elaine Lee          | 25 | Jeremiah         |
| 16 | Aree                | 7  | Hiroko Kimura       | 25 | Rosita Tulua     |
|    | Muangphanpong       | 7  | Titaina Panee       | 26 | Christina        |
| 16 | Simi Niunatalolo    | 8  | Kelly Boice         | 26 | Nihipali         |
| 17 | Lloyd Hekau         | 8  | Ane Kuma            | 26 | Tumu Purcell     |
| 17 | Tomasi Maugaotega   | 8  | Asofiafia Mau       | 28 | Charmaine Au     |
| 17 | George Tovo         | 9  | Setefano Pasa       | 28 | Tautai Moala     |
| 18 | Feiloaki Kaufusi    | 9  | Ronal               | 28 | Otis Wong        |
| 18 | Hiketeru Tevaga     | 10 | Fermantez           | 29 | Irene Harrys     |
| 18 | Dawn Unga           | 10 | Cloudy Maun         | 29 | Vanu Pillimai    |
| 19 | Fatafehi            | 10 | Aryan McKay         | 30 | Almira Ah You    |
|    |                     | 10 | Mina Naetaa         |    |                  |

## Festival of Arts *Report of the 7th Pacific Festival of Arts held in Apia, Western Samoa on September 7-20, 1996* by Delsa Moe

The Polynesian Cultural Center was asked by the government of Western Samoa to script and develop the opening ceremonies. President Moore was the lead agent representing Governor Cayatano. President was invited to meet with both the Prime Minister and the Head of State and to offer prayers on their behalf. It was a spiritual and emotional event such that all those present shed tears.

As a first time observer of the Arts Festival, I was impressed by the 22 islands and countries participating -the costumes, dancing, singing, the drums and instruments, the people and the atmosphere. It was fun, educational, and always interesting.

It all began with the opening ceremonies on September 7th which was held at Apia Park, Western Samoa's national stadium, attended by 15,000 people. The theme for this festival was "tala measina", meaning, unveiling of special or sacred treasures. The delegations entered the parade of nations in traditional costumes and presented spectacular gifts to the government of Western Samoa. It was the first time for many people to see cultures or people from places like Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Norfolk Islands, Tuvalu, Uvea and Futuna, Easter Island, and even tiny Tokelau with a population of only 1600 people.

Hawaii's delegation of 75 included the PCC promo team, Cy Bridges's Halau, and other halau from Mililani, Waianae and the Big Island. The opening ceremony included "Youth Garden", a musical production by 1,500 school children. Tommy Taurima was in Samoa three weeks prior to the festival to work with the schools on this production, and what spectacular performance it was. Uncle



Tommy taught the children things they didn't know they could do. They even surprised their parents, and the crowd loved the performance. Youth Garden was followed by a sasa featuring 2,000 students who completely filled the rugby field. The mass of color and synchronized motions was

a "chicken skin" moment. There were two incidents that happened during the performance: 1. Tommy did a presentation with a gospel



theme (Youth Garden) that brought rain to the country after months of drought. 2. A double formed over the field during the ceremonies. The taalolo (ceremonial gift giving) involved over a thousand people and even the festival

choir consisted of a thousand voices, many of which were from LDS stakes around Apia.

During the next two weeks, the Hawaii delegation, along with the other visiting delegations were hosted at Malifa, a government school complex. Mattresses and linen were provided for everybody and a large fale was converted into a dining hall. Cold showers were a new invigorating experience for some and meals

without rice was also a new and not so enjoyable experience for others. The father of Keli Ah Hoy, a promo team member, brought bottled water and a cooler for the PCC group to enjoy. Many other family members brought food, did laundry, or let the PCC group borrow their vehicles during their stay in Samoa.

The cultural performances took place each day in 5 different venues around Apia. It was an opportunity to see different cultures, learn new things from cultures we were already familiar with and share the Hawaiian culture with everyone. One of the groups from Papua New Guinea was performing for the first time in public at this festival and it was

also their first performance outside of their province. We witnessed culture that had not yet been influenced by Western civilization. The pan pipers of the Solomon Islands were one of the most popular groups to watch with their musical pipes and rocking-marching movements along with colorful costumes. French Polynesia was also a crowd favorite. They had a variety of costumes which awed the audience along with their exciting dancing and enthusiastic singing.

The closing ceremonies were held on Friday, September 20th and Logo Apelu and Tommy Taurima had four days to put the program together. They spent those days

Continued on page 8



## FOOD AND BEVERAGE DIVISION UPDATE

### Introduction

As the Food Service team developed the 1997 plans, we found it a challenge to determine the appropriate objectives that would provide the best results. The Strategic Management Process provided distinct guidelines as we worked through this process. As a division, we kept our 1996 mission statement. The Food Service team had perceptibly raised the level of quality in every phase of the operation during 1996.

### 1996 Objectives

Total major objectives for 1996 were five, one has been completed and four are in progress.

#### Objective 1

Construct and implement operating plans for the Food Preparation and Distribution Center. In Progress

#### Objective 2

Increase Concession sales from \$1,838,277 to \$1,985,849. In Progress

#### Objective 3

Construct and implement operating plans for the New Luau. Completed on June 15, 1996

#### Objective 4

Implement a plan to improve and maintain consistent trafficking of guest to food areas to maximize sales and seating capacity. In Progress

#### Objective 5

Explore a more effective inventory system with the use of bar code scanners. In Progress

The construction of the new food distribution facility is proceeding on schedule.

The new Ali'i Luau opened on Saturday, June 15th to a sold out crowd. The all-new, all-Hawaiian program and beautiful setting create a wonderfully nostalgic

luau experience. Interest in the new luau is very high, and we are confident it is going to be very successful. It has already generated positive press coverage.

We held the official grand opening of the new Ali'i Luau on July 13 with 200 invited guests and 300 regular visitors. This beautiful new dining and entertainment experience has been an immediate success, and has been enjoyed by a daily average of over 425 guests compared to less than 300 in the previous luau facility. This success is due to a unique, nostalgic, all-Hawaiian luau concept based on extensive research, plus high quality standards in service, food and entertainment. We are often sold out and are planning to expand the lanai covering to accommodate more capacity.

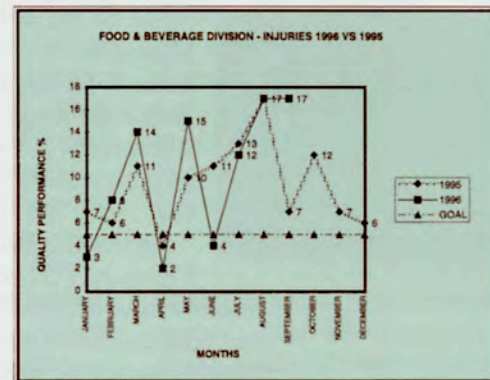
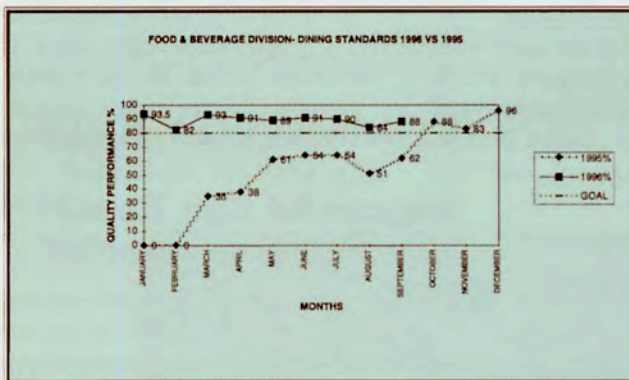
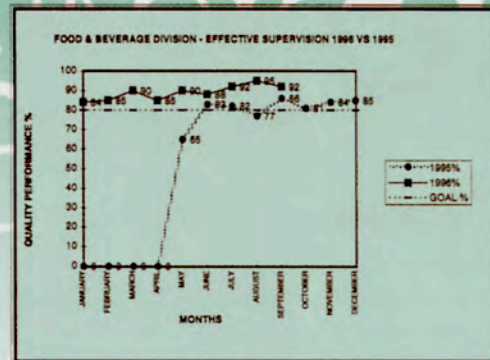
First 6 months, revenues are up 12 percent and expenses are down 8.26 percent below budget. Net is up 19.73 percent. Expenses have decreased approximately \$300,000 in the cost of goods.

Savings were primarily the reflection of price negotiations to keep cost down and a computerized ordering system. We've been able to lower cost in ice cream products, "ahi" fish, shrimp, canned and bottled drinks and maintain consistent low prices for meat products. Our computerized system maintains a consistent par level that ensures consistent turnover which decreases the potential for waste.

The Food Service Division consists of 260 actively employed employees. 15 percent or 40 are full-time and 85 percent or 220 are part-time employees. Of these part time positions, 55 percent or 122 are sponsored students, 20 percent or 44 are BYU-HC students and 10 percent or 23 are non-students.

We recognize that there are issues of the right "fit" in the organizational chart to produce expected results. Currently, we consistently strive to maintain the product and will be moving forward to raise ourselves to a higher level of standards thus increasing productivity. By doing so, we will strive to be an award winning

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organization. We are in the process of restructuring our organization in the restaurant and food administration departments to accomplish our objectives, thus we will be able to implement with precision the objectives of 1996 and 1997.

93 percent of the full time staff have been certified by the Department of Health on food safety. 89 percent have been certified in food safety by the division. Approximately 80 percent have been certified in the Strategic Management Process. Two full-time employees have been certified as Food Safety trainers in the Servsafe, H.A.C.C.P and M.S.D.S. Programs. The full time staff have made tremendous progress in understanding food safety concepts and in practicing it's principles.

We currently have 33 missionaries serving all over the world. 20 serving in the United States, three each in Japan, Guam, and the

Philippines and one each in Taiwan, Jamaica, South America and Tahiti. Student turnover has decreased 46% as compared to last year. This is primarily due to the higher percentage of sponsored students employed. Dining standards and effective supervision increased well over 100% due to increased focus on guest and employee satisfaction. Overtime has decreased 54% over the past seven months. We will continue to seek increases in productivity in all areas.

Our numbers and percentages have increased or decreased with positive results and we, the Food and Beverage Division management, express our gratitude to our employees. Our success as a division is a result of your hard work, commitment and unity. Thank you for your efforts in helping our Division reach and exceed our goals.



## SPECIAL GUESTS

Fijian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ratu Epeli, Adi Koila Mara Nailitikau and their two children were very impressed with their visit to the Center yesterday. They wished to express their thanks for the special treatment they received and the kindness and courtesy expressed by everyone. He wanted especially to thank the Tongan village for an excellent show at 5:30 p.m.

Ratu Epeli first visited the Center in 1972 while attending military training courses in Hawaii.

Yesterday was his 10th visit to the Center but first for his wife and children. They commended everyone for a fine job, especially the students. In his short speech to the Fijian students in the village, Ratu Epeli emphasized the importance of getting an education and encouraged the students to work hard and do their best.

Impressed by the work-study program at BYU-H and PCC and the assistance these two institutions have rendered to Fiji in the last 33 years, Ratu Epeli said that he will look into ways in which the Fijian government can work with and help Fijian students in furthering their education here.

Again, a sincere Vinaka Vaka Levu to everyone.

## WWII USS Bowfin Crew Visits Center

On October 1st the World War II crew of the historic submarine USS Bowfin visited the Polynesian Cultural Center. They were in Honolulu for a special "Reunion-on-the-Boat" event.

The USS Bowfin is the submarine which proudly bears the nickname "the Pearl Harbor Avenger," since she was launched one year after the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor. They survived nine dangerous war patrols, including a special mission into the heavily-mined areas of Japan. This crew is one of only a handful who still have a boat to hold reunions on. The USS Bowfin is now a restored WWII submarine museum here at Pearl Harbor and is open for daily public tours.

## Chinese diplomat visits center



Zhang Wei-cho from Guangdong Province, China recently visited the PCC. He currently holds the position of

Vice Minister, Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs, Beijing.

Zhang Wei-cho previously served as 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Secretary Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Soviet Union, as Consul General of the PRC in Leningrad, and as the Soviet Union and Consul General (Ambassadorial Rank) of the PRC in New York.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Successful Spa Resort Hawaiians promotion

The Spa Resort Hawaiians promotion was extremely successful. Spa Resort Hawaiians reports that they entertained over 320,000 visitors during the joint promotion. In addition, PCC received national television coverage twice, regional television coverage five times, and regional newspaper coverage three times. Spa Resort Hawaiians reports that they did not reach their goal of 330,000

visitors during the promotion, but feel this was a result of the Ecoli O-157 bacteria epidemic that hit Japan during the summer resulting in the closing of all pools and water slides in Osaka.

Fear that this bacteria might be present in any pool water caused a decrease in visitors to Spa Resort Hawaiians, and officials of the resort said they received numerous telephone calls daily from potential visitors who wanted to make sure that the pool water was safe.

Spa Resort Hawaiians conducted a survey during the event and found that the PCC promotion scored



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very high. Customers were extremely satisfied with the event. As a result, Spa Resort Hawaiians believes that the PCC event saved them from a potentially devastating summer season. Spa Resort Hawaiians also mentioned that of the many groups from around the world that they have hosted, the PCC group was the best behaved, and very friendly and cordial with customers and Spa Resort Hawaiians staff. Spa Resort Hawaiians has expressed an interest in a longer term relationship with the Polynesian Cultural Center.

## 1996 Moanikeala Auana Keiki Festival

The Center was host to nearly 200 children, ages 6-13, who participated in the 1996 Moanikeala Auana Keiki Festival. The Festival is an annual event that honors Kumu hula through hula performance and competition.



This year, halau from all over O'ahu paid tribute to one of our own Kumu hula from PCC and living treasure recipient, Sally Wood Nalua'i, also known as "Auntie Sally"

Out of all the halau that performed only four actually competed. First place honors were presented to Hula Halau Olana, second to Halau O Hokulani and the third place winner was the Joan S. Lindsey Hula Studio.

Organizers of the Moanikeala Auana Keiki Festival, attentive to the importance of the Festival, anticipate a bigger and even better event next year.

## PCC continues support for Hawaii's Teacher of the Year awards program

**Cash grants totaling more than \$5,000 reward teachers' excellence**

A traditional Maori greeting, by turns fearsome and friendly, welcomed guests at a state Board of Education ceremony to honor Hawaii's 1997 Teacher of the Year, Elizabeth Kammerer.

Kammerer, an innovative choir teacher at Kahuku High and Intermediate School, was chosen from seven District Teacher of the Year awardees. She will go on to represent Hawaii in national Teacher of the Year competition.

Seven performers from the Polynesian Cultural Center offered

chant, song, and dance at the opening of the October ceremony at Prince David Kawanakoa Intermediate School in Honolulu.

This year's presentation marked the eleventh consecutive year that the Polynesian Cultural Center served as corporate sponsor of the statewide public schools teacher recognition program. Three vice presidents of the Center presented Kammerer with a \$2,000 cash award and a keepsake gift of hand-carved ivory earrings and necklace. The Center also provided \$500 cash awards to all seven of the District Teachers of the Year.



"For the past eleven years, PCC has been proud to sponsor the District and State Teacher of the Year Awards," said David Preece, the Center's marketing and sales vice president. "This is part of a broad support program for education."

The Polynesian Cultural Center, sister institution to Brigham Young University-Hawaii, provides millions of dollars annually to support the university's educational mission while the PCC Junior Guides Program enables 25,000 Hawaii public and private school students to learn more about the traditions and cultures of Polynesia each year.

Each May for the past nine years, the Center contributed to Hawaii's future by presenting the Sterling Scholar Awards, the state's most comprehensive high school scholarship awards program. This year, Sterling Scholars in 13 categories received a total of \$112,000 to pursue their goals in higher education.

State Superintendent of Schools Herman Aizawa thanked the Polynesian Cultural Center for its continued support of the Teacher of the Year program, which he called "an exciting and enjoyable highlight of the year."

"We appreciate everything PCC has done and the leadership you have provided," Aizawa said at the conclusion of the awards presentation program.

1997 District Teachers of the Year are:

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Mary B. Silva          | Honolulu District |
| Frances Hanayo Shimote | Central District  |
| Lajuaine Candy Suiso   | Leeward District  |
| Elizabeth A Kammerer   | Windward District |
| Gloria Juan            | Hawaii District   |
| Charlene S. Yamashiro  | Maui District     |
| Crystal M. Rowe        | Kauai District    |

rehearsing with very willing volunteers for eight to nine hours daily. Dances and songs were learned, costumes were sewn, the weather was perfect and we were ready for the closing ceremonies. After the traditional parade of nations, a Samoan aiava (festive gift-giving) was presented by a cast of approximately 700 people under the direction of Logo Apelu. The aiava cast consisted of church members, BYU-H and PCC alumni, and Viiga Fuimaono's (canoe guide alumni) winning dance group from Salani, and even some members of the promo team who either danced, drummed or sang. Uncle Tommy's school students performed once again by popular demand.

A highlight of the performance featured Miss Samoa as Cinderella waltzing with Nihi Napoleon (PCC theater performer). At the end of their performance, Miss Samoa, Verona Tapu Ah Ching, and Nihi led 24 little girls dressed in white up to the grandstand to present a single red rose to each VIP. What a touching moment that was. Several VIPs wiped tears from their eyes, including Western Samoa's prime minister. The Yandall sisters, well known Samoan entertainers now living in New Zealand, brought the house down with their renditions of "United We Stand" "Sau Lau Tama e Samoa" and "Sweet

Inspiration", while everybody in the grandstands and on the field were either dancing or clapping their hands. Howard Morrison Jr., another famous entertainer from New Zealand, joined the Yandall sisters in singing "Tofa My Feleni" and "Now is the hour" leaving everyone yearning to meet each other again at the next Pacific Festival of Arts to

be held in New Caledonia in the year 2000.

**Other notes:**

PCC was invited by the government of Western Samoa to help design the opening and closing ceremonies. Tommy Taurima and Logo Apelu went to Samoa in July for two



weeks to begin teaching and setting up the programs. The promo team was also invited to perform but when the State of Hawaii could not fund a delegation to the Arts

Festival, halau who had their own funds were included under PCC's invitation so that Hawaii could be represented after all.

Besides performing in the Arts Festival, the promo team and Cy's halau members put on a special Family Home Evening performance at the CCWS gym for the church members. It was standing room only that night.

The group from Laie was also asked to speak and sing at two sacrament meetings in the Pesega 5th - English-speaking ward consisting of BYU-H alumni and others, and Pesega 2nd Ward, Billy Tenney's home ward.

Activities included swimming at Sliding Rock, Saoluaifata Beach, Piula Cave Pool, sight-seeing at the home of Robert Louis Stevenson, and around the island to Falealili and Aleipata. Oh, and lots of shopping for handicrafts and souvenirs. Favorite foods included Samoan pancakes, hot bread with New Zealand butter, pani popo, \$2 bottles of soda, bottled water and of course, McDonald's was always available.

**Governor's Request**

Governor Ben Cayetano asked the Polynesian Cultural Center to take the lead in making sure Hawaii is represented along with over 20 island nations at the 7th Pacific Festival of Arts held September 8 to 23 in Apia, Western Samoa. The Pacific Festival of the Arts is held once every four years and brings together traditional performers and artisans from around the Pacific to celebrate and share their cultural heritage.

"The festival is a chance to celebrate traditional cultures and foster better communication among the Pacific peoples," Governor Cayetano said.

"Thanks must go to Lester Moore, President of the Polynesian Cultural Center, Logoitino Apelu, Vice President for Cultural Presentations, and others at the Center for their cooperation. The PCC will work with the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to make




sure Hawaii's performers and artisans are a vital part of this year's event, as they have been in the past."

Festival Director, Tauiilili Uili Meredith, commented, "I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude that Hawaii's presence will be felt at our Festival. The cultural value of Hawaii's presence is inestimable and will complete the circle of Pacific island nations at this important gathering."

"The opportunity to present our culture in an international arena comes rarely and allows us to affirm Hawaii's leadership in the Pacific," said director Wendell Silva. "Thanks go to our Folk Arts Program for working tirelessly to achieve our goals."

Previous festivals were held in New Zealand (1976), New Guinea (1980), Tahiti (1985), Australia (1988) and the Cook Islands (1992). The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts directly organized or supported Hawaii's delegations to Tahiti, Australia, and the Cook Islands.

  
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