Moanalua Gardens Foundation to Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Prince Lot Hula Festival at Iolani Palace

Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Moanalua Gardens Foundation (MGF) has announced that Laukanaka Ka Hula…Throngs of Hula People Gather, the 40th Anniversary celebration of the Prince Lot Hula Festival, will take place this year at Iolani Palace on Saturday, July 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, July 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival is the largest non-competitive hula event in Hawai‘i and honors Prince Lot Kapuāiwa, who reigned as Kamehameha V from 1863 to 1872 and helped reprise hula.

“We are honored to be celebrating our 40th anniversary on the grounds of Iolani Palace, where our ali`i, including Prince Lot, maintained their official residences,” said Alika Jamile, MGF Executive Director and President.

“We can’t think of a better place than Iolani Palace to showcase two days of great hula performed by some of Hawai‘i’s premier hālau hula,” Jamile continued. “We invite the entire community to join us for this first ever celebration of the Prince Lot Hula Festival at Iolani Palace.”

“We’re pleased to welcome this signature cultural event to the Palace,” said Kippen de Alba Chu, Executive Director of Iolani Palace. ”Hula has always been an integral part of the Palace’s history and the festival will celebrate this time-honored legacy.”

Founded in 1978 by MGF as a gift to the community, the festival now attracts thousands of residents and visitors each year. Opening ceremonies will include the Royal Order of Kamehameha and presentation of MGF’s Kukui o Lota Award followed by a line-up of premier hālau hula (hula groups) who will perform both kāhiko (ancient) and ‘auana (contemporary) hula. The event will also feature a local craft fair, cultural demonstrations, and more.
This year MGF will honor noted chanter Cy Bridges with its inaugural Namakahelu Oli Award. The foundation’s highest honor given only once every five years, the Kukui o Lota Award, will go to three outstanding individuals for their service to our community, Senator Daniel K. Akaka, Charles M. Cooke, IV, and Kumu Hula Vicky Holt Takamine. Leimomi I Maldonado and her brother Milton I will receive MGF’s fourth annual Malia Kau Award given solely to Kumu Hula who have advanced our hula traditions and supported the Prince Lot Hula Festival.

Local food and refreshments will be available throughout the day through scrips purchased only through Iolani Palace at the Barracks (Hale Koa). There is no charge to attend the festival. No commercial photography is allowed.

Festival sponsors and supporters include the Hawaii Tourism Authority, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the City and County of Honolulu, Iolani Palace, Matson Navigation, Hawaiian Airlines, Pasha Hawaii, First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaii’i Visitors and Convention Bureau, O'ahu Visitors Bureau, the Honolulu Star Advertiser, MidWeek, ‘Ōlelo Community Media, Urgent Care Hawaii and others.

Participating hālau and a festival performance schedule will be announced at a later date. For more information, please visit MGF’s website at www.moanaluagardensfoundation.org or call 808.839.5334.

A non-profit organization founded in 1970, Moanalua Gardens Foundation (MGF) is committed to preserving and perpetuating the native culture and environment of Hawai’i through education and stewardship of Kamananui (Moanalua) Valley and celebration of the Prince Lot Hula Festival. MGF depends upon grants and donations to cover festival costs. To make a donation or become a member please visit www.moanaluagardensfoundation.org.

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Note: Photo images are available on request.