



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nā Lei Hulu i ka Wēkiu Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant to Support Hula Production

San Francisco, CA — Nā Lei Hulu i ka Wēkiu is honored to announce it is a recipient of a \$15,000 FY 2026 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant was awarded through the NEA Grants for the Arts Dance Program to explore identity rooted through sovereignty.

"It's been 30 years since our production *The Natives Are Restless*, and I'm pondering the question, 'Where are we now in terms of our independence and identity?'"

— *Director/Kumu Patrick Makuakāne*

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support opportunities across the country for Americans to experience and participate in the arts," said Mary Anne Carter, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. "As we celebrate the country's 250th anniversary this year, it is a moment to recognize the important role the arts continue to play in our lives, communities, and heritage."

About Nā Lei Hulu i ka Wēkiu

Nā Lei Hulu i ka Wēkiu was founded in 1985 by Director and Kumu Hula Patrick Makuakāne. The San Francisco-based nonprofit organization is dedicated to exploring and preserving Hawaiian culture through hula. Nā Lei Hulu i ka Wēkiu is a dance company and extended community — a cultural crusade committed to an authentic representation of Hawaiian culture through traditional and innovative means. naleihulu.org

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress, the National Endowment for the Arts is an independent federal agency that is the largest funder of the arts and arts education in communities nationwide and a catalyst of public and private support for the arts. By advancing opportunities for arts participation and practice, the NEA fosters and sustains an environment in which the arts benefit everyone in the United States. To learn more, visit arts.gov.

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