



# Halau Ho'ola Ka Mana O Hawai'i

*Traditional Hawaiian Cultural and Hula School*



Kumu Hula Frank Keli'i Chang



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## Kumu Hula Frank Keli'ipihamekalokomaikai'ikeaonei Chang



Kumu Keli'i Chang was born in Honolulu O'ahu. At the age of four, Keli'i and his family moved to Fulda, Germany where Keli'i learned his first hula, "Hula Blues" from his mother (Elizabeth Moana'ala Su'a Chang). Keli'i and his family then moved to Killeen, Texas where his father was stationed at Fort Hood. It was after his family was transferred to Fort McArthur in San Pedro, California, 1969, that Keli'i began his formal training in hula under the guidance and watchful eye of his mother.

In 1973, Keli'i's parents formed a family group along with relatives and friends called the Kalani Islanders and Menehunes. For many years they entertained before many dignitaries, celebrities, and politicians throughout California and abroad. As Keli'i's knowledge expanded in hula, he then became his mother's choreographer. Keli'i's knowledge also expanded to other polynesian

cultures, such as Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, New Zealand and Tahiti. He learned from many teachers throughout the years.

He soon began traveling throughout PA, DC, and Virginia promoting Hawai'i for Hawaiian Airlines with Thomas Kanahele and Mahina Bailey and family. He also performed with Auntie Nina Keali'i wahamana and Jimmy Kaina with the Redding Symphony Orchestra in PA. Keli'i has also performed before the Hawaiian Civic Club of Washington DC and at the capital building before the Hawai'i State Statue of King Kamehameha.

In June of 1985, Keli'i moved to Dallas, Texas with American Airlines. Again, Keli'i has sought out other Hawai'ians and Hawai'ians at heart to share his knowledge of hula and Polynesia. He has taught many groups in Dallas, San Antonio and Houston and has even lead the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in song on one of his flights. In June of 1987, Keli'i took his halau to compete in the King Kamehameha Hula Competition in Laie, Hawai'i, where his group took 4th place. And, in June of 1998 he brought back to Texas the 5th place trophy in the woman's Hula 'Auana division. The halau was invited and participated in the 2000, 2001 and 2006 Merrie Monarch Hula Festival in Hilo Hawaii. Quite an accomplishment for a halau from Texas. Keli'i completed his first album, 'Mele Oli along with his brother, Kaulana Chang in 1998. The album contains 23 chants from ancient Hawai'i.

Kumu Keli'i now dedicates his time to his halau, with groups in both Dallas and Houston. His haumana travel from near and far, some even outside the state of Texas, to be under his guidance. He is one of the only Kumu's today who still teach traditional dances. His halau learns not only the hula, but the culture, the language and the history of Hawai'i, for all of these go hand in hand. He desires nothing more than to perpetuate the native culture of Hawai'i, and welcomes any person who shares in this to join halau and kokua with keeping the culture alive!