



## HŌKŪLANI HOLT-PADILLA

A graduate of Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawai'i, Hōkūlani Holt-Padilla has given selflessly and tirelessly to her community in the capacity of Hawaiian culture and language specialist since 1976. In that same year, she founded her hālau hula, Pā'ū O Hi'iaka; she is now considered a master kumu hula as well as a respected mele and chant composer. She works with other kumu hula in creating each year at least one major dramatic hula production. In recent years these have included *Nā Mele O Ke Aupuni: Songs of the Nation*, *Kahekili*, *Tales of Maui the Demigod*, *Maui*, *Moonlight Serenade*, and *Kilohi: Nā 'Akua Wahine*.

One of the founders of Pūnana Leo O Maui Hawaiian language

immersion preschool, she served as the school's director for three years and, in 1993, became the first program coordinator of Maui's Nā Pua No'eau center for gifted and talented native Hawaiian children. She remained in that capacity until being named Cultural Education Program Manager for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission in April 1997. In August 2001, she accepted the position of Cultural Programs Director at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center.

She is also a Lālākea Foundation, an organization with kumu hula from throughout the Islands dedicated to preserving traditional cultural practices. Hōkūlani continues to inspire, guide, and teach others through Nā Lehuakūmakua, a group of cultural practitioners dedicated to Hawaiian cultural traditions. And, she is a founding member of Nā Kūkulu, a group of Hawaiian cultural practitioners on Maui whose mission is to accurately present the Hawaiian culture to the visitor industry. In 1994, she established her own non-profit corporation called Kauahea. It is her dream to establish a Hawaiian cultural center on her ancestral land in Waiehu.