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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 17, 2009

**NĀ LEI HULU I KA WĒKIU PERFORMS A RICH BLEND OF
TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF HAWAIIAN
DANCE AT ZELLERBACH HALL ON SATURDAY,
MARCH 28 AT 2:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M.**

***SchoolTime*: Special One-hour Performance for Students Friday, March 27 at 11:00 a.m.**

BERKELEY, February 17, 2009—One of the Bay Area’s finest ethnic dance companies **Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu** brings “delicious new hulas set to the poetry of today” (*The Star Ledger*, New Jersey) to Cal Performances’ Zellerbach Hall for two performances on **Saturday, March 28 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.** Under the direction of founder **Patrick Makuakāne**, the 40-member award-winning troupe will perform *O’ahu: Confessions of an Island*. The program pays tribute to the many stunning vistas of O’ahu not typically visited by tourists. From the glistening Ko’olau mountain range and hidden Hālonā Cove to disco bars and lei stands, the company honors the island through a medley of traditional and contemporary forms of hula. Makuakāne is committed to teaching and preserving Hawaiian culture. His “trademark mix of story and dance makes... [the company] so engrossing and so authentically Hawaiian” (*San Francisco Magazine*). Music for the program will be provided by Kūpaoa—a musical duo comprised of Kellen Paik (guitar) and Lihau Hannahs (upright bass)—who will play traditional Hawaiian music.

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu will give a ***SchoolTime*** performance for Bay Area students on Friday, March 27 at 11:00 a.m. at Zellerbach Hall. Tickets are sold in advance only.

NĀ LEI HULU I KA WĒKIU

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu (translated “the many-feathered wreaths at the summit, held in high esteem”) is committed to teaching and preserving the Hawaiian culture through hula. Begun in 1985 by Makuakāne, dancers perform in both traditional *kahiko* and contemporary

-MORE-

'*auana* hula styles. The company's "talk-story" performance format incorporates narration and dance in a way that places the hula in its rich cultural context.

In 1999 the company was awarded the prestigious Isadora Duncan Dance Award for its production, *The World According to Hula*. The Izzies, as the awards are nicknamed, celebrate the unique richness, diversity, and excellence of Bay Area dance. Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu received a second Izzie for *The Hula Show 2002*. The company and Makuakāne were featured in the 2003 POV documentary film, *American Aloha: Hula Beyond Hawaii*.

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu presents an annual fall hula production at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre in San Francisco, routinely selling out. The company has performed throughout California, Nevada, Hawaii and New Orleans and made its east coast debut in 2004 at the Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival in New York City. "The departures from the traditional, lovingly preserved and beautifully danced, were the most fascinating parts of the evening. Mr. Makuakāne retained the purity of the form and intent in choreography that clearly held tradition in esteem" (*The New York Times*).

PATRICK MAKUAKĀNE

"Patrick Makuakāne is a maverick in the world of hula. His approach abounds with creativity" (*San Jose Mercury News*). Recipient of many accolades, he garnered a KGO-TV Profiles in Excellence award in 1998, the Local Hero of the Year recognition from KQED-TV in 2001, and the *Kulia I Ka Nu'u* award from the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce of Northern California for leadership in the Hawaiian community.

In 2000, Makuakāne received an Irvine Fellowship in Dance, funded by the James Irvine Foundation and administered by Dance/USA, to complete two years of intensive traditional studies with hula master Aunty Mae Kamamalu Klein in Hawaii; he received the status of *kumu hula* ("hula master") at that time. In 2002 he received an Individual Artist Commission from the San Francisco Arts Commission for the creation and production of *Bow Down Mister*, and in 2003 he received a Gerbode Fellowship to further his professional development.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu**, on **Saturday, March 28, 2009** at **2:00 p.m.** and **8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$20.00**, **\$26.00** and **\$32.00**. The matinee performance is a *Family Fare* event: children 16 and under receive a 50% discount. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances 2008/09 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is our 2008/09 season media sponsor.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, March 28 at 2:00 (FF) and 8:00 p.m. **Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu

Program: San Francisco-based Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu performs hula as a fully theatrical and visually captivating experience, blending traditional dance with contemporary works.

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Tickets: \$20.00, \$26.00 and \$32.00 available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE

Friday, March 27 at 11:00 a.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu

Program: San Francisco-based Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu presents a special one-hour performance of the traditional hula for school children.

Tickets: \$4.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in grades 2 through 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact the *SchoolTime* coordinator at Cal Performances by email at eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

– Cal Performances –