



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**POETRY IN MOTION AT THE
WAIKIKI BEACH MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA**

*The resort's associates mesmerize audiences with their performance of authentic
Hawaiian hula at the Moana Terrace*

HONOLULU, Hawaii – Swaying hips, graceful hands, Hawaiian *mele*, gleaming smiles and the fragrant scent of beautiful Hawaiian pikake lei tell the story of the Islands once every month at the open-air Moana Terrace in the Kealohilani Tower of the 1,310-room Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. Since 1989, the Na Pua Nani O Ke Kuhina Hawaii Hula Halau (Beautiful Flowers of Hawaii) comprises the eager and vivacious resort associates who dedicate their time and share their hearts and aloha with guests and residents alike.

“We welcome all to experience the enthusiasm and beauty our associate hula dancers exude during every performance,” said General Manager Chris Tatum. “These are hard-working associates who practice once a week and work in a range of departments within the resort, from guest services to housekeeping.”

Under the direction of kumu hula Francine Komumua, who has been dancing since the young age of three, Glory Ann Connolley, Winne DeSoto, Noni Kaneta and Kapua Hew-Len perform the *auana* every first Friday of the month at noon, free of charge, with the unrivaled, sparkling blue Pacific and Waikiki Beach as their backdrop. The women are accompanied by taped Hawaiian music performed by award-winning recording artists, including the legendary Aunty Genoa Keawe, whose authentic Hawaiian falsetto graces the stage weekly every Thursday evening at the resort.

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“We love dancing for our resort guests in such an intimate setting,” said Komomua. “Hula is a universal language that helps us to express the combined story and aloha spirit of each song. We’re dancing instead of talking, but when they see us perform, they smile and understand it.”

The halau pays tribute to Hawaii’s last reigning Queen Liliuokalani by performing the renowned “Aloha ‘Oe,” which was written by the Queen in 1878. It’s a fitting *mele* for the resort, as the land on which the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa now stands was once the summer home of Queen Liliuokalani. The resort honored the Queen by naming its two towers to represent her two homes, Kealohilani, meaning “heavenly brightness,” and Paoakalani, meaning “heavenly fragrance.”

*Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa boasts the best stretch of Waikiki Beach. The resort hotel is located across from exciting, and newly restored, Kuhio Beach and is in the pulse of Waikiki. The hotel offers 1,310 refurbished guest rooms and suites with a private lanai providing a spectacular view of world-famous Diamond Head and Waikiki Beach; Kuhio Beach Grill, featuring the best in Pacific Rim cuisine; Sansei Seafood Restaurant & Sushi Bar and d.k Steak House; Arancino di Mare Italian Restaurant; Restaurant Run, contemporary sushi bar; Moana Terrace, offering live Hawaiian entertainment nightly; Seattle’s Best Coffee; Paul Brown’s Spa Olakino * Salon; Faith Riding Company Surf School; two freshwater, heated, swimming pools; 10-person whirlpool; 24-hour fitness facility; business center with 24-hour Internet access; high-speed and wireless Internet access throughout the resort’s guest rooms and public spaces; shops and boutiques; and Hawaiian cultural activities.*

The hotel is located within walking distance from the International Marketplace, Waikiki Aquarium, Honolulu Zoo, Diamond Head, Kapiolani Park and Kuhio Beach, which was recently re-nourished and rejuvenated with 10,000 cubic yards of sand pumped from waters off Waikiki.

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