

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TROPICAL  
POLYNESIAN  
PRODUCTIONS**

## Press Release

### **FIRST TIME AFRICAN AMERICAN HULA TEACHERS WILL PERFORM AT THE ARIZONA ALOHA FESTIVAL**

Tropical Polynesian Productions, led by Kumu Hula (Teacher of Hula) Kalena of Glendale, AZ, will perform a Hula Kahiko (Ancient Hula) dance at the Arizona Aloha Festival in March 2012 at Tempe Town Lake with their sister Hula Halau (Hula School) Napua O' Polynesia from Rhode Island, led by Kumu Hula Carolyn Castro of Providence.

The two will be the first African American Kumu Hulas to perform at the festival. Their performance will be on Saturday, March 10th, at 3:45 p.m. Carolyn and Kalena are honored to have been given this opportunity to perform. They are known for their energetic and upbeat dances. Both have been dancing since childhood.

Tropical Polynesian Productions' mission has always been "Keeping It Alive and Passing It On" and honors Kalena's Polynesian ancestry. It is her desire to continue to perpetuate Polynesian culture through events, educational programs, classes, and seminars. She will travel out of state to conduct seminars, as well as perform.



KALENA



CAROLYN

Kalena teaches the following monthly dance classes, as well as 1- or 2-day seminars: Hawaiian (Ancient and Modern), Tahitian, Fijian, Tongan, Maori New Zealand, and Samoan. In addition to dance classes, she conducts Tahitian drumming and Samoan fire/knife dance seminars. She welcomes all shapes and sizes to participate and performance opportunities are available.

Kalena founded Tropical Polynesian Productions in 2007. Kalena is currently teaching Polynesian dance classes at the Arrowhead Montessori, 14801 N. 83rd. Ave., Peoria, AZ. She teaches Polynesian dance to the preschoolers on Tuesdays. New classes start the first Thursday of every month. You may contact Kalena at 623-255-8491 and/or visit her website at [www.tropicalpolynesianproductions.com](http://www.tropicalpolynesianproductions.com) for class location and times.

Carolyn Castro, Artistic Director, for Napua O' Polynesia has been joyously leading this multicultural dance troupe since 1988. Napua O' Polynesia's dancers continue to perform throughout Rhode Island, the New England region, and nationally, too. Troupe members have competed three times at the International Hula competition in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Carolyn currently teaches on Saturdays from 3 pm to 5 pm, at the Carriage House Theater, 7 Duncan Ave, Providence, RI 02906. Carolyn will spear-head the 2012 season with seminars/workshops in RI. You may contact her at 401-273-8928 for further information or visit, [www.tropicalisland-dancers.com](http://www.tropicalisland-dancers.com).

For more information about the upcoming Arizona Aloha Festival, see their website at [azalohafest.org](http://azalohafest.org).