

JOHN KEOLA LAKE

1937 - 2008

John Keolamaka'ainanakalahuiokalaniokamehamehaekolu Lake, born October 11, 1937, passed away Wednesday morning after a five-year battle with cancer.

A beloved kumu hula, teacher, kahu, husband, father, and grandfather, Kumu Lake was a leader of the modern Hawaiian renaissance, educating people from all walks of life in Hawaiian language, chant, and religious practice.

In 1965, Kumu Lake established the first Hawaiian language class in the State of Hawaii. In 1969, he was a founding member of Ahahui Olelo Hawaii, the State Association for Hawaiian Language.

Kumu Lake was well-known as a teacher at St. Louis High School, where he taught from 1962 to 1993. While teaching, he established the Hui o Na Opio, a Hawaiian studies program for St. Louis students. Since his retirement from St. Louis, Kumu Lake has served as Kumu-In-Residence at Chaminade University. Last year, the university awarded Kumu an honorary doctorate.

Kumu Lake has been widely recognized locally and internationally for his leadership and service. The Honpa Honwanji in Nu'uaniu honored him as a "Living Treasure of Hawaii" in 1987. Mayor Jeremy Harris proclaimed October 24th, 1994 - 'John K. Lake Day'. The Native Hawaiian Education Association honored him last year as "Educator of the Year" for his lifelong dedication to indigenous knowledge. Internationally, Kumu Lake has directed numerous cultural protocols: the 1997 Hokulea visit to Rapa Nui; serving as official chanter for the beatification of Father Damien; and acting as host for the Dalai Lama on his 1994 visit to Hawaii.

John Lake is the Kumu Hula of Na Wa'a Lalani Kahuna o Pu'ukohola, the official priests of Pu'ukohola Heiau, and Na Hanona o ka Halau Hula Pa Ola Kapu. In 1987, Kumu Lake was instrumental in organizing Ho'oku'ikahi, a ceremony held at Pu'ukohola to reunite the descendants of Kamehameha and Keouaku'ahu'ula. This ceremony became an annual event bringing Hawaiians together in the spirit of unity.

Kumu Lake is survived by his sisters Joan Kealohalani Lake-Farren and Miriam Keawepoepoe Lake; his wife Barbara Ellen Pualani Kahaka Lake; his son John Maximin Kekoaaliiokahekili Lake; his son Joshua Matthew Iwikauikauakukuiakaawakea Lake and his spouse Stephanie (Canda) Lake; his daughter Kumu Hula Naomi Katherine Kahakuhaupiokamakani Sissy Lake-Farm, her spouse Kyle Keoki Elama Farm, and their children Puameiti Maliakekiheiokaheihei Malie Farm and Kekaulaiwi Elama Kaelemakule Farm; hanai son Kumu Hula John Kaponoaikaulikeikeao Molitau and his wife Jennifer Perkins, and their children Naleikaehukaikaneikapoanuenue and Kamahiwalaniokaleomakua; and thousands of students throughout Hawaii and the world.

<http://www.johnkeolalake.org>