

# 'Aunty' Elaine K. Kaopuiki, Lanai kumu hula, dies at 70

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BY HAROLD MORSE

*Star-Bulletin*

Kumu Hula "Aunty" Elaine Kauwenaole Kaopuiki of Lanai City, who taught hula more than 40 years and staunchly maintained her rights as a native Hawaiian, died Saturday in Straub Hospital in Honolulu. She was 70.

Born at Koele, Lanai, where she belonged to Kalokahi Oka Malamalama Church, she was one of the fourth generation of the Kauwenaole family knowledgeable in Hawaiian lore and the history of Lanai.

In 1973, she was a member of a group that traveled to Washington, D.C., to support introduction of a reparations bill in Congress.

Her Halau "Na Hula O Lai Kealoha" was known statewide. A member of a number of Hawaiian organizations, she was a quilter, weaver and maker of kolohala leis from pheasant feathers.

Her artistic creations also included lauhala weaving, seed-lei making and ukulele making, which went with her love of music and singing.

Friends regarded her as a renaissance woman of Lanai who was responsible for the reintroduction of the hula, and who was an inspiration to generations of women to follow her example.

She is survived by husband Samuel; son Owen; daughter Mapuana Soriano; sister Arline Eaton; hanai son Sol Kahooalahala; four grandchildren, and numerous nephews and nieces.

Services will be at 7 p.m. tomorrow at Waiola Church in Lahaina, Maui. Call after 4 p.m. Services also take place at 7 p.m. Friday at the ILWU Hall in Lanai City, Lanai. Call after 11 a.m. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Kalokahi Oka Malamalama Church. Call after 8 a.m. Burial will follow in Lanai Veterans Cemetery. The family encourages the wearing of Kihei and aloha attire.