41st Annual Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ 2016













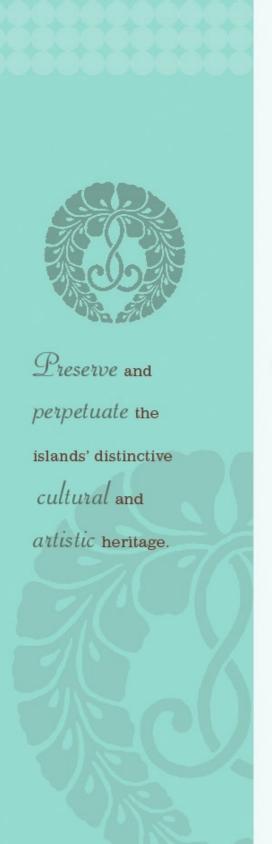












The

LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAI'I™

is a program instituted by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to recognize and honor individuals for their sustained contributions toward enriching our society.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Committee

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Executive Assistant to the Bishop

Luncheon Committee

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Arlene Matsubara

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Program

LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAI'I™ 2016 February 13, 2016 Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom · Honolulu, Hawai'i

Sponsored by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Opening Remarks
Dennis Sekine, Master of Ceremonies

Oli Keola Kalani Lehua Matsuoka

Welcoming Message Pieper Toyama, President

Words of Thanksgiving Reverend Yuika Hasebe

Lunch

Recognition of Retirement
Reverend Tatsuo Muneto

History of the Living Treasures Program
Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Congratulatory Messages

Video Presentation

Introduction and Designation of Living Treasures

Words of Appreciation
Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Closing Remarks
Dennis Sekine

41st Annual Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ 2016

Lillian Noda Yajima

Dr. Dennis Masaaki Ogawa

Paul Leland Breese

Muthukumaru Sooriyakumar (Sooriya Kumar)

Dr. Puakea M. Nogelmeier



Representing Hawai'i's rich cultural heritage, these honorees are devoted to preserving the spirit, traditions, and values of our island home for future generations.

The History

The Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ has been

a part of our cultural landscape since 1976. Drawing inspiration from the Living National Treasures (Ningen Kokuho) of Japan, insurance executive Paul Yamanaka knew there were many people in Hawai'i who deserved similar recognition for their contributions to the preservation and perpetuation of the islands' distinctive cultural and artistic heritage.



Reverend Yoshiaki Fujitani

Mr. Yamanaka brought his idea to Yoshiaki Fujitani, Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission. Wholeheartedly embracing the idea, Bishop Fujitani worked quickly to establish the program. A committee of experts in Hawaiiana and practicing artists actively involved in the Hawaiian community was formed. It was comprised of John Dominis Holt, publisher; Abraham Pi'ianāi'a, University of Hawai'i professor; Zenetta Ho'ulu Cambra, chanter; Rubellite Johnson, translator of *Kumulipo*; Homer Hayes, historian; and Cecilia Lindo, Hongwanji Mission School teacher. Mr. Yamanaka served as chairman and Bishop Fujitani was an ex officio member.

Charles W. Kenn, noted scholar, historian, author, and practicing kahuna was the first person to be named a Living Treasure of Hawai'i in an informal ceremony held at the Hongwanji Mission in 1976.

The following year, eight other individuals were honored. These Living Treasures included 'Iolani Luahine, dancer; Lokalia Montgomery, chanter; Johanna D. Cluney, feather artisan; Mary Kawena Pūku'i, author of the *Hawaiian Dictionary*; Dr. Samuel H. Elbert, anthropologist; Wright Bowman, woodcrafter; and Jean Charlot, artist.

Since the program's inception, over two hundred of Hawai'i's people, including educators, dancers, artists, clergy, business leaders, and community volunteers, among others, have been named Living Treasures of Hawai'i™.



Aloha!

Welcome to the Aloha Luncheon of the 104th Legislative Assembly of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission

of Hawaii and the 41st Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Program.

Today, on behalf of the entire Honpa Hongwanji Sangha/Membership, I offer my heart-felt congratulations and gratitude to: Mr. Paul Leland Breese, Mr. Sooriya Kumar, Dr. Dennis Masaaki Ogawa, Dr. Puakea M. Nogelmeier, and Mrs. Lillian Noda Yajima, the 2016 Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Honorees, for their dedicated efforts and contributions which has made Hawai'i and the World a better place for all of us. Their life truly reflects to a profound degree the truth and significance of Interdependence as emphasized by the Buddhist Teaching. The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, represented by the delegates and observers from our 34 temples and fellowships throughout the State including the Buddhist Study Center, Pacific Buddhist Academy and including our many affiliate organizations like the Buddhist Women's Associations and Jr. Young Buddhist Associations, with the help of many generous sponsors and donors is honored to be able to recognize these outstanding individuals and help perpetuate the high standards of excellence and achievements they have attained together with their commitment to the well-being of society and the 'aina through this Living Treasures Program.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is truly humbled by the response of the Hawaii community statewide for their acknowledgement of and support of the Living Treasures of Hawaii™ Program as one of the most valued and recognized programs in the State of Hawaii.

In our troubled times, fostering mutual understanding and respect, caring for others and sharing that which brings people together and brings beauty into life is critical for not only Hawai'i's future, but the whole world. I believe, we, the people of Hawai'i, have something valuable that we can share with the rest of the world so that all of our lives can become more harmonious and peaceful and rich and meaningful. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii hopes, that even in a small way, that this Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Program contributes towards the enhancement of humankind and the aspiration for world peace and harmony.

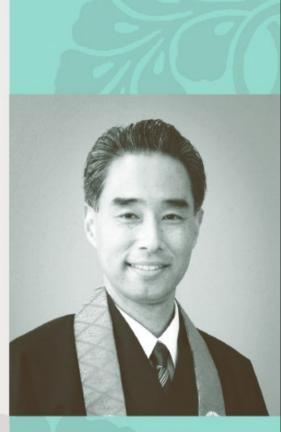
Once again, congratulations to the 2016 Honorees, thank you to the many who support the Program including many past Honorees and may we all be guided by All-Inclusive Wisdom and inspired by All-Embracing Compassion, Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light.

Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light.

In gassho (With hands together in reverence and respect),

E-2 moles

Reverend Eric T. Matsumoto, Bishop Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii



Bishop Eric T. Matsumoto





Lillian N. Yajima

Mentor, teacher, and promoter of Japanese culture

Birthplace: Honolulu, Hawai'i





Lillian Gajima, despite being 95-years old, demonstrates more energy, passion, and creativity than most people half her age. She has long served as an icon for community service and the promotion of Japanese culture in Hawai'i.

Achievements

- Founding Member, Former President, and current Historian of the Japanese Women's Society Foundation.
- Founding Member of the Wakaba Kai Sorority at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.
- Director of the Japanese Women's Society Hula Aloha Ladies.
- Member of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, Japan American Society of Hawai'i (JCCH), Japanese American Legion Auxiliary Honolulu Unit #1, Wakaba Kai Alumni Association, United Japanese Society of Hawai'i, Japanese American National Museum, Japanese American Citizen's League, Lanakila Japanese Cultural Club, Shufu Society of Hawai'i, Fukuoka Kenjin Kai, and Kumamoto Kenjin Kai.
- Imparts her knowledge of manju making, Japanese craft and other Japanese cultural traditions and values to students, teachers, and attendees at the annual JCCH Ohana Festival, to the contestants of the Cherry Blossom Festival, and to visitors of the Byodo-In Temple in Kahalu'u.
- Raises money for and provides care to the Kuakini Care Home residents.
- Organizer of the Adopt-a-Mom event that has officially been added to the Hawai'i State Calendar through her passionate lobbying efforts.
- Featured in numerous publications including Japanese Eyes, American Heart, Volume III, Japanese Women of Hawai'i, A Legacy of Strength and Leadership, and Living Legacy, Outstanding Japanese Women of the 20th Century.

- Performer of hula since the 1930s under the stage name Nawahine, given to her by Kumu Hula George Mossman. She also conducts hula classes for various age groups.
- Initiated the publication of two books, Hawaii's Aloha Recipes and Kokoro: Cherished Japanese Traditions in Hawaii to fund a University of Hawai'i Gerontology Scholarship
- Talented singer of Japanese songs and dancer of Japanese Bando Kikuyoshi.

Lillian Yajima's accolades

include the 2013 United Japanese Society of Hawai'i Award for contributions to the Japanese community and Hawai'i by the United Japanese Society... the 2007 Fifth Class Order of the Rising Sun for meritorious service by the Emperor of Japan ... the 1998 State of Hawai'i Community Service Award presented by Governor Cayetano ... and the Japanese Government Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Service to the Community presented at the Japanese Centennial Celebration with Prince and Princess Hitachi in attendance.









Or. Dennis Ogawa influences Hawai'i's youth by encouraging them to become better citizens through education and empathy. He creates positive outlooks for shared experiences through storytelling, documentaries, movies and sports in order to help all people to have a better understanding of multi-ethnic relationships and cultural appreciation.

Achievements

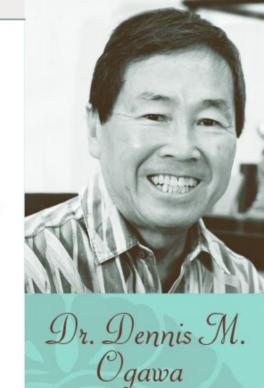
- Professor in charge of the Kakehashi TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars Program for the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Dr. Ogawa's efforts allowed twentythree students and two professors from UHM to travel to Japan while twenty-three students and two professors from Japan traveled to America with all expenses paid for by the Japanese government in order to honor Senator Daniel Inouye's legacy of promoting U.S.-Japan relationships.
- Educated over 25,000 University of Hawai'i at Manoa students on the subject of the Japanese American experience. Students learn to integrate and identify themselves with a local culture and to nurture a set of beliefs and values that are shared by all who call Hawai'i their home.
- Founder of the Nippon Golden Network and current Chairman of the Board.
- Founder of the Hawai'i Times (Nippu Jiji) Photo Archives Foundation, the sole existing pictorial archive of the Issei (first generation) Japanese-Americans.
- Author of numerous books including Jan Ken Po: The World of Hawai'i's Japanese Americans, Kodomo No Tame Ni For the Sake of the Children, First

- Among Nisei: The Life and Writings of Masaji Marumoto, and From Jap to Japanese: The Evolution of Japanese-American Stereotypes.
- Co-Author of Ellison S. Onizuka: A Remembrance. Dr. Ogawa was asked by NASA and the friends and family of Ellison Onizuka to write the book to honor his memory. It was dedicated to Onizuka's mother and proceeds provided funding for the Onizuka Museum at Kona Airport.
- Published numerous articles including Japanese Wartime Relocation and Internment: The Hawai'i Experience.

Dr. Dennis Ogawa's accolades

include the Commendation of the Consul General of Japan in Honolulu ... the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i's Achievement and Leadership Award (CLAD) in the field of Education ... the Award Hawaiian Historical Society's title of Distinguished Historian ... and recognition by the National Endowment for the Humanities for his pioneering work on the internment experience of Japanese in Hawai'i.





Cultural preservationist and educator of heritage studies.

Birthplace: Manzanar, California











Paul L. Breese

Champion of animals and staunch conservationist

Birthplace: Minneapolis, Minnesota





Paul Breese has a keen intellect, avid curiosity, and vast interest in preserving animals in their natural habitat. He supports and mentors those who have an interest in maintaining the delicate balance of nature through education and conservation so that future generations can enjoy them as well.

Achievements

- · Appointed as the first Zoo Director of the Honolulu Zoo. Developed the master plan for the construction and acquisition of zoo animals. While at the zoo he initiated a number of breeding programs to help propagate various birds and other animals. These included the koloa; Japanese sacred cranes; birds of paradise; cassowary; giraffes and Galapagos tortoises.
- Director Emeritus of the Honolulu Zoo where he continues to share his vast knowledge of animals, history, government agencies, public relations, and personal contacts.
- Former Chief of the Wildlife Branch. State of Hawai'i.
- Served as an integral advisor to form the Honolulu Zoo's sister zoo - Asa Zoo in Hiroshima, Japan.
- · Co-Author of Honolulu Zoo: Waikiki's Wildlife Treasure 1915-2015.
- · Former Chairperson of the Nene Advisory Committee, where he played a key role in saving the nene (Hawaiian goose) from extinction through the combined efforts of the Honolulu Zoo, private land owners, and the state of Hawai'i.

- · Former Vice-Chairperson of the Conservation Council of Hawai'i. The organization introduced a resolution to the Territorial Legislature to make the nene the official bird of the territory Hawai'i, and eventually the state bird of Hawai'i.
- Established the Brown Tree Snake Control Group, whose mission is to help prevent the highly adapt able and damaging species from becoming established in Hawai'i. The organization worked effectively in a non-confrontational manner by partnering with government officials and private agencies to develop programs and secure funding for brown tree snake control.
- Former Naval Officer in the South Pacific Theater.





Sooriya Kumar embodies the philosophies of forgiveness and healing as he connects with others through self-reflection. He takes life experiences and transforms them into mantras for compassionate change and unconditional love.

Achievements

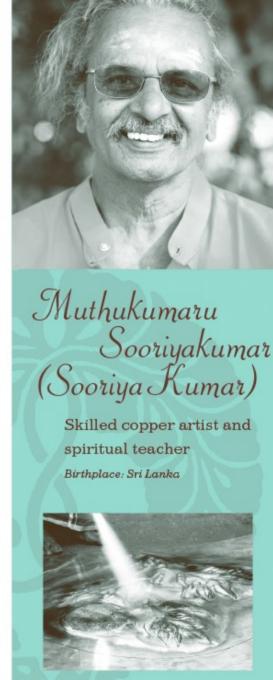
- · Proprietor of Mouna Farm Arts and Cultural Village, a four-and-a-half acre establishment of fertile land in Wai'anae Valley that grows organic fruits and vegetables to help feed the hungry. It also supports tree cultivation while giving children in the community a place to explore their inner artist and farming skills.
- Featured participant in Ola Health is Everything, the acclaimed documentary about health, hope and the power of communities to heal themselves. The film screened at the 2013 Hawai'i International Film Festival and is still currently being shown across the state and around the world.
- Master copper artist with notable recipients of his pieces that include King Tuheitia, Maori King of New Zealand; US Senator Daniel Akaka, the late Dr. Agnes Cope, etc.
- Created the Coat of Arms for His Majesty King Tuheitia, Maori King of the Waikato Tribe in New Zealand.
- Created the copper bowl to honor Senator Daniel Akaka at his retirement reception.
- Created the Healing Center sculture to honor Dr. Agnes Kalaniho'okaha Cope.
- Created the copper panel of dolphins and the Wai'anae Mountain Range to

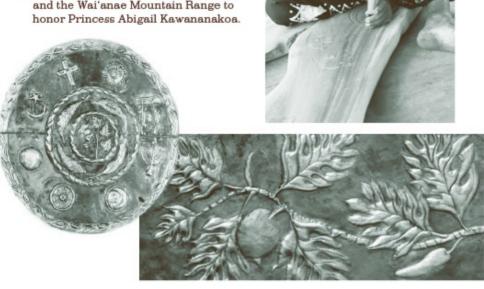
- · Created special artwork for Tony Guerrero, retired Vice Chairman of First Hawaiian Bank.
- · Created the surfboard to honor Buffalo Keaulana.
- Inducted into the Hawaiian Council of Elders.
- · Participating Dignitary in the Lantern Floating Hawai'i 2014 ceremony.
- · Completed an 8-year journey of walking from Sri Lanka, India, Himalaya, Germany, and ultimately ending up in Hawai'i.

Sooriya Kumar's accolades

Knighted in 2013 by the Knights of the Orthodox Order of Saint John Russian Grand Priory... Recipient of Hawai'i Forgiveness Project's 2012 Heroes of Forgiveness Award.









Dr. Puakea M. Nogelmeier

Professor of Hawaiian language, culture, and history

Birthplace: San Francisco, California





Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier embodies wisdom and compassion by sharing knowledge through mentorship and collaboration. He is open to new experiences and is inclusive of all who wish to learn. His deep passion and dedication to the research and translation of Hawaiian writings a century ago has been profoundly critical in the continued revitalization of the Hawaiian language movement.

Achievements

- Planner and Proposer of the UH
 Institute for Hawaiian Language
 Research and Translation, a proposal submitted to President Lassner and currently under consideration to implement a system-wide collaborative institute for Hawaiian language research, translation, and training.
- Co-founder of Awaiaulu, which is dedicated to developing resources, such as the Hawaiian newspapers, that bridge Hawaiian knowledge from the past to the present and on to the future.
- Translator and Mentor of the Ali'i
 Letters project for the Office of
 Hawaiian Affairs grant to research,
 translate, and annotate letters
 written by Hawaiian ali'i between 1820
 and 1840, when Hawai'i transitioned
 between absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy.
- Translator and Voicing Presenter of This We Know, an audio-only exhibit and presented artifacts by A. Greydon at the Honolulu Museum of Art.
- Keynote Speaker at the LLL Graduate Student Conference.
- Presenter at the World Indigenous People's Conference on Education at the Manoa Heritage Center.

- Presenter of One World, Many Voices at the Smithsonian Institute's American Folklife Festival.
- Planner of the 'Ike Manamana: A Cultural Literacy Initiative funded by the Pu'a Foundation.
- Language and Cultural Advisor for Language Matters, a PBS film by D. Grubin.
- Author of various books including
 The Poetry of Kamehameha I: Jewels
 in the Dust, I Ulu I Ke Kumu,
 Monograph I of Hawai'inuiakea
 School of Hawaiian Knowledge and
 Mai Pa'a I Ka Leo: Historical Voice in
 Hawaiian Primary Materials, Looking
 Forward and Listening Back.

Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier's accolades

include the 2014 Inductee into the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame ... the 2014 Kalaniana'ole Honoree of the Prince Kuhio Hawaiian Civic Club ... the 2013 Ka Pa'a Mo'olelo Distinguished Historian Award by the Hawaiian Historical Society ... the 2011 Palapala Po'okela Award for Excellence in Hawaiian Culture ... the 2008 Palapala Po'okela Awards for Excellence in Literature, Excellence in Hawaiian Culture, Excellence in Design, and the Samuel M. Kamakau Award for Book of the Year ... and the 2008 Mary Kawena Pukui Award for service to the Hawaiian Community by the Rotary Club of West Honolulu.





Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ 1976 ~ 2015

/	0		
1976	1981		
Charles Kenn	Solomon Kekipi Bright, Sr.		
	Oswald Bushnell		
1977	Leo Ohai		
Wright Elemakule Bowman, Sr.	Leon J. Edel		
Jean Charlot	William H. Meinecke		
Johanna Drew Cluney	Isamu Noguchi		
Samuel Hoyt Elbert	Juliet Rice Wichman		
Kenneth Pike Emory	1080		
'Iolani Luahine	1982		
Rosalie Lokalia Lovell Montgomery	Juliette May Fraser		
Mary Kawena Pu'ku'i	Annie Lehua Asam Kanahele		
0	Richard Lyman, Jr.		
1978	Silver Kiniohi Piliwali		
Theodore Kelsey	James Kaʻupena Wong, Jr.		
Theodore Helbey	0		
1979	1983		
	Homer Ahu'ula Hayes		
Abraham Kahikina Akaka	Rubellite Kawena Kinney Johnson		
Emma Kalani-kau'i-ka'ala neo-	Zaneta Hoʻoululahui Cambra Richards		
kilioulaninui-ama mao-hoʻopiʻi-	Morrnah Nalamaku Simeona		
wahine-keakaleihilinaka deFries John Dominis Holt. IV	Emily Kau'i Zuttermeister		
Edward Leilani Kamae	0		
Edith Kekuhikuhi-i-pu'uone'o-na ⁻ 'ali'i-o-	1984		
kohala Kenao Kanaka ole	Satoru Abe		
Clorinda Low Lucas	Bumpei Akaji		
Aldyth Vernon Morris	Irmgard Farden Aluli		
Alice Ku'ulei-aloha-poina'ole	Francis Haar		
Namakelua	Herb Kawainui Ka ne		
Philip Kunia "Gabby" Pahinui	Tadashi Sato		
_	Emma Kapi'olani Farden Sharpe		
1980	0		
	1985		
Gabriel I			
Maxine Hong Kingston	Gladys Kamakakuokalani 'Ainoa Brandt		
Donald Kilolani Mitchell Pilahi Paki	May Moir Sarah M. Wood Nalua'i		
100 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00			
Alfred Preis	Katashi Nose		
	Soichi Sakamoto		
	Allan Frederic Saunders		
	1986		
	Claude F. Du Teil		
	Kahu Edward L. Kealanahele		
	Milton M. Howell		

Margaret Machado



Living Treasures of Hawai'i 1976 ~ 2015

1987...... 1992 Agnes C. Conrad Agnes Kalaniho'okaha Cope Edmund M. K. Enomoto Joe Harper Claude Horan David Kuraoka John Keolamaka-'aina nakalahuiokalani Lake Kahauanu Lake Toshiko Takaezu Kenneth F. Brown David Kauweloa Kaupu Murray Turnbull Yehan Numata Reuben Tam

Reiko Mochinaga Brandon Healani Onohiaulani Chilton Doane Tseng Yuho (Betty Tseng Ecke)

1990.....

Richard Kekuni Blaisdell Edmond Lee Browning Frances Damon Holt Kyo Kawabata

Daniel G. Chun Dwight Pauahi Kauahikaua Moses Kapalekilahao Keale, Sr. Puanani Kanemura Van Dorpe

Helen Hoakalei Kamau'u David Kaohelaulii Marie Emilia Leilehua McDonald Harry Seisho Nakasone Matsuno Yasui David Nu'uhiwa Enoka Kaohelauli'i

1993.....

Elaine Arita Yoshiko Matsuda Stewart Valentine Medeiros, Sr. Edith Hanae Tanaka Shige Yamada

1994.....

Todd Toshiaki Akita Daniel J. Dever Reverend Yoshiaki Fujitani Roy T. Fukumura Deborah Kepola Kekalia Yukio Ozaki Marion Grace Saunders

1995.....

Donald Tai Loy Ho Sally Fletcher Murchison Leone Kamana Okamura

Wallace F. Froiseth Hiroki Morinoue Shinichi Suzuki

1997.....

Robert Aitken Henry A. Auwae Martha Kaumakaokalani Aoe Poepoe Ralph Chikato Honda Iwao Mizuta

2003..... Hubert Victor Everly Beatrice "Beebe" Freitas George Sanford Kanahele Mary Lou Kekuewa Beatrice Kapua'okalani Hilmer Krauss Dr. Albert H. Miyasato Jerry Okimoto Dr. Margaret Y. Oda Vladimir Ossipoff Ted T. Tsukiyama Ruth Tabrah Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi 1999..... 2004..... Earl E. Bakken Reverend Mitsuo Aoki Samuel S. A. Cooke Patience Na maka Bacon Shimeji Ryusaki Kanazawa Genoa Keawe Dr. Fujio Matsuda Yutaka Kimura Abraham St. Chad Pi'iana i'a Edith Kawelohea McKinzie Adam A. "Bud" Smyser 2000..... 2005..... Glenna Fusae Kimura Ewing Momi Cazimero Gabriel "Gabe" Baltazar, Jr. James K. Fujikawa Sione Tui'one Pulotu Ah Quon McElrath Rose Nakamura Dr. Thomas Klobe Charles Nainoa Thompson Dr. Isabella Aiona Abbott Dr. Benjamin B.C. Young 2001 2006 Ronald E. Bright Sean Kekamakupa'a Lee Loy Browne Richard K. Paglinawan Rocky Ka'iouliokahihikolo 'Ehu Jensen James T. Kunichika **Bob Krauss** Carol Kouchi Yotsuda Jesse "Takamiyama" Kuhaulua Edward T. Ka'anana "Uncle Eddie" Azumazeki Oyakata Walter H.K. Paulo "Uncle Walter" Clarence K. M. Lee Dr. Terry T. Shintani 2002 2007..... Norman Sakata Dr. Alfred Bloom Dr. Barbara B. Smith Takeshi Fujita Dr. Terence Rogers Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone Mary M. Craver *Aunty Malia" Takashi Nonaka George Lanakilakeikiahiali'i Dr. Yosihiko Sinoto Na'ope "Uncle George" Myron Bennett (Pinky) Thompson Dorothy Thompson "Aunty Dottie" Wally K. Yonamine



Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ 1976 ~ 2015

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Edwin Mahiai "Mahi" Copp Beamer Dr. Charles Burrows Reverend Samuel Cox Benjamin Kodama Elsie Tanaka

2009.....

Amy Agbayani Puanani Burgess Sister Joan Chatfield Bert Nishimura Nalani Olds

2010.....

Elizabeth Kawohiokalani Ellis Jenkins Patti Lyons Reverend Toshihide Numata S. Stanley Okamoto Paul Weissich

2011

Josephine Kaukali Fergerstrom Dr. Claire Hughes Masaru Oshiro Dr. Jack Scaff Dr. Livingston Wong

2012.....

Goro Arakawa Dr. Ben Finney Barbara Fusako Kawakami Lynette Kahekili Paglinawan Gordon Mark

2013.....

Dennis Kauahi Nola Nahulu Michael Nakasone Oswald Stender Gary Washburn

2014

Reverend Ida Keliʻiokalani Chun Dr. Samuel ʻOhukaniʻoʻhiʻa Gon III Robert Hamada Art & Rene Kimura Reverend Chikai Yosemori

2015.....

Puanani Alama S. Haunani Apoliona Dr. Bernice Yamagata Hirai Paulette Nohealani Kahalepuna Laura Ruby Barry K. Taniguchi

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