Aloha mai kākou! 'Ia ora na mai tātou! 'O Kalei'okalani Matsui ko'u inoa, a i 'ole 'o Kalei. He wahine Hawai'i a Pā'ele a Pākē a Kepanī wau no Wai'anae o ka mokupuni O'ahu. Noho au i Seattle me ka'u kāne 'O Kitman. Hāpai māua i kā māua Pēpē mua! He ra'atira 'ori no ka'u pupu 'ori 'o @huraitimana a me ka ulana lei Hawai'i wau. E a'o aku wau iā 'oe e hana lei i kēia pule! Mahalo nui no kēia manawa kūpono e @fiveoaksmuseum!

Aloha & 'ia ora na everyone! My name is Kalei'okalani Matsui, or Kalei, and I am a Native Hawaiian, Black, Chinese, and Japanese woman from Wai'anae on the island of O'ahu. I live now in Seattle with my husband Kitman, and we're carrying our first baby! (Due Juneteenth!). I am the ra'atira or leader of my Tahitian dance troupe Huraiti Mana, and I am a Hawaiian lei weaver. This week, I will be teaching you how to weave lei! Mahalo to Five Oaks Museum for this amazing opportunity!

Tuesday! Join me as I take you through a live look at my lei Hawai'i featured in the DIS/place exhibit with Five Oaks Museum in a tour of my studio space.

Wednesday! I'll share how-to videos with some Spring lau & pua (leaves and flowers) that you can find blooming in a Pacific Northwest neighborhood near you.

Thursday learn more about the histories of lei Hawai'i and what makes them not a token of an island but rather a piece of yourself, your love, your mana, your lineage, your ancestry given of yourself from one to another, from your ancestors, to this generation to the next.

Friday sit down with me for a live lei-making! With either fresh materials or items you can find around the house!

Saturday join me in a ceremony of oli to adorn yourself in lei Hawai'i and to mahalo our tūpuna and our ʻāina, as my ancestors have done before me.

Hope to see you there! E mālama pono!

#huraitimana #fiveoaksmuseum #leihawaii #hakulei #leiweaver #hawaiianlei #displaceexhibition
April 6, 2021
Lei Tour with Kalei’okalani

a casual conversation with Kalei’okalani of @huraitimana and her passion and love for lei of Hawai’i. See a glimpse of her studio space and gain brief insight to the thought processes, the mo'olelo, the meaning, and the journey of lei-making.

#leiweaving #leiwili #hakulei #leihaku #leihawaii #huraitimana #fiveoaksmuseum #artisttakeover #hawaiianlei
April 7, 2021

Lei kui poepoe Rhododendron! A "Tiare Tahiti" of the Pacific Northwest, and, in purples, pinks, yellows, and more, bright signs of Spring. Find "rhodies" in your yard or along your walk in the neighborhood (ask your neighbors!), or choose any type of favorite pua (flower) and learn to make lei for your loved ones here:

'Api (gather your lei items): mānai (needle), ma'awe (thread), & pua rhododendron (about 8 plumes) preferably in the kakahiaka (morning) and with mahalo a hō'ihi (gratefulness and respect) to Hī'akapua'a'ena'ena (Patroness of lei making). Since rhodies have kū 'au (stems), place in wai (water) until mākaukau (ready) to make lei.

Lei kui poepoe - sideways, pierce the thicker base of your pua so the faces of your pua are directly away from the ma'awe, changing directions of each next pua to make a beautiful spiralling rope.

Mea hana lei! Enjoy making lei and share your work with us! And stick around! Kalei'okalani of @huraitimana here, and I'll be sharing more lei-making how-to with other Spring blooms throughout the week. Friday, I'll be doing a live demonstration!

"Tiare Tahiti" by Clint Mariteragi

#leikuipololei #leikui #hawaiianlei #freshleimaking #leiworkshop #huraitimana #rhododendron #leibykalei #quarantinecrafts #quarantineactivities #quarantineforkids #kidsactivity #fiveoaksmuseum
April 8, 2021
He ku'u mau kūpunahine 'O Blossom Lei'ala Molani a 'o Sumie Harumi Hamada. He ku'u mau kūpunakāne 'O Papa Bennie Brown a 'o Ralph Hisomu Onzuka. He ku'u mau mākua 'o Jessie Lei'ala Molani a 'o Randal Hisomu Onzuka.

Aloha kākou, Kalei'okalani here again sharing a little about myself and my 'ohana. At the core of Polynesian life is the acknowledgment and respect of your kūpuna, your ancestors, those who have come before, those in the now unseen but ever-present, our elders, and our path-makers. When I think of the times lei have been a part of my life, it has always been significant and deeply meaningful memories, connections of love and celebration with my 'ohana, a time of exchange.

Pictured here, moments of lei with my 'ohana and other photos of making memories.

When making lei, you must know where you've been to understand where you're going. The lei is not to droop over the side of a table or down to the floor, but rather the lei should grow lengthwise before you, laid out along the mat upon which you weave, the tracks made of its pattern of lau and pua growing more and more, building upon the foundation of its beginning.

#huraitimana #leiweaver #fiveoaksmuseum

Photos continued on next page...
Hīmene & Hei tomo mai! come make lei with me @huraitimana today! lunchtime PDT noon. supplies needed in the comment section.

Hyacinth is a Pacific Northwest favorite, the first and most fragrant to bloom in spring.

Lei are not simply decorative pieces; they share a spiritual connection with and are representative of the land they come from, the people who create them, and the people for whom they are made. Lei is a cultural, spiritual, and personal exchange of aloha (deep love), mana (spiritual power), mahalo (gratitude), and mana'o (knowledge).

"I Raro I Te Tumunu" by Kura Happ & Tekura Ruaporo

#leipololei #leiworkshop #huraitimana #fiveoaksmuseum #displaceexhibition

You'll have two options! One, you'll need fresh flowers, needle, and thread. Option 2: any two strips of material (like old bed sheets in strips as wide as 4-5" depending how thick they are - preferred thinner is better!). Make lei with @huraitimana!
April 9, 2021 (Continued)

lei workshop 1 with Kalei'okalani!

lei kui pololei hyacinth workshop with Kalei'okalani of @huraitimana! join Kalei as she demonstrates how to create lei made from hyacinth flowers or any flower of your choice with a needle and thread. e hana lei kākou! let's make lei! if you create lei, please share your story and tag us!

#leikuipololei #leik #hawaiianlei #displaceexhibition #huraitimana #fiveoaksmuseum

April 9, 2021 (Continued)

lei workshop 2 with Kalei'okalani!

lei lā'i workshop with fresh materials and materials you can find around the home! join Kalei'okalani of @huraitimana for a demonstration on how to weave with the hilo style as she shares mo'olelo about her practice and her journey.

#huraitimana #fiveoaksmuseum #displaceexhibition #leilai #leiworkshop #leimaking
April 10, 2021

Mahalo piha au no kēia manawa kūpono me ka hale 'ike 'o Five Oaks i kēia pule!

I am so grateful for the opportunity with Five Oaks Museum this week, to all of you who were able to join me in sharing mo'olelo of lei-making. I leave you with gratitude in oli. Thank you for believing in me, trusting me, inspiring me, teaching me, allowing me to be. Mahalo.

Oli Mahalo
‘Uhola ʻia ka makaloa lā
The makaloa mat has been unfolded
Pūʻai i ke aloha lā
Food is shared in love
Kūkaʻi ʻia ka hā loa lā
The great breath is exchange
Pāwehi mai nā lehua
The Lehua honors and adores
Mai ka hoʻokuʻu ʻia ka hālāwai lā
From zenith to horizon
Mahalo e nā akua
Gratitude to the gods
Mahalo e nā kupuna lā ʻeā
Gratitude to our ancestors
Mahalo me ke aloha lā
Gratitude with love
Mahalo me ke aloha lā
Gratitude with love

Giving thanks to the cultural and life giving exchange. Giving thanks to both what is seen and unseen, the past and the present.

#huraitimana #fiveoaksmuseum #displaceexhibition
#lei