

2015 HAFCE State Convention
E Ho'ola Me Ke Aloha means "Giving Life with Love"

October 17, 2015 – Vintage Hawaiian and Designer Mu'umu'u Fashion Show
(Coordinated by Hanalike Kakou)

Chairpersons: (in alphabetical order)

1. Barbara Fujimoto
2. Carolyn Oki

Models: (in alphabetical order)

1. Joan Chong
2. Barbara Fujimoto
3. Diane Hultman
4. Laureta Kaawaloa
5. Rashanti Kaawaloa
6. Karen Kawate (not pictured)
7. Barbara Lively
8. Lynn Nagata
9. Lynn Namihira
10. Carolyn Oki
11. Linda Pohina
12. Carolyn Sewake
13. Oarlene Wingate
14. Martha Yamada
15. Cindy Yoshimoto

Helpers: (in alphabetical order)

1. Shimomi Araujo
2. Elaine Fukui
3. George Ito
4. Shirley Ito
5. Lori Kashiwa
6. Claire Kawahara
7. Lana Paiva
8. Lee Watanabe
9. Oarlene Wingate

The Hilo Homemakers Council, as we were known by back then first presented a luncheon fashion show of vintage mu'umu'us at the Naniloa Surf Hotel Crown Room on Sunday, May 5, 1985 in honor of National Education Homemakers Week. Members involved in 1985 were:

- Wardrobe
 - Shimomi Araujo
 - Jackie Rapoza
- Tickets
 - Sue Nakamura
 - Melba Drennan
- Decorations
 - Flossie Ferguson
 - Lynn Namihira
- Models
 - Amy Bugado
 - Flossie Ferguson
 - Lynn Namihira
 - Oarlene Wingate

Barbara and Carolyn shared with us “Hawaiian Fashions – Then and Now”.

Historically from the arrival of the missionaries to influences of clothing from numerous immigrant groups to local designers using classic designs with updated fabrics or new designs with vintage fabric, women’s clothing in Hawaii has been through many changes but as you have seen, there are some fabrics that are “classics” and will always be “in style”.

Kamehameha Garment Company (later known as Kam Garments) in the 1930’s was the first company to mass produce Hawaiian apparel. As the company grew, they relocated to Hilo, Hawaii where there was a ready pool of skilled seamstresses. Shimomi Araujo of Settlement worked there as a seamstress for 16 years beginning in 1958. It was there that she met our beloved friend, Mollie Chun of Kulaimano, whom we all remember was a wonderful, creative seamstress as well. They became lifelong friends, getting together regularly to sew patchwork quilts.

In 1961, the designed brand Princess Kaiulani was introduced to Hawaii by Joan Anderson. This style was more elegant with lace, ribbons and ruffles. Princess Kaiulani brand remained popular for decades with new fabrics and new styles but it was always appealing and sought after.

The 1980’s proved to be another year of creative fashions. Carolyn Oki of Hanalike Kakou (FCE Culture and Arts, Clothing Textile Chair offered a series of workshops with guest crafters from Honolulu. Pauline Kunimune of Kuni’s Dry Goods came to Hilo to teach FCE members to make a T-Dress and also taught members Japanese sashiko sewing techniques.

Just as Kam Garments recognized the value of skilled seamstresses, we at the FCE recognize the value of all of our skilled seamstresses. However, we at FCE also recognize the value of continuing education, leadership and community service. Our skilled seamstresses like Shimomi Araujo and the late Mollie Chun, shared their skills with others, working together with their quilting group to make patchwork blankets to give to those in need in the community. Skilled seamstresses also taught each other how to make simple dresses for the Dress-A-Girl Project. These are numerous examples how FCE members have shared and used their many special skills to teach each other, help each other and help our community as we show others that we care.

Carolyn and Barbara spent many hours organizing and writing up their script and descriptions of all of the mu'umu'us. They also worked hard coordinating all of their models and helpers. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making this year's Fashion Show a success. We hope you all enjoyed our journey through time with these classic Hawaiian fashions.

Goodie Bags were presented to all the models and helpers compliments of Carolyn and Barbara.

Our Models (in alpha order)

Joan Chong



Barbara Fujimoto - Coordinator



Diane Hultman



Laureta Kaawaloa



Rashanti Kaawaloa



Barbara Lively



Lynn Nagata



Lynn Namihira



Carolyn Oki - Coordinator



Linda Pohina



Carolyn Sewake



Oarlene Wingate



Martha Yamada



Cindy Yoshimoto



Mc's, Helpers and Models, etc.

