



Tahiti Fete Hawaïï

VERSION 1.5 - REVISED 6/30/2026

RULES AND COMPETITION OVERVIEW

Neal Blaisdell Arena, Honolulu Hawaii
July 3rd -5th, 2026

www.tahitifete.com

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Ta ora na and Manava!

It is with great joy and honor that we welcome you to the first-ever Tahiti Fête Hawai'i, to be held at the beautiful Neal S. Blaisdell Arena in Honolulu.

This celebration marks a new chapter in the long-standing legacy of the Tahiti Fête, bringing together the heartbeat of Ori Tahiti, the rhythm of the to'ere, and the warmth of Polynesian unity in the center of the Pacific.

We warmly invite all Pupu 'Ori, musicians, and drummers from around the world to join us for this special gathering of culture, artistry, and spirit.

With Waikīkī just minutes away and the ocean breeze carrying the sound of the drums, this Fête is more than a competition — it is a homecoming for the heart of Tahiti in Hawai'i.



Important TFHI Deadlines	Date
Intent to Enter (Groups)	October 29, 2025
Group Entry Application	April 30th, 2026
Stage/Sound Set-up	April 15th, 2026
Performane Sequence	April 15th, 2026
Photos & Bio for Programs	April 30th, 2026
Ote'a Vahine & Tāne – Masters	June 26th, 2026
Solo Dance Entry Applications	June 15th, 2026
Fact Sheets	June 26th, 2026

2026 Theme: “Legends”

— Tumu Parau o te Tupuna

This year’s theme, “**Legends,**” or Tumu Parau o te Tupuna, honors the stories that shaped who we are. The myths, memories, and heroes passed down through generations.

Each dance, chant, and rhythm becomes a bridge between past and present — a way to *fa’a’ite i te mana o te tupuna* (express the spirit of the ancestors).

We encourage every group and soloist to draw inspiration from a figure, story, or moment that carries meaning. Your legend should be Polynesian, and the mana it holds for you.

Performances may be dedicated to those who have inspired your journey, but please do not reference any judges serving on the 2026 panel.

Let your choreography tell the story of resilience, love, humor or courage — and may every movement remind us that legends live through us.

Pua Tokumoto

Contact

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Pua Tokumoto — Producer, Tahiti Fête Hawai’i
Heidi Tokumoto Dehnel - Assistant Producer



Coco Hotahota &

Madeleine “Mamie” Mōua

Competition Overview

DATES: FRIDAY–SUNDAY, JULY 3–5, 2026

VENUE: NEAL S. BLAISDELL ARENA · 777 WARD AVENUE · HONOLULU, HAWAII

EVENT HOURS: 10:00 A.M. – 6:30 P.M. DAILY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

PARKING: \$8 PER VEHICLE

Further details on hotels, sound checks, rehearsals, tickets, deadline calendar and judges will be provided as we approach the event.

Eligibility & Entry

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Ori Tahiti Solo Competition

Open to independent dancers and members of Pupu 'Ori.

Solo numbers are organized by age and gender (see divisions below).

Entry fee:

- \$80 before March 1st 2026
- \$100 if between March 2nd & June 5th
- \$115 if between June 6th - June 15th, 2026

Ori Tahiti Solo Divisions & Age Categories

DIVISION	AGE RANGE
Ote'a Tamahine (Girls) & Tamaroa (Boys)	6–10 years
Ote'a Vahine & Tāne – Intermediate	11–15 years
Ote'a Vahine & Tāne – Lower Junior	16–20 years
Ote'a Vahine & Tāne – Upper Junior	21–26 years
Ote'a Vahine & Tāne – Senior	27–35 years
Ote'a Vahine & Tāne – Masters	36–45+ years
Ote'a Vahine Pa'ari	45+ years

Competition Overview



Group Categories & Divisions

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Open to all Pupu 'Ori — dance companies, schools or cultural organizations. Groups must include a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 100 dancers.

Drummers and musicians are limited to 20 performers per group.

Directors alone decide on whether their group best fits the Hura Ava Tau and Hura Tau category. Some Hura Tau (professional) groups may not have danced for many years and later decides to re-group. They may want to enter the Hura Ava Tau (Novice) category.

In general, group divisions are identified as follows Drummers and musicians are limited to 20 performers per group.

- **Hura Ava Tau:** any small, new, or novice group with a minimum of five (5) dancers and a maximum of 100; has never placed First in any Fête competition as a professional group.
- **Hura Tau:** any established professional or long-time Tahitian dance groups with a minimum of five (5) dancers and a maximum of 100.

CATEGORY	DIVISION
'Ote'a	Hura Ava Tau (Novice) · Hura Tau (Professional) · Tamari'i (up to age 14)
Aparima	Hura Ava Tau · Hura Tau · Tamari'i (up to age 14)
Ahuroa	Hura Ava Tau · Hura Tau · Vahine Pa'ari (45+) - Ahuroa Tamari'i (up to age 14)
Drumming	Hura Ava Tau · Hura Tau
Music	Hura Ava Tau · Hura Tau

Competition Overview

Guidelines for All Participants

'Ote'a & Aparima

1. Groups must have at least 5 dancers (maximum 100).
2. Hura Ava Tau and Tamari'i groups may use recorded 'Aparima music, though recorded tracks do not count toward the Overall Winning Group prize.
3. Groups must have a clear opening and exit routine. An 'Orero or narrator may also start off the performance.
4. Schools with both beginner and professional dancers may enter both Hura Tau and Hura Ava Tau, but may not use the same dancers in both.
5. Although children may be part of the presentation, they will only be judged in the Tamari'i division.
6. Costumes should be appropriate to your theme.

Tamari'i (Children's Division)

1. Open to dancers 14 years and under.
2. 'Ote'a and 'Aparima may be performed together or separately.
3. Maximum combined time: 30 minutes or 15 minutes each, if performed separately.
4. Tamari'i (children) Ahuroa is a new category for girls. Maximum age is 14.
5. A child 'Orero or narrator may be included.

Ahuroa (Long dress)

1. Minimum 5 dancers, maximum 100.
2. Tamari'i (children) Ahuroa is a new category. Maximum age is 14.
3. Dancers must wear mu'umu'u-style or a one piece garment. A pareo wrapped around the hips may also be used.
4. 'Ahuroa Tamari'i, music should be appropriate for their age.
5. Recorded music is acceptable for the Hura Ava Tau category.

Note: The Ahuroa does not count toward the Overall Winning Group.

Drumming & Music

1. Limit of 20 musicians per presentation. If dancers are also singing, they will not be part of the count.
2. Judging occurs during your group's 'Ote'a, 'Aparima, or Ahuroa performance — specify in your running order **OR, separate from your main performance.**
3. Musicians may only be scored once, under the division they indicate. So if the musician performs with a Hura Tau group and also a Hura Ava Tau group, only one score will be counted. They must indicate this choice on their application.

Competition Overview

Performance Time Limits

- Solo 'Ori Tahiti: 1.5 – 2 minutes (by house drummers)
- Group 'Ote'a: Up to 25 minutes (may include drumming)
- Group 'Aparima: Up to 25 minutes (may include live music)
- Tamari'i 'Ote'a, 'Aparima & Ahuroa: Up to 15 minutes each
- Group Ahuroa: Up to 15 minutes maximum (may include live music)
- Group Drumming: Up to 15 minutes (*can be performed separate* from 'Ote'a)

Timing **is not** counted during the opening with the Ra'atira, only when the **first instrument is played or when the drumming begins.**

There are NO TIME MINIMUMS for any category.

Any original Ahuroa music or lyrics should be highlighted on your fact sheet so the composer receives appropriate credit. **Ahuroa score will not be added to the Overall Group score.**

Music category may also be judged during the Tamari'i and/or adult performance.

Drumming can be judged as follows:

1. With either 'Ote'a, 'Aparima and Ahuroa (in either adult and tamari'i performance).
2. Totally separate from overall performance (i.e. in its own separate time slot).
3. Separate from 'Ote'a, 'Aparima and Ahuroa, but in same overall performance time (ex. drummers play a specific piece they wish to be judged, while dancers change their costumes for another part of the performance).
4. Overall throughout the whole performance.

If you have questions about performance time limits, **please reach out to Heidi at (808) 987-4544.**

Penalty: Performances exceeding time limits lose 10 points per minute over.

Costuming

Costumes should complement and enhance the spirit of the dance. Can use natural materials such as shells, seeds, tapa, fresh flowers, and ferns. Hura Ava Tau groups are allowed to use artificial flowers. Costuming should express your theme appropriately and listed on your fact sheet.

Props and Implements ('i'i, fans, ti leaves, coconuts, sticks, etc.) may be used for group entries.

Competition Overview

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Arena & Technical Details

1. Performance area: 60 ft wide × 90 ft deep
2. Music/Drumming stage: 48 ft × 32 ft
3. The Blaisdell Arena will provide basic sound and lighting. If you need special lighting effects, you must specify this to me so I can notify the Arena.
4. Special effects needs (fog machines, props, etc.) must be supplied by the group.
5. Set-up time for your performance is 15 minutes.

Fact Sheets

Fact sheets should include all the information about your performance for the judges. Be as creative as you like however the most important area should be what your performance is about.

Fact sheets should be submitted digitally as a PDF by June 1, 2026 to tahitifete2026@gmail.com. You may also elect to print out seven (8) your own fact sheets and we will present it to the judges day of the competition.

Program Materials

We will be needing this information early in April. Time is needed to print program brochures. You may also send it along with your fact sheets and/or separately. Please include:

1. Group photo (300 dpi or higher)
2. Group logo (if you have one)
3. Ra'atira/Director/leader photo. If using a 'Orero narrator, please include a photo and name as well.
4. Pupu Ori Biography (max 200 words)
5. Brief summary of your performance (1 page, double spaced) – 200 words or less.
6. Social media handles
7. Please indicate if your song is Original or Traditional so the composer can be credited.

Parade of Groups

All Pupu 'Ori and soloists will participate in the Tahiti Fête Parade of Groups on Sunday, July 5, before the Awards Ceremony.

Please arrive in costume. This is a time to celebrate unity, artistry and Pupu Ori pride.

Competition Overview



Awards & Prizes

SOLOISTS

PLACEMENT	AWARD
1ST PLACE	Trophy or Medal + \$300
2ND PLACE	Trophy or Medal + \$250
3RD PLACE	Trophy or Medal + \$150
OVERALL TANE & VAHINE	\$300 each + special gift

GROUPS

Hura Ava Tau (Novice)

CATEGORY	1ST	2ND	3RD
'OTE'A	\$500	\$400	\$300
APARIMA	\$400	\$300	\$200
AHUROA	\$300	\$200	\$150
DRUMMING	Toere or Fa'atete		
MUSIC	Tahitian Ukulele		

Hura Tau (Professional)

CATEGORY	1ST	2ND	3RD
'OTE'A	\$600	\$500	\$400
APARIMA	\$500	\$400	\$300
AHUROA	\$400	\$300	\$200
DRUMMING	Toere or Fa'atete		
MUSIC	Tahitian Ukulele		

Tamari'i

CATEGORY	1ST	2ND	3RD
'OTE'A	\$400	\$300	\$200
APARIMA	\$400	\$300	\$200
AHUROA	\$300	\$200	\$150

Ahuroa -Ages 45+

CATEGORY	1ST	2ND	3RD
Vahine Pa'ari	\$300	\$200	\$150

OVERALL HURA AVA TAU
\$3,000 CASH & SPECIAL GIFTS

OVERALL HURA AVA TAU
\$2,000 CASH & SPECIAL GIFTS

Competition Overview

Scoring & Judging

SOLOISTS

100 points is the maximum score possible in the solo division.

- **Technical:** variety & difficulty of steps, confidence, endurance, knowledge of traditional movement (fa'arapu).
- **Artistic:** grace, expression, creativity, ability to follow drummers, connection to music.
- All performances are impromptu — no choreography.
- Our house drummers will provide all drumming for finals. Eliminations & Finals will be at the Blaisdell on Friday July 3rd, 2026.
- Hipbands or hip heis will be permitted for Finals. It should not be more than 4" wide.
- All soloists will be given free admission to the Tahiti Fete on Friday, July 3rd. They must wear their Solo Number to gain in and out entry after the Solo Competition. Soloists will check in through the dancer's entrance.
- For Eliminations dancers must perform in pareo. Length of the pareo should not be below the knees, however, know that judges also dislike very short pareos. Headpieces are optional. will be permitted. Three to four dancers will perform at a time, totally impromptu. No i'is or hand-held objects.
- Winners of the finals are those who receive the three top highest scores in each division.
- Overall Tane and Vahine Winners will each receive \$500 and a special surprise!
- No solo limits from any group. Independent dancers may also enter the competition.

Competition Overview



Scoring & Judging

GROUPS

1000 points is the maximum in each of the group divisions and is judged on the following areas:

1. **Costume** – Judges will check the quality of the costumes and their appropriateness and integration with the dance. Natural materials such as feathers, shells, fresh flowers, ferns and other greens are frequently used. Two dancers from each group may be selected to show their costumes to the judges for examination.
2. **Theme & Interpretation** – Judges will listen for the quality of the music and the appropriate drum beats for each dance as well as its integration with the theme of the dance. Proper pronunciation and understanding of Tahitian lyrics used is very important in interpreting the theme.
3. **Choreography** – Dance composition/organization and arrangement using Tahitian dance movements. Appropriate translation and interpretation of your theme, as outlined on your Fact Sheets, should be reflected in the choreography. Judges will also look for creativity, style, form, and whether the dancers were engaged and their attention held by the performance.
4. **Execution & Precision** – This area evaluates how the performer uses the stage and connects with the audience. Judges will consider technical quality—such as entrances, exits, transitions, and traditional Tahitian steps—along with energy, spontaneity, and how well the movements align with the music.
5. **Expression / Esprit de Corps** – Facial and other expressions should match the lyrics or theme of the music. For example, when performing to a somber or tragic story, dancers should not be smiling.
6. **Creativity** – Be as creative as possible using mostly traditional Tahitian steps and even some newer steps. The use of props and other enhancements are allowed.

Overall Winning Group

To qualify, a group must compete in all four categories: **‘Ote‘a, ‘Aparima, Drumming, and Music**. Combined scores from these categories will determine the winner.

***NOTE:** In order to select an Overall Winning Pupu ‘Ori, there must be *a minimum of three* entering groups for Hura Ava Tau and Hura Tau.

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