

NIEA Convention Set for Hawaii

by Tiffany Wisdom

Aloha~Greetings. I want to tell you about my firsthand experience with our relatives on the island of Hawaii.

This past December, I visited Honolulu, Hawaii. The National Indian Education Assoc. (NIEA) Board of Directors met to plan for the 2007 NIEA Convention on Oct. 25-28 in Hawaii. We started our meeting off on a traditional Hawaiian canoe trip.

The places we visited between our meetings were Pearl Harbor, USS Missouri, Polynesian Cultural Center, Bishop Museum, Kamehameha School, and we attended a fund-raising reception hosted by Don Ho.

During our meeting, we met with various groups from Hawaii that are partnering with NIEA to have a successful convention. The local planning committee, the Native Hawaiian Education Association (www.nhea.net), has done a spectacular job planning for all of the events.

There are events for junior high/high school student strand, Native language revitalization, college/university student symposium, and the tribal lead-

ers task force. I look forward to the pow-wow, culture night, Hawaiian cultural field trips, and educational workshops. I encourage everyone to visit www.niea.org for all the events and for more information.

I would like to thank our NIEA president, Dr. Verlie Ann Malina-Wright (Native Hawaiian), for her fund-raising efforts that enabled the board to visit Hawaii at no cost. Also, I would like to thank Dr. Wright and all of the hosts in Hawaii for giving us a warm welcome to their Native land and showing us around Hawaii.

Our relatives in Hawaii gave me the feeling of Aloha and I know they will welcome you just like family too.

Hvm'chi and Aloha
Tiffany (Stuart) Wisdom
Teacher Candidate, c/o 2008
Haskell Indian Nations University
(Lawrence, Kansas) - www.haskell.edu
Tribe: Confederated Tribes of Siletz
Indians - www.ctsi.nsn.us
National Indian Education Association-
Board of Directors Member -
www.niea.org



Tiffany Wisdom poses with a dancer at the Polynesian Culture Center on the island of Oahu in December.



Shell People They Call Us

by Selene Rilatos, ©1997

I dance for those who can't
I dance for those
who have been
here before
and for those to come.

With each step, each heartbeat,
I am one with the spirit.

This is the center of the universe,
a ceremony of world renewal.

It's close to dusk,
the women are dressing their hair,
putting on their finest shells,
laughing and smiling
to try and calm the butterflies,
like their grandmothers before them.

The sacred fires are built outside,
as there is one for the men
and one for the women.

The people are filling up
the dance house,
waiting patiently
for their grandchildren and relatives
to dance for them.

The medicine is burned
to cleanse the dance house,
the people, the future generations.

The prayer song is given,
the men move to the rhythm
of the music.
Then come the women
to make the line complete.

We connect our arms,
the men and the women,
the line is dancing
all in time with the singer,
this is unity at its finest.

The dancers are praying
with every step, every heartbeat
we dance for our ancestors,
for the future generations
and for the New Year.

The dancers' shadows reflect
the spirit of our ancestors,
as they are smiling with them,
as the fire is burning,
wordless prayers are spoken
and the abalone shells
are glistening all over this land.

I dedicate this poem and dance for
all my loved ones who are healing and
helping with the healing of the family
circle, All My Tillicum.
For Randall and Levi
Nush Te Tillicum



NIEA 38th Annual Call to Convention! Registration and Forms Now Available Online

NIEA is now accepting registrations, workshop proposals, scholarship applications, awards, and board candidate nominees. Please see deadline dates below and visit this link - Call to Convention www.niea.org/sa/uploads/whatsnew/15.21.NIEA_CTC07_final.pdf - to download all forms.

Convention pre-registration deadline: Sept. 28, 2007.

Research proposals must be post-marked by Aug. 3, 2007.

Workshop proposals must be post-marked by Aug. 24, 2007.

The John C. Rouillard and Alice Tonemah Memorial Scholarship application forms must be postmarked by Sept. 10, 2007.

Resolutions must be postmarked by Oct. 10, 2007.

Sponsorship Opportunities deadline is Sept. 25, 2007.

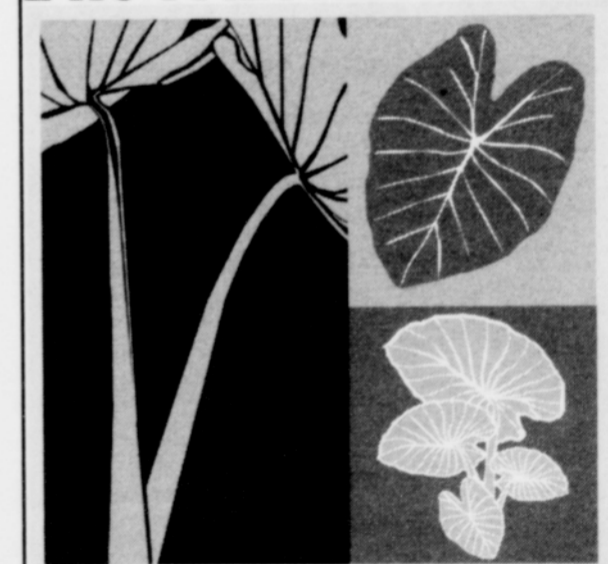
Official program ads due post-marked by Sept. 17, 2007.

Reserve your awards banquet table by Sept. 28, 2007.

Trade Show - Reserve space now; deadline is Sept. 10, 2007.

2012 convention site bid information due postmarked by July 2, 2007.

E HO'I I KA PIKO ALOHA



NIEA 2007 Return to Cultural Honor and Caring
HONOLULU HAWAII

NIEA Host Hotel - Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa. To book online, please use "AAI" code to receive NIEA convention rates at www.hiltonhawaiianvillage.com.

Check out the Web site for information: www.niea.org or write to/call the National Indian Education Association, 110 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 104, Washington, D.C. 20002; 202-544-7290; fax 202-544-7293.

Tiffany Wisdom, NIEA Board of Directors member, e-mail tiffany.wisdom@yahoo.com