

City of Fresno
Department of PARC
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93710

Re: Hula O'hana Program Cancellation

Dear Commissioner Aaron Aguirre and Commissioners Kimberly McCoy, Laura Ward, Jose Leon Barraza, Rose Caglia, Jon Dohlin, McKay Duran, Kelly Kcharski, and Scott Miller:

Hula O'hana embodies everything that the PARC system should value in an excellent community program.

For 27 years, Hula O'hana has taught children Polynesian cultural arts and dance while bringing families and community members together. Polynesian culture places great importance on family, with fathers, mothers, and children learning, practicing, and growing together. As a senior participant, I have personally experienced the inclusiveness, kindness, and sense of community that this program provides.

PARC's mission is "to enhance the community through people, parks, and programs." Hula O'hana has fulfilled that mission for 27 years by providing a successful cultural arts program that enriches the lives of children, families, and seniors throughout our community.

I was deeply disappointed to learn that the program was cancelled and that its meeting place was taken away without adequate notice, affecting more than 100 students and their families. This decision has disrupted a long-standing program that has served our community for nearly three decades.

As a participant and lifelong supporter of Hula O'hana, I respectfully ask you to reconsider this decision and recognize the significant cultural, educational, and community value this program provides.

Please reinstate Hula O'hana as part of the PARC system and restore a suitable meeting place for its students and families.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to Fresno's community programs.

Sincerely,
Heidi Nakayama

Cc: City Manager T.J. Miller; Councilmember Brandon Vang