

Supplies List

Hawaiian Lei Making

Instructor: Brian Choy

Brian is a student of Irmalee and Walter Pomroy. He met them in the late 1970's and took every opportunity to watch them make lei. Brian and his family had a quick wili lei making session from Joyce Davis as part of Beatrice Krauss's Ethnobotany of Hawaii class at Lyon Arboretum in the mid-1970's. Brian first entered the City and County of Honolulu May Day Lei Competition in 1976 with his brother Reyn. Brian, family and friends entered the Lei Competition for the next three decades. During the many years of making lei, Brian learned how to make lei using the different Hawaiian lei making methods - kui, hili, kipuu, haku, wili, and humapapa.

Brian teaches Hawaiian lei making in a series of three classes: 1:00 pm-4:00 pm on three consecutive Sundays. He will teach a particular method on each of the first two Saturday classes; students will do a lei using that method in class; return the following Saturday with another lei done using that same method. The third Sunday will focus on lei demonstrations of any lei making methods that were not done in the earlier classes and discuss How to Plant a Lei Garden. Students are required to register for the series of three classes.

Note: No materials are supplied for these classes. Gathering lei materials is part of learning how to make a lei.

First Class: Wili Method

Plant Materials: an assortment of palapalai, palaa, or shinobu fern; ohia lehua, double bougainvillea, cup & saucer, bozu, dendrobium, statice, colored ti, draceana tricolor, moa; or any flower and foliage that is flexible and durable.

Raffia: purchase long raffia fiber from Ben Franklin Crafts.

Equipment: small pointed scissors (not garden pruners or ikebana clippers), spray bottle, cupcake tray (disposable aluminum OK), cooler with ice to transport your lei materials and finished lei, recycled plastic bags from market produce section and a few plastic market bags, paper towel or newspaper to wrap your lei.

Homework: do another lei using the wili method and bring to next class.

Second Class: Haku with Ti Method

Same plant materials and equipment as first class plus 6-8 ti leaves.

Homework: do another lei using the haku with ti method and bring to next class.

Third Class: Other lei methods and How to Plant a Lei Garden

No plant materials or equipment needed. Just bring homework lei.

Recommended Reference Book: Ka Lei by Marie McDonald, available in public library

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Office Hours

Tues-Fri 9am-noon, 1-4pm
Sat 10am-noon, 1-6pm
Sun Closed

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