

*Ka Ipu Ha'a 'o Kekau'ilani Na Pua Hala 'o Kau'ai*

**August 15, 2006**

**Aloha mai,**

**It is with great appreciation that I look forward to the "Aloha Africa Cultural Exchange" gathering of indigenous peoples. This gathering follows the protocols of "Hawaiian traditions" in which our island of Kauai welcomes and hosts these visitors from afar, connecting as "ohana", opening the portals for all the other islands.**

**Sharing our wealth of family and water, based and rooted in the understanding and practice of "aloha", we open our homes and hearts in "kokua" for the coming of Isaac Allotey, Michael Adjetey Osenda and Ernest Borketey.**

**I take this opportunity to thank Isa Maria, the Love Tribe and Steven Ruddell for having the vision to bring accomplished dancers and drummers here to Kauai, providing exposure and experience for our island communities, allowing us to see the commonalities of both cultures and to reconnect the bonds of "ohana" across the seas.**

**Mahalo,**

**Keikilaniwahinealiiopuna Kalama Dawson**

