

Hulas and Homicide

Preview



Find out who
murdered
Winnie Waheli
before the
annual hula
contest on
Kikiwai Beach



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How to Organize "Hulas and Homicide"

Thanks for purchasing this unique murder mystery. You and your guests will enjoy the challenge of solving a crime that will test everyone's powers of deduction. Here is what you should do to coordinate your murder mystery event:

STEP 1: Review the materials in this mystery packet. But ... please do it in a very specific way. Remember - you have ALL of the information, *including the solution to the mystery*. If you decide to participate in the mystery as a role player or as an investigator, you'll want to keep yourself in the dark about WHO DONE IT.

All page numbers in this packet are in the upper left-hand corner of the pages as you look at them vertically. That way you can run off the material without having the page numbers interfere with the format. The entire packet includes:

- **Instructions on how to organize the event.** They're on pages 2 through 5. (You're reading them right now.)
- **Instructions for the person who will facilitate the event.** Information for the person who will take charge of the murder investigation is on page 6. *If only eight people are invited to the event, you may want to assign this duty to Norm Room.*
- **Role Player Information.** These pages serve as a "cover letter" for the information you'll send to the *eight individuals* who will be in character as the suspects. Run off eight copies of pages 7 and 8 back to back. You may want to use better quality stationery for this letter.
- **Role Player Information.** Pages 9 through 24 contain the information you'll send with the cover letters. Each role is designed as a two-sided three-panel document. Again, run off this information back to back. *Each role player gets only the information that applies to the role that he or she is playing. Your role players should know ONLY what's in their packet.*
- **The Invitation to the Mystery Event.** The invitation on page 25 will be sent to each guest. It is designed to be run off as a two-fold. Or, if you decide to use heavier stock, the left side of the page can be run off back-to-back with the right side of the page.
- **Police Chief's Letter.** The letter on page 26 will be given to each guest by the facilitator upon arrival. Run off enough copies so that each person receives one.
- **Clues about the Crime.** You'll find 24 clues about the mystery on pages 27 through 29. Cut them out. *Since each guest receives a clue, you can invite up to 24 investigators. Should you want to invite more guests, simply double and triple the clues.*
- **Today's Edition of *The Grass Skirt*.** Everyone will receive a copy of *The Grass Skirt* on pages 30 and 31. Run the pages off back to back.
- **Investigative Reports #1 and #2.** Run off one copy of the reports on pages 32 and 33 for each investigative team.
- **The Answer Sheet.** Run off one answer sheet on page 34 for each investigative team.
- **The Denouement. *This is the solution to the crime.*** Run off pages 35 through 38. The facilitator will read these pages at the end of the evening.

STEP 2: Plan your event. Pick a date on which to conduct the murder mystery event. *Hulas and Homicide* is designed to be an evening's entertainment. Remember: our mysteries are for serious sleuths. It will take two to two-and-a-half hours to solve the case using the recommended format. Because of this, a buffet meal is suggested for the mystery evening. If you have a sit-down meal, add the amount of time the meal will take to your planning time.

STEP 3: Select your role players. Review the scenario and the brief descriptions of the suspects on page 7. Select guests who would fit into these roles. Send the role players their information **and** a copy of *The Grass Skirt* (pages 30 and 31) approximately 10 to 12 days before the mystery event. The role players should bring the information with them and use it as a reference when they are questioned by the investigators.

If you have only eight guests, the role players will also be the investigators. This means you will send the invitations with the roles so that all of the information arrives at the same time.

STEP 4: Invite your guests. Approximately three to four weeks in advance of the event, send invitations to the guests who will not be role players .

STEP 5: Select a person to facilitate the investigation. The facilitator should read the *Instructions* on page 6, and review the information in the packet to keep the event moving so that the investigation is conducted effectively.

Here's what to do on the night of the mystery event.

STEP 6: The facilitator greets the guests. He or she gives each guest who is investigating the crime a *Police Chief Letter with a Clue attached and The Grass Skirt*. (You may want to put them in envelopes marked "Official Information from the Chief of Police.")

If you have only eight people at the event, and the role players are also investigating the crime, everyone receives a letter. If your event separates the role players from the investigators, then role players DO NOT receive letters. Tell the investigators they can share clues with each other at any time.

STEP 7: The role players speak. The facilitator asks everyone to sit down as the role players give their recollections of what happened and their feelings about Winnie Wahelo. Ensure that it is staged in this way:

- The facilitator reminds everyone that Winnie Waheli died last night or early this morning. Her body was found on Kikiwai Beach by a jogger. The eight people who are gathered here are the prime suspects. They've been asked to give their recollections about what happened last night along with their feelings about Winnie Waheli.
- The facilitator asks the eight role players to speak in the order indicated on page 6 of each role player's information. They stand and read the sections headlined, "Here's what you'll say when you're asked to speak."

STEP 8: The investigation starts. The facilitator (*with only eight people*, this will be Norm) briefly reviews what happened, including such facts as:

- Winnie Waheli had been in charge of the hula competition for the past 20 years.
- *Only one of the suspects committed the murder.*
- MOTIVE, MEANS and OPPORTUNITY must be considered to solve the case.

STEP 9: Form investigative teams. Have the guests who are investigating the murder form three-to-five-person investigative teams. Team members will work together to solve the case.

If only eight people are at the event, you may (at your discretion) form two-person teams who will work together to solve the case.

STEP 10: Break for dinner or refreshments. The teams may trade clues to obtain as much information as possible while they are eating, but they cannot question the suspects yet.

If only eight people are involved, distribute the remainder of the 24 clues at regular intervals during the meal until all clues have been used.

STEP 11: Continue the investigation. At the end of the meal, tell the teams that it is time to start the investigation again. Each team should find an area to use as an interrogation room.

If only eight people are present, everyone stays together and one role player at a time is questioned.

STEP 12: Coordinate the questioning. Have one role player rotate to each interrogation room at six-minute intervals. If you have fewer than eight teams, work out a rotation that gives role players breaks between interrogations. The investigators may ask the suspects ANYTHING.

The suspects should use the information provided in the *Role Player Information* to answer the questions. Suspects should *not* withhold any bits of information, and they should not offer information unless the investigators specifically ask for it. Good investigators must ask the right questions to get the correct information.

STEP 13: Distribute copies of Investigative Report #1. After the 2nd suspect is questioned, the facilitator should loudly announce that police have prepared a preliminary report about the case. Distribute a copy of Investigative Report #1 to each team.

STEP 14: Distribute copies of Investigative Report #2. After the 5th suspect is questioned, the facilitator should loudly announce that police have prepared a supplementary report about the case. Distribute a copy of Investigative Report #2 to each team.

STEP 15: Conduct open questioning. Place the suspects in different parts of the facility. For a six-minute period, investigators from any team may go to the suspects and ask final questions. *WARNING: Some investigators will try to pull the suspects back to their teams. Don't permit this.* Several different teams *may* question a suspect at the same time.

With only eight people, anyone can ask any other role player anything.

STEP 16: Distribute answer sheets. Give teams 10 to 12 minutes to write out their solutions by answering the questions on the *Answer Sheet*.

STEP 17: Teams give their solutions. The facilitator asks the questions on the Answer Sheet to each team, one at a time. The teams read the answers exactly as they were written on the answer sheet. *NOTE: Often, a team will want to change its mind after hearing the answers from another team. Don't let this happen.*

If you have only eight people, each role player (or two-person team of role players) gives an individual solution to the case.

STEP 18: Read “The Denouement.” The facilitator opens the envelope in which the solution was placed. The facilitator reads it aloud to the guests. This will take 6 to 8 minutes.

STEP 19: Award prizes. You may want to award prizes to the investigative team that did the best job of solving the crime. Let your creativity run wild in selecting the prizes.

Special role player information ...

(The facilitator may want to review these with the suspects prior to the start of the mystery.)

- Because this mystery is crafted with intertwining facts, the role players are provided with an abundance of information that may or may not be used during the investigation. Since the suspects will undergo interrogation by the investigative teams, the extensive number of personal facts will enable them to answer most questions that are asked.
- Role players **MUST** read recollections exactly as they are written. **THIS IS IMPORTANT.** It enables the investigation to begin with the correct preliminary data.
- If role players are asked questions not specifically addressed in this information, the role players should answer in character based upon the other facts available to them.
- The only relationships that the suspects know about are those written into the roles. If asked by investigators about relationships that are not mentioned in the roles, the suspects should say, “No, we’re not related.”
- All of the suspects are telling the truth with the exception of the murderer whose recollections and responses will contain lies – this is intentional and part of the murder investigation.
- Since a good investigator must ask good questions, suspects must only offer information that is asked for by the investigators. They should **NOT** offer information that has not been directly requested.

The murderer **DOES NOT** know he or she committed the crime. This means the suspects don’t have to be good liars. The solution is contained in “The Denouement.”

Aloha!

Instructions for the person who will facilitate the event

If you are a role player, then you already have a formal part in the investigation. Your role as facilitator means you will have to stay in character while ensuring that the investigation is conducted effectively.

If you are not one of the eight role players, you may want to create your own character and come in costume. You could be, for example, Lawrence Law, the police chief who signed the letter on page 26. To facilitate the mystery event, do the following:

1. Review all of the information in this packet so that you are familiar with the mystery. **REMEMBER: If you are attempting to solve the crime, do NOT read “The Denouement” in advance. It contains the solution to the case.**
2. As the guests arrive, hand them a copy of the Police Chief letter, along with a clue and a copy of *The Grass Skirt*. Tell them to talk with as many people as they can to acquire information.
3. The suspects have been told to arrive 15 minutes early. When they do, take them aside and review the *Special role player information* on page 5. Answer any questions they may have.
4. Keep the event moving by following the instructions on pages 2 through 5. Make sure all information is given at the right time.
5. **If you are not one of the role players**, after you read “The Denouement,” lead the guilty party away to jail. If you want to, you can use toy handcuffs to make the arrest. If you want to stage the arrest in this way, let the suspects know you will do this.
6. Take a bow for a job well done!

You awoke early this morning, only to see the beach coated with police cars. You rushed to the scene and saw Winnie's body being loaded into an ambulance.

What would happen now? Would the contest go on as planned or would the arrangements take a dip in the deep? Many questions remain to be answered. And you are certain that people aren't telling everything.

You remember this about last night . . .

Rehearsal for the contest was set for **7:00pm**. You went into the Pineapple Ballroom about 10 minutes later to see how things were going. Pono was packing up his drums and leaving. Winnie was looking for Mort.

At 7:20pm, Mort walked by you and said he'd been "fired." Ten minutes later the Kaulana brothers arrived and began rehearsing with Winnie. Then, at 7:40pm, Flora Fauna arrived with her flowers to decorate.

You were back and forth from your office all evening.

At 11:15pm, rehearsal ended. About five minutes later, Winnie pulled you aside and told you she was unhappy with the facilities at The Kikawai Queen and would be moving the contest to The Kikawai Empress. The two of you talked for about 10 minutes, until **11:30pm**.

At 11:35pm, you stopped in the Coconut Lounge and ordered a pina colada to take to your suite. Mort had just stopped performing and he was with Flora.

At 11:40pm, you were on the balcony of your suite. You saw Mort and Flora walking on the beach. The cleaning staff was straightening up the patio.

About 11:45pm, you were in bed with the balcony doors open and heard a thud on the patio. You walked to the balcony and saw some rustling in the coconut palm trees on the beach. It looked like someone was in a tree. About 10 minutes later, **at 11:55pm**, you went back to the balcony and saw Winnie on the beach under the palm trees. She appeared to be looking for something.

At midnight, the lounge closed and the lights on the patio were turned off. The beach was in darkness, but the moon was bright. You finished your pina colada and went to bed.

1

Here's what you'll say when you're asked to speak.

Aloha, everyone. I was shocked to find out about Winnie's death - and so close to the hotel. I don't know what she was doing on the beach. Just a little while before that, she'd been in the Pineapple Ballroom, supervising the rehearsal for tonight's contest.

When I left her around 11:30, she was packing up her beach bag and getting ready to call it a night. She looked tired, so I thought she'd just get in her car and drive home. But I guess the beach still holds a special attraction to her and she stopped to look at the ocean in the moonlight. The grove of coconut palm trees is a perfect spot for doing that.

The ballroom is a wonderful place. I know some of you are disappointed that you couldn't get tickets for the hula contest, but it's the same with any big-name event. Everyone would miss that room if the contest was held somewhere else - not that it ever would be.

The best tribute we could make to Winnie is to go on with the hula contest. Winnie would have wanted it that way. I know you'll all agree. In the meantime, I'd like all of you to drink a toast to Winnie with one of our pina coladas. It's the featured drink in our Coconut Lounge, of course. And, be sure to tip Mort when he sings your favorite song.

Hula and Homicide

Your Role: Norm Room

You, **Norm Room**, are the owner of the Kikawai Queen Hotel, located right on the one of the most famous beaches in the islands. Born 55 years ago in New Jersey, you are the son of Lavon and Bert Room who ran a motel near an exit of the Garden State Parkway.

You were a marginal student at best and, after finishing high school, you decided to bum around the world rather than get a real job. You paid for your adventures by finding odd jobs, and by the time you were 22, you'd been on the road for four years. You ran out of money in Singapore and managed to find a job aboard a merchant ship bound for Hawaii. That's how you got to the islands.

You felt you had discovered paradise and jumped ship with the idea of staying for a while. You did just that because 33 years later you're still in Hawaii.

At first, you decided to hang out on the beach and do very little else. That's how you discovered Kikawai Beach. It was untouched then. Only a few people knew about it - mostly surfers and native Hawaiians. While walking on the beach shortly after your arrival, you ran into **Mitch Awake**. Well, to be accurate, he ran into you.

He was "hanging ten" on a monster wave when he wiped out and landed right on top of you, giving you a few scrapes and bruises.

He looked at you and said, "What's up, Dude?" You didn't know what to make of him, but he offered you surfing lessons to make up for the close encounter. You had nothing else to do, so you accepted.

For the next few months, you learned to surf from Mitch. The two of you became a "dawn patrol," rising before sunrise and hitting the beach early. He taught you everything about surfing, including how to watch out for sharks and the deadly Portuguese man of war jellyfish. After surfing, Mitch would take

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you to his favorite hangout, the lounge at the Kikiwai Princess Motel. It was a flea-bitten, cockroach-infested spot on Kikiwai Beach with questionable clientele.

You and the owner, Bart Barks, became friends. He'd never married and had no children, but he did have a nephew, **Mort Barks**, the son of his brother, Gort. Mort played the piano and sang in the motel's lounge. He wasn't very good, but he thought himself to be a world-class talent. Mitch was one of the regulars in the lounge, always drinking pina coladas. It was the house specialty, served in a coconut shell. He liked to sing along with Mort.

The surfing life was all well and good, but after about a year or so, you realized the importance of having financial security. That's when you approached Bart and asked for a job. He was hesitant at first, but finally agreed to hire you.

You easily fit into the life of a motel worker, starting to save a nice nest egg for yourself, and settling into motel management. When you were 28, Bart died in a freak accident. While swimming off Kikiwai Beach, he was swept away in a rip tide. When the body was recovered, it had a mysterious mark on its head - as if some flat object had hit it.

To your surprise, when Bart's will was read, the motel was left to you - along with several million dollars in a life insurance policy. Bart made one provision, though. You had to ensure that Mort was gainfully employed in the music business for the rest of his life. It would be a challenge.

The insurance money and the increasing popularity of Kikiwai Beach made you start to think big. You decided to build a new mega-hotel on the site of Kikiwai Princess. With your seed money and a good business plan, you were able to secure funding to build the hotel that you named the Kikiwai Queen. Mort is still your piano man, performing in the hotel's Coconut Lounge. You also had your own suite built in the hotel - on the third floor right above the lounge. From there, you have a perfect

view of the beach and the ocean. You had to attract customers. That's when things "broke" in your favor.

The most accomplished hula dancer in the islands, **Winnie Waheli**, was paying a visit to the beach, demonstrating her award-winning moves. Winnie had won many hula contests in the islands, but this time her genuine gyrations irritated a recurring back problem and left her wincing in pain. An ambulance was called.

As Winnie was being transported away, you handed her your business card and told her to call you after she recovered. You found out that her hula career was at an end; a fortuitous thing for you because you hatched a real money-making idea. Each year, the Kikiwai Queen would sponsor a hula contest with Winnie as the head judge. Because of her fame, the contest would be the talk of the islands and profitable to the hotel.

Winnie liked the idea, but agreed to do it only if she had the rights to the contest. Her name would be headlined and she would call all of the shots. Reluctantly, you agreed - with one requirement. Because of your commitment to Bart, Winnie had to let Mort be the emcee. You were surprised when she said "yes."

Norm Room

His role as emcee has made Mort into a celebrity, especially when he breaks into a chorus of, "*There she is, this our hula gal,*" a song that Mort composed and sings when the new hula champ is being crowned in the Pineapple Ballroom. For the past two decades, Mort's slightly off-key vocal has capped off every event.

The hotel provides the cash for the contest, but Winnie, who came to be known as the "Hula Honcho," is in control. She would be able to move it anytime she wants, so you've taken pains over the years to keep her happy.

Her chief assistant judge, (Winnie has two other assistant judges) **Minnie Molawi**, has been working the contest for the last 10 years. You don't trust Minnie. She keeps trying to put her nose into parts of the contest's operation where it doesn't belong. Once, you caught her in your office snooping through some files. She said she needed to make a few corrections to the list of contestants that Winnie had sent you.

The drummer for the contest, **Pono Pahu**, has been a friend of Winnie's for years. You can't help but notice that his lightning-fast rhythms on his coconut-shell drums have lately been sounding more like a Strauss waltz. Age and a few aches and pains have set in and, this year, you wonder if he'll be able to make it through the entire contest.

Another friend of Winnie's, **Flora Fauna**, has had the contract to supply flowers for the contest for many years. You feel she's gotten a bit careless with her flower arrangements, but the decision to use her is Winnie's. This year, Winnie has decided she wants the ballroom to be covered in orchids. The flower budget for the contest has tripled because of this. You wonder if Flora will be able to procure enough orchids for Winnie.

For the past five years, the winner of the contest has been **Leia Laliani**, a native-born islander. You don't think she's the best dancer, but Winnie has taken a real liking to her and, somehow, she always ends up with the most points. She even wears a traditional costume with coconut shells as a bodice.

Norm Room

This year, everyone's talking about a strong competitor from New England, **Hanna Hobart**. She won the amateur title, but many people, including Winnie, think that only native islanders should be named hula champion.

The Kikiwai Queen is booked solid with hula aficionados. You've noticed that Winnie had been particularly irritable. **The contest was scheduled to start today.**

Yesterday, Winnie suddenly approached you and threatened to move the contest to the new mega-hotel being built down the beach. The Kikiwai Empress. For the last few years, the contest has been a sell-out. Winnie said she needed more room to make more money. If Winnie was out of the picture, Minnie would be the logical person to take over. All of this now seems to be a moot issue.

Your Clue #1

Many people have noticed that **Pono Pahu**, Winnie's drummer, and **Leia Lailani**, the hula champion, spend a lot of time with each. They've been spotted at several island restaurants having dinner together.

Your Clue #2

Neither **Flora Fauna** nor **Mort Barks** has ever been married, yet lately people have seen them walking together on Kikiwai Beach. Could romance be budding? If so, what would it mean to the hula contest?

Your Clue #3

In his younger days, **Mitch Awave**, used to earn money by climbing coconut palm trees, picking the fresh coconuts, and dropping them to the ground for the tourists.

Your Clue #4

The records for all of the past Kikiwai Beach Hula Contests are stored in a locked filing cabinet in **Norm Room's** office. Only **Winnie Waheli** had a key to it.

Your Clue #5

The payoff for winning the Kikiwai Beach Hula Contest is quite large. The winner becomes a celebrity and makes a lot of money performing around the islands. **Leia Lailani** should be rich by now, but she doesn't show it. In fact, some hula fans think she isn't even the most-talent dancer in the competition.

Your Clue #6

The featured drink in the Coconut Lounge at the Kikiwai Queen Hotel is a pina colada served in a coconut shell and garnished with fruit. Some of the regulars can't get enough of them.

Your Clue #7

It seems strange that a hula dancer would avoid walking on the beach. Yet, **Hanna Hobart**, the Amateur Hula Champion, says she has a hard time getting traction in the sand and would prefer to be on something a little more solid.

Your Clue #8

It's hard to believe, but **Norm Room** and **Mitch Awave** used to be surfing buddies. Now, Norm owns a big hotel and Mitch is still bumming around the beach doing whatever he can to make a few bucks.



The Grass Skirt



Gyrating through the news to an island beat

Hula honcho swivels her hips for last time

Body of dauntless dance diva found on Kikiwai Beach

The lifeless body of hula legend Winnie Waheli, 48, was discovered on Kikiwai Beach by a jogger early this morning. Waheli was lying under a coconut palm tree near The Kikiwai Queen Hotel, site of the annual hula contest that she founded and has coordinated for the last 20 years. As head of the contest, Waheli was dubbed, "The Hula Honcho." The fate of this year's contest, scheduled for tonight, hasn't yet been announced. Authorities are investigating the death as a possible homicide.

Yesterday afternoon Waheli had stood at that very same spot on the beach, answering questions from reporters and signing autographs for hula fans. In the crunch of the crowd, her large beach bag was knocked from her shoulder and fell into the sand. The impromptu gathering quickly dispersed as Waheli angrily tried to find all of the items that had been spilled from the bag.

Waheli started her career as a street performer, entertaining tourists at popular attractions and at cruise ship piers. Her signature hula movements and energetic gyrations resulted in a meteoric rise to hula stardom. Waheli appeared in Hawaiian pageants



Coconut palm trees on Kikiwai Beach

throughout the islands, always accompanied by her long-time drummer, Pono Pahu.

When told about Waheli's death, Pahu stated that he was no longer her drummer and slammed the door on

reporters. Many people recall the haunting island beats that he produced for many years on his coconut-shell drums.

A native islander, Waheli graduated locally from Maka Launa High School and is remembered for her starring roles in the school's shows, displaying her talent as a hula dancer. Her hula career was finished when she aggravated a recurring back injury while demonstrating her moves in front of an audience of admirers on the beach.

Norm Room, owner of the Kikiwai Queen, was shocked when he heard the news. "Just a few hours ago, Winnie was conducting a rehearsal in our Pineapple Ballroom. It's hard to believe that we'll never hear her

Continued on back page.

Kaulana brothers sign with hula contest

Ipo and Lono Kaulana, twin brothers who are two of the islands' most popular entertainers, have reportedly signed a large contract to appear at tonight's Kikiwai Beach Hula Contest. The surprise announcement was made by the Kaulana Brothers' agent after a meeting yesterday with contest head judge Winnie Waheli.

Ipo is a singer who has emceed many island events. Lono plays the drums and has developed a large following of music fans who say his

rhythms are some of the best to ever emanate from the islands.

"Winnie wanted to upgrade the contest," explained Ipo, "and knew that Lono and I would give it a fresh look and a new sound. She told us that native islanders provide the type of image she wanted for the contest."

When he learned about Winnie's death, Lono said, "The show must go on, right? Our fans will be waiting. I'll bet her assistant will take over - in her memory, of course."