

GROUP DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

Group ‘Ote’a (Ages 15+)

- Hura Ava Tau (Amateur)
- Hura Tau (Professional)
- Tamari’i (Children 14 and under)

Mehura

- One category (Ages 13+)
- Minimum: 20 dancers

Tahitian Drumming

- Hura Ava Tau (Amateur)
- Hura Tau (Professional)

Group Performances

- Performed with ‘Ote’a / Aparima / Music / Drumming / Music

Time Limits

- Timing starts when Ra’a tire, Music, Drumming, or Dance begins.
- The timer ends after the last performance.

Performance Time Requirements:

- **Group (4 categories in one performance):** 10-40 minutes
- **Group (6 categories in full program, including Tamari’i ‘Ote’a/Aparima):** 40-55 minutes
- **Tamari’i ‘Ote’a and Aparima:** 10-15 minutes
- **Mehura:** 10-15 minutes
- **Drumming:** 10-15 minutes

Penalty for Exceeding Time Limits

- 25-point deduction for exceeding time limits.

Maximum Group Points: 1000

GUIDELINES FOR ALL PUPU ORI

GROUP DIVISIONS

Directors may choose which division best fits their Halau:

Hura Ava Tau (Amateur)

- New to group competition.
- Minimum: 20 dancers | Maximum: 275 dancers.
- Cannot have placed 1st in any major Tahitian dance competition in the last 2 years.
- If 1st place was achieved in the last 2 years, the group must enter Hura Tau (Professional)

Hura Tau (Professional)

- Established groups that have won multiple major Tahitian dance competitions.

Tamari'i 'Ote'a and Aparima

- Must consist of children 14 and under. Adult musicians and drummers are allowed
- Adults (or children over 14) can be used as actors, but they cannot dance.
- There will be Hura Ava Tau and Hura Tau in this division.
- These category points will be added to the group's overall score. Tamarii category scores will be added to the groups qualifying in the Hura Ava Tau and Hura Tau overall group division.

ONE DIVISION:

- Mehura

GROUP CATEGORIES

'Ote'a / Aparima

- Minimum: 25 dancers (Vahine or Tane) | No Maximum
- Maximum: 25. drummers/musicians, who must be in costume. No recorded music allowed.
- Groups must have an entrance and exit routine.
- Only one entry per Halau per category.
- Hivinau and/or 'Pa'o'a are encouraged in 'Ote'a performances.
- Costumes should be SEWN. Hot glue can be used but for placement ONLY
- A separate group from the same Halau may enter Tamari'i Ote'a/Aparima.(?)
- You may have up to (10) Guest dancers (from outside US), but must be identified on the performers list
- Performance sequence lists must be submitted by **July 18**.

Mehura Dance Competition Rules and Judging Criteria

- Dancers must be Male / Female / mixed
- Only live music is allowed
- Age requirement: 13+ Minimum 20
- Only one division exists for Mehura.

1. Competition Adornments

- Adornments must be made from fresh or dry plants, including ornamental foliage and flowers, feathers, shells, and mother-of-pearl.
- Each group has the discretion to choose their adornments from these materials.
- Head ornaments are mandatory and can include crowns, tiaras, headpieces, various floral arrangements (ear to ear, partial band, round bun, ponytail, etc.).
- Neck, ankle, wrist, and arm ornaments that match the head adornment are allowed.

2. Female Mehura Dancer Costume

- The fabric must be solid-colored or printed with floral or tapa patterns (pareo).
- The dancer must wear a long-fitted dress.

3. Male Mehura Dancer Costume

- The costume consists of either a pareo ta'amu tihere, ta'amu pareo, or trousers.
- The fabric must be solid-colored or printed with floral or tapa patterns (pareo).
- The chest can be bare or covered with a waistcoat or a shirt.

4. Costume Regulations

- Any loss of costume pieces during the performance will result in penalties.

5. Judging Criteria Competitors will be evaluated based on the following aspects:

- **Choreography** – Creativity and execution of the dance.
- **Technical Mastery** – Precision and skill in movements.
- **Synchronization** – Coordination among dancers.
- **Emotional Transmission** – Ability to convey emotions through performance.
- **Concordance with Theme** – Relevance and alignment with the chosen theme.
- **Artistic Expression** – Harmony, overall beauty, and costume presentation.

Participants are encouraged to showcase their best performance while maintaining adherence to the competition rules and cultural authenticity.

Drumming/Music

- Maximum of 25 drummers/musicians per group performance Minimum (5)
 - You must have up to (10 Guest drummers/musicians (from outside the US), but they must be identified on the performers list.
 - Drummers and Musicians must be in full costume.
 - Drumming and music will be judged during the group performance.
 - Groups may enter either Hura Ava Tau or Hura Tau but not for drumming/music. For example, you can't enter the Professional Group 'Ote'a and then enter the amateur music category. **
 - If entering all divisions (including Tamari'i and Mehura), groups may choose to have music judged during Mehura performance
 - Groups interested in entering drumming is allowed. Minimum --- Maximum ---
-

FACT SHEETS REQUIREMENT

Due by **Friday, October** (Hura Ava Tau & Hura Tau groups must submit **7 copies**): Translated into English and French Tahitian (?) extra points

- **Details Required:**
 - Name of Pupu 'Ori
 - Group Director
 - Artistic Director
 - Program Theme for 'Ote'a / Aparima / Mehura
 - Lyrics and translations for songs
 - Story and research behind the theme
 - Synopsis of choreography (1 page), costume, and colors related to the theme
 - Group photo and director's photo (300 dpi resolution)
 - Director's bio (no more than 2500 words)
 - Fact sheets due by Friday, October 10, 2025
-

PUPU 'ORI GROUP COSTUMES (reflect the details of the solo costume requirements)

- Must align with the program theme.
- No artificial or silk leaves/flowers.
- All materials should be sewn (glue allowed for placement only).
- Hand-held adornments are allowed.
- 'Ote'a costumes must be traditional.

- Aparima costumes can feature festive colors and Polynesian designs.
 - Costumes will be presented to the judges post-performance.
-

COLLABORATION

- Ori Tahiti is all about connection, culture, and community—so why not join forces and create something unforgettable? If your group is smaller, team up with others to meet the minimum dancer requirements and bring even more energy and spirit to the stage!

This is a beautiful chance to build friendships, share the love of Tahitian dance, and showcase the power of unity.

AWARD CEREMONY

- Groups will be escorted to assigned seating areas.
 - Participants should be in costume or wear their Pupu ‘Ori group shirts.
-

SCORING

- **Maximum Points:** 1000
- Detailed scoring breakdown to be provided separately.
- Tamarii scores will be added to your group's overall score

OVERALL WINNING PUPU ‘ORI

- Awarded to the top-scoring group performance in **Hura Ava Tau or Hura Tau.**

CREATIVITY Be as creative as possible using mostly traditional Tahitian steps and even some newer steps. The use of props and other enhancements are allowed.

GROUP DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

Group ‘Ote‘a (Ages 15+)

- Hura Ava Tau (Amateur)
- Hura Tau (Professional)
- Tamari'i (Children 14 and under)

Mehura

- One category (Ages 13+)
- Minimum: 15 dancers | Maximum: 100 dancers

Tahitian Drumming

- Hura Ava Tau (Amateur)
- Hura Tau (Professional)

Group Performances

- Performed with 'Ote'a / Aparima / Music / Drumming / Music

Time Limits

- Timing starts when Ra'a tire, Music, Drumming, or Dance begins.
- Timing ends after the last performance.

Performance Time Requirements:

- **Group (4 categories in one performance):** 10-40 minutes
- **Group (6 categories in full program, including Tamari'i 'Ote'a/Aparima):** 40-55 minutes
- **Tamari'i 'Ote'a and Aparima:** 10-15 minutes
- **Mehura:** 10-15 minutes
- **Drumming:** 10-15 minutes

Penalty for Exceeding Time Limits

- 25-point deduction for exceeding time limits.

Maximum Group Points: 1000

GUIDELINES FOR ALL PUPU ORI

'Ote'a / Aparima

- Minimum: 15 dancers (Vahine or Tane) | Maximum: 275 dancers

- Maximum: 25 drummers/musicians, who must be in costume. No recorded music allowed.
- Groups must have an entrance and exit routine.
- Only one entry per Halau per category.
- Hivinau and/or 'Pa'o'a are encouraged in 'Ote'a performances.
- Costumes should be sewn. Hot glue is allowed for placement only in 'Ote'a Mo're.
- A separate group from the same Halau may enter Tamari'i Ote'a/Aparima.
- Performance sequence lists must be submitted by **July 18**.

Mehura

- Dancers must be female.
- Dresses must be long (no short dresses or stomach cutouts).
- Only live music allowed.
- Age requirement: 13+
- Only one division exists for Mehura.

Drumming/Music

- Maximum of 25 drummers/musicians per group performance.
- Guest drummers/musicians (from Tahiti or another Halau) are allowed but must be identified on the performers list.
- Drumming and music will be judged during the group performance.
- Groups may enter either Hura Ava Tau or Hura Tau, but not both for drumming/music.
- If entering all divisions (including Tamari'i and Mehura), groups may choose to have music judged during Mehura performance.

GROUP CATEGORIES

Directors may choose which division best fits their Halau:

Hura Ava Tau (Amateur)

- New to group competition.
- Minimum: 20 dancers | Maximum: 275 dancers.
- Cannot have placed 1st in any major Tahitian dance competition in the last 2 years.
- If 1st place was achieved in the last 2 years, the group must enter Hura Tau (Professional).

Hura Tau (Professional)

- Established groups that have won multiple major Tahitian dance competitions.
- Minimum: 20 dancers | Maximum: 275 dancers.

Dual Entry Rules

- Groups with dancers and drummers at different levels may enter both categories.
- Performers cannot participate in both Hura Ava Tau and Hura Tau.
- A list of performers must be submitted.

Tamari'i 'Ote'a and Aparima

- Must consist of children 14 and under (no adults allowed to perform).
 - 'Ote'a must be traditional.
 - Adults (or children over 14) can be used as actors, but they cannot dance.
-

FACT SHEETS REQUIREMENT

Due by **Friday, October 3, by 11:59 PM** (Hura Ava Tau & Hura Tau groups must submit **7 copies**):

- **Details Required:**
 - Name of Pupu 'Ori
 - Artistic Director
 - Program Theme for 'Ote'a / Aparima / Mehura
 - Lyrics and translations for songs
 - Story and research behind the theme
 - Synopsis of choreography, costume, and colors related to the theme
 - Group photo and director's photo (300 dpi resolution)
 - Director's bio (200 words or less)
-

SCORING

Adult and Tamari'i Performances

- **Solo Division:** Maximum score: 100 points
- **Group Divisions:** Maximum score: 1000 points
- The top three (3) highest scores in each category/division will be winners.

Soloists

- **Technical Areas:** Variety and difficulty of steps, confidence, endurance, and knowledge of traditional steps.
- **Artistic Areas:** Gestures, grace, creativity, facial/body expressions, ease, and comfort.
- **Costume:** Appropriateness, beauty, creativity, and accessories.

Groups

- **Entrance/Exit:** Energy, showmanship, and appropriate routine.
 - **Costume:** Quality, appropriateness, natural materials, and integration with the dance.
 - **Theme & Interpretation:** Quality of music, drumbeats, proper pronunciation, and understanding of lyrics.
 - **Choreography:** Composition, arrangement, traditional steps, creativity, engagement, and execution.
 - **Execution & Precision:** Stage presence, technique, transitions, traditional movement, and coordination.
 - **Expression:** Facial expressions and synchronization with lyrics and themes.
 - **Creativity:** Innovation while maintaining mostly traditional Tahitian steps; props are allowed.
-

COLLABORATION

- Groups may collaborate to meet minimum dancer requirements.
- Smaller groups can combine efforts to compete together.

OVERALL WINNING PUPU ‘ORI

- Awarded to the top-scoring group performance in **Hura Ava Tau or Hura Tau**.
-

COSTUMES

- Must align with the program theme.
 - No artificial or silk leaves/flowers.
 - All materials should be sewn (glue allowed for placement only).
 - Hand-held adornments are allowed.
 - ‘Ote’a costumes must be traditional.
 - Aparima costumes can feature festive colors and Polynesian designs.
 - Costumes will be presented to the judge’s post-performance.
-

AWARD CEREMONY

- Groups will be escorted to assigned seating areas.
- Participants should be in costume or wear their Pupu ‘Ori group shirts.