

# UCSB students to hold Tahitian dance

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An ensemble of skilled UCSB students will don grass skirts and coconuts and perform a concert of traditionally influenced Tahitian dance on campus next Saturday in order to raise funds for a local hospice.

The performers make up *Iaorana Te Otea*, an on-campus organization that pays homage to cultures of the lush and dynamic Polynesian islands. Translated into English, the organization's name means "greetings from the drumbeats," which reflects their love for the islands' native music and dance as well as their role as cultural ambassadors.

The president of *Iaorana Te Otea*, Pooneh Aminian, said that the event is all about giving charity to the hospice, which offers free services to the terminally ill, as well as to people coping with the death of a loved one.

"We're really excited that our performance can support a group that provides such critical services to our community," Aminian said.

Forty student make up *Iaorana Te Otea*, which originated in 1990, and the performers practice for two whole academic quarters in preparation for this annual fundraiser. Their routines include a variety of oteas – dances set to thumping drum beats – interspersed between the graceful *aparimas*, in which the performers' movements tell actual narratives. These students choreograph their own moves and design their own costumes.

Tickets cost \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door.