

## KU'UIPO KUMUKAHI – Biography

Ku'uipo Kumukahi is an entertainer, award-winning recording artist and record producer, as well as an educator, social worker and administrator. Her current employer is the ARC in Hawai'i where she is currently the Community Outreach Manager. The ARC in Hawai'i serves people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities.

Her kuleana of her present position is to build strategic relationships; conduct outreach activities; recruit DOE students aging out of services; recruit volunteers; and design, develop and implement programs and curriculum. Kumukahi has been at the ARC since 1987 in various positions, starting as an assistant instructor of program services, and progressed to instructor, Adult Day Health Manager, Intermediate Care Facility/Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Case Worker, and ICF/IDD Coordinator, up to her current position as Community Outreach Manager.

Her excellent organizational, management and supervisory skills, as well as her knowledge of the various State and Federal programs and requirements, have served her well and resulted in her various promotions over the years.

Kumukahi, originally from Hilo, has also been playing music professionally since 1975. She is a multi-Na Hoku Hanohano Award-winning recording artist. In 1993, Kumukahi was named "Most Promising Artist of the Year," as well as "Female Vocalist of the Year," an honor she again received in 2004. Her recordings have won for "Best Hawaiian Album" (1993), "Island Music Album of the Year" (2010), and "Hawaiian Language Performance Award" (1998). In 2008, Kumukahi won as both artist and producer in the coveted "Album of the Year" category for *Nā Lani 'Ehā*, by Kumukahi and the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame Serenaders.

Hawaiian music and language are lifelong passions, and Kumukahi supports Hawaiian arts organizations, including the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts (HARA), the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame, and Hālau Hawai'i, and is the co-founder and president of Nā Lani 'Ehā Hawaiian Civic Club. Kumukahi is also an accomplished songwriter, and one of her composition, *'O Waikuhūmea*, was awarded the "Haku Mele Award" for best Hawaiian language composition at the 1994 Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards.

Kumukahi's passion for Hawaiian music has led her to produce Hawaiian music and hula shows in Hawai'i and Japan since 1997. As the music director for the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame's annual "Lei of Stars" event, which showcases the accomplishments of each year's inductees, she has researched and produced each show since 2006. Kumukahi has also been involved with the annual Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards Show since 2006. She continues to conduct numerous workshops, participate on Hawaiian cultural panels, serve as a judge in hula competitions, and teach Hawaiian music and 'ukulele as she has done over the years.

Kumukahi espouses that Hawaiian music, language and culture support - and is an integral part of - the tourism industry. Kumukahi regularly performs in the Royal Hawaiian Center's "Mo'omeheu Hawai'i" Cultural Program and has always included an educational component with hula and stories to highlight the show. And, as one of the co-founders of "Mele Mei," has worked with the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts to showcase Hawaiian music and dance throughout the month of May and throughout the year.

It would not be an exaggeration to characterize that her life's work is to promote Hawaiian music, dance and culture through her recordings, performances, educational outreach, and volunteer efforts. Her personal mission statement:

To share with both kama'āina and malihini:

- the value of Hawaiian knowledge and how it relates to our very existence on earth
- the value of true Hawaiian leadership through the arts
- the value of understanding that through Hawaiian knowledge and values lies the core of hospitality
- the value of Aloha based on Pilahi Paki's definition of Aloha – emphasizing that it is the law of kindness.

A more complete list of her accomplishments, affiliations and works in the field of Hawaiian music and dance is attached. Client, employer and personal references are available by request.

Contact Information:

Ku'uipo Kumukahi

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