

Objective

My goal is continue being a conduit of empowerment for my Hawaiian people. My immediate and extended families have all raised, nurtured and groomed me to pursue the path of vigilance for cultural preservation, commitment to serve others and determination to help restore integrity to the "Hawaiian" elements of Hawaii. Honor, dignity, respect, and honest desire for the success of my people, the sustainability of our land and natural resources as well as the promulgation of a viable and healthy Hawaii serve as the impetus for my life's work.

Experience

January 2016-present

Instructor at Oahu Community Correctional Center and Halawa Correctional Facility

Hawaiian culture based Cognitive Skills Class focusing on the empowerment of the individual within the context of the larger social circles to include family, friends and the community. Through the lens of Hawaiian history, language, and cultural fundamental concepts the inmate attendees explore their personal relationship with Native Hawaiian cultural understanding. Developing and maintaining a responsible sense of connectivity to the land and culture that we live on is to commune with our ancestors and is an effort to keep ourselves accountable not only to ourselves but to those who have gone on before us.

January 2015-present

Caregiver

- I currently care for my mother on a full-time basis at my home.

2011-present

Consultant/Primary proponent for the Kumu Hina documentary film project and A Place In The Middle film short

- Duties include being an ambassador for the films in Hawaii and overseas to share the message and education that is possible with the film. Through the lens of Hawaiian culture the audiences shared in broadening their understanding of gender diversity and expression as well as inter and intra personal relationship theme issues. The film received numerous accolades and garnered several prestigious awards including the PBS Independent Lens Audience Award. This film was produced by Dr. Dean Hamer and his partner Joe Wilson who reside in Hawaii. The filming started in 2011 and was brought to the public in April of 2014. Since the film debut I have and continue to accompany the film to some of the myriad of destinations it visits that request film proponent support.

Independent Consultant/Cultural Advisor

September 2011 - present

As an independent consultant/contractor providing services in cultural advise and consultation, I have fielded a number of various requests including but not limited to the following:



- Cultural Advise for the Howard Hughes Corporation/Ward Village Development Project (November 2011-May 2015).

Responsibilities included:

- Comprehensive reach into the entire scope of development by the firm to incorporate cultural perspective, philosophy, language, history and practice into shaping how and what gets done and does not get done.
- Cultural sensitivity training for all development/construction site workers
- In-house culture/language/history sessions with administrative and other staff including corporation leadership towards building fortitude and understanding of the influence and place of culture in all lines of the Ward Village effort
- Empowered to enable directives regarding cultural/education initiatives that the company endorses and promotes
- Company branding
- Spiritual/Cultural blessing of events and including groundbreaking, exclusive company as well as community engage
- Naming of events, spaces and places as a part of the cultural fortitude of the company (including the newest of the development such as residential towers and retail spaces)
- Assisting with coordination and hosting of cultural events such as Kona Nui Nights, a monthly event honoring Hawaiian language, music and dance which assembles some of the most notable as well as up and coming music and dance artists/groups.
- Assisting sales and marketing team to incorporate, not appropriate, culture into their efforts to promote the Ward Village residential and other products
- Hawaiian language translation of documents both in the current/modern context for businesses requiring this resource (i.e. Honua Consulting) as well as translation of documents from history i.e. historical Hawaiian language newspaper publishings into English for contemporary use and reference
- Tongan language translation while in the Kingdom of Tonga as a subcontracted consultant assisting with local coordination and logistical efforts to expedite on the ground projects engaging both private and government entities.

*Hiatus was taken from contract engage with Howard Hughes Corporation to engage in politically oriented community organizational efforts focusing on empowerment for the Hawaiian community

Halau Lokahi Public Charter School

September 2001-November 2014

My responsibilities at the school have included teaching grades K-12 in the following (but not limited to):

- ❖ Mele Hula/Oli/Himene
 - I encode all of my compositions chanted/danced by students to include elements of native philosophy, history, and spirituality that serve not only the school but the larger Hawaiian community
- ❖ Hawaiian language emphasizing cultural perspective and outlook
 - I am fluent in both mainstream spoken Hawaiian and Niihau dialect of the Hawaiian language
- ❖ Hawaiian history incorporating cultural analysis of events in history
 - I have lead many events that HLPSC participated in including several community rallies, marches, parades, and other organized events often concerning cultural, socio-political and historical topics of significant Hawaiian community interest

- ❖ Hawaiian spirituality and the daily application and building of an intrapersonal relationship between self and greater mana connecting to family, community and the larger world view
 - I am responsible for leading the HLPCS staff/student body in our Pule and remain the spiritual anchor for the school and our families during times of illness, personal and family struggles and any and all situations that come my way
 - I am able to spiritually commune in both Traditional and Christian ways
- ❖ Interpersonal communication/Hawaiian social skills and etiquette
- ❖ Self-esteem/confidence development
- ❖ Public Speaking and delivery
- ❖ Cultural protocol and training: cultural exchange with other Polynesian contingencies from the South Pacific, responsible to determine the protocol to be observed for visiting Polynesian and local Hawaiian individuals/groups; responsible for determining protocol for school/students/staff during official travel outside of Hawaii (to include regions of the South Pacific, U.S., Canada, and Japan); responsible for assembling/organizing cultural gift exchange
 - I took student ambassadors of culture to the following places: Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Kahoolawe, Kauai and Niihau; Arizona; New Mexico, Massachusetts, New York, Washington D.C., Canada, Hokkaido (Japan), Alaska, Tahiti
- ❖ Problem solving and Ho'oponopono guidance between HLPCS staff, students and their families.
 - I am one of the primary staff sought after to provide insight to students and youth issues that impact their daily life; liaison between administration/students/families addressing behavioral issues, compliance and quality assurance of follow through with expectations on all sides of school related situations
- ❖ Public interface with HLPCS
 - I have become the face associated with HLPCS and have been relied upon to not only be the official school spokesperson and commentator but also the ambassador for school functions and related events
 - I have also provided Damage control communique between school/families/public during times of school related crisis and other contentious events affiliated with some aspect of school and administrative leadership
- ❖ Provide Cultural guidance and advise on appropriateness of curriculum and events that students/staff will engage in
- ❖ Provide shared cultural resource/empowered to be a cultural resource link between several of the Na Lei Naauao Hawaiian Charter School Alliance schools to include but not limited to:
 - Kauai island schools: Kula Aupuni Niihau a Kahelelani Aloha (KANAKA), Ke Kula Niihau o Kekaha
 - Hawaii island schools: Kua o Ka La, Kanu o Ka Aina
 - Oahu island schools: Halau Ku Mana, Ka Wailona o Ka Naauao
- ❖ Drive buses and vans for school related field trips
- ❖ Maintenance and clean-up of facilities and vehicles
- ❖ Assisted in facilitating negotiations involving school and various community entities including OHA and Kanehameha Schools to name a few
- ❖ Co-founding Kumu of the Ku Mai Ka Lama o Ke Ola Annual concert featuring Halau Lokahi Public Charter School, Kanehameha School Kapalana campus Performing Arts Hawaiian Ensemble, Kailua High School Hawaiian Ensemble, Mid-Pacific Institute Hula Ensemble
- ❖ Responsible for the coordination of community events and field trips attended by students
 - To include transportation and other logistics coordination
- ❖ Responsible for the planning and coordination of HLPCS Commencement Exercises
- ❖ Political lobbyist for HLPCS and the larger Na Lei Naauao Hawaiian charter school network

Honua Consulting

2008 - present

- ❖ Independent consultant/resource for translation of Hawaiian language; Hawaiian philosophy and perspective
- ❖ Also worked on Hawaiian Monk Seal contract and community consultation and advocacy
- ❖ Liaison on behalf of Honua Consulting with members of the Hawaii State Legislature
- ❖ Company representative to multiple discipline areas requiring representation from Honua Consulting

Ke Ola Mamo Native Hawaiian Health Care System

1998-2001

Working with Native Hawaiian population highest at risk for HIV, primarily within the GLBT community with great emphasis on the Transgender/Mahu population

Job Responsibilities included but not limited to:

- ❖ Outreach and Prevention Education for individuals highest at risk for contracting HIV and other STD's
- ❖ Intake/Case management/Follow-up for clientele of the Lei Avenue HIV prevention education program
- ❖ Transportation of clientele to empowerment services
- ❖ Responsible to assist clientele to develop greater sense of self-esteem and confidence
- ❖ Responsible to assist clientele in obtaining clothing, food, shelter, furniture and supplies via working knowledge of network of social services available to the community
- ❖ Coordinate and organize island-wide conference and retreats for mahu population of Hawaii geared towards the empowerment of both mahu and the larger community
- ❖ Provide training and capacity building for service providers, schools and other community partners for greater sensitivity/integration of working with transgender/mahu individuals
- ❖ Political lobbying for Transgender parity, representation and inclusion in local and U.S. national levels
 - Represented Hawaii TG peoples at the U.S. National level (President Clinton Administration for Transgender and other GLBT advocacy and policy development)
 - Represented Hawaii TG peoples at various U.S. national conferences surrounding GLBT (primarily TG) HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness
- ❖ Provided leadership and development training for TG/mahu as part of program implementation
- ❖ Hawaiian language culture and resource for KOM
 - Translation of HIV prevention/education material into Hawaiian for community dissemination
 - Niihau community outreach (mahu identified individuals)
- ❖ Helped to establish and maintain office drop-in center for TG/mahu to receive services at KOM
- ❖ Co-founder and former Board of Directors Chairperson for Kulia Na Mamo, 501c3 born out of the larger needs of TG community in Hawaii not able to be serviced/addressed by the narrower scope of service provision by Ke Ola Mamo
- ❖ Recognized as community leader during time of service to KOM and honored as Gay Pride Parade Grand Marshall during my employ at KOM

Bishop Museum

1995 (one year exhibit term)

Voyaging exhibit featuring Hawaii Loa double-hulled sailing canoe; Cultural and educational interpreter and guide for exhibit and exhibit activities

- ❖ Guide students and other museum guests through a culturally based interpretive tour of the voyaging exhibit featuring the Hawaii Loa canoe and the larger Polynesian cultural artifacts within the Bishop Museum storehouse
- ❖ Cultural resource for community interaction

Lecward Community College

1995-1998

Ka Leo Kaiaulu Hawaiian Language Extension Education Program

- ❖ Provided Hawaiian language and cultural education to community members enrolled in classes and held at the following community locations:
 - Nanakuli High School
 - Castle High School
 - Papakolea Community Center and at a Kapaliulu Community Church (in collaboration with Ke Ola Pono No Na Kupuna Alu Like Program)
 - Department of Hawaiian Homelands offices formerly located in Downtown Honolulu at Historical Post Office Building

Ogden Allied/Polynesian Airlines

1993-1995

- ❖ Provided Passenger Service and Operations support for Polynesian Airlines
 - Passenger Check-in and Baggage Service
 - Operations communications
 - Gate check departure/arrival
 - Language translation for Samoan and Tongan passengers upon entering Immigration and Customs
 - Crowd control and Check-in Lobby management during peak travel season and overbooking of flights
 - Sitatex Baggage tracking and control
 - Ramp licensed/authorized to include HAZMAT training and Jet Bridge operation

University of Hawaii Ethnic Studies Program

1991-1994

- ❖ Ethnic Studies Hawaiian course teaching assistant to Professor Davianna McGregor
 - Managed and instructed course lab and study sessions for enrolled student of UHManoa

Kamehameha Schools Performing Arts Department

1990-1992

- ❖ Performing Arts Hawaiian ensemble hula/oli assistant instructor
 - Assisted in teaching cultural repertoire for travel to South Pacific
 - Assisted in maintenance and delivery of cultural protocol
 - Coordination of cultural performers and logistics support

Mountain Apple Company/Brothers Cazimero Show and the Royal Dance Company

1990-1992

- ❖ Performer for the Brothers Cazimero Show formerly housed at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel
 - Performed at shows and concerts and other special engagements in Hawaii and abroad

Hilton Hawaiian Village Poolside Show/Torchlighting ceremony

1990-1994

- ❖ Hawaiian show performer

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Kulia Na Mamo, 501c3, Native Hawaiian Organization serving the Transgender/Mahuwahine community

2001-2011

Board of Directors, Chairperson and Co-founder

- ❖ Responsible for the leadership and guidance of the outreach and interventions provided by Kulia Na Mamo to the community
- ❖ Development of policy and implementation via board and administration collaboration
- ❖ Problem solving and damage control during contentious times of KNM
- ❖ Support and guidance to the Executive Leadership of KNM
- ❖ Public Speaker for organization and larger TG/Mahu issues in Hawaiian community
- ❖ KNM representative to conferences and other community capacity building events complemented by a host of public speaking opportunities

I am still active with the organization as it exists as a federally acknowledged entity albeit not in current operation; KNM is currently seeking ways to resume community outreach and support as well as the reinstatement of programs benefitting the target community served.

Iolani Palace

Volunteer Cultural Consultant

2011 to present

- ❖ Provide cultural support to the Friends of Iolani Palace Executive Director Kippen DiAlba Chu and staff (on an as needed basis)
 - Facilitate cultural protocol for special events; welcoming of important guests
 - Analysis of culturally related components of programs implemented at palace; assist with contentious encounters with various sectors of the community that engage the FOIP on politically charged topics/events and intervention between FOIP and community if and when requested

Oahu Community Corrections Center (OCCC)

2008-2010

Facilitated a Hawaiian culture/language program emphasizing confidence and self-esteem building with inmates based on increasing cultural familiarity and consciousness. I worked directly with male inmates at the Annex 1 facility of OCCC.

Ilioulaokalani Coalition

Board of Directors/member

2005 - present (although Ilioulaokalani does not actively meet and has not met for the last 4-5 years)

Oahu Island Burial Council

2008-present

Kona representative, former Vice-chair and now current Chair

- ❖ Responsible for leadership and cultural guidance of Burial Council in matters pertaining to the surfacing and discovery of iwi kupuna (ancestral burial remains) and the mitigation of iwi kupuna finds
- ❖ Promote a positive working relationship between community members and large landowner/developers with regards to discussion on iwi kupuna
- ❖ Participate in large landowner/developer meetings along with cultural and lineal descendants recognized by the OIBC and SHPD and provide guidance and direction in the areas of culture, language, history and practice; some of the most notable projects to date are:
 - The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (Rail project)
 - Kawaiahao Church Likeke Hall Reconstruction
 - Princess Kaiulani Hotel and other developments owned by Kyoya
 - The Waikiki International Marketplace/Faubman and Associates/Queen Emma Land Company
 - Howard Hughes Corporation/Victoria Ward Village Shops and 60 acre property
 - The Princess Kaiulani Hotel/Kyoya International/Starwood Hotels
 - Stanford Carr Development/Kakaako Affordable Income Project
 - Pai Foundation Project
 - Kobayashi Group/Kings Village Waikiki
 - Hilton Hawaiian Village Kalia Wastewater Management Rehabilitation Program/USAG-HI/State of Hawaii/City and County of Honolulu
 - Several other projects involving the Federal Govt. Oversight of Sec. 106 and NAGPRA consultations with community to include claimants for iwi kupuna and other cultural resources

I have participated in numerous meetings for these and other projects that impact Oahu island with particular focus on the Kona/Honolulu district. I am familiar with their various leadership and am able to contribute to discussions that maintain strict focus on cultural appropriate development for Honolulu.

Siasi o Tonga Tauataina/The Free (independent) Church of Tonga

1995 to present



- ❖ Member (less active now in Tongan community church related events to focus on the Hawaiian community events that take precedence in my current life responsibilities)
 - Served as interpreter and church liaison for official church communique with the City and County of Honolulu for church related/sponsored events

Queen Emma Hawaiian Civic Club

1998 to present

- ❖ Member (although currently inactive due to my personal desire to give greater focus and attention to the other community commitments and responsibilities esp. with regards to the OIBC and HL Public Charter School)

UTOPIA Hawaii

1998-2002

- ❖ Member; Polynesian social group emphasizing fellowship and networking; social events and member support group for GLBT and friends/family of GLBT.
 - Activities included kava social circles, social outings, support group gatherings, volleyball and public event attendance; Polynesian music and dance

TEDx Maui 2014 Speaker

EDUCATION

- ❖ Kamehameha Schools Kapalama Campus, ██████████
- ❖ University of Hawaii at Manoa, Center for Hawaiian Studies, B.A. with a focus on language
- ❖ University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Education, B.Ed.
- ❖ Niihau/Kauai based Niihau families language and cultural immersion over the course of 22 of 40 years (hanai of a family that insisted on Niihau language as the preferred language of communication)
- ❖ Lei Hulu Hula Studio, Manoa, completion of requirements made of me to attain status of Kumu Hula

SPECIAL SKILLS/VARIOUS RELATED FIELD/LIFE EXPERIENCE

- ❖ I am fluent in both mainstream AND Niihau dialect of Hawaiian language
 - I served as interim Co-Director of Kula Aupuni Niihau A Kahalelani Aloha in 2006
 - Instructed hula/oli/lumani in the Niihau dialect between 2006 and 2008 and remained available as an Oahu based liaison for special events and activities
- ❖ I am conversationally fluent (in the order of proficiency) in Tongan, Samoan and Tahitian language and am able to read and write to varying degrees of proficiency in each language
- ❖ Assisted in diplomatic communication between a local Hawaii based renewable energy firm and the Kingdom of Tonga government to allow investment and development of renewable energy in Tonga
- ❖ Have traveled the South Pacific islands extensively to include Tonga, Tahiti, Raiatea, Maupiti, Aotearoa, Rarotonga, Aitiu, Fiji and Australia (most notably and for the longest extended periods of time to Tonga over the course of the last 20 years); Also traveled to several states within the U.S. to include Washington D.C. as well; Scandinavian Europe including Denmark, Copenhagen, and Sweden; Japan and Hokkaido;
- ❖ I have been culturally adopted into and raised by a Niihau and a Tongan family (when not with my own biological family) within their respective larger communities engraining within me the cultural eye and mindset whereby I am able to assess situations with both a western and Native outlook and perspective
- ❖ Was raised in both a staunch Hawaiian AND Chinese family life and households expected to maintain cultural practices on both sides of the family.



AWARDS

I have been the recipient of many awards, many earned based on the account of my documentary film, **Kumu Hina** and its educational short version entitled **A Place In The Middle**. Below are two of the most notable awards received based on both my film and work within the community.

- ❖ 2016 Champions of Change Award, President Barack Obama/The White House
- ❖ 2016 The National Education Association Ellison Onizuka Award for Civil Justice and Social Change