



Kumu Ulana Bios

- **Caroline Affonso**
Caroline was born in Honolulu and now resides in Kapahulu, O‘ahu. She is a retired social worker with public safety and presently engages in “life, love, laughter and ulana, ulana, ulana!” Caroline has been weaving since 1998 with Gladys Kukana Grace. When she weaves a pāpale for someone special, she can hear Aunty Gladys saying, “Think of the person as you ulana...”
- **Debbie Toko**
Debbie was born in Sagamihara, Japan and now resides as a part time taro farmer in Waipi‘o Valley, Hawai‘i. She is a healer, practitioner of acupuncture and massage therapy. She began weaving lauhala in 1998 with Kia Fronda. Her kumu were Margaret Lovett, Gladys Grace, Elizabeth Maluihi Lee, Peter Park and Pohaku Kaho‘ohanohano.
- **Dee Shimabukuro**
Dee is from Honoka‘a, Hawai‘i. She began weaving in 1972 in classes sponsored by Queen Emma Civic Club and taught by Elaine Mulaney. After a break from weaving, she continued in 1999 with an apprenticeship under Lily Sugahara through the State Foundation on Culture and Arts Program. She enjoys sharing what she has learned just as nā kumu before her did.
- **Gregory George “Gigi” Gomes**
Gigi was born in his grandfather’s car on the way to Lahaina Hospital. He grew up in Honolua Camp at a place called Kauiki Point and attended Honolua School. Gigi learned to make nets at the age of 9 from his grandfather Rev. John Kukahiko. He learned to make different nets specific to the fish to be caught. He can make throw net, crab, lobster, lay and other types of nets.
- **Iliahi Anthony**
Iliahi is a native of Hilo, HI and an educator at Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo, a Hawaiian immersion charter school. She is a hula practitioner with Hālau Kekuhi, hula implement maker and weaver. She is also known for her furniture designs that infuse cultural practices with a modernist furniture take.
- **Katie Lowrey**
Katie was born in Manoa Valley, O‘ahu and now resides in Hakalau, Hawai‘i. She has been weaving since 1980 when she learned from Leona Kamoku of Keaukaha. Since then Katie has had many wonderful Kumu who have touched her heart deeply including Lily Sugahara, Elizabeth Maluihi Lee, Gladys Grace, Minnie Ka‘awaloa, Margaret Lovett, Peter Park and more.



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- **Kekai Kapu**
Kekai has been an artisan and cultural practitioner for the past 25 years. Married to wife Colleen for 40 years, they are blessed with 4 children and 19 grandchildren. Kekai is a resident of Kula, Maui with a long history of genealogy that is tied to beautiful Kauaula Valley of Lāhaina. Kekai is a skilled craftsman, teacher and experienced weaver working with 'aha, lauhala and 'ie'ie making hīna'i, fish traps and jewelry.
 - **Ku'ulei Morales Becklund**
Ku'ulei was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i. She was the 8th child of 11 children to Martha Kalahiki and Alfred Carvalho Morales. During a family reunion in 1985, Ku'ulei's sister taught her how to weave a bracelet. In the tradition of her Tutu Lady, Ku'ulei embraced lauhala weaving techniques, continues to weave and is an active member of 'Aha Pūhala O Puna.
 - **Ku'uipo Kalahiki-Morales**
Ku'uipo first learned traditional Hawaiian weaving as a child and has been an instructor of Hawaiian arts for over 18 years. She spent her childhood in Ko'olau Poko, Kahalu'u, O'ahu. Her Tutu Lady was a weaver of lauhala and like the weavers of old, had a pū hala growing outside her home. It was there that the deep love of weaving was sparked and burns strong to this day.
 - **Lloyd Kumulā'au Sing and May Haunani Balino-Sing**
Kumulā'au and Haunani are passionate Hawaiian cultural educators who combined have over 40 years teaching in the community. Mentored under the guidance of master weaver Raymond K. Nakama, Kumulā'au has mastered the art of ulana 'ie'ie and over the years taught Haunani to weave 'ie'ie rootlets to recreate the many beautiful forms attributed to this style of weaving. Working a business together as Ke Kumu Hawai'i, the Sings continue to teach haumāna of all ages ulana 'ie and other Hawaiian material culture arts. "We are very excited and honored to share space, 'ike and participate in this first inaugural weaving conference."
 - **Lola Spencer**
Lola was born in Hilo and resides in Ho'olehua, Moloka'i. She is an all around yard lady, farmer and housewife but most of all, she is a weaver. Lola began weaving in 1989 via a public school night class and later began weaving with Gladys Grace and went through the State Foundation for Culture and Arts program. For Lola, weaving is a lifestyle and she is surrounded by lauhala.



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- **Lynda Saffery**
Lynda received her formal training in ulana lauhala as an apprentice under a 1988 State Foundation on Culture and the Arts grant. In 1989 she participated in a Masters Grant for ulana lauhala under the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Lynda took a sabbatical to Tonga in 2002 where she studied weaving as well as kapa making and design. She enjoys sharing her knowledge of traditional ways.
 - **Marcia Omura**
Marcia was born and raised on O'ahu and still resides in Niu Valley. She started hat weaving in 1980 with Gladys Kukana Grace and continued to weave with her until her passing in 2013. Marcia loves handling pāpale lauhala samples of old, looking at old photos and movies so that she can learn from them and then try to replicate what she has experienced.
 - **Margaret Lovett**
Margaret resides in Kapa'a on the island of Kaua'i. She has been weaving lauhala for 30 years and feels lucky to have had learned from master hat weavers Esther Makua'ole, Elizabeth Lee and Gladys Grace. Margaret has a passion for teaching lauhala weaving and loves to create pāpale for people to wear and for exhibition.
 - **Michael Naho'opi'i**
Michael was born and raised in Kaimuki, O'ahu and attended Kamehameha Schools and the US Naval Academy. As a cultural practitioner, Michael 'uniki as an 'ōlapa (hula dancer) as well as mo'olono (keeper of Makahiki ceremonies) for Kaho'olawe. He is a lauhala weaver specializing in pāpale and jewelry and has studied under Gladys Grace and other kumu ulana lauhala.
 - **Marques Hanale Marzan**
Marques is a Hawaiian fiber artist born and raised in Kane'ohe, O'ahu. He has learned and trained under noted experts in Hawai'i and continues to broaden his knowledge base of indigenous Pacific perspectives. He currently serves as Cultural Advisor at the Bishop Museum and shares his understanding and passion of the fiber arts through presentations, demonstrations and workshops.



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- Pam Lipscomb
Pam began weaving in 1990 at the East Hawaii Cultural Center and has been a member of 'Aha Puhala o Puna since 1997. Her kumu was Lily Sugahara, one of the founders of 'Aha Puhala o Puna. Over the years Pam has enjoyed hearing the many stories of her kumu as she learned to collect, clean, bleach and sort lauhala. "Mahalo Aunty Lily for all that you shared!"
 - Pohaku Kaho'ohanohano
Pōhaku Kaho'ohanohano comes from a lineage of lauhala weavers from Kahakuloa, Maui. As a young adult, he began his journey of apprenticeships with seven mentors and immersed himself in the art of lauhala weaving. He is now a master weaver dedicated to sharing his skill with others. He is excited to finally bring weavers to the island of Maui by co-chairing this inaugural weaving conference.
 - Pualani Muraki
Pualani was born in Lehu'ula and resides at Holualoa makai, Kona. Pualani has been weaving since birth, her first kumu her beloved mom, Frances Kia Agustin. Her other kumu include: Mrs. Uemura, Ginger Alexander, Kia Fronda, Maile Baird, Debbie Toko, Margaret Lovett, Debbie Tuzon and Pohaku Kaho'ohanohano. Pualani is inspired by a beautiful day gathering hala.