

U.S. Senate Committee On Indian Affairs

Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation stands as a continuance for the indigenous knowledge of Edith and Luka Kanaka'ole, as generational practitioners of our once banished but now thriving native dance – hula 'aiha'a and most importantly as Native Hawaiians implementing our ancestral insight as solutions in our modern world. Our work helps to provide solutions as it relates to conservation and restoration of historic sites, land and resource management, performance art, design and education.

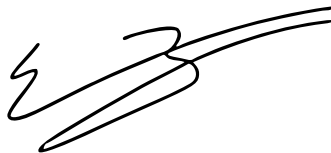
Fluency and familiarity with both 'ōlelo Hawai'i or the hawaiian language as well as our chants, songs and stories is the cornerstone for our foundation. Our Hālau or dance troupe – led by the daughter of Edith, Kumu Nālani Kanaka'ole – Hālau O Kekuhi has continually practiced our style of hula 'aiha'a for eight generations, translating ancestral and familial chants into world renowned choreography and dance. The practice of our hula 'aiha'a not only includes the movements of choreography, it's inclusive of learning about key native plants within our forests, the gathering process and creation ideals in creating our regalia and in the training and execution of ceremony and protocol.

Our organization's founder, Pualani Kanahale Kanaka'ole received an honorary doctorate from the University of Hawai'i for her life's work in Hawaiian Studies, education and curriculum. She brought to light the "Papakū Makawalu Methodology" that is a Native Hawaiian approach to science and observation of our land and natural phenomena. This methodology employs the translation of ancient hawaiian chants as generational in-depth observational data of place and how it coincides with current scientific research today.

These pillars of knowledge are an extension of our foundation's namesake, my grandmother Edith Kekuhikuhipu'uoneonāali'iokehala Kanaka'ole and her life's work. It is her teachings that inspired my father to start Sig Zane Designs and drove his trajectory from an early artist to an established cultural mainstay in Hawaiian fashion. In my work today, I uplift and carry forth this ancestral insight and apply cultural solutions through design, consultancy and commerce over the past two decades. Doing branding identity for some of the largest organizations in Hawai'i and expanding my father's art to athletic uniforms, airplane liveries and architecture, has really lead me to the ask the question, what is the bridge between culture and commerce? The answer is as simple as my grandmother puts it, "We must educate". We push on innovating platforms to educate audiences and continue her mission.

Humbled by this opportunity to share our story. Mai ka ho'oku'i a ka hālāwai.

Mahalo nui,



Kuhaoimaikalanikealiiaweuweu Tien Chu Zane