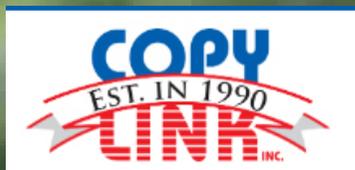
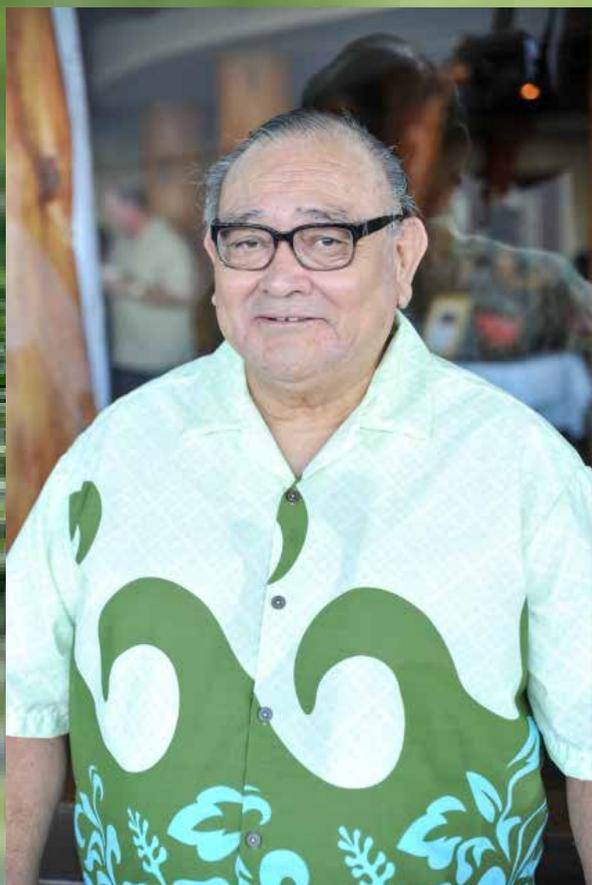


# PIFA 2021

# Rhythm of the Pacific



# Welcome

Hafa Adai!

Welcome to our 2nd Annual Virtual PIFA! This year's theme is Rhythm of the Pacific. As many of us were in hopes of having a festival in person, but due to City regulations and limitations it gave us no other choice but to have another virtual event. We, as many of you are truly saddened by this decision and know that our community is truly in need of an in person festival. We as a community thrive on celebrating our cultures, lives and each other. We are determined to put on our 2022 Festival in person. This year's theme is Rhythm of the Pacific. It was a theme that really resonated with me as I thought of the heartbeat of our people. How it beats at different stages in your life when it takes a toll on you as a person or the heartbeat as a community, island, nation or world as a whole.

Through the past year and a half we as a Pacific islander community as a whole have moved rhythmically through the pandemic with so much heartache, anger, frustration, uncertainty but most of all the passion to get through this as a community. Knowing that this pandemic affected our community in a bad way. The helping hands of many different Pacific islander organizations were able to give food, housing, clothing and most of all the continued love, encouragement, prayers and support to each other allowing each other to maneuver through this pandemic. PIFA as a whole was hit with a lot of heartache as we lost two Board of Directors.

Steve Madrid aka Papa Steve to some folks. He was instrumental as he was in charge of logistics for so many years for PIFA. He knew every inch of the grounds and what went where and how things needed to be placed, dropped times things needed to be done by.

PIFA was hit again this August with the loss of yet another Board of Director Trinalyn San Nicolas aka Trina. Trina was very active in all aspects of PIFA. She was in charge of the Booth committee and also The Taste of the Pacific. Uncle Steve and Trina will forever be in our hearts and like Uncle Steve will be with us every PIFA in spirit.

Our Board of Directors have lost parents and close family members this year all while struggling with their own health issues yet they refuse to give up and keep pushing forward. This is the heartbeat that I witness, hear and see! This team keeps thriving and fighting just so that they can see another day. I am truly honored and proud to stand with each of them as we go through this journey together. Supporting and praying over each other during meetings and over phone calls as we check in with each other. Just to make sure each other is okay. That is what this journey with the pandemic and life has brought this year for us along with keeping a close eye on the city to see what plan would be to open up at the end of May.

Knowing that the city was not going to allow us to have the festival in the manner we needed to, we had started to discuss what we would need to do and how long it would take for us to come to a very difficult decision in June. Which was to cancel our Festival once again. If you could only imagine how broken hearted we all were. For a moment our heartbeat stopped and was jump started by the reminder that we can still do something for our people even if it was having to go by what was set forth by the city. We were able to plan a Luau in place of our Taste of the Pacific given the city regulations and our event sold out in a matter of three weeks. We had a beautiful event filled with so much love, laughter and most of all great company at the Bali Hai restaurant. We were able to showcase our 2021 Scholarship recipients and crown our Miss PIFA Alana Godoy and say farewell to our 2020 Queen Jewels Mendiola Silva.

As we move forward with our virtual event I would like to acknowledge our Sponsors 7up, Hawaiian Air, Bryson Kim Photography, SoCal Pacific Islander Covid-19 Response Team, Michael Lagman Photography and Lin Jewelry.

I would also like to acknowledge the following individuals for their efforts in making things possible: Bryson Kim and Michael Lagman for all their dedication to PIFA and endless dedication to the entire community. I know that undertaking our virtual event and booklet was not an easy task and we are truly grateful. Our virtual PIFA team, your efforts in making things come together never go unnoticed and you are truly amazing.

To our brothers and sisters from Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia may our Loving God keep you safe and healthy until we are able to celebrate again.

We are the Rhythm of the Pacific the Heartbeat of Oceania~  
Si Yu'us en fan binendise

Anissa Acfalle - President PIFA 2021



# Meet the 2021 PIFA Board of Directors



# Meet the 2021 PIFA BOARD

# EXECUTIVE BOARD



Anissa Acfalle - President

Hafa Adai!

I am truly humbled and honored to serve as your 2021 President of the Pacific Islander Festival Association. This is our second virtual event and we are so very grateful for our Sponsors and groups that have taken the time to participate in this year's events. This virtual event allows the world a snippet of what they will be able to enjoy in person next year at our 2022 festival. This festival brings all of our people together as it has done in person for the past 25 years in person and virtually the past year. We are blessed with technology and most of all the communities that have taken the time to get filmed or have submitted their performances for the world to enjoy. The Rhythm of the Pacific is in each and every one of us. It's the sound of your heart to the pounding of poi to the beating of the drums at a Guma or Haluas practice. It is who we are as people with every step we take as we look back to where we each have come and where we are going. Listen to the Rhythm of the Pacific as it comes in many forms. Lastly, I give all the Glory to our Heavenly Father for the strength that he has given us all to get through this journey. We will continue to work hard and listen to the Rhythm of the Pacific as it will lead us into the year 2022 where we will all be able to celebrate as one!!

May God Bless and Keep you healthy and safe until we meet again



Rudy Tai - Vice President

E komo mai - Welcome!

I am honored to serve as the 2021 Vice President of the Pacific Islander Festival Association. On behalf of PIFA, I welcome you to our second virtual Pacific Islander Festival in San Diego. This year's virtual festival provides an opportunity for us to reflect on this past year and what we can look forward to next year. . We have been blessed with 25 years of being able to celebrate in person with many who have attended the festival in person. We are all in this together and together we will get through it.

I am sending a message to all, not only within the Polynesian, Micronesian, and Melanesian communities, to join us in celebrating our heritage, culture, and arts at this year's virtual festival.

I hope you always remember where you came from and help others in your journey, but most of all. I hope you continue to stay healthy and safe during these trying times.

I truly believe wherever we live, work, and visit, the Pacific Island people understand the importance of sharing the Aloha spirit with others even if its via zoom, facetime or even just a phone call.

A hui hou kakou - Until we meet again



Jeanette Perez - Treasurer

HafaAdai,

We have been given good health, family and friends, work, community (including all professionals) and of course, our government. The Government and those in the medical field did an amazing job with their decision to secure all business transactions for the well-being of the people and they provided some type of financial aid. Neighborhood communities came together more than ever to help with food drive campaigns, educational assistance, and spiritual awareness to name a few. The lockdown showed us that money and material things are not always as important as human life and caring for those in need. We need to do our part by staying within budget and less on non-essentials. Embrace gratitude and give unconditionally. Support local businesses. Let us present a cheerful disposition whomever we meet. Not a day goes by that I am thankful for everything that is created, is given, and is shared!

Si Yu'us Ma'ase!!!



Chrystell Pangelinan Brace  
Secretary

Aloha and Hafa Adai!

My name is Chrystell Pangelinan Brace and I represent the Chamorro and Hawaiian Communities. I have been volunteering with PIFA since 2002, and I am currently the PIFA Secretary and in charge of Membership and Scholarships. The Scholarship Program is special to me because I get to meet and work with the wonderful students seeking a higher education representing the Pacific Islander Communities. PIFA has been a place where my family come together to enjoy the food, entertainment and shopping. Family gatherings are usually filled with fun and lots of people, it has made me appreciate my husband, parents, siblings, nephews, nieces and extended family. It is with a heavy heart that I will miss my mom this year as we prepare for the virtual festival. She loved PIFA, the events throughout the year, and especially watching my sister and nieces dance. I look forward to the time when we can all get together and enjoy the festival in person.

Mahalo and Si Yu'us Ma'ase!!!

# Meet the 2021 PIFA BOARD



Sam Simpliciano

Hafa Adai and Greetings,

Born and raised on the Island of Guam, I had Joined the United States Navy right after High School in October 1977 and retired in San Diego, California after 20 years of service in October 1997. After the Navy, I immediately started working for the Chula Vista Elementary School District and retired once again in July 2017 after almost 20 years of service .

I have been married for 41 years to Bertha Cepeda Mafnas from Canada, Barrigada Guam. I have one daughter, Alicia Lyn married to Sebastiano Tomarchio (U.S. Army) from New Jersey. I have two beautiful grandchildren, Isabella (4) and Benny (10), whom I am so blessed with and proud of.

I have been involved with the Pacific Islander Festival Association since my retirement from the U.S. Navy. I have served as a Volunteer, Chairperson of multiple committees, Board of Director Officer, Treasurer, Vice President, President, Ex-Officio and Advisor during the past 24 years. I have enjoyed the times that I have spent in PIFA. It does come with lots of hard work and dedication to the program.

Two Thousand Twenty One (2021) has continue to be another year of challenges. What can be said about another Pandemic year. Although it has continue to affect PIFA's annual events throughout another year, it has continued to allow us to reflect in our past and continue to focus on ourselves.

The true challenge in life has always been to find the positive in any situation presented or faced. COVID has continue to be a very hard but not impossible pandemic to deal with. Until the pandemic is all over, we've got to stay as calm and focused, as we can. We must learn to accept the situation and work around it as well as seek the positive in it. Appreciate that this pandemic outbreak has allowed us to spend more time with our loved ones around us and create everlasting memories for them.

We look forward to next year (2022) for a new beginning. We pray that we would have a better control of this pandemic so that we can once again have our Festival along with all our other PIFA Events throughout the year.

So as we approach the new year (2022), let us all continue to take care of ourselves and of each other. Lets continue to be safe and plan a fabulous reunion at the 2022 PIFA Festival! God Bless!

# BOARD of DIRECTORS



Doreen Alailima

Talofa Lava & Greetings!

Congratulations to PIFA on the 2nd Virtual Festival celebrating 27yrs with our Pacific Islander communities and families. Like everyone, I thought that this time things would be somewhat back to pre-coronavirus normalcy however it was not to be. We lost one of our longest serving Board Members, uncle Steve Madrid and recently Trina San Nicolas. Both are truly missed for their love, passion and sacrifice to serve our Community.

This year's theme "Rhythm of the Pacific " is to me like the waves' rhythmic beat in the pacific ocean, a constant reminder of our heritage, culture, family, God & commitment to love and help one another. As the waves wash ashore and roll back to the deep blue sea, we bounce back, resilient from the loss of loved ones, loss of lives during the pandemic and look out towards the horizon for a bright future, a new beginning like the morning sun rise from the east and sun set in the west displaying its majestic colors at the end of the day.

We do not take each day for granted as we go about our lives and seeing our kids go back to school this Fall like many throughout the country and perhaps worldwide, we must continue to be diligent, be healthy, exercise daily and support one another. We pray and hope that this time next year in 2022, we are getting ready to host in person PIFA's 28th Anniversary at Ski Beach!

Faafetai tele lava!

# Meet the 2021 PIFA BOARD



Rita Gorniak

Talofa lava, my name is Rita Gorniak. Born and raised in Samoa. I embraced my culture and my Fa'a Samoa with respect and pride. I've served PIFA as a Board of Director since 2017.

PIFA's theme this year is Rhythm of the Pacific. I can only close my eyes and allow the rhythm to take me back to the Islands. I can hear the beating of the drums, the strums of the ukulele and the tapping along the floor as people dance. These are some of the sounds that many Islands are familiar with, whether it be to celebrate or to tell a story.

There is a rhythm that all Pacific Islanders are struggling with these past 18 months, and that's the rhythm of getting back on our feet, getting back to normalcy. One thing I'm sure of is our longing for a relaxing rhythm, whether that be the sounds of the waves crashing along the rocks or the sound of the palm tree leaves swaying through the wind.

We find ourselves tired and exhausted, leaving us with our imagination of escaping to a deserted Island filled with dancing and celebrate to our own rhythm. The feeling of getting out and immersing ourselves in different experience and activities has been long overdue, but unfortunately this year, once again, PIFA's festival has been cancelled due to the Pandemic.

As more people get vaccinated and return to normalcy, they are exploring the new rhythm of their life. They seek out peaceful environment such as the mountains, lakes and beaches. Some are welcoming changes as they relocate to less populated areas and focusing on their families. Moments that were once taken for granted, like to pause and breath or to hear the rhythm of your heartbeat has been embraced by so many of us.

I will close my eyes and follow the rhythm that is right for me. I hope you do the same.

# BOARD of DIRECTORS



John Quichocho

Hafa Adai! I'm John Quichocho and my family is from Yona, Guam. I am one of the Board members for the 2021 Pacific Islander Festival Administration. I'd like to welcome everyone to our 2021 PIFA Virtual Festival and virtual program book.

I was born and raised stateside and know there are many others like me who may or may not have visited the island of their ancestors. I know the importance of having Organizations like PIFA and other Pacific Islander groups that I have worked with who provide our youth the opportunity to learn about their heritage and culture.

I'm a military veteran and am currently employed full time as a Military Service Coordinator and Minority Veterans Program Coordinator with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Benefits Administration helping our Service Members, Veterans and their families with their VA Benefits. I volunteer on the PIFA Board of Directors and Irensia Dance Group Board of Directors. I am a lifetime member of the Son's and Daughters of Guam Club and past chairman and lifetime member of the Yona, Guam Saint Francis Group of San Diego CA. I also work with other Pacific Islander groups who provide information and assistance to your Pacific Islander veterans and their families.

I would like to congratulate the PIFA Officers and Board of Directors for the years of cultural education and entertainment they have provided to our communities and their hard work to continue this despite the restrictions of this pandemic. This will be our 2nd and hopefully last Virtual Festival. We plan to come back strong next year

Si Yu'us Ma'ase!



Leilani Jesina

Aloha and Greetings to all,

This year we have faced losses and health crisis within our family and the community. It is important to always remember the time we have the precious moments we share together as well as the laughs. This year's theme Rhythm of the Pacific is all about the music and how it can make us feel as well as brings together the community at the time we are still healing from Covid. We are trying to just get to a new normal whether it be for kids to be returning to school and what that may look like. Attending games or even concerts while practicing social distancing. It is always important to remember to enjoy those moments with loved ones.

Thanks to you all

# Meet the 2021 PIFA BOARD



Monique Carrillo

Hafa Adai! Aloha! Talofa! Malo e leli! Kiora! Bula! Ia Orana!

PIFA has been a part of my life since I was a teenager and my involvement has changed over the years. From working in my uncle's food booth as a teen, to attending as a guest in my early twenties, to running the parking lots and making sure guests arrive to and come back from the festival safely, and the past two years working with PIFA to continue to serve the community, but one thing that is the center of PIFA is family. This year we lost two of our PIFA board members, Uncle Steve Madrid and Auntie Trina San Nicholas, a part of the heart of PIFA and several other PIFA family members that not only made PIFA run, but supported us as well while we worked to make PIFA the festival it is every year. Their love and dedication to PIFA was a big reason of the success of PIFA and although their physically gone,, their spirit will always live in through PIFA like the others who have gone before them. The main purpose of PIFA is promoting the culture of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia and at the core of that is family, community, and sense of welcoming. When you are a part of the community r regardless of race or ethnicity you are a part of the family and we welcome you to our PIFA ohana. Thank you for a the support you give to PIFA and please enjoy another Virtual festival this year and all the hard work that was put into making it all come togeher.



Mimi Kalua Pollard-Hueitt

Our new life with COVID-19 has changed all of our lives to say the least. To homeschooling our children and working from home comes with success- es and disappointments. I know many of us have lost loved ones and close friends to this disease but we have to continue on and look to the future. I believe God will bring us through this, we just have to keep the faith! I personally miss each and every one of your smiling faces at PIFA events through- out the year. I wanted to thank you all for continued support of the Pacific Islander Festival Association because without you there would be no events. My final note is to ask everyone to Stay Safe and wear your face mask because it's not just your life you're protecting but the people around you. Sending much Aloha to all!

A large photograph of a family sitting outdoors on a grassy area. A woman in a white and teal dress is holding a baby, and a man in a white polo shirt is sitting next to her. A young child is in the foreground. The photo is framed with a white, hand-drawn outline. In the top left corner of the image, there is a circular logo with 'PIFA' at the top, 'COVID-19' in the center, and 'ISLAND CITY' at the bottom. A large white hibiscus flower is in the bottom left corner. A white banner with red text is at the bottom right.

**PROTECT YOUR MIND AND YOUR BODY  
FROM THE STRESSES OF COVID-19.  
LEARN MORE AT: [WHYWERISE.LA/WERISELA](http://WHYWERISE.LA/WERISELA)**

# Meet the 2021 PIFA BOARD

# Remembering STEVE MADRID

## PIFA Through my father's eyes

My father, Steve Madrid set a lasting memory and legacy for me with PIFA. First, I want to thank our PIFA family for all the love, prayers, and support we received throughout my father's final journey home. Our gratitude for all the endearing hugs and many shared tears during this time can never be measured.

My Dad believed in PIFA and what it represents. He believed in devotion to family and dedication to community. One of his final wishes were to be able to complete one final year of PIFA before he was called home; unfortunately, his wish didn't come to pass but I will do my best to carry out his hopes and visions for PIFA. The belief in it takes more than parents to raise a child, it takes the village to contribute to their success. He demonstrated this belief of the village every year with the determination of his efforts towards PIFA success without limitations. If my father were here today, he would say take pride in who you are and where your journey began. Don't focus on the end of your journey but the humble steps you take to get there. Love without fear and live as if it was your last day. Most importantly, be true to God, yourself, and those around you.

My Dad would never say goodbye, and neither will I. When I'm missing you, I will look up to the heavens and know you're always here with me. Until we meet again, rest in the arms of the Lord.



# Meet the 2021 PIFA BOARD

# Remembering TRINA SAN NICOLAS



Trinalyn A. San Nicolas 46, of San Diego, CA has passed away on September 4, 2021.

She was born and raised in San Diego, CA on September 8, 1974 she is the daughter to Maria and Ignacio San Nicolas. She is survived by her late husband Roland S. Viavia and her two older brothers Edward San Nicolas and Vince San Nicolas. She is also survived by their spouses, godchildren, nieces and nephews.

Trinalyn graduated from Morse Senior High School in 1992. And furthered her education at Southwestern College. Where she then graduated with an Associates degree in Criminology. She continued more of her studies and also attended California State University San Marcos. Later she worked as a social worker then after became a Customer Service Representative. With her experience she then dedicated her work to Sharp Memorial Hospital. She also served her community where she volunteered numerous years for PIFA. Where later became a Board of Director for the Pacific Islander Festival Association.

She enjoyed spending her time with her godchildren, nieces & nephews. She loved going to football and baseball games. She is also a lifelong Padres Fan. Trinalyn loved to travel and was always first to volunteer to be the designated driver when it came to family vacations. Her favorite destination of travel was Hawaii she loved the beautiful beaches and ono food. She had a heart full of gold and treated everyone with compassion. She always want to be first to help anyone in need.



Our Beginnings - Hokule'a



**HŌKŪ LE'A STEERING COMMITTEE  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**



- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Hanalei Vierra, Ph.D.  | Chairman  |
| Shelley Anderson       | Advertising/Media Director                              |
| Jennifer Beauchamp     | Museum Exhibit Coordinator                              |
| Mario Reyes Borja      | Program Book Director, Education Curriculum Coordinator |
| Riley Cardwell         | Fundraising Director, Advertising Coordinator           |
| Bob Abeakamai Crawford | Food/Arts & Crafts Booth Director                       |
| Dolly Crawford         | Ceremonies Director, Fundraising Director               |
| Jess M. Cruz           | Pacific Islander Advisory                               |
| Maria Cruz             | Pacific Islander Village Booth Coordinator              |
| Ti Frutado             | Education Curriculum Coordinator                        |
| Clinton Helenihi       | Entertainment Director                                  |
| Hal Hodgson            | Advertising/Marketing Director                          |
| Rita Koria             | Pacific Islander Advisory                               |
| Samea Koria            | Pacific Islander Advisory                               |
| Carolyn Lizama         | Historian/Secretary                                     |
| Vern Miranda           | Security Coordinator                                    |
| Gil Ontai              | Fundraising Coordinator, VIP Coordinator                |
| Margaret Sanborn       | Education Curriculum Director, Village Director         |
| Beth Saurer            | Program Book Coordinator                                |
| Lima Savaiianea        | Pacific Islander Advisory                               |
| Dewey Slough, Ph.D.    | Program Book Director                                   |
| Noelani Spaulding      | Welcoming Committee Coordinator                         |
| Tula Striffler         | Food/Arts & Crafts Booth Director                       |
| M'Lissa Trent, Ph.d.   | Operations Coordinator                                  |
| Elana Wegrzyn          | Hospitality Director                                    |
| Bill Wright            | Kupuna Advisory   |
| Gail Wright            | Museum Exhibit Director                                 |



Hōkūle'a - making lots of friends.

# Through the years PIFA 1995

## Hokule'a - Ho'oku'i I Ka Pakipika

Board of Directors

Chairman: Hanalei Vierra, Ph.D.



This is a very important-as well as exhilarating- time for the Pacific Islander communities of San Diego! What began as a simple and unassuming event. i.e.. HOKOLE ' A visit to San Diego, has developed into the awakening of a people. Along with the largest groups in San Diego-the Chamorro, Hawaiian and Samoan communities there has been an emergence of other island groups that have truly enabled us to refer to this event as "Pacific Islander." These groups include. /Jut are not limited to: the Federated States of Micronesia. Fijian. Maori. Marsha /Iese , Tokelau. and Tongan.

Never before have we allowed ourselves to reach out to each other to create a common vision in order to achieve a common purpose. Never before have we combined our energies and talents to showcase our distinctive cultures before the whole San Diego community. Already we are different because of this event.

Similar to the HOKOLE'A's own voyaging, this Pacific Islander Festival has become a journey unto itself. We have set sail upon uncharted waters without much of a map, relying solely on our instincts and signs from the heavens to guide us! Our intentions-like those of our ancestors sailing the Pacific in search of new land-has been to create a new life for our people! We may not have had a clear picture of where we were going when we started, /Jut we have definitely learned how to respond to the inspiration offered to us along the way that most certainly will guide us to a new beginning. We will never again /Je as we were before this endeavor began - and that is good .

Our challenge now is to continue to define and redefine WHO WE ARE living as we do in California with roots /Jack in our island nations. Our challenge now is to keep our sights focused and our vision clear as to what we need to keep growing and thriving as a people. Our challenge now is to inspire our children and our children 's children to keep this journey alive that we have so bravely begun.

Our uniqueness and our will to express our collective voice will /Jean inspiration to all who set out on similar journeys. Let that be a gift that we leave behind by which others may judge us.

Hanalei Pi'imanu Vierra, Ph.D.  
Chairman. San Diego HOKOLE'A Steering Committee  
(From PIFA Program Book 1995)



# Pacific Islander Festival

Hōkūle'a-Ho'oku'i I Ka Pakipika  
(Bridging the Pacific)



Ho'omaka'ika i Hōkūle'a I Moku Honu  
(Star of Gladness, Explore the Turtle Island)

Saturday & Sunday July 22nd & 23rd, 1995  
Embarcadero Marina Park North  
San Diego, California

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAM

# Through the years PIFA 1996

## Ohana O Le Pasefika

### Board of Directors

President: Samoa Koria

Vice President: Akeakamai Crawford

Treasurer: Mario Borja

Secretary: Carolyn Lizama

### How the Pacific Islander Festival Began

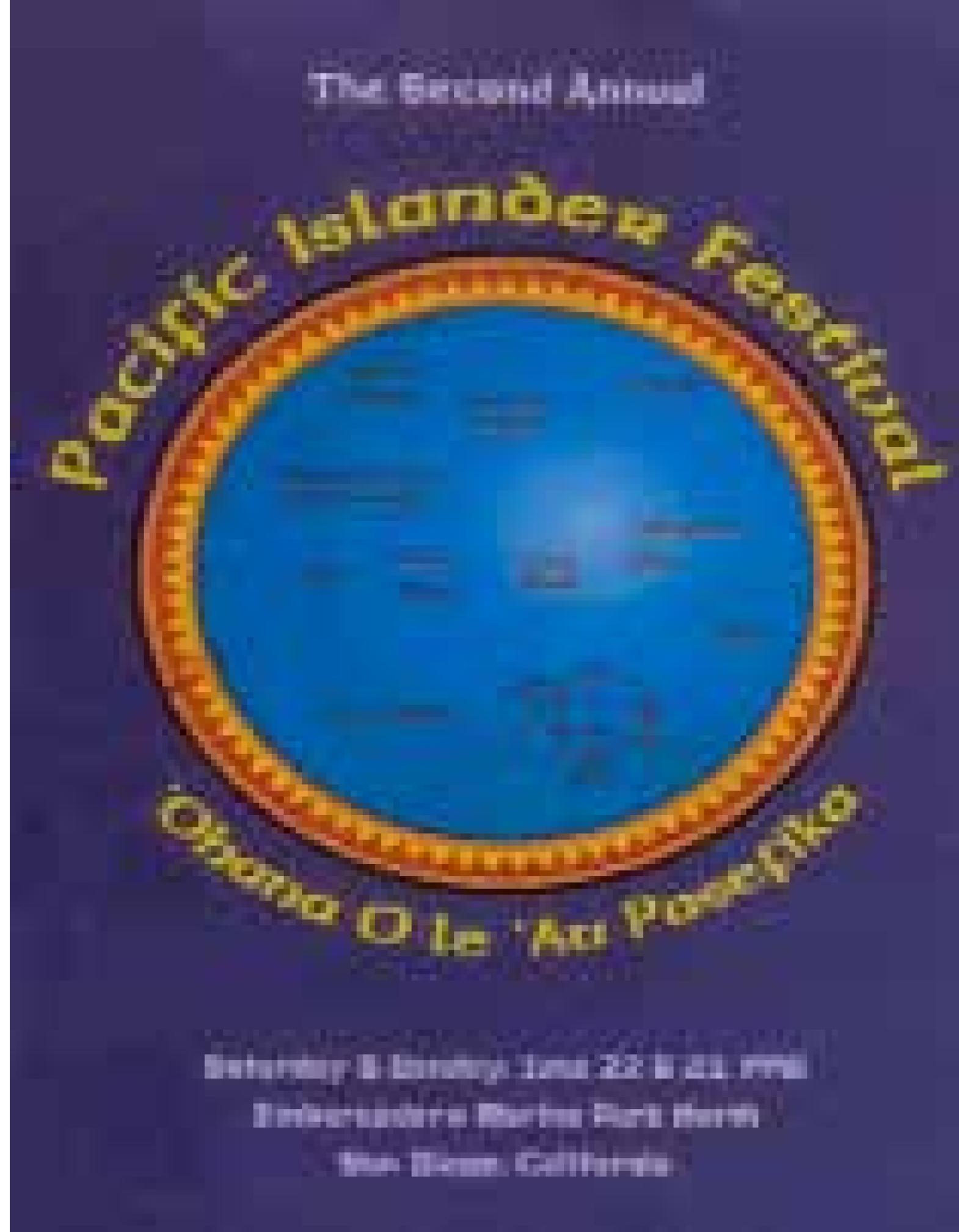
Our beginnings ... ! have been asked to write and share the beginnings of our first Pacific Islander Festival in San Diego. How it all started as early as 1993 there was talk of a Hokule'a visit to San Diego in the summer of 1994. The only San Diego based organization that had any knowledge of the visit was the San Diego Maritime Museum. Our Hawaiian Civic Club, 'Ahahui Kiwila Hawaii was newly organized that year. In 1994 I was invited as 'Ahahui President to a reception in Long Beach, California. The honored guest was Evert Fox, Executive Director of the Hawaii Maritime Center. The Hokule'a is owned by the Hawaii Maritime Center and preparations were being made for her visit to Long Beach. In my conversation with Evert Fox I asked him if the Hokule'a was coming to San Diego and his response was yes. I was elated by this information and assured him that San Diego would be ready for the Hokule'a in 1995.

I reported the confirmation of the Hokule'a visit at the following 'Ahahui Board Meeting. As the result of that meeting Hanalei Vierra was appointed chairman of the ad hoc committee called the Hokule'a project. Soon news of the Hokule'a visit reached other San Diego Hawaiian organizations and the Hokule'a project evolved into a Hawaiian organization committee called the San Diego Hokule'a Steering Committee. This committee was made up of representatives from the Hui o Hawaii of San Diego, 'Ahahui Kiwila Hawaii o San Diego and the Polynesian Education and Scholastic Foundation.

During our preliminary meetings plans for a ho'olaule'a or festival during the Hokule'a visit were suggested. The idea of a Pacific Islander Festival that allowed the committee to be more inclusive of other San Diego Pacific Islanders was readily accepted. The committee was able to locate the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Tahiti, Fiji, Aotearoa, Tonga, Samoa and Tokelau. They were invited to participate in the Hokule'a Welcoming Ceremony and the Festival Activities. They became a part of the steering committee, they asked questions, gave input and were able to vote. The San Diego Hokule'a Steering Committee evolved into a San Diego Pacific Islander committee.

The rest is history. The San Diego Hokule'a Steering Committee no longer exists, it has fulfilled its purpose and completed its task. The legacy that it left behind is found in the continuation of the festival and the formation of a new entity called the Pacific Islander Festival Association (PIFA). This nonprofit organization is made up of members of mixed cultures committed to support the purpose and objectives of PIFA. The members represent themselves and not an island group or organization. We are reaching out to each other to create a common vision in order to achieve a common goal. We invite all of you to be a part of this organization and help us meet the challenges of all indigenous people, to enhance the preservation and perpetuation and study of our history and culture.

By Dolly Crawford -(From PIFA Program Book)



# Through the years PIFA 1997

## Pacific Myths and Legends

### Board of Directors

President: Mario Borja

Vice President: Akeakamai Crawford

Treasurer: Tama Sotoa

Secretary: Danielle Mosier

### 1997, Pacific Myths & Legends

It was just two years since the Hokulea first came into the Embarcadero here in San Diego but you could still feel the euphoria in the air and hear the many conversations about her visit. Indeed, it was the first time for many of our very own local islander community to see such a vessel. We came together with our “Bula Bula” from the dark islands of Melanesia, with our “Hafa Adai” from the small islands of Micronesia, and with our “Aloha” from the many islands of Polynesia to greet her. Imagine a double outrigger Hawaiian canoe, 60- feet in length, sailing into San Diego Bay. It was the first for San Diego as well. The Hokulea galvanized us together as a nation, as brothers and sisters, hence the name Pacific islanders. And we were very proud to be one.

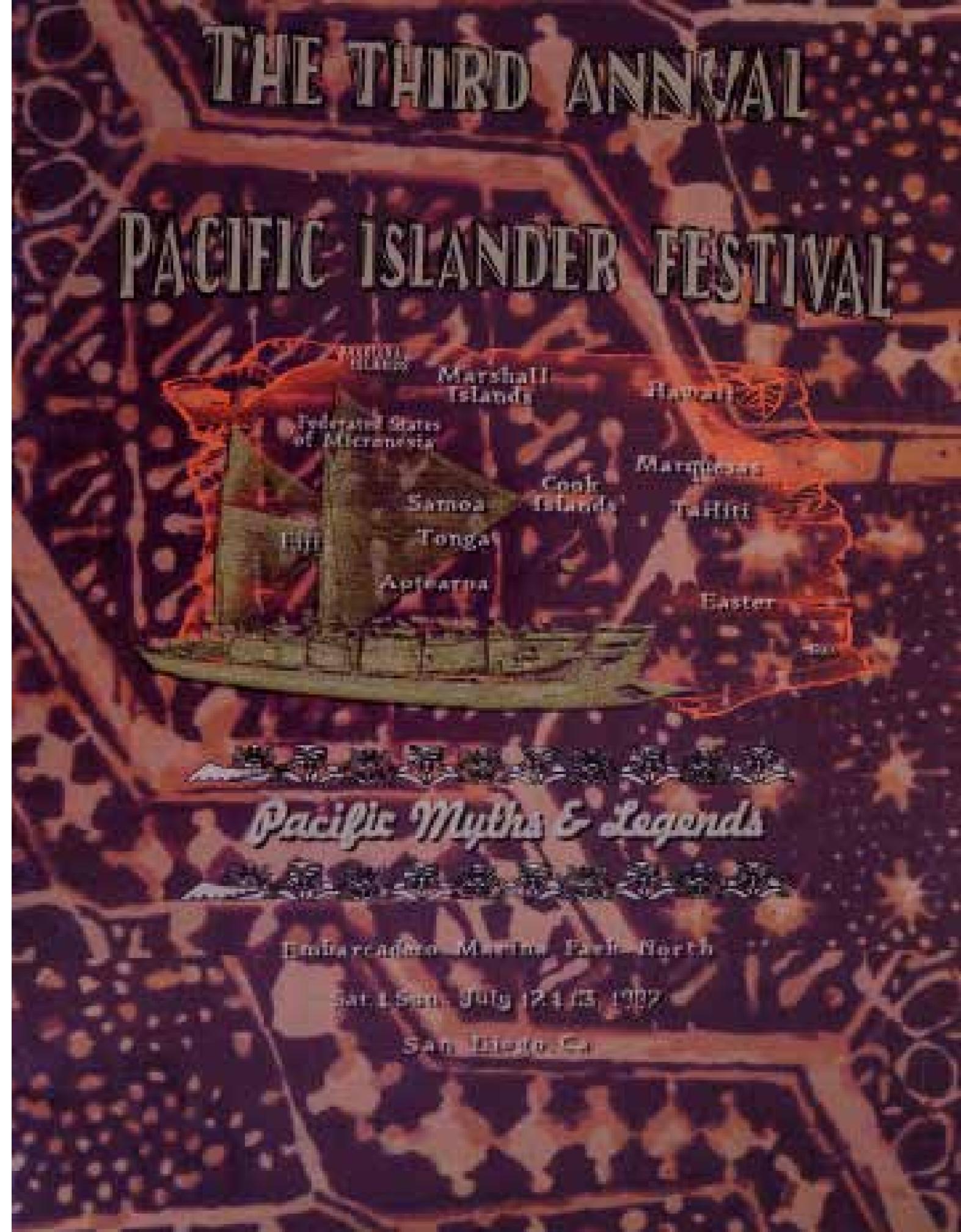
Our theme of our 3rd year, “Pacific Myths and Legends” captured the many stories often shared by word of mouth among our peoples in the days of old, from one generation to the next. These surviving stories have taught us about respect for our elders, reverence for our ancestors whose spirits abound, and intrinsic appreciation for our islands.

Our festival was the place to be, the place to meet family and friends from da islands. It was a time to talk story and eat da kind food. It was about our island culture and language. It was where we share our songs and tell stories with our dances. It was also a place where we show the rest of San Diego how we husk da coconuts and grate them for food, how we weave our fishing baskets, and carve our canoe paddles. It was our “long house” resurrected.

The Hokulea engendered all these and much more. It spawned many dreams to go back home, rekindled family roots between young and old, and even inspired some to build canoes. For Chamorros, the Hokulea was the vessel connecting large canoes to our small islands in the Marianas. As an archipelago surrounded by the bounty of the Pacific, our ancestors did build large canoes, the sakman, for deep sea fishing and long-distance voyaging. Sadly, the tragedies of colonization insured that history for us. The Hokulea was to resurrect our passion to build the sakman and restore our identity as canoe builders, sailors and way-finders. This we did in 2011, just 16 years later. We built Che’lu, our 47-ft Marianas Flying Proa. The phoenix has risen. This is Hokulea’s gift to our people.

Now, 27 years later, we still come together to celebrate. Hafa ADAI, San Diego

Mario Reyes Borja  
PIFA President - 1997



# Through the years PIFA 1998

## Children of Oceania

### Board of Directors

President: Akeakamai Crawford  
Vice President: Tula Striffler  
Treasurer: Tama Sotoa  
Secretary: Dolly Crawford

**G**reetings from the Children of Oceania. In ancient times, the Peoples of Oceania cherished and protected their children. They shared with them their songs, their skills on the land and on the sea, and their love for each other and their island homes. They knew that as they nurtured and cherished their children, they also passed on the customs and traditions that would insure the future of their community and way of life.

In this our fourth year, the Pacific Islander Festival is proud to celebrate the Children of Oceania. In previous years we celebrated our Pacific Myths and Legends. We have honored the Family of Pacific Islanders. We have also bridged the Pacific with the Hokule'a, and united Pacific Islanders of San Diego together in a celebration that continues to bring us closer together.

We, The Children of Oceania, gather together this weekend to share a real part of ourselves, our children. The future of any people is carried by its children, and as Pacific Islanders we must ensure our future by passing on the customs and traditions that make us what we are. This year the Pacific Islander Festival presents on our stage the songs and dances of our children. In our Village area there will be demonstrations and activities for children of all ages. This event program features stories written for, about, and contributed by the Children of Oceania. And we are especially pleased to present a collection of artwork created by the children of our community. The Pacific Islander Festival Association hopes that we all will cherish and protect our Children, because within them is our future, the future of our cultures and the future of this Island we call Earth.

Akeakamai Crawford  
President  
(From PIFA Program Book 1998)



# The Fourth Annual Pacific Islander Festival



**"Children of Oceania"**

**July 25 & 26, 1998**

**San Diego, California**

## Honoring Our Elders

### Board of Directors

President: Marie Cruz  
Vice President: Sam Atuatasi  
Treasurer: Leanne Cook  
Secretary: Vanessa Serra  
Riley Cardwell  
Dolly Crawford  
Tula Striffler  
Beth Saurer-Atuatasi  
Denise Dudoit-Meyer

### United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1103

MESSAGE FROM SENATOR DANIEL K. AKAKA  
FIFTH ANNUAL PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL  
July 17-18, 1999 San Diego, California

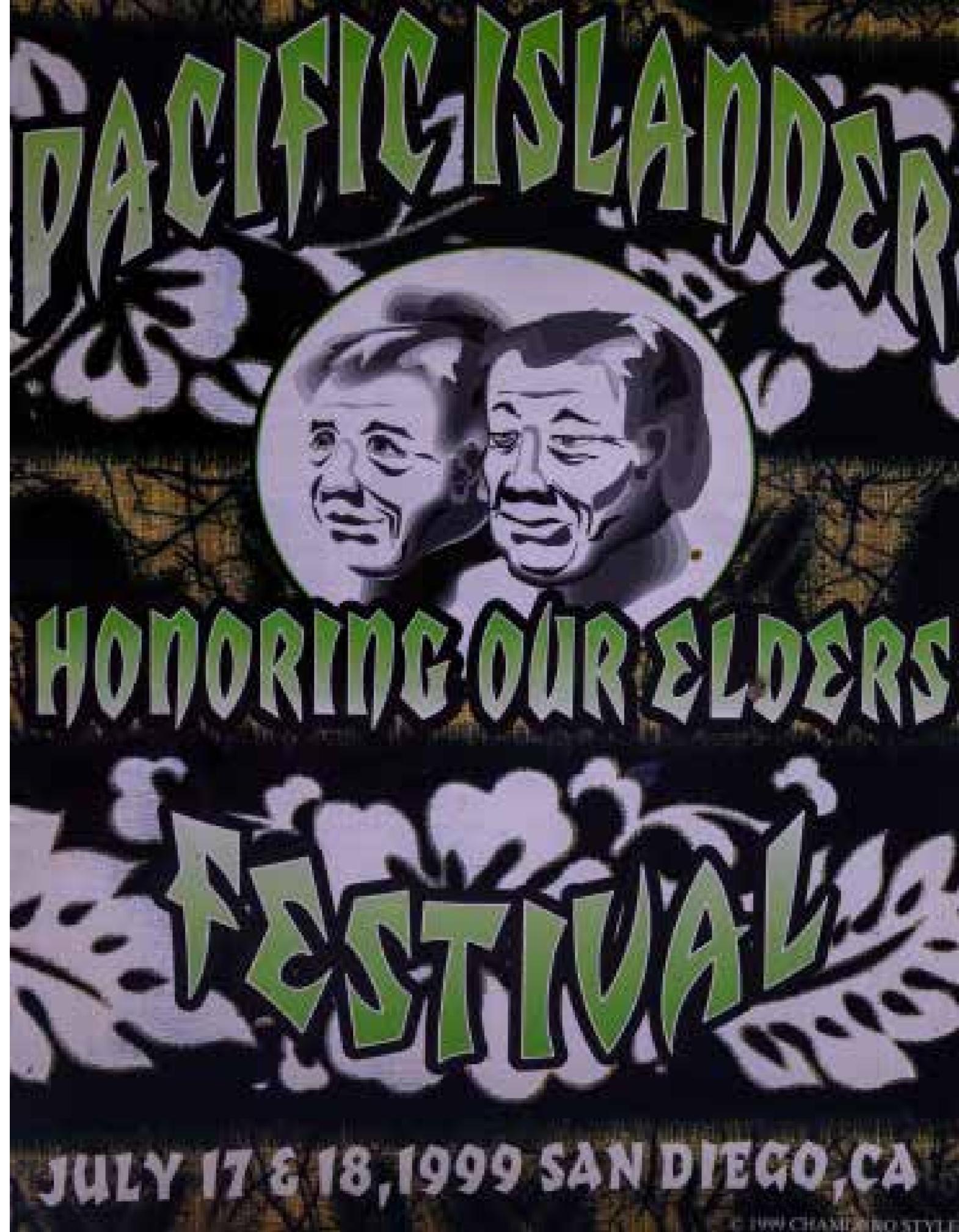
Aloha kakou! It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartiest welcome to everyone participating in San Diego's Fifth Annual Pacific Islander Festival. I congratulate the Pacific Islander Festival Association for organizing and hosting such a successful celebration of the diverse and magnificent cultures, languages, and traditions of our Pacific island communities.

This year's festival promises to be an enjoyable and enriching experience with artists performing traditional music and dance, educational displays, arts and crafts exhibits, and customary foods of the Pacific. I commend to all participants the rich cultural legacy of the peoples of the Pacific. All guests are in for a memorable weekend of entertainment, fellowship, and merriment. I join you in spirit for what certainly will be a special festival.

"Honoring Our Elders" is a wonderful theme for the 1999 festival. Our elders, our *kupuna* as we say in Hawaiian, are the cherished protectors and teachers of our island cultures and the keepers of our rich histories and traditions. The perpetuation of our Pacific heritage from generation to generation relies upon their dedication and wisdom.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful Pacific Islander Festival. A hui hou! God bless you all.

Aloha pumehana,  
DANIEL K. AKAKA  
U. S. Senator  
Hawai'i



Hafa Adai, Talofa, Aloha, Kia Ora, Iorana, Kulo Malulo, Malo E lelei, Bula, Ran Annim and Hello

We have come a long way from 1995. Our First Annual Pacific Islander Festival welcomed the historic voyage landing of the Hokule'a on the shores of San Diego at the Embarcadero Park North behind Seaport Village. We attracted approximately 50,000 people for the two-day gathering. We had a charter committee of Hawaiians, Samoans, Chamorros, Fijians and those who grew up in the islands or love the islands (haole) but is not an islander. We have had the privilege of Governors from the various States and Islands, various Island Officials, Congressional Representatives, Island Leaders, City and County Officials that have participated through the years. During my tenure as President of PIFA, I even received a letter from President George W. Bush congratulating PIFA for our accomplishments. In 2000, PIFA was acknowledged and touted as the largest Pacific Islander Festival in the world. Several cities throughout the U.S. started having festivals after seeing how successful San Diego's festival was.



We worked together to showcase our heritage through food, dance, music, cultural displays and crafts. We grew every year after our initial festival. We had to move from Seaport Village due to our increase in attendance. We moved to the old Naval Training Center in Pt. Loma for a couple of years (1999-2000), then to Southwestern College (2001) for a year and finally to our current and permanent location at Ski Beach in 2002. Our attendance increased to over 100,000 (each day) by the lovers of our culture and warmth of our island spirit.

The number of food booths, crafts booths, cultural booths, village areas and service organizations increased fivefold over the years and maybe even more so now. John Fejeran was the beginning of building the cultural village booths. John had artifacts and stories from the Chamorro culture that he had accumulated from his family. John passed away a couple of years ago and is sorely missed. We have had vendors from all over the Pacific Islands, almost every state in the U.S., as well as performers from all over. To our delight all of these Islanders, far and near, cultural villages, vendors and/or entertainment wanted to participate and be showcased for their talents and history.



In the beginning, we shared the leadership with each community taking a role and it has worked out to the benefit of all participants and the attendees. Each and every person who has contributed their time, energy and participation throughout the years has done this as a labor of love. There were about a dozen charter members in the beginning, and it has continually grown to put on the festival. However, the volunteers that work the entire weekend, are the real troopers because the festival depends on them.

We wanted a logo for our Association and Mo Malabanan stepped up and designed the man blowing the conch. The design has been cleaned up through the years, but the original logo was drawn by Mo, who is from the Hawaiian community. The entire Board accepted it and it was put on our program book for 2000. In 1999, Robin Tarr presented PIFA with the first \$500 scholarship honoring her son, Jonathan Tarr. The scholarship fund has grown over the years through donations and sponsorships at a record rate. Salani and Tim Faiivae Harrison and the Salazar family have contributed to the scholarship funds. GMAC Mortgage, Viejas Indian Tribe, Sycuan Indian Tribe, Hawaiian Airlines, Pepsi, Cox, UPAC, PISA, Coca Cola, San Diego Gas and Electric, Bank of America, and Citibank to name a few were contributors to furthering the education of our Islander students.

In 2004, an alliance was formed with Larry Baumann, owner of Tom Ham's Bali Hai Restaurant to host the "Taste of the Pacific". We asked all the Pacific Islander cooks and restaurants to participate by serving their foods, drinks and deserts. We have increased the number of participants in the "Taste" to maximum capacity at the Bali Hai. Larry has been a sponsor and backing of PIFA events and very accommodating. We started "Miss PIFA" in 2004. Jasmine Cone and her sister, Jolene, taking the reins of this new part of PIFA. (If I get my years wrong or left some names off, please forgive me.) Sponsorships and advertising have increased as well through the years. Larry is now hosting the annual PIFA Luau. It also awards the scholarships and Miss Pifa title at the luau.

PIFA has evolved so much since 1995. I recall not having a lot of experience with the computers, no experience with zoom meetings or constant contact and mail chimp but we all learned how to put the program book together, the agendas for our meetings, the letters and flyers we had to make to distribute around the Ski Beach area (one of the requirements from the City in order to use Ski Beach) and all the negotiating with the providers of the tents, stages, tables, chairs, booth set up, trash pick-up, recycling stations, port o pot rentals, arrangement for parking areas, bus shuttles, event signs on the streets, traffic control, security, medical assistance (ambulance coverage etc.) fencing and it goes on and on. The city had so many requirements, but we managed to get through all of them.

Several of the members now serving as your Officers and Executive Board of Directors serve on other islander committees, groups and may be city employees (i.e., police officers, fire department, city departments, etc.). In order to get things done for enjoyment of our presentations, everyone is self-sacrificing, and we always need volunteers. The National City Police Department has been the meeting place for many of the years. The San Diego Police Department has also been very cooperative and giving of their facilities and time.

I can only speak about the history of PIFA from 1995 through 2007 because I left San Diego after my Mom passed away in 2006. I am currently living in Santa Clarita, CA (about 4 miles east of Magic Mountain). I moved up here to be closer to my son who has blessed me with five beautiful granddaughters. The oldest one is graduating from high school next year and the youngest will be out of grammar school next year. They have kept me going and busy. I am retired but keep myself occupied by volunteering at my church, behind the scenes on political matters (boards and commissions with the city) and occasionally working at the Senior Center. Cannot believe that I am referring to myself as a senior, but I am there and hopefully will continue for a lot more years.

Thank you to all previous and present members and volunteers, attendees, entertainers, vendors and all those that participate in PIFA for giving me the privilege of building such a wonderful event showcasing Pacific Islanders. God Bless all of you and pray for our brothers and sisters no matter where they are. God Bless our country and all those who serve her.

It has been a pleasure

Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

Marie Cruz,  
A member of the Chamorro Community  
Former PIFA President

# Through the years PIFA 2000

## Moving into the new millenium

### Board of Directors

President: Marie Cruz  
Vice President: Sam Atuatasi  
Treasurer: Leanne Cook  
Secretary: Robin Tarr  
Riley Crawford  
JoAnn Fields  
Penu Pauu  
Beth Saurer-Atuatasi  
Denise Dudoit-Meyer  
Pete Zirkle  
George Cook  
Sina Tupea  
Lei Winkler

My name is Sina Tupea-Williams. I'm Samoan / Fijian living currently in Utah. I was born in Samoa and raised in American Samoa. As such, I'm more close to my Samoan heritage. I love Samoan food and culture. I love sports including cricket, outrigger canoe paddling, racquetball and golf. I have 9 siblings.



In 1995, Aunty Dolly Crawford approached me to be on the planning committee for the Hokulea Vaa. I attended my first meeting and started planning for the arrival of the Hokulea to the Embarcadero. That was the birth of "PIFA". The main purpose was to perpetuate our cultures by the food we eat, our songs and dances, and demonstrating our arts through our cultural villages.

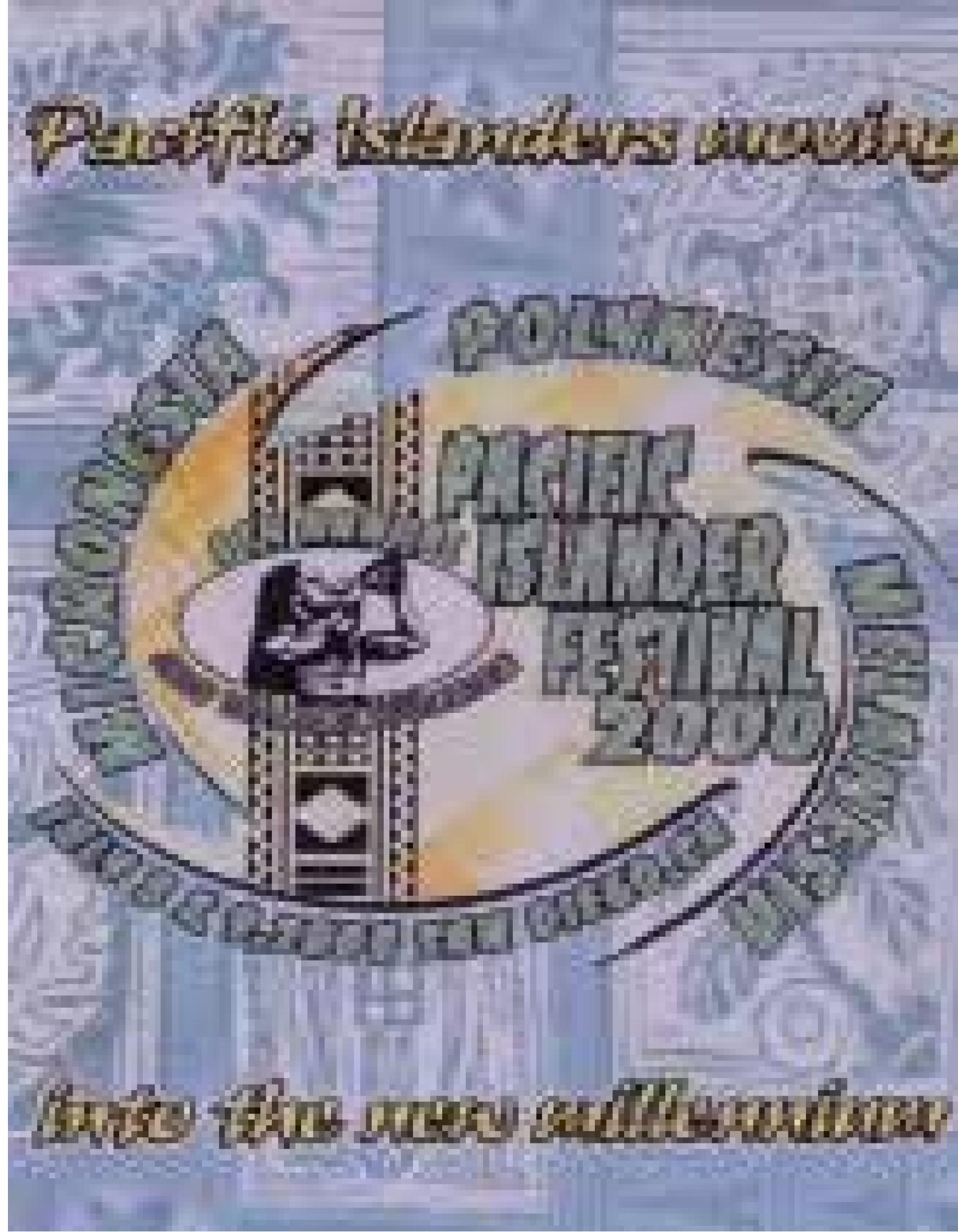


Back in the days we would have the different communities appoint the president and all the communities would be given opportunities. It was all well run and managed because it was all about sharing our cultures. When the Hokulea sailed back to Long Beach I was selected from our Samoan community to be on the team to sail back. It was very fun and exciting.

Right now I'm living and working in Utah and enjoying this beautiful state. I'm waiting for the borders to Samoa to open up then I plan to relocate back to Samoa where I will be most happy.



Sina Tupea-Williams



## Pearls of the Pacific

### Board of Directors

President: Marie Cruz

Vice President: Sam Simpliciano

Treasurer: Jeanette Perez

Secretary: Robin Tarr

Riley Crawford

JoAnn Fields

Lei Winkler

Grace Kiel

Tana Lepule

Pete Zirkle

George Cook

Tama Sotoa



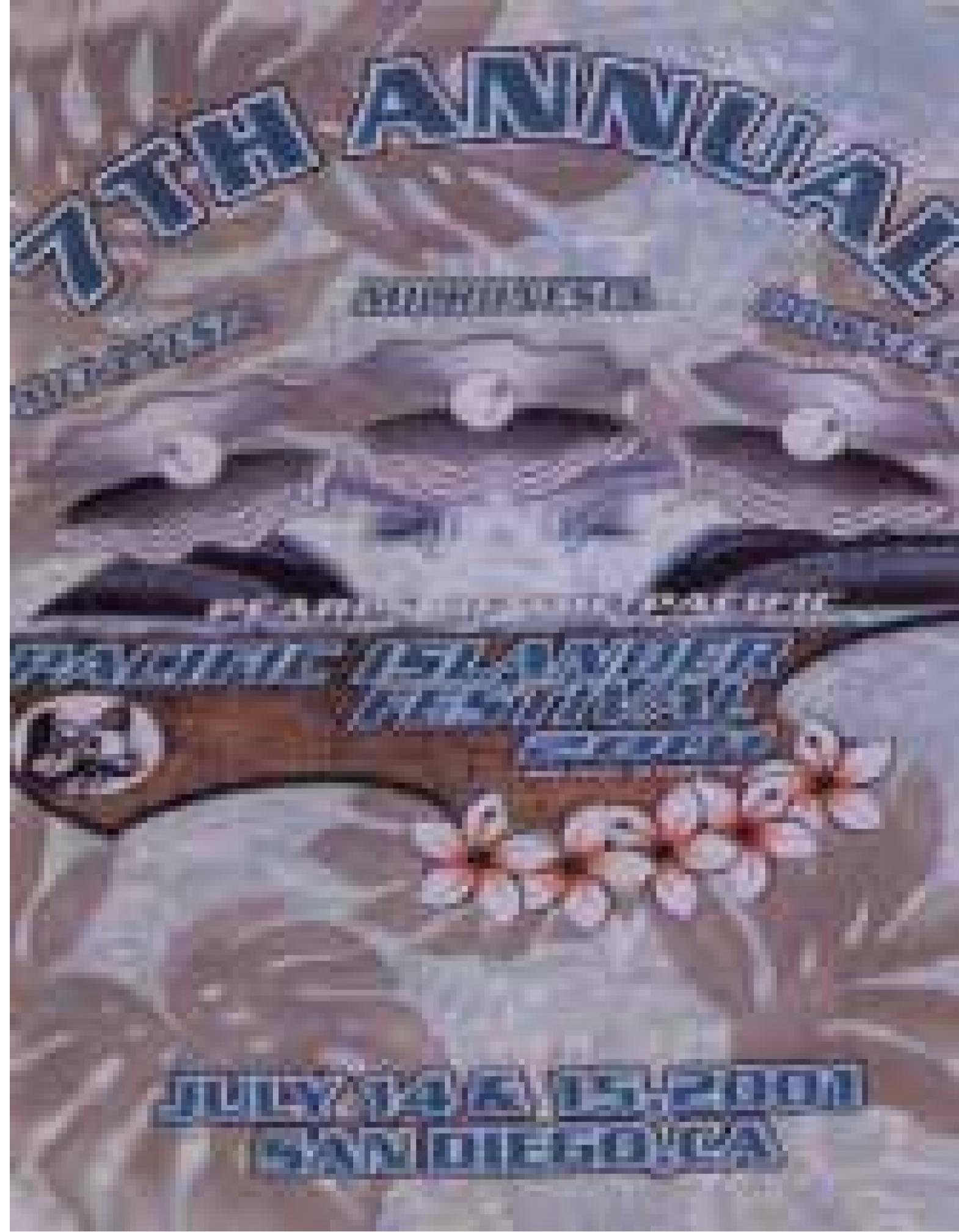
### **Pacific Islander Festival Association**

#### **Mission Statement**

We are a gathering of many small communities of diverse culture, languages, customs and courtesies from the Pacific Islands of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia. We come together with a purpose to share:

- † Our island culture in the foods we prepare and eat.
- † Our love for music in the songs we sing from our hearts, in the chants we echo in unison and in the rhythm of our drums.
- † Our feelings and passions in our dance.
- † Our dreams in the work we do together, shoulder-to-shoulder, and in the prayers we recite in devotion.
- † Our talents and love for the natural beauty around us in the pictures we paint, the tools we use, and the crafts we build with them.
- † Part of our past in artifacts we've preserved as testimony of our history, and in the stories we carefully pass on from one generation to the next.
- † Our inner selves in the smiles we exchange with one another.

We are a California based nonprofit organization 501(C)(3) dedicated to the preservation of culture and sharing of knowledge through education.



## The Story of San Diego's Pacific Islander Festival

Our story really begins in 1976 when the Hokule'a, the "Star of Joy," a 60-foot double-hulled sailing canoe, was completed in Hawai'i. It was designed like traditional Polynesian sailing canoes, without any metal parts. That summer, the Hokule'a sailed to Tahiti and then back to Hawai'i without using any modern navigational aids. Although most of the crew were from Hawai'i, including the captain, Kawika Kapahulehua, the navigator was Pius "Mau" Pailug from Satawal atoll in Micronesia, and the pilot in Tahitian waters was Rodo Williams, a Tahitian.

The Hokule'a received a welcome in Tahiti that was almost overwhelming in its joy and enthusiasm. The voyage captured the imagination of Pacific Islanders everywhere, who were already experiencing a revival of interest in their culture, language and history. This revival was continuing in 1995 when the Hokule'a visited the west coast.

The revival continued in 1995 when the Hokule'a visited the west coast. An ad hoc committee was formed to plan a welcome for the Hokule'a. Membership in the committee included people from many Pacific Islands. The result was our first Pacific Islander Festival.

This committee has become the nonprofit Pacific Islander Festival Association (PIFA). All PIFA members are volunteers and we welcome all individuals to join PIFA to participate in these activities. The San Diego Pacific Islander festivals have succeeded far beyond expectations. We have had a representative cross section of Pacific Islanders in our cultural booths, food booths, and the entertainment. The attendance has been the largest of any such festival on the Pacific coast:

Each year we have a theme around which our festival is organized. In 1995 it was "Bridging the Pacific," as perfectly illustrated by the appearance of the Hokule'a. It was a true bridging, for we had several Pacific Coast Indian tribes represented at the festival.

Our 1996 theme was "'Ohana o le 'Au Pasefika," the Family of the Pacific. Like all of our festivals, there was a Festival Booklet, with articles written by people of Pacific origin or ties, and covered the theme and other facets of island culture. Also included was information on island groups.

The 1997 theme was "Pacific Myths and Legends." There are many unique legends throughout the Pacific. There are also some legends that seem to show up in many places, such as the story of Maui, the trickster who captured the sun.

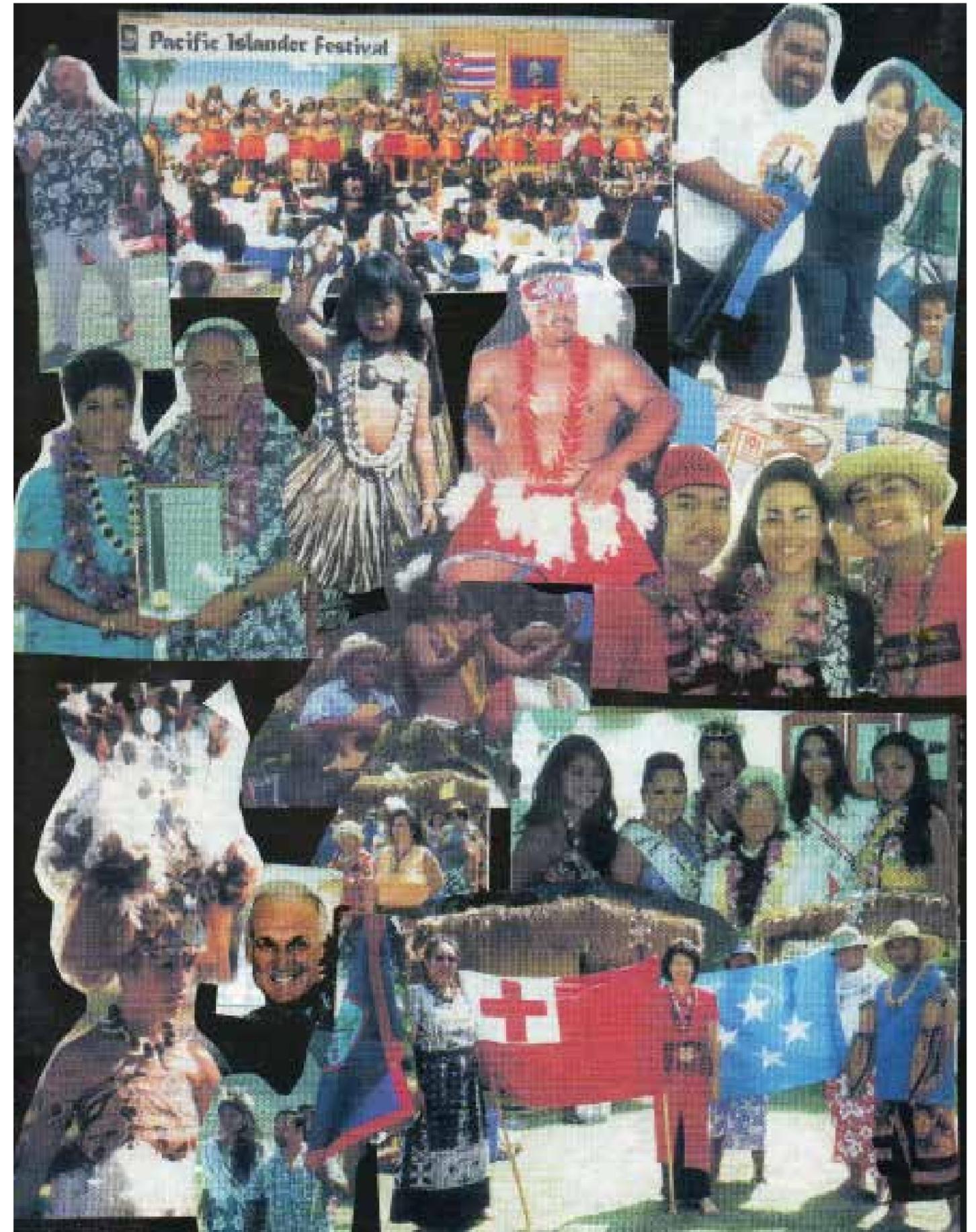
Our 1998 theme was "Children of Oceania." We had a children's drawing contest prior to the Festival, with the award of saving bonds for the winning submissions. The winning drawing was used as our program booklet cover and t-shirt design.

In 1999 our theme was "Honoring Our Elders." We featured seniors selected by their own communities in our program booklet and featured them in our opening ceremony. We awarded our first scholarship through the Jonathan James Tarr Memorial Scholarship established this year.

With the celebration of the Millennium, our 2000 theme was "Pacific Islanders into the New Millennium." We celebrated the old (Hawaii's last lamplighter), the new (a Samoan/Hawaiian baby of the Millennium) and received our first community leadership award from the Band of Kumeyaay Indians. This year our theme is "Pacific Islanders, Pearls of the Pacific." We will be sharing the jewels of our Pacific Islander heritage.

We look forward to another great year. Please come join us.

Dewey Slough



## Warriors of the Pacific

### Board of Directors

President: Penu Pauu  
Vice President: Marie Cruz  
Treasurer: Jeanette Perez  
Secretary: Lola Madrid  
Riley Crawford  
Jesse Castro  
George Cook  
Grace Kiel  
Steve Madrid  
Rudy Tai  
Robin Tarr

On behalf of the Officers, the Board of Directors and each member of the Pacific Islander Festival Association (PIFA), I want to welcome you to our eighth annual Pacific Islander Festival. The entire event is brought to you through the fund raising efforts of our PIFA members, the volunteers and generous contributions from our corporate sponsors. We wish to personally thank Cox Communications, Hawthorne Savings, Image Arts, Etc., the Jonathan Tarr Foundation, Viejas Enterprises, City of San Diego, our vendors, our advertisers for their generous support and all of you for your participation and attendance.

PIFA is providing each of you with this educational festival program booklet written by local participants featuring articles specifically addressing our theme for the year 2002 "Warriors of the Pacific". We illustrate and share our diversities through our educational, craft and ethnic food booths. Live performing artists and community groups represent our various islands' dances and music.

In the year 2001, we chose "Pacific Islanders, Pearls of the Pacific" as our theme. From the onset of the New Millennium, we have honored our elders, the Children of Oceania, the Myths and Legends of our Pacific Islands, the Family of the Pacific and the Bridging of the Pacific with the arrival of the Hokule'a in past festivals.

Without you we would not be here presenting and honoring you at this festival nor would we have been taught the customs of our Melanesian, Micronesian or Polynesian cultures, learned the traditions, the stories and folklore that surround each and every one of us. PIFA has reached many plateaus through the years and are continually striving to accomplish more. This year we have brought the outrigger canoes into our family and hope to be able to incorporate them more into the program.

Now sit back, enjoy the fresh ocean air, and join us in the sounds and rhythm of our islands, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Cook Islands, Federated states of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Hawai'i, Marshall Islands, Rapa Nui Ea ter Island), Samoa, Tahiti, and Tonga. Thank you for your support and may God bless you.



Pauu, Jr., President - (From PIFA Program Book)

# 8th Annual Pacific Islander Festival



## Warriors of the Pacific

melanesia • micronesia • polynesia

September 28 & 29, 2002 San Diego, CA

WWW.PACIFIC ISLANDERS.COM

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## Songs of the Pacific

### Board of Directors

President: Marie Cruz  
Vice President: Rudy Tai  
Treasurer: Jeanette Perez  
Secretary: JoAnn Fields  
Dee Dee Castro  
Brian Cruz  
John Fejeran  
Grace Kiel  
Tana Lepule  
Penu Pau  
Tula Striffler

Aloha Kakou, I am from the Hawaiian Community and have been a part of PIFA from its inception. Many times as entertainment chair. In the beginning we focused on San Diego entertainment. We were looking for indigenous teachers to fit each of our communities. We would reach out to the groups and ask them if they were like to do a presentation for PIFA. We then looked for emcees from the news, radio, and community stand outs. Each Saturday and Sundays were different. Saturday highlighted our communities with a procession and Sunday were faith based.



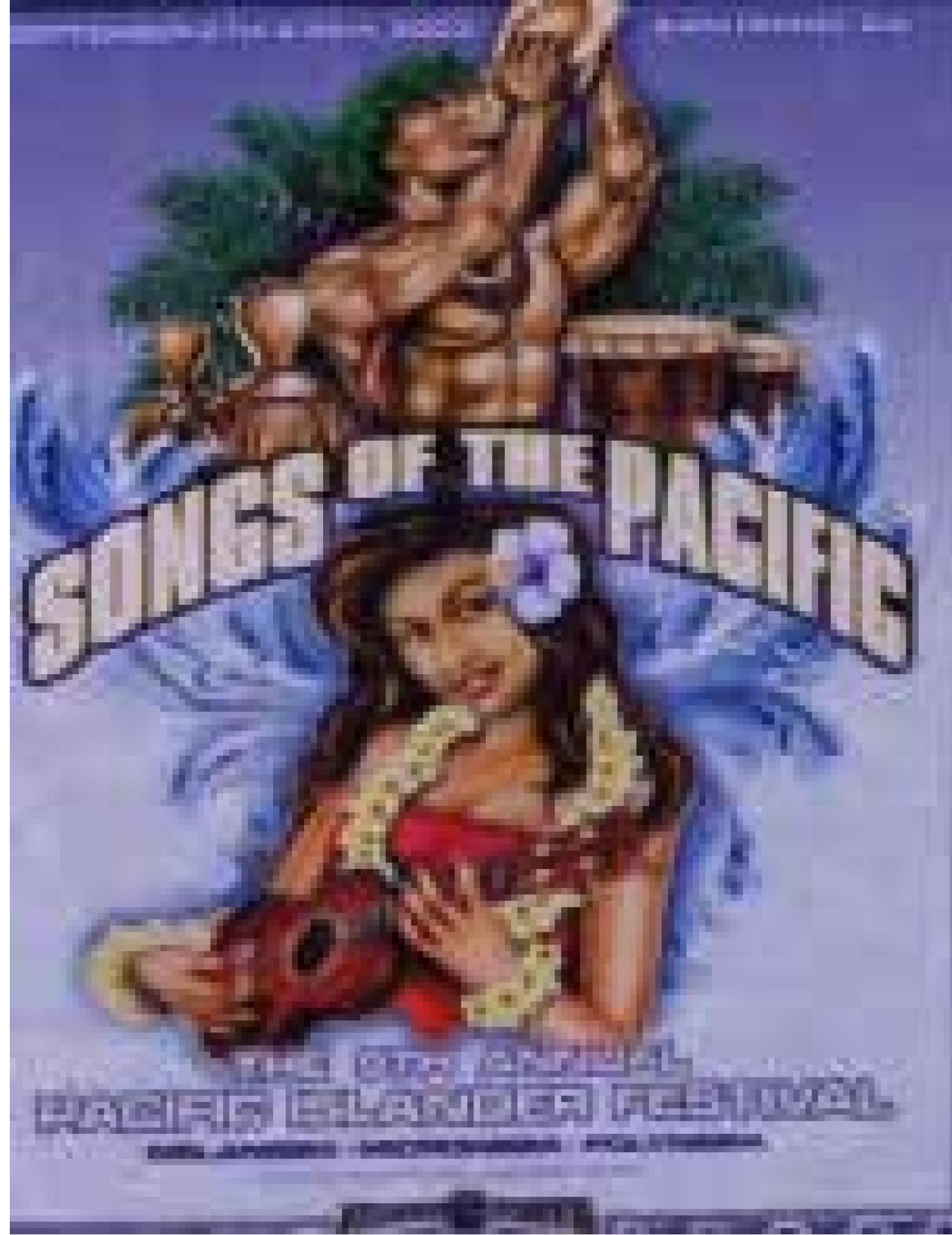
We would give each group representative a packet that have their parking pass, wristbands, line up information. In the backstage area we would have fruits and water for the entertainers to be refreshed. Their point of contact needed to provide us with an introduction, information about their group, and how the public can contact them.

There was no practice for PIFA. They had to come prepared to dance. Our team would be onsite at 6:00am, the groups start showing up at 7:00am. Setting up the refreshment area for the entertainers was key and the Hospitality area for the emcees and the group leaders.

We had a refreshment area for the kumu/teacher and emcees; We had lei for each kumu/teacher this included the program, meal information. The emcees had a packet with all the information they needed to announce to the public, a lei, and a program. We had a person designated to guide the emcees and the groups.

I have met many people from PIFA that are great friends and I respect them. They have brought clarity to my thinking, and I appreciate and respect their cultures as they respect mine.

Tula Mapuana Striffler  
Hawaiian Community



## Honoring Our Elders

### 10th Anniversary Celebration

President: Marie Cruz  
 Vice President: Rudy Tai  
 Treasurer: Jeanette Perez  
 Secretary: Sandra A'Costa  
 Frances Chiecuto  
 Jolene Ibarra  
 John Fejeran  
 Grace Kiel  
 Salani Faiivae Harrison  
 Bobby Lerma  
 Mona Taetafa-Manu

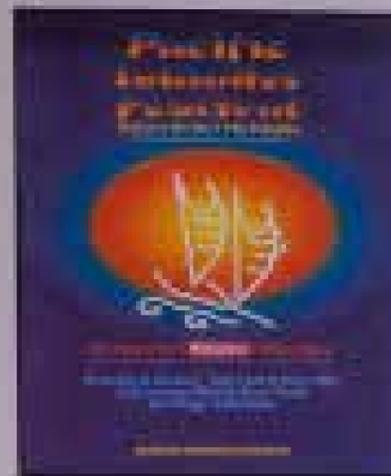
ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE	
SATURDAY, September 25, 2004	SUNDAY, September 26, 2004
8:30AM - Opening Ceremonies Intro of PIFA/Pres. Marie Cruz Traditional Conch Shell Call Island Procession Opening Prayer Presentation of Colors by Pan Pac Pledge of Allegiance by Marie Cruz National Anthem by Chamo, Juniors Intro of Emcee's by Marie Cruz	8:30AM - Opening Ceremonies Intro of PIFA/Vice Pres. Rudy Tai Traditional Conch Shell Call Island Procession Opening Prayer by Pastor Priscilla Feli-Bruter Pledge of Allegiance by Rudy Tai National Anthem by Semo Taetatafa Intro of Emcee's by Rudy Tai
9:00AM - Maori Mo Ake Tona Dancers (New Zealand)	9:00AM - Hailu Hula Hale O'Liana (Traditional Hawaiian Chant)
9:35AM - Hul O'Hawai Ukeleles' (Hawaii)	9:40AM - San Diego Samoan Community Council Dancers
10:10AM - Otengi' Belau Club of San Diego (Belau)	10:20AM - Micronesia Association of So. Ca. (FSM)
10:40AM - Micronesia Association of So. Ca. (FSM)	10:45AM - Music by Chamo Divas (Guam)
11:10AM - Kutturam Chamarru of Long Beach (Guam)	11:10AM - Intro of Dignitaries and Sponsors Intro of 2004 PIFA Officers Intro of Miss PIFA 2004 & Her Court
11:45AM - Hailu Heailis Polynesian Revue	11:40PM - Molu Nehe Nehe Polynesian Revue
12:30PM - Intro of Dignitaries and Sponsors PIFA Presentation of Scholarships Intro of Miss PIFA 2004 & Her Court	12:30PM - Imahen Taotao Taotao San Diego (Guam & Marianas)
1:00PM - Music by One Foundation (Tonga)	1:05PM - Aika's Hula Halau (Tahiti)
1:30PM - Tausala (Tokelau)	1:40PM - Otengi' Belau Club of San Diego (Belau)
2:05PM - Taupou Samoa (Polynesian Revue)	2:10PM - Lokelaris Polynesian Revue
2:45PM - 1 <sup>st</sup> Tongan Methodist Church of San Diego	3:10PM - Special Dance Troupe (Polynesian HipHop)
3:20PM - Island Mix (Guam)	3:20PM - Music by One Foundation (Tonga)
3:50PM - Kaleo Onalani (Rapi Nui)	3:40PM - Local Culture featuring Cavika
4:25PM - San Diego Samoan Community Council Dancers	4:30PM - Closing Ceremony
5:00PM - Closing Ceremony	

All Entertainer's Schedule and Times Are Subject to Change

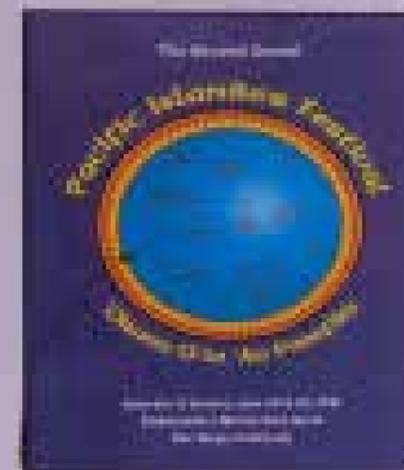
THE PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION  
 SENDS A SPECIAL ISLAND THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ENTERTAINERS

# 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

BRIDGING THE PACIFIC



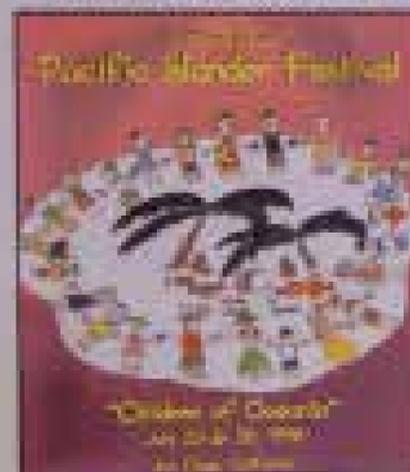
FAMILY OF THE PACIFIC



PACIFIC MYTHS & LEGENDS



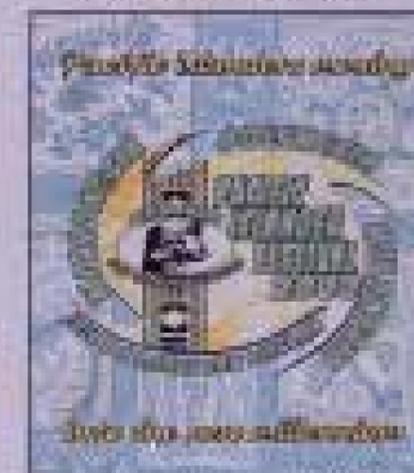
CHILDREN OF OCEANIA



HONORING OUR ELDER



PACIFIC ISLANDERS INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM



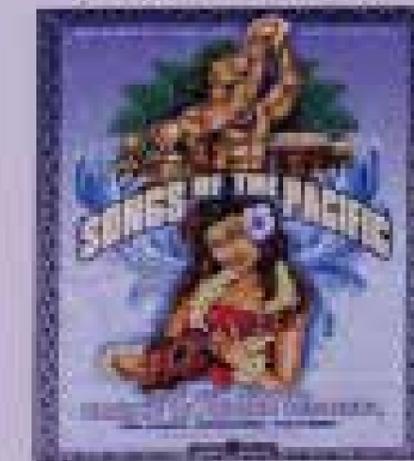
PEARLS OF THE PACIFIC



WARRIORS OF THE PACIFIC



SONGS OF THE PACIFIC



SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 2004, SAN DIEGO, CA  
 PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL  
 MELANESIA, MICRONESIA, POLYNESIA

## Ten Year History of the Pacific Islander Festival PIFA

The “Star of Joy,” the Hokule’a, a 60-foot double-hulled sailing canoe, was completed in Hawai’i in 1976 begins our journey. This craft was built as a traditional Polynesian sailing canoe without any metal parts. The summer of 1976, the Hokule’a sailed to Tahiti and back with a crew primarily from Hawaii comprising of Captain Kawaika Kapahulehua, a Hawaiian, the navigator Pius “Mau” Pailug from Satawal atoll in Micronesia and the pilot Rado Williams, a Tahitian. The Hokule’a received an overwhelming welcome filled with joy and enthusiasm. This brought about Pacific Islanders everywhere wanting to revive their culture, language, and history. In 1995, the Hokule’a visited the West Coast of California and Dolly Crawford, president of the Hawaiian Civic Club in San Diego, Ahahui Kiwila Hawai’i, selected an ad hoc committee to greet and provide welcoming festivities for the crew of the Hokule’a. Hanalei Vierra was appointed chairman and the committee expanded to include the people from various Pacific Islands. The first annual Pacific Islander Festival was held on July 22 and 23, 1995 at the Embarcadero Park in downtown San Diego. In 1995 “Bridging the Pacific” was the theme and it was a true bridging bringing several Pacific Coast Indian tribes, the Museum of Man provided a display of Pacific Islander cultures presenting art from Hale Naua III. The original Hale Naua began in the eleventh century on Maui, Hawai’i.

Hence, the following year, the Pacific Islander Festival Association (PIFA) was formed. All PIFA members and officers are volunteers and we encourage all individuals to join PIFA and participate in our annual festival. Each year a theme was chosen to showcase our diversities and sameness.

In 1996, the theme was “Ohana o le “Au Pasefika, the Family of the Pacific.” Samoa Korua from the Samoan community was the president. The festival booklet was written by people of Pacific origin or ties and covered the theme and other facets of island culture. It also included the island groups and associations and internet resources.

In 1997, “Pacific Myths and Legends” was chosen as the theme and it was held on July 12 and 13, 1997. The articles in the program book were from the various communities regarding the myths and legends of their islands. So many of them unique to each island but some, like the story of Maui, the trickster, who captured the sun seem to repeat themselves. Mario Borja from the Chamorro community was president. Sam Atuatasi proposed to Beth Sauer on the PIFA stage.

In 1998 the theme was “Children of Oceania”. Bob “Akekamai” Crawford (Hawaiian) was elected president. We had our first children’s contest to design the cover and t-shirt. Grand prize winner was Verna Panao, who was ten years old and attended Tierra Santa Elementary School. She had been dancing hula since she was five years old. Other winners included Amira Dolfo, Kalani and Keenan Taula, and Matthew and Candice Monte. We had the children of Phillip and Silika Faitau sing the National Anthem. We welcomed over 40 craft and food vendors but that still wasn’t enough to satisfy the yearnings of all the people in attendance. We increased our attendance and the festival was held on July 25 and 26.

In 1999, the festival had to move locations because we had outgrown the Embarcadero Park. We went to the old Naval Training Center in Pt. Loma and we thought we found a new home. The area was big enough to house all the new vendors and we increased the size of our stage. The Samoan Community Council dancers literally rocked the stage from the size of their dance group that we had to re-brace it for the Sunday performance. The parking accommodated all the visitors and attendees. We chose “Honoring our Elders” as the theme and we invited the elders from of the communities to join us in the VIP Tent. This was the first year that PIFA was able to award a \$500 scholarship. This was made possible through the generosity of Robin Tarr, in memory of her son, Jonathan Tarr who was killed in a traffic auto accident at the age of 17. Marie Cruz from the Chamorro community was elected as the first female president of PIFA. Membership was increased by offering a 2 for 1 special membership during the festival. The festival was held on July 17 and 18. Chamorro Style designed our t-shirts and program cover.

“The Pacific Islanders into the New Millennium” was the theme for 2000. We held the festival on July 8 and 9 at the Naval Training Center in Pt. Loma. We doubled the craft and food vendor participation from the previous year. We added Cox Communications (through Sam Atuatasi) and the Jonathan Tarr Foundation (Robin Tarr) as corporate sponsors. We gave out one \$500 scholarship to Roger Evans.

Kim Taylor Reece autographed his photography at the festival. Marie Cruz was re-elected as President. Attendance increased. The newest addition to the PIFA family was baby girl Briana of Beth and Sam Atuatasi. The San Diego Police Chief David Bejarano was added to our list of dignitaries. PIFA held a golf tournament in September. We completed the Census 2000. Chamorro Style designed the program booklet cover and t-shirt at no cost to PIFA.

“Pearls of the Pacific” in 2001 brought in Hawaiian Airlines as a corporate sponsor, along with GMAC Mortgage (Noralie Lannon) and Cox Communications. PIFA and the Jonathan Tarr Foundation (JTF) awarded three \$500 scholarships to Alicia Simpliciano, Nicole Johnson and Megan Pangacian. We had to move the festival from NTC and scrambled to find a new location. The members of Pagkaka isa of Southwestern College sponsored PIFA in order to hold the festival at Southwestern College. The number of craft and food vendors increased and the attendance soared. The entertainment was held on the football field utilizing the bleachers for the spectators in addition to the field. We had entertainment groups come in from Samoa and New Zealand to highlight the event. Marie Cruz was re-elected as President. We said goodbye to “Kimo” Delima, Susan Miranda and Dana Todd-Howard. We featured several “Pearls” of our communities in the program booklet. Chamorro Style again designed the booklet cover and t-shirt. The festival was held on July 14 & 15 at Southwestern College.

2002 selected “Warriors of the Pacific” as our theme. We had a lot of great stories submitted on the different warriors from our communities. We featured Duke Kah’anamoku, David Ka’ana’aina, Uncle George, Saleva’A Atisanoe, Herbert Pililau, Jean Kalani, the outrigger canoe members and our scholarship recipients. PIFA issued eight \$1,000 scholarships to four senior high school graduates - Kathryn Reyes, Danielle Iwatsu, Edieann Stanley and Jocelyn Ventura. PIFA and JTF awarded four undergraduate college students - Roger Evans, Devon McIntyre, Alicia Simpliciano and Failuga Faio \$1,000 scholarships. Penu Pauu, Jr. was elected President. We had to move again and PIFA believes it’s found a permanent home at Ski Beach. Robin Tarr was one of the recipients of the “North County Woman of the Year.” The area allotted for an expansion of the vendors and the attendance doubled. Our corporate sponsors included Cox Communications, Hawthorne Savings, Image Arts, Etc., the Jonathan Tarr Foundation, Viejas Enterprises and the City of San Diego. This was the first year we allowed commercial food vendors to participate in the festival. With the increase in attendance, it was determined that we would have to include a few commercial food vendors in order to accommodate the crowd. The festival was held on September 28 and 29.

In 2003, Songs of the Pacific was the theme. The program booklet contained recipes including community favorites along with songs and anthems from some of our islands. Marie Cruz was re-elected as President. Marie was able to increase corporate sponsorship by bringing Citibank in at \$10,000; Cox Communications increased their contribution as did Viejas Enterprises; Polynesian Airlines of Samoa donated four round trip tickets to Samoa for our first annual “Taste of the Pacific Islands” fundraiser and the opportunity drawing at the festival. The Taste was a big success. President George Bush sent warm greetings and congratulations to PIFA. \$1,000 scholarships were given to ten recipients. Four undergraduate students - Laaulepona Faapouli, David Ka’aha’aina, Christina Stiffler and Nichole Keil Terrazas- and six senior high school graduates - Kelly Auimatagi, Kanani Brown, Amira Dolfo, Pameia Geniza, Jabari Hawkins and Vallala Salazar. Marie was selected as “Humanitarian of the Year” by the Guam Communications Network. Governor Linda Lingle of Hawaii was entertained by the Kaleo Onalani Dancers on one of her visits to San Diego. Robert Santos of the Chamorro community was named the Associated Press Television-Radio Association’s “Reporter of the Year.” Island Roots, Chamorro community members, designed our program cover and t-shirts.

Thanks to all the participants, entertainers, vendors, attendees, volunteers, members, our corporate sponsors who have helped make this festival a big success for the past ten years

By Marie Cruz (From PIFA Program Book 2004)



# Through the years PIFA 2005

## Island Greetings of the Pacific

### Board of Directors

President: Tana Lepule  
Vice President: Rudy Tai  
Treasurer: Sandra A'Costa  
Secretary: Jasmine Cone  
Brian Cruz  
Jolene Ibarra  
Penu Pau  
Grace Kiel  
Salani Faiivae Harrison  
Bobby Lerma  
Sam Simpliciano



**Pacific Islander Festival Association**  
*Melanesia - Micronesia - Polynesia*  
2005 Theme: Island Greetings of the Pacific  
619-699-8797

**Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Islander Festival**

**Aloha, Hafa Adai, Iorana, Kia Ora, Kulo Malulo, Malo E Lelei, Ni Sa Bula, Ran Annim, Talofa, and Hello!**

On behalf of Citibank (Title Sponsor), Cox Communications (Sponsor), San Diego Asian Film Festival Foundation and Tautua Samoa of North County San Diego (Fiscal Sponsors), Officers, Board of Directors, and members of the Pacific Islander Festival Association (PIFA), I welcome you to the Eleventh Annual Pacific Islander Festival. Through the "above and beyond" efforts of the sponsors, volunteers vendors, PIFA is proud to present "Island Greetings of the Pacific".

Year after year, PIFA has organized an event full of great live entertainment, delicious food, and cultural displays of the Pacific Islands - Aotearoa (New Zealand), Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Hawaii, Maori, Marshall Islands, Palau, Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Samoa, Tahiti, and Tonga. This year is definitely no exception! Through the cultural songs, dances, and foods, we hope you enjoy the many greetings of the Pacific Islands.

The following pages of this festival program feature photographs, articles, and a great deal of information related to the Pacific Islands. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the 2005 Pacific Islander Festival as we greet you all with "Aloha, Hafa Adai, Iorana, Kia Ora, Kulo Malulo, Malo E Lelei, Ni Sa Bula, Ran Annim, Talofa, and Hello!"

Fa'afetai Tele,

*Jonathan Sepulona Lepule*  
Jonathan Sepulona Lepule - "Tana"  
PIFA President

**citibank PRESENTS**

**THE 11TH ANNUAL PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL**

**ISLAND GREETINGS OF THE**

**Pacific**  
MELANESIA • MICRONESIA • POLYNESIA

**SAT & SUN  
SEPTEMBER  
24-25  
2005**

**SKI BEACH, MISSION BAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Alcohol and tobacco free event • Shuttle information on Website

**PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
<http://www.pacificislanders.com>

## Reflections of PIFA over the Years

There is a weekend in San Diego where crowds in the thousands, and diverse cultures beyond the Pacific Islander communities look forward to, and it takes a commitment we put in over the course of a year to plan out. For nearly 3 decades we've remained consistent. Our traditions stand out as a distinct set of customs known amongst our Pacific Islander heritage that nearly everyone is aware of, which is our hospitality. It's a generosity displayed in our ways of a visit in our home at Ski Beach closing the month of September at Ski Beach, in beautiful Mission Bay, San Diego.

From meal preparations, the music and performers chosen, themes and lyrics in our festival title, song selections and the captivating drum beats that urge us to dance and all the efforts and particular detailing in our crafts our work is shown in the overall traditions which have passed from generation to generation. We unite in solidarity to serve the community with a fellowship contributed in preparation for a family milestone, like a newborn being baptized, a graduation, a wedding and even recent funerals. Respectfully, we take this moment to reflect upon the champions who were taken too soon from our veteran Board Executives and Members and Volunteers:

- John Fejeran                      Director Ex Officio / Cultural Village
- Steve Madrid                     Director / Logistics Risk Management
- Trina San Nicholas             Board Director
- Joyce Pangelinan                Volunteer
- Thomas "Jojo" Bedania, Jr.    Volunteer

Shaping what we have become today, this epic event to our island culture began with a small footprint at the backside of Seaport Village. The initial stages began with the Hawaiian, Samoan and Maori Communities, were instrumental as communities prepared a welcoming of the Hokule'a and its crew to our shores. The collaboration of our vendors, in food, crafts and preparations display a spectacular fair of imported island essentials which surround the festival to our many rooted Island Market lifestyles. These nostalgic childhood reflections embrace the underestimated pieces for our upbringing, values, and customs we all grew up with.

This is PIFA's 27th year, and our second, where although we may not physically enjoy being there as we have in the past, we remain sustainable with the complicatedness of this pandemic and have learned to tailor much of our lifestyle, schedules and even careers around as we bring to you the celebrations and move with our times, in a virtual presentation. Within our Executive Board, we have time, talent and treasures from colleagues who hold prominent roles in the community from law enforcement, financial and organizational field to ensure the bi-laws, procedures and processes that have taken committees to form are upheld. Since its initial celebration in 1994, the Pacific Islander Festival Association, has grown to be one of the most anticipated cultural events by the City of San Diego. It's how we all came together. From risk controls, logistics, administrative tasks, theme setting and about every detail, these meetings took to many late hours in perfecting a 2-day event that has spanned almost 3 decades. Each year by the sunset of our event's 2nd day, while the crowd disappears, there's an inexplicable feeling that takes over you as you reflect in service for a greater purpose. Whether as a volunteer or Board Executive with our Festival Committee, inclusivity has transpired successfully again.



As the public became more and more educated of our Micronesian, Melanesian and Polynesian cultures. Families and Friends with working hands, displaying progress, consistency and a purpose would bring about a new perspective of unity, acceptance, and identity for future generations, as we encouraged and promoted opportunities for a higher education, especially for a demographic where statistics show a low output of college entries.



Today, PIFA has accomplished the awarding of scholarships to our over many scholarship recipients, encouraging community and civic engagement, soliciting sponsorships, and building the understanding of our similarities and differences. Our children, parents, siblings, cousins took on tasks as we recruited volunteers to man committees, subcommittees building of deep years of friendships with the children of PIFA.

As our objective became clearer for the need of Corporate Sponsors, fundraising and grass roots networking, it became our livelihood to grow the event to a larger scale that moved from Pt Loma's Naval Training Center, Southwestern College and it's permanent home of Ski Beach, with the objective to fund our scholarship awardees year after year with a "Window of Opportunity" as our first scholarships came from Auntie Robin Tarr, to commemorate the loss of her son, Jonathan taken too soon.



For myself, as a seasoned and veteran board director and volunteer since 1998, it has been an honor to humbly draft the emotions that come with all of our journey. Serving as a volunteer, opened my eyes to experiences which built bridges for all our islands and countries that live and admire the island hospitality that Pacific Islanders are known for. Being the 2007 Executive Secretary for Captain Rudy Tai of the SDPD and a Veteran President for several years, allowed me to develop some historical correspondence over the years and jointly hold support the role as a Director of Corporate Sponsorship. Board colleagues and I sourced the much needed revenue from employer partnerships that started with GMAC Mortgage, JP Morgan Chase, Citibank, Wells Fargo, Hawaiian Airlines, L&L, Wawanesa, Cox Communications, SDG&E and Hilton to name a few. We are thankful to these sponsors past and present in bringing the monetary funds needed to execute our annual event through various in-kind donations, in which our scholarships were funded.

Because of this, our festival has thrived successfully for 27 years, admired by island dignitaries and political leaders worldwide in supporting our ability to bring a peaceful celebration that generates an attendance shy of 90,000 people in a 2-day span. By sunset of the final day as the crowd dissipates to the work week, we all have, there is a gratitude and inexplicable feeling of accomplishment shared with my PIFA family that words cannot express, and it's because of our third component, you.

On behalf of our past and present leaders, thank you ( in all languages) for making PIFA the success and reputation we've maintained as a family friendly, smoke free and alcohol free event as we build toward the 30th year approaching us soon.

Noralie Lannon



# Through the years PIFA 2006

## Ceremonial Arts of the Pacific

### Board of Directors

President: Rudy Tai  
Vice President: Sam Simpliciano  
Treasurer: Lani Love  
Secretary: Jolene Ibarra  
Margaret Sanborn  
Brian Cruz  
Jasmine Cone  
Penu Pau  
Salani Faiivae Harrison  
Tula Striffler  
Bobby Lerma



**citibank**  
PRESENTS

THE 12TH ANNUAL  
**PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL**  
"Ceremonial Arts Of The Pacific"  
(Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia)

Sat. & Sun.  
Sept. 23 & 24, 2006  
Ski Beach, Mission Bay  
San Diego, Ca.

Island Jet  
[www.islandjet.com](http://www.islandjet.com)

Alcohol and tobacco free event • Shuttle information on website  
**Pacific Islander Festival Association**  
<http://www.pacificislanders.com>

# Memories of PIFA 2006

Photo montage



# Through the years **PIFA 2007**

## Songs of Our Heritage

### Board of Directors

President: Rudy Tai  
Vice President: Brian Cruz  
Treasurer: Lani Love  
Secretary: Noralie Lannon  
Sam Atuatasi  
Jasmine Cone  
Penu Pauu  
Grace Kiel  
Salani Faiivae Harrison  
Sam Simpliciano  
Jolene Ibarra



# Memories of PIFA 2007

Photo montage

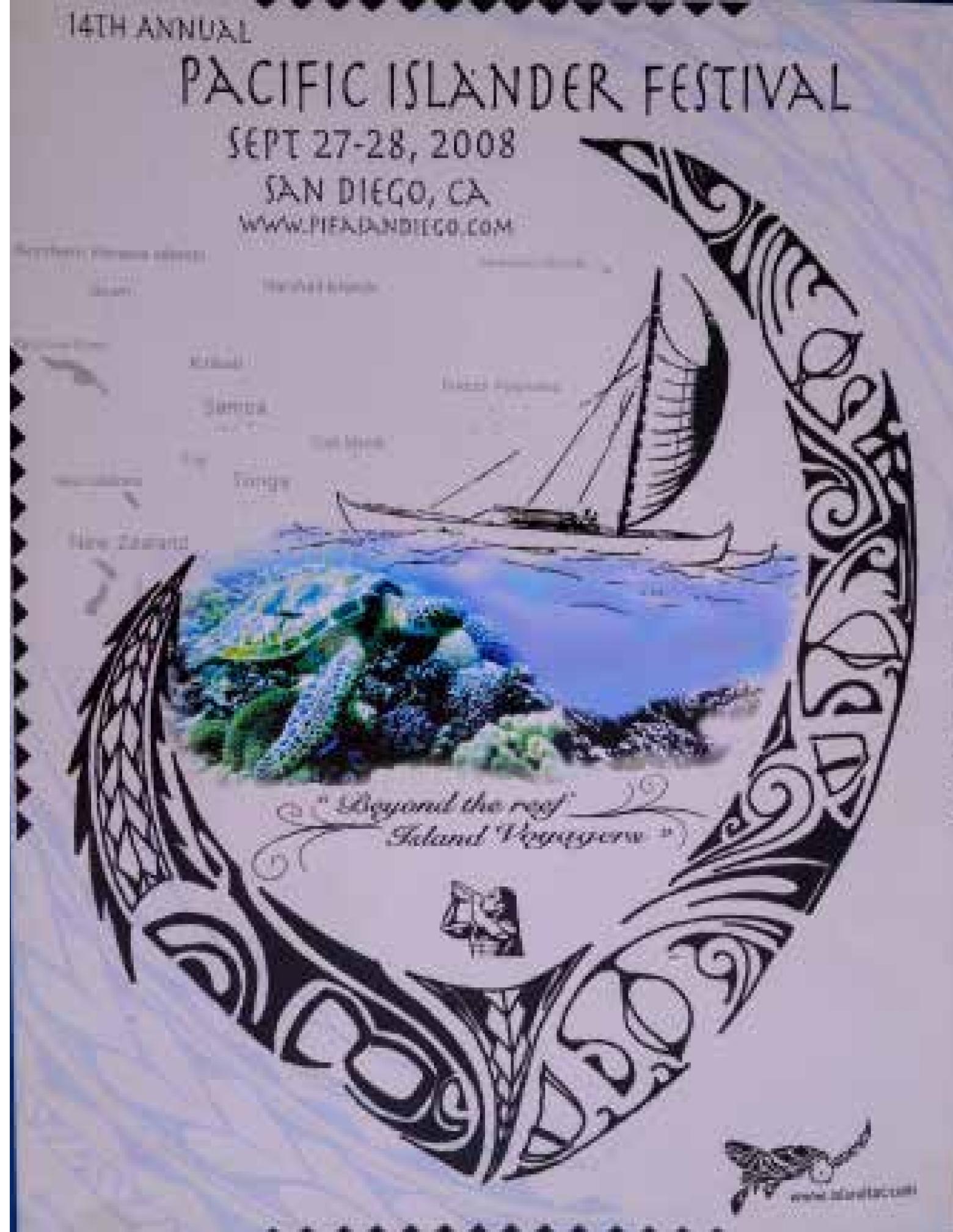


# Through the years PIFA 2008

## Beyond the Reef - Island Voyagers

### Board of Directors

President: Brian Cruz  
Vice President: Tana Lepule  
Treasurer: Lani Love  
Secretary: Steve Lannon  
Sam Atuatasi  
Noralie Lannon  
Steve Madrid  
Grace Kiel  
Salani Faiivae Harrison  
Sam Simpliciano  
Bobby Lerma



*Memories of* **PIFA 2008**  
*Photo montage*

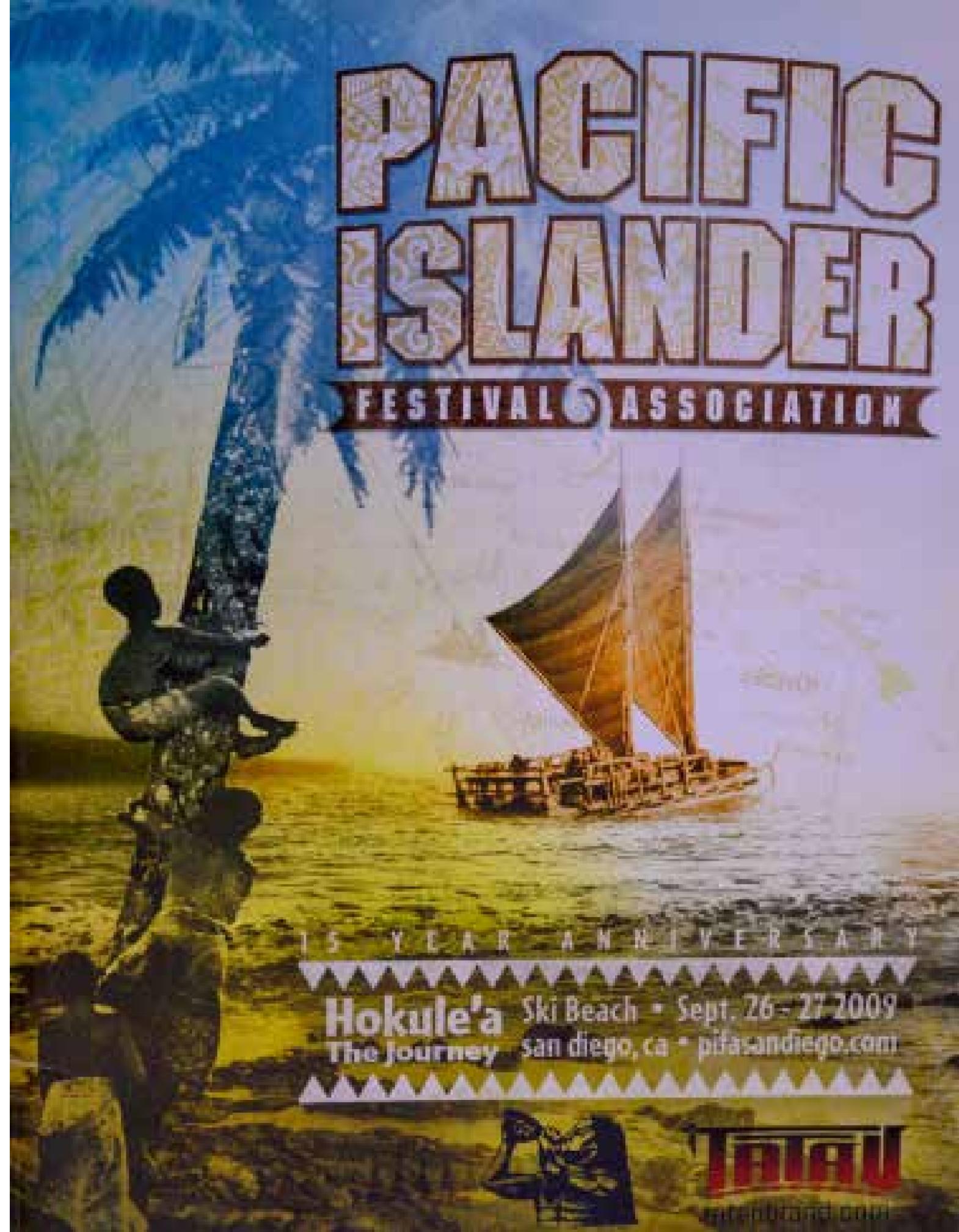


# Through the years PIFA 2009

## Hokule'a - The Journey

### Board of Directors

President: Penu Pauu  
Vice President: Rudy Tai  
Treasurer: Lani Love  
Secretary: Kiki Sotoa Solia  
Sam Atuatasi  
Brian Cruz  
John Fejeran  
Janelle Fejeran  
Salani Faiivae Harrison  
Greg Perez



# Memories of PIFA 2009

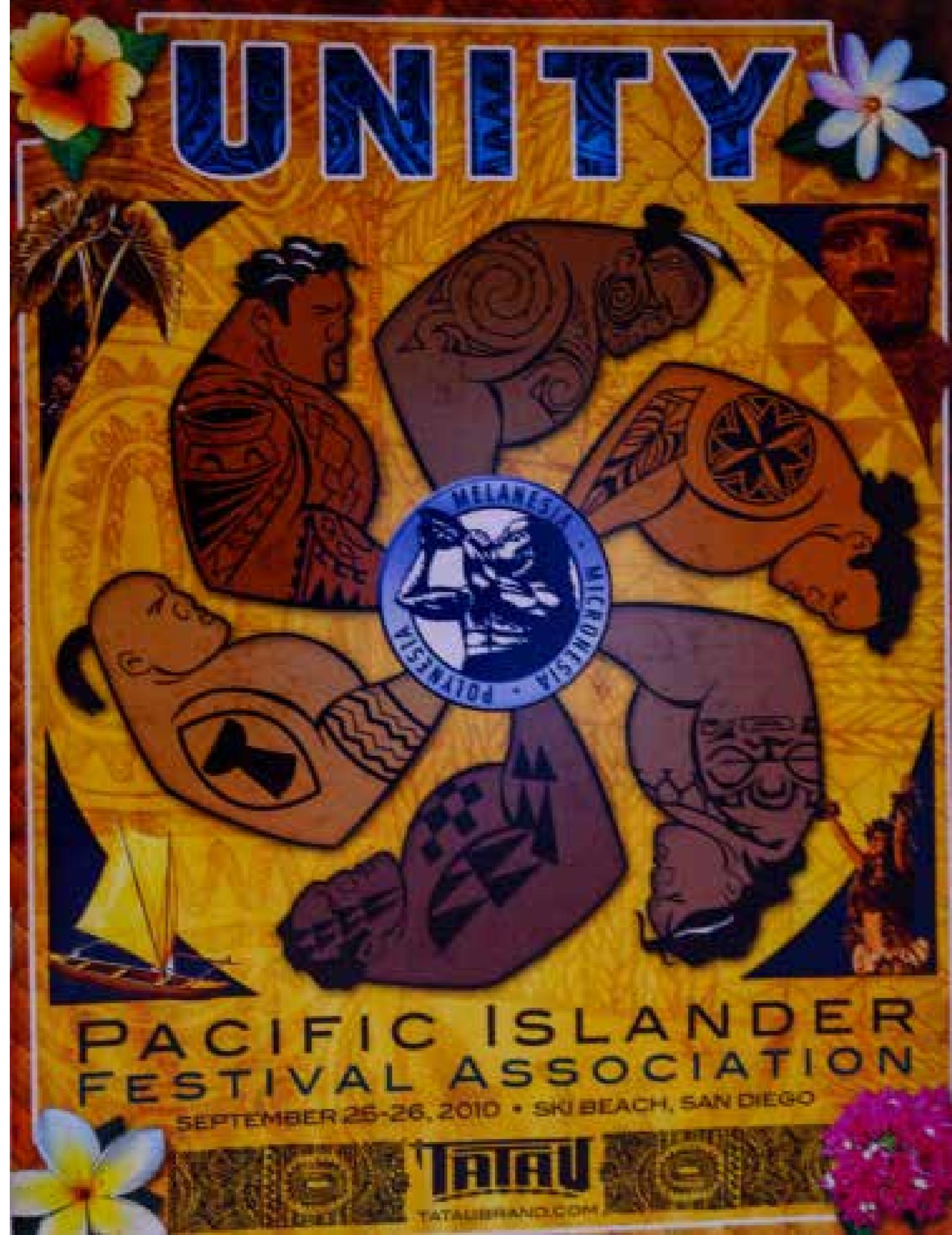
Photo montage



## Unity

### Board of Directors

President: Tana Lepule  
Vice President: Rudy Tai  
Treasurer: Lani Love  
Secretary: Kiki Sotoa Solia  
Jolene Ibarra  
Jasmine Cone  
Steve Madrid  
Janelle Fejeran  
Salani Faiivae Harrison  
Sam Simpliciano  
Cathy Paiva



# Memories of PIFA 2010

Photo montage



# Through the years PIFA 2011

## Roots

### Board of Directors

President: Tana Lepule  
Vice President: Rudy Tai  
Treasurer: Lani Love  
Secretary: Jasmine Cone  
Joseph Taumua  
June Hawkins  
Kiki Sotoa Solia  
Janelle Fejeran  
Salani Faiivae Harrison  
Sam Simpliciano  
Greg Perez



17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL**  
SKI BEACH • SAN DIEGO, CA • SEPTEMBER 24 & 25, 2011  
**TATAU**

# Memories of PIFA 2011

Photo montage

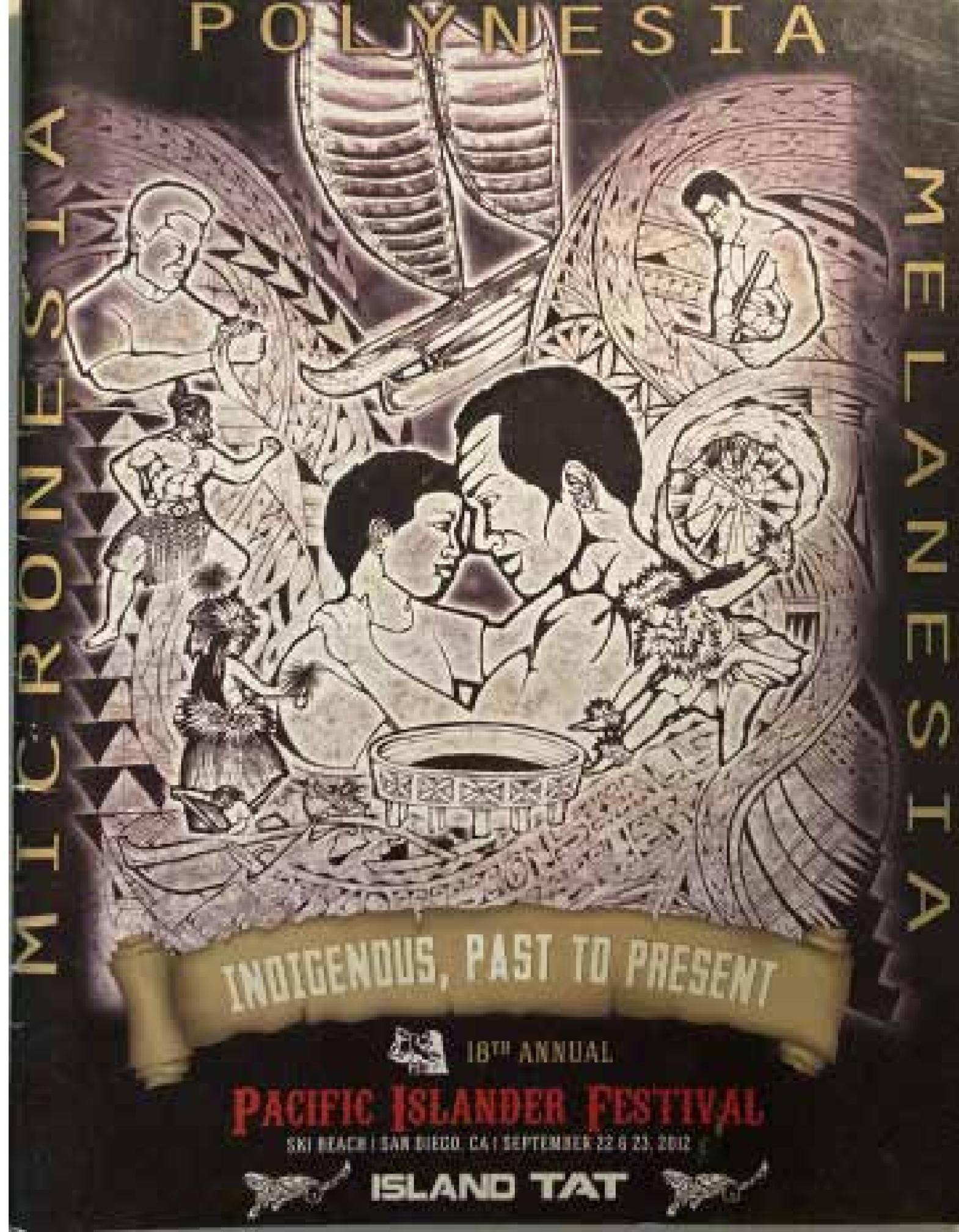


# Through the years PIFA 2012

## Indigenous, Past to Present

### Board of Directors

President: Tana Lepule  
Vice President: Rudy Tai  
Treasurer: Lani Love  
Secretary: Jasmine Cone  
Joseph Taumua  
Jolene Brown  
Kiki Sotoa Solia  
Janelle Fejeran  
Salani Faiivae Harrison  
Sam Simpliciano  
Chrystell Brace  
Noralie Lannon  
Jordan Martin  
Tula Striffler  
Steve Madrid



# Memories of PIFA 2012

Photo montage



# Through the years PIFA 2013

## Drums of the Islands

### Board of Directors

President: Rudy Tai

Vice President: Joseph Taumua

Treasurer: Lani Love

Secretary: Jasmine Cone

Bryson Kim

Penu Pauu

Kiki Sotoa Solia

Janelle Fejeran

Salani Faiivae Harrison

Sam Simpliciano

Chrystell Brace

Noralie Lannon

Jordan Martin

Tula Striffler

Steve Madrid

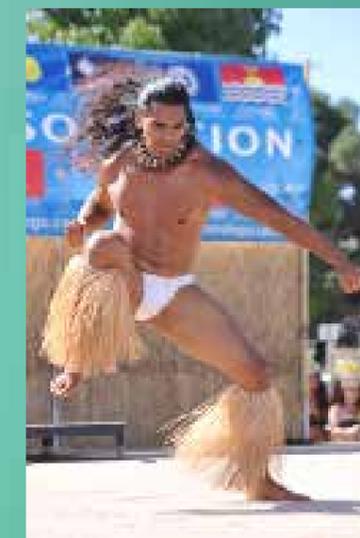


HIGH CHIEF X RAVAGE DRUM



# Memories of PIFA 2013

Photo montage



## Legacy

### Board of Directors

President: Rudy Tai

Vice President: Joseph Taumua

Treasurer: Chrystell Brace

Secretary: Marie Taumua

Jolene Brown

Jasmine Cone

Kiki Sotoa Solia

Janelle Fejeran

Salani Faiivae Harrison

Sam Simpliciano

Zen Delacruz

Patricia Schwenke

Lani Love

Steve Madrid



# Memories of PIFA 2014

Photo montage



# Through the years PIFA 2015

## Heroes of the Pacific

### Board of Directors

President: Penu Pauu

Vice President: Joseph Taumua

Treasurer: Chrystell Brace

Secretary: Marie Taumua

Kiki Sotoa Solia

Alice Pauu

Salani Faiivae Harrison

Sam Simpliciano

Steve Madrid

Rudy Tai

Noralie Lannon

Mildred Pollard

Tana Lepule



21ST ANNUAL PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL

# HEROES

*of the Pacific*

20 15

SKI BEACH ~ SAN DIEGO

MELANESIA ~ MICRONESIA ~ POLYNESIA

SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup>

[www.pifasandiego.com](http://www.pifasandiego.com)

# Memories of PIFA 2015

Photo montage



# Through the years PIFA 2016

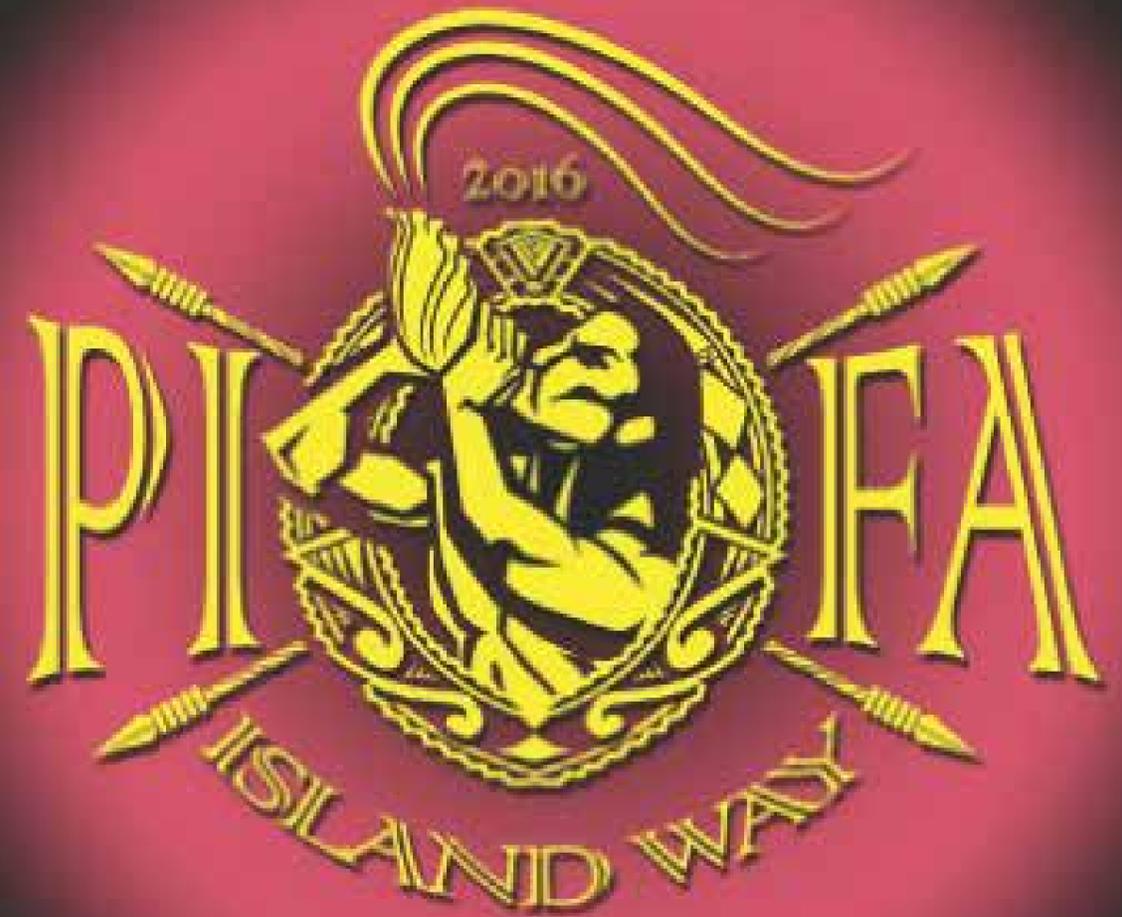
## Island Way

### Board of Directors

President: Joseph Taumua  
Vice President: Brian Cruz  
Treasurer: Chrystell Brace  
Secretary: JoAnn Aguon  
Rudy Tai  
Sam Simpliciano  
Salani Faiivae Harrison  
Marie Taumua  
Alice Pau  
Mildred Pollard  
Jolene Brown



# 22ND ANNUAL PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL



MELANESIA, MICRONESIA, POLYNESIA

SEPTEMBER 24th & 25th

SKI BEACH, SAN DIEGO, CA

[www.pifasandiego.com](http://www.pifasandiego.com)

# Memories of PIFA 2016

Photo montage



## Voice of the Sea

### Board of Directors

President: Joseph Taumua  
Vice President: Brian Cruz  
Treasurer: JoAnn Aguon  
Secretary: Sam Simpliciano  
Chrystell Brace  
Alice pauu  
Anissa Acfalle  
Marie Taumua  
Rudy Tai  
Jolene Brown  
Bryson Kim



# Memories of PIFA 2017

Photo montage



# Through the years **PIFA 2018**

## Tradition

### Board of Directors

President: Sam Simpliciano  
Vice President: Rudy tai  
Treasurer: Jeanette Perez  
Secretary: Chrystell Brace  
Brian Cruz  
Joseph Taumua  
Anissa Acfalle  
Alice Pauu  
Zen Delacruz  
Trina San Nicolas  
Rita Gorniak



# Memories of PIFA 2018

Photo montage

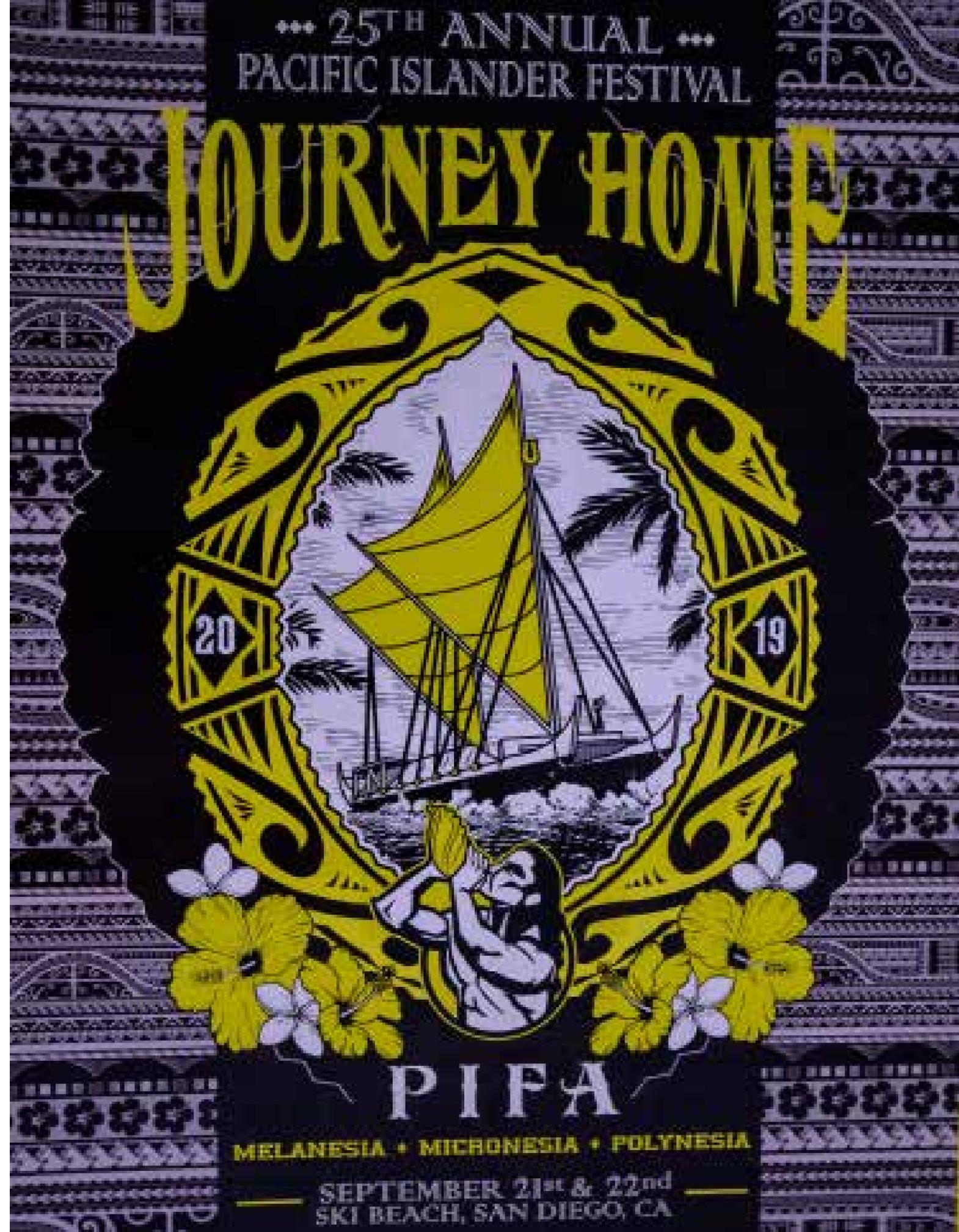


# Through the years PIFA 2019

## Honoring Our Elders

### Board of Directors

President: Rudy Tai  
Vice President: Anissa Acfalle  
Treasurer: Jeanette Perez  
Secretary: Chrystell Brace  
Alice Pau  
Denise Dudoit-Meyer  
Doreen Alailima  
JoAnn Fields  
John Quichocho  
Mildred Pollard  
Rita Gorniak  
Sam Simpliciano  
Steve Madrid  
Tana Lepule  
Trina San Nicolas  
Zen Delacruz



# Memories of PIFA 2019

Photo montage



Reflections

Board of Directors

- President: Anissa Acfalle
- Vice President: Rudy Tai
- Treasurer: Jeanette Perez
- Secretary: Chrystell Brace
- Monique Carillo
- Doreen Alailima
- Trina San Nicolas
- John Quichocho
- Steve Madrid
- Leilani Jesina
- Mildred Pollard
- Rita Gorniak

# PIFA 2020

*Reflections*

**It Takes a Village**  
John Fejeran

I was just 12 years old when my dad asked me to create labels for seven items that were sitting on our kitchen table. I didn't know what the labels were for but I was having fun looking at all the stories about the artifacts that my dad brought out of each box. There was so much pride in his work as he shared stories and the history of each delicate piece that he handled with so much care. I remember long hours of sorting, carefully wrapping, and organizing artifacts and art pieces. My favorite times were when my dad would pop in a VHS home video of Chamorro life. My siblings and I eagerly studied "Tone Ya".

In 1995, my dad, John Fejeran, established "The Foundation for Chamorro Arts, Crafts, Artifacts, and Education" for the past 25 years. My dad and his siblings have gathered together as they prepared to share their love of the culture with the San Diego community. What that meant for us kids, was that we were going to be able to spend hours upon hours together, or as cousins, and have an outdoor, halapuan, hachon pika, ribe, and fritadas as artifacts were prepared, and stories were shared.

We started off with a 10x10 booth. The booth quickly evolved to an annual 20x40' canopy that we filled to the brim with all things Chamorro. PIFA has been both a blessing and a burden. Our family has spent hours planning the display to accurately and respectfully represent our culture. Planning typically starts about six weeks before PIFA, hauling 1600 items from the storage to my dad's garage. The family gathers to finish up and repair art artifacts and space up the end tables on the large model Guam. My dad would call a list about the table and list of to-do's, but I know it's also mostly the people to list. I finally is turned over the books, again some delicious, beach food as we sign up for our shifts to occupy the booth. My dad has 3 dogs to a school. The Wednesday prior to PIFA, we set up our space in the exhibition and education center at San Diego. Family gathers to load up the 10-foot on Thursday night and Friday morning our arrival at 8:00 in the morning with back-to-the-beach sandwiches and coffee, as we mentally prepare for the look ahead. Some of us even call it work, but so we can be there to set up the display. Every year we also get a surprise visit from one of my dad's siblings that live in Guam and Washington. I am how we bring my dad and his 7 siblings all together.

PIFA is our annual reunion with so many of our Pacific Islander brothers and sisters. My dad's booth is a central location, that is filled with people studying and researching, as they share their own personal stories and relationships to the art and artifacts. PIFA was annual event that literally almost gives me a heart attack, but so here is always so worth it. Another favorite memory was watching my dad be acknowledged on stage. Holding his notes, and confident in knowing his people like parents proud through his own hard representation of his health and our culture. I felt so privileged to look up and just observe my Dad. The best part about PIFA, is wrapping up. Making leaving everything down, and having a celebratory street food capital of our own. I remember with everyone as we admire the empty space that was home, home filled with artifacts, people, and memorable moments. Before we depart, we end the day with group photos, and hearts filled with thanks to God that we were able to celebrate and share our culture together one more year.

Dad was just 18 years old when he left Guam. He passed so deep to fill the void of "home" for myself. I have nothing but the truly bring out his life's calling and purpose. Here's a little something from him: "I raised the life on the island and experiencing Chamorro culture, language, songs and dance. The Chamorro community in Guam pushed me to be involved in San Diego and later on inspired the path to preserve, promote and sustain the Chamorro roots through this foundation. Because of a friend and I'm a very type of person, I wanted to create accessibility and visibility of our culture, arts and traditions to Chamorro people here outside of Guam. I had a vision to share the rich history with those of Chamorro from childhood to adulthood that primarily have never been to our island. Through the foundation's cultural education, we provide tools for them to experience our culture hands-on and also give them a connection to the roots of our ancestors. Listening to families share amongst each other their own personal stories brings the artifacts to life. I know the goal is accomplished when people leave feeling more confident in knowledge and connected with their identity in the Chamorro community."

You are doing just that, Dad. We are so thankful for you and for our family. This legacy created as a powerful one to share. Gracely and Gracilyn, love and Elysegrate Fejeran, are looking down, blessing with pride. Thank you to PIFA and to our Pacific Islander community for the years of love and support. Your presence has truly been the greatest gift to our family.



# PIFA LUAAU 2021

*A Night of Memories*



PIFA hosted its 2nd Luau fundraiser sold out event at the beautiful Bali Hai restaurant venue on Shelter Island. It is PIFA's first event since the State opened up after being shut down due to the Coronavirus for well over sixteen months. We would normally host our Taste Fundraiser at this time however due to City guidelines requiring minimum crowd events we were unable to.

PIFA suffered the loss of two active beloved Board members, Steve Madrid (before the Luau) one of the longest serving, always smiling and hard working leader PIFA was blessed to have in the Community and after the Luau and our beautiful Trina San Nicolas, as with Steve, they will forever be missed in our hearts. PIFA also lost other prominent members and supporters and our heartfelt condolences and prayers goes out to the families.

We were graced with the presence of distinguished guests Mayor Todd Gloria and San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit along with longtime donors and sponsors, local Community leaders representing the islands of Guam, Hawaii, Tahiti, Samoa, friends & families. Our musician entertainer was Keni Yarboro, DJ Sixto and a special performance by Kaliloa O Kaleo'onalani. The Emcees were Edieann Heali'i Stanley & Teini Elisara, Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego (PIFA) 2005 & 2019 respectively. Also assisting the Luau, Miss PIFA Mahealani Taisague 2006 and Leilsa Case 2016. Our silent auction and raffle tickets as well as PIFA t-shirts were continuously being sold throughout the evening.

The main highlight of the evening was the crowning of the 2021 Miss PIFA, Alana Godoy by Jewels Silva, Miss PIFA 2020 and the introduction of the scholarship recipients. Jewels received a special recognition award from Mayor Todd Gloria for her platform in achieving 'health and awareness' to the community with the distribution, identification of the various vaccination sites including our very own site at the Sons & Daughters of Guam and doing a Panel Q & A and interviews with the local media.

The Luau fundraiser event helps support the Scholarship program for Miss PIFA and the general scholarships students from the community and others to reach a high academic achievement level possible with the hope to give back to the Community as future Leaders!

Due to the City guidelines, we were unable to have our Festival for 2 years in a row, instead of which we will have our second Virtual festival this month. We thank each and everyone for being a part of this special fundraiser where we got to see many friends and people we have not seen since the pandemic who came to support us to reach our goals to give back to the community.

# PIFA LU'AU 2021

*Kaliloa Kaleo Onalani*



# PIFA LU'AU 2021

*Le'isa Case Miss PIFA 2016*



# PIFA LUAAU 2021

*Faces in the Crowd*



# PIFA LUAAU 2021

*Faces in the Crowd*



# HAFADAI GOLD

by: Lin's Jewelry Guam 1977



## PFA 2021 Membership

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Anissa Acfalle<br/>Benjamin Aguan<br/>JoAnn Aguan-Anson<br/>Joe Aguan<br/>Elizabeth AhNee<br/>Glen Kaliku AhNee<br/>Talesmafasolo Aina<br/>Doreen Alanima<br/>Eleni Alanima<br/>Emanuel Alanima<br/>Thomas Alanima<br/>Cristina Alvarez<br/>Al Ambito<br/>Armando Anson<br/>Ann M. Arredondo<br/>Brunson Arucan<br/>Rudy Arucan<br/>Arifia Austin<br/>Dominic Babuta<br/>Jennifer Babuta<br/>Melina Babuta<br/>Joshua Baesus<br/>Michelle Baesus<br/>Thomas Jojo Bedonia<br/>Leina Susanna Bell<br/>Joshua Boja<br/>Janice Bouffina-Walker<br/>Chrystell Bruce **<br/>Jeffery Bruce<br/>Steven Brevick<br/>Jolene Brown **<br/>John Capuzzi<br/>Margaret Carr<br/>Monique Carrillo<br/>Angeline Case<br/>Leisa Case<br/>JoPete Castro<br/>Natasha Castro<br/>Ricky Catindig<br/>Jacqueline Cepeda<br/>Gus Cervantes<br/>Anna Chaco<br/>Jasmine Coe **<br/>Victoria Coe<br/>Malis Cook<br/>Aja Cox<br/>Mel Cristobal</p> | <p>Annie Cruz<br/>Brian Cruz **<br/>Jacqueline Cruz<br/>Zen Dela Cruz *<br/>Donald Diarayo<br/>Suzanne Diarayo<br/>Richard Duenas<br/>Robert Drew<br/>Denise Dudoit-Meyer **<br/>William Bruce Edwards<br/>Wilson Edwards<br/>Sylvia Ellis<br/>Lori Eskine<br/>Scott Eskridge<br/>Salani Fairvne-Harrison **<br/>Janelle Fejeran *<br/>JoAnn Fields **<br/>Carrine Flonta<br/>Pamela Floyd<br/>Lillian Glenister<br/>Alana Godoy<br/>Paula Guleta<br/>Daniel Gocniak<br/>Rita Gormak<br/>Shirley Goodrich<br/>Jeanie Guerrero<br/>Gerardino Goerara<br/>Michelle Guzman<br/>Katie Hamabata<br/>Timothy Harrison<br/>June Hawkins *<br/>Nancy Hinn<br/>Tyronne Hoeitt<br/>Ikona Iokupa<br/>Tonish Jackson<br/>Leilani Jesina<br/>Samantha Kaplan<br/>Charlene Kawabata<br/>Grace Keil **<br/>Gary Keakubou<br/>Bryson Kim *<br/>Thomas Kingley<br/>Michael Lagman<br/>Suzanne Lagman<br/>Christina CJ Lannon<br/>Nicholas Lannon<br/>Norahie Lannon **</p> | <p>Steve Lannon *<br/>Paulina Lene<br/>Elena Lepule *<br/>Leiana Lepule<br/>Tana Lepule **<br/>Robert Lerma **<br/>Kristie Lesa<br/>Debra Lizama-Blas<br/>Lani Love **<br/>Danielle Lusk<br/>Michelle Ma'a<br/>Lola Madrid **<br/>Steve Madrid **+<br/>James Maibua<br/>Jeffrobert Malijan<br/>Mahelani Mansion-Vincent<br/>Ethel Mackley<br/>Kameron Mackley<br/>Mei-Ling Marshall<br/>Kathryn McLaughlin<br/>Terry McMillan<br/>Mueva McNicol<br/>Christian Meno<br/>Patsy O'Connor<br/>Lei O'Dell<br/>Rebecca O'Grady<br/>Kasa Pagala<br/>Patricia Palma **<br/>Jocelyn Pangelinan +<br/>Joel Pangelinan<br/>Jose Pangelinan<br/>Kawika Pangelinan<br/>Kinna Pangelinan<br/>Roque C. Pangelinan<br/>Roque S. Pangelinan<br/>Victor Pangelinan<br/>Mahela Pauga<br/>Alaisen Puan **<br/>Pena Puan **<br/>Kawdy Puan<br/>Patricia Puan-Schwenke<br/>Jennette Perez **<br/>Bibi Pham<br/>Vanessa Phillips<br/>Kalani Pollard<br/>Mildred Pollard Hoeitt<br/>Rosemary Pollard</p> | <p>Karolyne Porter Ah-Hing<br/>John Quichocho<br/>Marisa Quichocho<br/>Tahira Quichocho<br/>Victoria Rios<br/>Eric Robertson<br/>Leilani Robertson<br/>Arminette Knebeck<br/>Natasha Rollins<br/>Linda Sablan<br/>Robert Secay<br/>Fete Sugale<br/>Ignacio (Nash) Sales<br/>Ignacio (Nick) San Nicolas<br/>Trina San Nicolas +<br/>Faith Santorelli<br/>Greg Santos<br/>Michael Santos<br/>Angela Saunders<br/>Frances Jopsona Scott<br/>Barbara Servino<br/>Carl Servino<br/>Kanon Servino<br/>Terry Sesepasua<br/>Bertha Simplificiano **<br/>Sam Simplificiano **<br/>Fredrick Smith<br/>Jennifer Smith<br/>Monica Smith<br/>Sharilyn Sahl<br/>Kiki Salia *<br/>James Stanley<br/>Robin Steen<br/>Tala Striffler **<br/>Carrisa Sullivan<br/>Kady Tai **<br/>Vincent Taisague<br/>Kuanilehas Tanonye-Weisner<br/>Robin Tur **<br/>Patricia Teckira<br/>Terry Tedpaogo<br/>Bobby Tild<br/>Frances Tomala<br/>Susan Tuki<br/>Margaret Torla-Sesepasua<br/>Jennette Watanabe<br/>Jason Westfall</p> |
|--|---|--|---|

\* Lifetime Member  
\*\* VIP Lifetime Member  
+ Deceased 2021



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## PIFA 2021 COMMITTEES

<b>Beach Cleanup</b> John Quichocho Brian Cruz	<b>Logistics/Asset MGMT</b> Anissa Acfalle Rudy Tai Steve Madrid Mimi Pollard Chrystell Brace Jeannette Perez Sam Simpliciano Brian Cruz	<b>Photographers</b> Bryson Kim Michael Lagman	<b>Vendors/Booths</b> Trina San Nicolas Monique Carrillo Rita Gorriak Anissa Acfalle Rudy Tai Chrystell Brace Jeannette Perez
<b>Beverages</b> Rita Gorriak Sam Simpliciano	<b>Media/Public Relations/ Community Outreach</b> Bryson Kim Anissa Acfalle Doreen Alailima Michael Lagman Richard Duenas	<b>Program Book</b> Bryson Kim Rita Gorriak	<b>Scholarship</b> Chrystell Brace Rita Gorriak Monique Carrillo Leilani Jesina Trina San Nicolas Sam Simpliciano
<b>Clean-Up</b> Anissa Acfalle Rudy Tai Sam Simpliciano	<b>Membership &amp; Correspondence</b> Chrystell Brace Jeannette Perez	<b>Site Security</b> Anissa Acfalle Rudy Tai Sam Simpliciano	<b>Volunteers</b> Leilani Jesina Chrystell Brace
<b>Community Night</b> SD Padres Anissa Acfalle Rudy Tai Sam Simpliciano	<b>Miss PIFA Pageant</b> Doreen Alailima Rita Gorriak Jolene Brown	<b>T-Shirts</b> Sam Simpliciano Chrystell Brace	<b>Ways &amp; Means</b> Trina San Nicolas Chrystell Brace Rita Gorriak Doreen Alailima
<b>Corporate Sponsorship</b> Brian Cruz Tana Lepule Anissa Acfalle Rudy Tai Sam Chrystell Brace Jeannette Perez	<b>Permit/Insurance</b> Anissa Acfalle Rudy Tai Brian Cruz Chrystell Brace Jeannette Perez	<b>Lulu</b> Anissa Acfalle Rita Gorriak Doreen Alailima Jasmine Cone Leilani Jesina Trina San Nicolas Monica Smith	<b>Website</b> Bryson Kim
<b>Cultural Villages</b> Monique Carrillo	<b>Entertainment/Procession</b> Doreen Alailima Rita Gorriak Richard Duenas	<b>Transportation</b> John Quichocho Monique Carrillo Zen Dela Cruz	<b>Food Drive</b> Brian Cruz



Mahalani 2004



Eileen 2005



Mahalani 2006

# Miss PIFA

*Over the years*



Whitney 2007



Katalyn 2008



Lindsay 2009



Paige 2010



Mia 2011



Darlene 2012



Meaghan 2013



Tia 2014



Hanalet 2015



Leira 2016



Tilly 2017



Serena 2018



Tiana 2019

# LEGACY



Jenna 2020



Alana 2021

# Alana **GODOY**

*Miss PIFA 2021*



Alana Nicole Kikanani Godoy is 23 years old, of Hawaiian descent, and is the oldest of four siblings in her family. She graduated with a BA from San Diego State University SDSU Summa Cum Laude in Anthropology and Sociology. She was awarded with a variety of scholarships during her college career and has been a member of several Honors societies including, Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Sigma, and Phi Theta Kappa.

Alana has also earned a fellowship with Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy, and Leadership (APPEAL), served as a member of SDSU's Mortar Board, and has earned the distinction of Outstanding Graduating Senior at San Diego State.

Growing up as a Polynesian dancer with Kaleo Onalani, Alana has spent the majority of her life involved in the community and has served as Miss PIFA Princess from 2017-2020 and Miss Charity from 2018-2020. She created her own YouTube channel and website, "Sincerely Alana" where she brings awareness to social issues, culture, and encourages a confident and healthy lifestyle. She has worked throughout her entire college career and is currently employed at Reva Events and Maeva Tours.

Alana is continuing her education at Windward Community College towards a degree in Hawaiian Studies and plans on studying for a Master in Applied Anthropology with an emphasis in Pacific Islander studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As Miss PIFA 2021, she would like to take this year to focus on several goals and topics that are very near and dear to her. These topics include continuing PIFA's support of obtaining higher education, furthering PIFA's legacy by elevating the organization, and focusing on the importance of addressing historical trauma to promote the overall health and wellbeing of the Pacific Islander community.

Alana has proposed the addition of a new PIFA Graduate Scholarship to further assist Pacific Islander students in obtaining graduate level degrees; the creation of a Legacy Internship Program aimed at inviting the next generation of Pacific Islander leaders to partake in PIFA as an organizational whole, and the continuation of the Next Generation Educational Summit.

Covid-permitting, the Summit will take place in person during the Spring of 2022 and will invite people of all ages to learn about Pacific Islander culture and customs, the effects of historical trauma, and how to counter those consequences with cultural practices, new hobbies, and community support. Stay tuned for more information on the Summit via our social media platform

Congratulations to Alana Godoy as Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego (PIFA) 2021 and graduating Summa Cum Laude in Anthropology and Sociology from San Diego State University. She has continuously received scholarship awards from PIFA throughout her undergraduate studies at Southwestern College and San Diego State University.

Her contribution and hard work as the Miss PIFA Princess from 2017-2019 and Miss Charity from 2018-2019 culminating and crowned as Miss PIFA this year is a testament to her enduring spirit and passion for the community.

Alana is a hard working young lady who continuously portrays grace, confidence and courage wherever she represents PIFA and the Committee are excited to work alongside her throughout her reign.

2020 & 2021 Miss PIFA Pageant & Scholarship Program Committee

Chairperson: Doreen Alailima  
Committee members; Rita Gorniak & Jolene Ibarra.

# Miss PIFA **CROWNING**

*Alana Godoy*

Aloha!

It was a great honor to be crowned as Miss PIFA 2021 at the Luau Fundraiser, Bali Hai, Shelter Island. I would like to thank my family, friends, mentors, and our beautiful San Diego community for the continuous love and support I've received over the years.

My PIFA journey has been a rollercoaster ride but it's been one of the best experiences of my life thanks to all the people who have helped me along the way.

I truly would not be where I am today without this amazing journey and I am so grateful for the outpouring of encouragement and love that I've received from my family, the PIFA President Anissa, Vice President Rudy and Miss Pifa Chairperson and Committee, Board of Directors and my friends both new and old.  
Mahalo Nui!

Alana Godoy



# Meet our Miss PIFA past & Present

PIFA Luau 2021



# Miss PIFA 2020

*Jewels Mendiola Silva*

Hafa Adai,

My name is Jeweliana “Jewels” Mendiola Silva and I am your 2020 Miss PIFA. Being Miss PIFA during a pandemic came with many challenges. All events that I had been extremely excited for were minimized, on zoom, or completely canceled. I was able to have a small group of my family attend my crowning on Coronado Ferry Landing. It was a very intimate event, but so very special to me. I was part of the first virtual PIFA. I was lucky enough to meet the Miss PIFAs of the past and learn their secrets on how to represent our community.

During my reign COVID surged on killing many Pacific Islanders. As a CNA my heart broke seeing so many people suffer and then die from COVID. In the month of December 2020, I lost three uncles to COVID. As soon as the vaccines rolled out, I wanted everyone I love to get protected. I saw vaccine sites for Hispanics, Native Americans, African Americans, but none for Pacific Islanders. I knew I had a platform and I was more than ready to use it. I, along with Pacific Islander community members and UCSD set up multiple COVID vaccine sites. We had vaccine sites at The Sons and Daughters of Guam Club, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, City of Hope Church and The First Samoan Congregational Christian Church. We used social media, interviews on the news and walking door to door to get the word out on the vaccine sites. At these sites I met Islander doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who were all working to protect our people. Thank you to all our venues, healthcare workers and community members who helped make these sites possible.

Thank you to PIFA for supporting my platform to create COVID vaccine sites. I would also like to say thank you to PIFA for allowing me to represent the Pacific Islander community of San Diego. It has truly been an honor. I would like to give a special thank you to Doreen Alailima for the guidance and support as the Miss PIFA Chairperson. I would like to thank Anissa Acfalle, Alyssa and Richard Duenas and my Irencia family for pushing me to go outside my comfort level and always supporting me. To my family, thank you for all the work and donations to the vaccine sites, for being my biggest supporters and showing up to help me achieve my goals.

Because of the pandemic I missed out on being crowned at the Taste of PIFA. I missed out on an actual PIFA at Ski Beach during my reign. I missed out on throwing the first pitch at the Padres Pacific Islander Night. I missed out on many things, but as Miss PIFA 2020 I can say I did my part to preserve and protect our people and culture and that is more rewarding than anything I missed.

Si Yu’os Ma’ase  
Jewels



# Meet our 2021 PIFA Scholarship recipients



# Brandy **ATUATASI**

*High school Class of 2021*



Talofa! My name is Brandy Atuatasi, and I am representing the Samoan community. As an active member in the Pacific Islander community in San Diego, I have volunteered at both PIFA and Heiva San Diego. In high school, I helped start my school's Pacific Islander Club, was a member of the Posi-tivi-Tea Club, served as the Athletic Commissioner in ASB, and played five different sports: track and field, volleyball, tennis, golf, and rugby. In November 2020, I signed to throw shot put and discus for Stanford University's Women's Track and Field team. There, I will continue my education and pursue a major in Psychology. I am so grateful to PIFA for aiding me as I continue my academic career! Thank you!



# Ionatana Tai **LEPULE**

*High school Class of 2021*



Ionatana Tai Lepule graduated from Olympian High School and represents the Samoan community. While in high school, he played volleyball and was an officer with the Buddies Club, where he helped organize events for the students with special needs. He will be attending Southwestern College in the fall and will transfer to San Diego State University to pursue his Bachelors of Science in Business - Finance. While in college, he will continue to work for a small business and gain the skills and knowledge to one day open his own business. As the son of Tana and Elena Lepule, Tana has helped and attended PIFA most of his life. As a PIFA Scholarship recipient, he will continue to enhance his knowledge about the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Communities.



# Mireya **CEPEDA**

*High school Class of 2021*



Hafa Adai! My name is Mireya Cepeda and I represent the Pacific Islander community of Guam. I graduated from Otay Ranch High School this past June 2021. I will attend SDSU in the fall. I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business. I plan to continue volunteering my time to non-profits, mentoring youth and always giving back. I have been an avid softball player since a young age. I started playing at Bonita Valley Girls Softball, winning ASA State Championship and placing 3rd in Nationals in 2015. I also played travel softball with Power Surge, Firecrackers and Athletics. I ended my Senior year 2021 with my high school softball team winning the CIF Championship. I am thankful for the guidance of my parents in my life and the importance of acknowledging God's favor over my life. I plan on keeping my Chamorro family story alive by sharing my ancestral history. I am grateful for my great-grandfather, Fred Quenga Cepeda, who was born in Piti, Guam, for sharing his incredible story with me on how our family overcame the Japanese concentration camps in Guam. A big thank you to PIFA for granting me the PIFA scholarship and contributing to my success.



# Kai **TRELTAS**

*High school Class of 2021*



Kai Treltas graduated from Valhalla High School. He represents the Chamorro community. Kai is currently attending Cuyamaca Community College and plans on transferring to San Diego State University in two years majoring in Graphic Design. He plans on becoming a high school digital arts teacher. During his time at Valhalla High School Kai was a four sport varsity athlete: participating in water polo, wrestling, swim and dive. He volunteers at Saint Luke's Catholic Church as a retreat and core team leader. He was a member of the Irencia Dance Troupe and performed at PIFA and the Chamorro Cultural Festival. Kai participated in a youth ukulele band under the name Meskla Chamorro where he performed at The Sons and Daughters of Guam Club and CCF. Kai plans to help the Pacific Islander Community by continuing to participate in and perform at cultural festivals and events. He wears his Chamorro heritage as a badge of honor.



# Kiana **PANGELINAN**

*Undergraduate scholarship recipient*



Aloha and Hafa Adai! My name is Kiana Pangelinan and I am of Hawaiian and Chamorro decent. I transferred from San Diego Mesa College and will be attending California State University San Marcos this Fall of 2021. I am studying Kinesiology – Health Science with an emphasis in becoming a Physical Therapist. My whole life I was raised to be a hard worker in order to achieve the goals I desired. The harder you work, the more rewarding the outcome will be. I wasn't always the smartest student or the best athlete, but I always gave 110% effort. I played different sports growing up, but softball was my life. Although I danced hula, I took a break to focus on softball and volunteering at cultural events. Being an athlete comes with its prices, like injuries. I went to physical therapy for multiple injuries and worked with several physical therapists who inspired me to pursue this field. As a physical therapist, I will give back to the community by helping young athletes through the challenges of which some I've experienced myself. I am extremely blessed to be given this opportunity by PIFA to help offset the rising cost of a higher education. Mahalo!



# Keoni **RODRIGUEZ**

*Undergraduate scholarship recipient*



Keoni Rodriguez is a member of the Filipino, Chinese, and Hawaiian communities and a student at Stanford and Windward Community College. At Stanford, Keoni is earning a Bachelor's degree in History and a Master's degree in Earth Systems. At Windward, they are earning an Associate's in Hawaiian Studies. They are the incoming president of Stanford's Pacific Islander Coalition, Hui O Nā Moku and have served as an officer for two years before that. On top of that, they work in the Stanford admissions office to expand access to higher education to the broader Pacific Islander and Native communities both in high school and for incoming freshmen. After they graduate from all of their current degree programs, they hope to earn their doctorate in Pacific Studies or Ethnic Studies and conduct research about Hawaiians on the continent. They are currently conducting a research study for their honors thesis on the topic and hope to use a combination of historical analysis and ethnographic analysis to better understand how Hawaiian communities adapt to changing demographic distributions. They are grateful to be a part of the PIFA community through this scholarship and look forward to working with everyone.



# Alana **GODOY**

*Undergraduate scholarship recipient*



Alana has graduated from San Diego State University with Summa Cum Laude in Anthropology and Sociology. She has been awarded with a variety of scholarships during her college career and has been a member of several honors societies including, Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Sigma, and Phi Theta Kappa. Alana has also earned a fellowship with Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy, and Leadership (APPEAL), served as a member of SDSU's Mortar Board, and has earned the distinction of Outstanding Graduating Senior at San Diego State. Alana is continuing her education at Windward Community College earning a degree in Hawaiian Studies and plans on earning her masters in Applied Anthropology with an emphasis in Pacific Islander studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



# Alyssa **GUTIERREZ**

*Undergraduate scholarship recipient*



Aloha everyone! My name is Mahealani Gutierrez and I am beyond honored and blessed to be representing the beautiful islands of Hawaii. I was born and raised here in San Diego, California. As of right now, I'm currently a sophomore at San Diego State University majoring in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Pre-Fitness Specialist. My goal is to go to graduate school and major in Athletic Training, in hopes of becoming a certified Athletic Trainer within the NFL. I've always been interested in the human body and my love of sports added to the reason why I'm majoring in Kinesiology today. I have been dancing hula for Halau Hula O Kawahinepi'lani (Jean Kalani Dancers) since I was eight years old and now I'm able to show others the beauty of what hula is. I am the current Miss Hui O'Hawaii San Diego 2021-2022.



# Iva Alofa SALAZAR

*PIFA scholarship donar*

## Iva "Alofa" Scholarship

The Iva "Alofa" scholarship is offered in memory of Iva Pisia Salazar, graduate of Leone High School in American Samoa and Southwestern Community College in San Diego, California. Born in Vailoatai, American Samoa, she moved to San Diego, California in the United States to pursue her career in nursing. Iva strongly believed in educating our youth and that each individual should use his or her talents to help others. She helped many people throughout her career in nursing, her Church, and throughout her loving family, and her family is keeping up the tradition of giving back and supporting our community. In following their mom's beliefs and footsteps, Iva's oldest daughters Georgina To'a and Nina Guadalupe were grateful past recipients of scholarships offered by PIFA. Georgina graduated from Stanford University, continuing on to complete her Ph.D, Nina graduated from the US Air Force Academy and now works as a software developer, Iva's son Victor completed law school, passed the California BAR exam on his first attempt, and is currently working as an attorney in Los Angeles, and Iva's youngest daughter, Vailala, became a special education teacher and education policy shaper. An encouraging reminder from Iva herself: "Make good use of your education and use your talents wisely".



**AS COVID-19 VARIANTS CONTINUE**

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**IMPORTANT THAN EVER.**

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# Virtual **PIFA 2021**

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performers*



## **PIFA 2021 VIRTUAL MUSIC LINEUP**

Na Pua Ilima  
Miss PIFA Alana Godoy  
Imahen Taotao Tano  
Tui Letuli musician  
Te Ori Mana  
Halau Hula O Kawahinepi'ilani  
Miss Hui O Hawaii Alyssa Gutierrez  
D6 Open Band  
Manava Polynesian Studio  
Timmy Cruz musician  
Le Polynesia Dance Studio  
One Island The Band - Keahi & Anthony  
Kutturan Chamoru Performers / Uno Hit  
Ka Hula O Ilima  
Para i Probechu'n i Taotao-Ta Inc - Guinahan i Tano  
Motu Nehenehe  
Hiva Katoa  
Tyana Farrell singer  
Heali'is Polynesian Revue  
Taupou Samoa presents PIYA 2021

# Na Pua **ILIMA**

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*

Under the blessings of the late Kumu Hula Kehaulani Wilson, Mahealani Taisague has been honored with the privilege of perpetuating the meaning of hula and carrying on the legacy Hula Halau o Na Pua 'Ilima through love, knowledge and integrity. In it's now 31st year of existence, Mahealani continues her practices, traditions and style. This multi-award winning Hula Halau will continue to share the traditions of the Polynesian cultures through dance, language, and most importantly "Aloha". With a big Ohana effort, we thank God for every day that we get to do what we love to continue this Halau's legacy.



# Video Day for **PIFA VIRTUAL**

*Na Pua Ilima*



# Imahen **TAOTAO TANO**

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*

Guma' Imâhen Taotao Tâno' (Images of the People of the Land) began in 1999 under Fafa'nâgue and Tribal Council Member Rosemary Mantanoña. Established under Pa'a Taotao Tano in 2002 under the First Master of CHamoru Dance Saina Frank Rabon, the mission of Imâhen Taotao Tâno' is to preserve and perpetuate the CHamoru culture through various community services and events. Guma' Imâhen Taotao Tâno' is a home for learning the CHamoru culture. Members gain training in dancing and weaving skills, knowledge of their history, language, familiarity with values of inafa'maolek, a sense of reciprocity and respect, to continue the legacy of our indigenous people of the land.



# Video Day for **PIFA VIRTUAL**

*Imahen Taotao Tano*



# Tui LETULI

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*

Tui is a true Ambassador of Polynesia. He was raised in American Samoa and is of Native Hawaiian and Samoan descent. His upbringing led him to be the gifted Singer, Songwriter, Musician, Stuntman, and a man who passionately loves his Polynesian Islands. Tui comes from a long lineage of entertainers from both his Samoan and Hawaiian sides. His father, the Father of the Fire Knife dance is Paramount Chief Olo Misilagi Letuli who in the 1940's added the fire to his knives that created what we know of today, as the Fire knife Dance or Siva Afi dance, this represents his Samoan heritage. His Hawaiian heritage dates to the 30's and 40's, where his grandfather is the legendary Al McIntire. He and his brothers Lani and Dick, were one of the many artists who pioneered popularizing Hawaiian music in the 30's & 40's. A natural born entertainer, Tui has worked as an actor, stuntman and as a Local 399 Teamsters in the movie industry and he is no stranger behind or in front of the camera. He has contracted with Disney as a talent scout for their worldwide locations and has frequented the entertainment lineup at Trader Joes at Disneyland in Anaheim, CA. He currently contracts with Princess Cruises as a Polynesian Ambassador, where he and his wife Maile share aloha, culture, and music of the islands with all passengers on cruise ships. Part time he partners as a marketing director and consultant for many other worldwide organizations.

Both Tui and his wife Maile passionately love their Polynesian Islands and are committed to preserving the cultural arts. Together they have given their talents back to community and founded Pacific Talent Academy of the Arts in Southern California, the host of "Weekend in Polynesia" the largest fire knife dance competition in North America and ITO (International Tahitian Ori) competition helping the youth of Polynesia connect to their rich heritage. Tui is also a minister and shares the gospel of Christ where ever he travels.

Their efforts have supported their son's success of touring the world with Hawaii's 2018 Grammy nominated Josh Tatofi. Which has helped Laupepa launch his 1st single "Kanikapila".

He loves travelling worldwide, entertaining, public speaking, and spending time at their homes with their family in American Samoa, Maui, and California. They are true Ambassadors of Aloha that love to fulfill their passion of touching people's lives with the Spirit of Aloha.



# Te Ori MANA

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*



We spontaneously opened the dance studio on October 01, 2018, to accommodate a handful of dancers to practice and choreograph a show for the Taste of Tahiti. The founder, a native from Tahiti, wanted a place where he can share one of his passion which is his hometown culture, and, along with the board of the Taste of Tahiti, we took this journey to move forward not knowing how it will impact the outcome future.

That same year, the founder decided to bring onboard a significant person to lead the Hula, Hawaiian Dance, and Kumu Kahealani became this person to guide the Hula (Hawaiian Dance) who also implemented protocols and structuring the dance studio.

In addition, the founder brought 'Ori Tahiti (Tahitian Dance) and Cultural Masters from Huahine and Raiatea to form and reinforce an authentic alliance between the dance studio and Raromara'i (Leeward Islands of French Polynesia).

Our Polynesian Dance Studio brings to you a team of very experienced and talented masters and instructors, highly specialized and guided in our dance and culture. Rooted by the mana to cultivate traditional, authentic, and inspiring 'Ori Tahiti and Hula dance.

Always together as a family with harmony.  
A family built on diversity, respect, and transparent communication.

Respect the Elements - Fire, water, earth, air, and spirit. The elements are to be preserved and nurtured.

Respect the Traditions - Those who have gone before entrusted us with an invaluable legacy that we must honor. (This includes showing respect to the elders among us)

Respect the Community - Living Mana places a priority on the importance of caring for each other in the community. Each person has a responsibility to invest their time and energy into serving the best interests of the community.

Respect the Individual - Each person is to be treated with respect and dignity regardless of how similar or dissimilar they appear to be.

Respect Yourself - Living Mana means striving to become the best person we can be.

Te Ori Mana

# Halau Hula 'O KAWAHINEPI'ILANI

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*

Jean Kalani Dancers – Hālau Hula 'O Kawahinepi'ilani is a Chula Vista based hālau that has been under the direction of Kumu Jean Kawahinepi'ilani Hopkins Kalani for many. Auntie Jean was born and raised in Hawaii and began dancing hula at a very young age after a year long battle with polio. Once she was able to walk, she began her hula training. Auntie Jean has danced with various musical artists and studied with a select few of Kumu but her primary hula lineage connects her to her Kumu Hula Louise Leiomalama Beamer with a primary focus on 'auana and her kahiko lineage connects her to Henry Pā with a major influence from Auntie Lou. Auntie Lou was the mother of Winona (Auntie Nona) Kapuailohiamanokalani Beamer and the daughter in law of Helen Kapuailohia Desha Beamer the composer and song writer. About 7 years ago Auntie Jean's granddaughter Kahinu Harrelson took on the kuleana of preparing to take over the hālau and with now 40 years of hula, she happily carries on the Beamer hula tradition today. Singing, chanting, dancing, playing ukulele, and connecting to Hawai'i's rich culture is the focal point of this hālau.



# Mahealani GUTIERREZ

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*



Aloha! My name is Mahealani Gutierrez and I am truly honored and blessed to be Miss Hui O Hawai'i of San Diego 2021-22! I was born here in San Diego California and I am currently in my sophomore year attending San Diego State University majoring in Kinesiology. I am the daughter of Bernadette Kawahinepi'ilani "Nani" Olmos and the Great-Granddaughter of Aunty Jean Kawahinepi'ilani and Uncle Joseph Kananimauloa Kalani. I began dancing hula at the age of eight for Hālau Hula 'O Kawahinepi'ilani formerly known as the Jean Kalani Dancers, under the direction of my Great-Grandmother Jean Kalani and my Auntie Kahinu Harrelson. I look forward to my reign as Miss Hui O Hawai'i and to all of the amazing experiences and opportunities it will bring! My family and I have been involved with the Hui for many years due to my Great-Grandparents being two of the charter members. Grama was always involved in the annual lū'au with entertainment or tickets sales. Grama was also involved in the welcoming ceremonies of the Hokule'a that sparked the PIFA festivals so many years ago.

As the next generation it is our time to step forward and take our place in the community. Whether it is community service, fundraising, ticket sales, kitchen help, clean up, booth work, representing the Hui at events, dancing, and all those in between, this is my opportunity as Miss Hui to be an example to those generations that follow me and to represent the kūpuna that came before me. Mahālo!

Mahealani Gutierrez  
Miss Hui O Hawai'i of San Diego 2021-22



# D6 OPEN

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*

Although you may not be familiar with their name, the members of D6Open have been performing Polynesian music since 2008. Formed in the parking lot of a San Diego-based halau, Kaliloa O Kaleoʻonalani, they’ve gone through a few unofficial names throughout the years. Members have shuffled in and out, but currently the performing members of D6Open are Alfred Enano, Aaron Butler, Rick Vale Cruz, and Jerry Salamante. So how does a band, with no Polynesian members, form and passionately play Island/Reggae music for +13 years? Simply for the love and appreciation of the culture and music.

In 2005 Rick started driving his daughter to “Kaleo” for her Keiki classes, joining other parents in the parking lot waiting for their kids. Alfred became one of these parents when his youngest daughter joined the halau in 2008. Already a musician, Alfred appreciated Polynesian music, and started bringing his guitar to play while waiting. Eventually Rick joined in for kanikapila, which sparked his passion for island music. Another musician, Aaron initially expressed his appreciation for the culture through dance. But after 2 years at the halau, Aaron was “volun-told” to join Alfred and Rick in their 2010 TahitiFete San Jose competition drumline. From their humble parking lot beginnings, a legitimate band started to take shape. Jerry’s appreciation for island music spawned from a post-college trip to Hawaii. Although he’s known Alfred since high school, Jerry was first introduced to Aaron and Rick upon visiting the halau in 2013. The three men invited Jerry to play at Kaleo’s 2013 ho’ike, marking the first event these members performed together.

Throughout the years, members of D6Open have expanded their musical abilities, playing ukulele, guitar, bass, Tahitian banjo, Tahitian drums, djembe, and other percussion instruments. They’ve traveled the world performing in TahitiFete San Jose and Hilo Hawaii, in Iā Oe E Ka Lā in Pleasanton CA, and on cruise ships to Hawaii and Tahiti. But their favorite performances are celebrations that afford the freedom to play Polynesian music as well as their diverse catalogue of reggae/island and R&B music. You may be asking, how has this band managed to stay together for such a long time...? Well, each member will tell you, “We are friends first, then bandmates second.” It’s the strong friendship they’ve built that binds them together, and their collective affinity for the culture and performing the music that motivates them to continue. “We get paid to jam with our best friends!” D6Open hopes to continue showing this appreciation for the Polynesian culture, and island music, for years to come.

Instagram - d6open  
Email - d6open@gmail.com



# Manava **POLYNESIAN STUDIO**

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*



**M**anava Polynesian Studio was founded in 2012 by Araceli and Aimee Cebros. Araceli was introduced to the Polynesian culture at a very young age and began dancing with a dance group in Mexico. Once her daughter turned 4, she also joined the group and they both spent years dancing together and sharing their passion and interest in the Polynesian culture.

They then moved to San Diego and joined Kaliloa O Kaleo Onalani under the direction of Siaosi and Ida Veimau. Aimee became one of their lead dancers and Araceli their costume designer for their shows and competitions. In 2012, Siaosi Veimau inspired and gave his blessing for Araceli and Aimee to open their own dance group in Tijuana, Mexico, he named the group Manava Polynesian Studio.

Manava focuses on teaching their students not only dance but about the culture, meaning, and history, in order to represent each culture appropriately and respectfully. They've also had the honor to host a 3-day workshop with Kumu Piilani Lua from Hawaii, and have attended numerous workshops with leaders of 'Ori Tahiti. Araceli and Aimee have also trained their dancers for competitions and have earned various awards at International Solo Competitions.

Araceli and Aimee have both performed several times at PIFA and to them, one day bringing their group to this meaningful stage would be a dream come true..A stage that has seen these two dancers grow their passion and respect for the Polynesian culture. Manava Polynesian Studio feels honored and beyond excited to be able to showcase their love, respect, and passion for the Polynesian culture in this year's virtual event.

# Video Day for **PIFA VIRTUAL**

*Manava Polynesian Studio*



# Timmy CRUZ

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*



**T**immy Cruz is Chamorro ukulele player. He started playing when he was 12 years. He later then joined many local Islander reggae bands and was a studio musician to augment his music comprehension, he later studied music at the University of San Diego. Currently Timmy endeavors himself as an ukulele soloist player. His objective is to bridge the gap between the ukulele and other instruments as a stand alone instrument. Timmy primarily plays solo finger-style arrangements that showcases the diversity and brilliant sound of the ukulele. This exposes the ukulele in a fashion that is unorthodox and outside of its cultural norm.

@timmys\_ukulelemusic

Facebook: Timmy Cruz

# Le Polynesia **DANCE STUDIO**

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*

We are a Polynesian dance studio that has carried on its Family Legacy for over 65 years and 4 generations of teaching. We pride ourselves on our dedication the Polynesian Cultures, and representing them through dance, culture, study and entertainment.

Our studio is located just off the I-5 in Lake Forest CA and you can find us performing and competing all over California, Nevada, Hawaii, Tahiti and beyond. The family legacy continues after 61 years under the direction of Dana Kalei Midori Montgomery.



# Video Day for **PIFA VIRTUAL**

*Le Polynésie Dance Studio*



# One Island **THE BAND**

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*



We are One Island, a Hawaiian and mixed genre music band originally from Hawaii, now residing in San Diego, California. We met you this past weekend at Kona Kai Resort, where we were the band for their Labor Day Luau!

Here is a link for one of our more recent songs, “He Pa’ina” which is addictive, fun-filled, and makes you want to get up and dance! Especially in these depressing times of COVID-19, “He Pa’ina,” which translates to “A Party” in Hawaiian, reminds people to be happy and live life to the fullest. There is a party waiting at the end of the rainbow.

Link: [He Pa’ina Blog on Big Island Music](#)

The Band is composed of two members, Keahi Rozet, and Anthony Kauka Stanley. The Lead Singer, Keahi, is originally from Wai’anae, Hawai’i, and now resides in San Diego. His gift for songwriting started at an early age which proved to be invaluable as he won local competitions and later performed on the Food Network Channel singing his hit song “Anthem to Musubi.”

Ukulele sensation Kauka Stanley of San Diego has collaborated on projects with organizations such as the San Diego Symphony and Los Angeles Philharmonic. He is also a Kala Brand Artist and the Music Director of Heali’i’s Polynesian Revue, a Polynesian dance company that has been in existence since 1967.

Keahi and Kauka are premier entertainers who have been featured by Royal Caribbean, Funko, COMIC-CON International, LegoLand, and Seaworld, to name a few. They met at a Hawaiian music festival in 2017 and have been playing together ever since. People describe One Island’s synergy as infectious, having too much fun, inspiring, and original. Unlike many other bands who stick to one genre, their music is more than 50 shades of play – a fresh sound that seduces the ear.

Let us know what else you need from us and what date you have in mind. Look forward to hearing from you soon and Aloha!

With Aloha,

Keahi & Kauka

# Kutturan **CHAMORU FOUNDATION**

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*

Founded in 1993, Kutturan Chamoru Foundation (KCF) based in Long Beach, CA, led by Fafa'nā'gue Heidi Char-gualaf-Quenga, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit "tuition-free" CHamorro cultural foundation ensuring traditional CHamorro dance, music and language is passed on to younger generations living away from the Mariānā Islands. With this shared philosophy, since 2013, "UnoHit - We are One", led by Māgas Guma' Jenise Leon Guerrero, is a "tuition-free" program based in San Diego, CA and together share the PIFA stage annually to represent the Mariānā Islands: Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

This year, despite the heavy effects of the pandemic, Kutturan Chamoru and UnoHit were honored to come together with Guma' Inetnon Famagu'on Guāhān from Killeen, Texas led by Māgas Guma' Daniel Mendiola, rehearsing relentlessly via Zoom to share a CHamorro culture presentation at the 77th Guam Liberation in San Antonio Texas.

Saina ma'āse to PIFA for continuing efforts to gather together as Pacific Islanders and stand strong as stewards of our community for it is the wisdom and guidance of our ancestors that bridge us to our island homes in Oceania.

[www.KutturanChamoru.org](http://www.KutturanChamoru.org)

[www.facebook.com/Kutturan-Chamoru](https://www.facebook.com/Kutturan-Chamoru)

<https://www.instagram.com/kutturanchamorufoundation/>

[www.facebook.com/UnoHit](https://www.facebook.com/UnoHit)

<https://www.instagram.com/inetnonfamaguonguahana>



# Ka Hula O 'ILIMA

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*



**K**a Hula O 'Ilima is a traditional hālau hula (hula school) located in Vista, CA which focuses solely on Hawaiian dance, language and culture. Founded in 2019 by Aunty Ilima Kam Martinez, the mission of the hālau is to educate haumāna (students) and the local community about Hawaiian culture in a meaningful and authentic way. On the basis that hula is a way of life and not merely a form of dance, Ka Hula O 'Ilima highly values ha'aha'a (humility), laulima (cooperation) and 'ohana (family). KHOI strives to create a space where all feel welcomed and valued, while learning the hula lineage traditions passed down from our kumu, Lehua Frank Kawaikapuokalani Hewett.

# Video Day for **PIFA VIRTUAL**

*Ka Hula O 'Ilima*



# PIPIT GUAM

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*

Para I Probechu'n I Taotao-ta Inc, is a non-profit cultural organization. Its mission is to support members and organizations who perpetuate, promote, and preserve Chamorro Language and Culture.

"PIPIT" works directly with "I Manfafa'naguen Bailan Chamorro". A Tribal Council whose members are Certified Instructors of Chamorro Dance.

This video presents some of the Fafana'gue singing "I Guinahan I Tano". It is Chamorro song that conveys the importance of Protecting the Land and Its Resources.

**Raymond Lujan**

Fafana'gue i Gima' Nina'en Acho' Latte



# Motu **NEHENEHE**

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*



Motu Nehenehe Polynesian Dancers is a professional Polynesian dance company and dance studio celebrating its 31st year. Established in 1990 under the direction of Babe U'ilani Valero. Motu Nehenehe is Tahitian which means "Beautiful Island". Dances from Tahiti, Hawaii, New Zealand and Samoa are performed.

Motu Nehenehe performs all over San Diego, Orange, and Los Angeles counties and Las Vegas. Some of the dancers have also performed abroad in Hawaii, Tahiti, Bora Bora, Moorea, Philippines and aboard a cruise ship.

The group's most recent accomplishments are performing for U.S. Olympics California State Games, Disney on Ice, and in Bora Bora.

Contact: Babe U'ilani Valero  
Phone: 858-272-MOTU (6688)  
Email: [motubabe25@yahoo.com](mailto:motubabe25@yahoo.com)  
Website: [motunehenehe.co](http://motunehenehe.co)



# Hiva KATOA

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*



With their lineage stemming from Hawaii, Samoa, Tahiti, and Tokelau, both Noa and Jeannie Napoleon were born into families who entertained, taught and preserved the Polynesian culture. Before receiving their blessing to branch out on their own, NONOSINA was their home for over 20 years. This is where Noa and Jeannie traveled the world to such places as Tahiti, Japan, Mexico, (Guadalajara), Hawaii and across the United States, performing and sharing their culture through the beautiful songs and dances of the Polynesian Islands.

The talented couple competed in numerous world renowned Tahitian Solo & Group Competitions winning countless 1st place awards and both have been awarded multiple Best Male and Best Female Overall Solo awards at: San Jose Tahiti Fete, Kiki Raina (Merced), ITO (International Tahitian Ori), Maeva Heiva, Hura Tahiti of Southern California, and 'Ori Tahiti Las Vegas.

Since starting a family of their own, Jeannie and Noa had one last goal and that was to share their knowledge and culture with others who would embrace it just as much as they did. In December of 2016 they decided to take that next step and create their own group. In January of 2017 their Polynesian Dance Group was born and you know it as HIVA KATOA.

Teaching has always been a passion for them and continues to teach and train award winning dancers. As teachers they have 8 Best Tane & Vahine Overall Soloists as well as Best Tamaroa & Tamahine Junior Overall Soloists under their direction. Their mission is to perpetuate their Polynesian heritage through the art of song, music, dance, and storytelling.

--  
HIVA KATOA  
Jeannie and Noa Napoleon  
5500 Grossmont Center Drive, Suite 167  
La Mesa, CA 91942



# Tyana Marie **FARRELL**

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*



Based in sunny California, Polynesian mixed singer songwriter Tyana Marie is ready to share her unique Pop R&B/Island Reggae fusion sound with the world. Growing up, Tyana Marie was raised listening to Pop, 80's and 90's Hip Hop/R&B, Dancehall, Reggae and Polynesian music. With artists like Kapena, Pati, Anuhea, Fiji, Tessanne Chin, Lauryn Hill, Tamia, and Aaliyah as influences to name a few, it's no wonder she can't help but blend it all together to make something all her own. Her sound can be described as Pop R&B with an Island Reggae twist.

From playing and travelling with Polynesian Island style bands to leading church worship services in different Christian ministries, Tyana Marie has grown up playing and performing all her life. From a young age, Tyana studied Polynesian music and dance while sharing the beauty of her Pacific Islander culture with her community. Her family's involvement in the Polynesian dance community provided a place for her to learn from mentors in dance and music. The feel of an island style Poly- band helped her learn to perform anything at a moment's notice (don't wanna get da slippah!). From Tahitian drumming to fun ukulele jams or even if she had to jump onstage during a set for a Hula, she's got you covered. Tyana's involvement in Christian Worship ministries helped her build her musicality and command of a band. Her weekends were basically filled up with music, but she loved it. Casually, she would post little covers playing her favorite Jawaiian jams or R&B joints while going to school and pursuing a degree in Accounting but it wasn't until the Summer of 2018 when Hawaiian Reggae band Kolohe Kai shared her uke cover of "Heartstrings" on social media that gave her the confidence to pursue her dream of becoming a recording artist and sharing her music with the world. From that viral share, Tyana Marie was contacted by different producers and artists to collab with in different genres. Her first ever feature came with New Zealand RnB artist Soul Brown on his single "Love Is" from his album "First Base" released May 2019.

Currently, Tyana Marie is working on multiple collaborations writing and lending her vocals to producers and other artists in various genres. Her first single "Foolish", an Ashanti remake with Tyana Marie's unique sound dropped March of 2021. More importantly she has her own original music in the works debuting her Island Reggae Fusion sound with her first independent single set to drop this Fall with an E.P. to follow. 2019 marked the beginning of her decision to pursue a music career and today she is more than ready to take big steps on her journey. She strives to create a musical experience that takes the negativity away from life but also embraces the reality of it in a fun and hopeful light. Her music aims to bring listeners into a community and culture that understands what they feel every day from love and heartbreak to the need to get away. Tyana Marie uses her music to say "I see you. You are not alone. You are enough. We all need to celebrate life together!"

# Heali'i's **POLYNESIAN REVUE**

*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*

Heali'i's Polynesian Revue is under the direction of Kumu Kathy Heali'i O Nalani Gore Stanley and has been growing strong since 1967. Together with her family, they perpetuate and share the love of Hawaii, Tahiti, Samoa, and Aotearoa through island song and dance, keeping traditions alive.

As a professional and competitive group, they have been blessed with numerous 1st place and overall awards from Polynesian dance and music competitions. Heali'i's Polynesian Revue has been featured around the world traveling throughout the West Coast, East Coast, Hawaii, Tahiti, and Japan. They have also had the honor of performing with many of Hawaii's music legends and American state symphonies.

Sharing their love of the Polynesian cultures, Heali'i's Polynesian Revue continues to teach and educate their students with historical emphasis and traditions. Their halau motto is based on their central focus and foundation of ohana (family). 'A 'ohe hana nui ke 'alu 'ia- No task is too great when done together by all.

They dedicate their performance to all of the angels gained throughout this pandemic.

For more information: [www.Healiis.com](http://www.Healiis.com) / IG: @Healiis / FB: Heali'i's Polynesian Revue / [HealiisPR@gmail.com](mailto:HealiisPR@gmail.com) / 619-363-2279



# Taupou Samoa **PRESENTS PIYA**

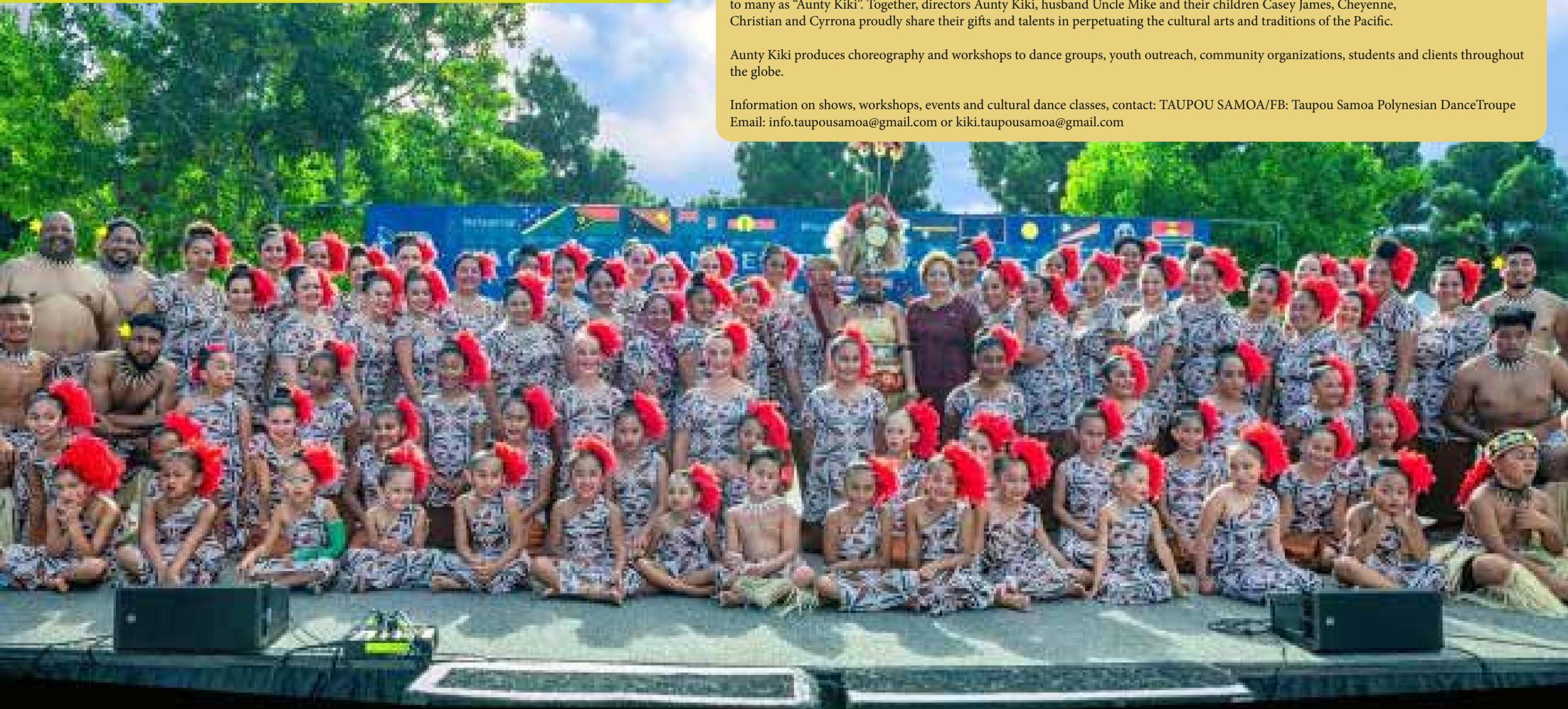
*PIFA Virtual 2021 Performer*

**T**AUPOU SAMOA Polynesian Dance Troupe celebrates 31 years of authentic Polynesian entertainment with special emphasis on the islands of SAMOA! Taupou Samoa prides itself with endless Polynesian shows and international travels over the years, representing Am. Samoa as a Delegation for the 10th Pacific Arts Festival in American Samoa; performances in Pape'ete Tahiti, Bora Bora, Hamburg, Germany, Mexico City, American Samoa and Samoa.

TAUPOU SAMOA has accomplished a colorful and amazing journey under the leadership of Director-Choreographer, Kiki Sotoa Solia, known to many as "Aunty Kiki". Together, directors Aunty Kiki, husband Uncle Mike and their children Casey James, Cheyenne, Christian and Cyrrona proudly share their gifts and talents in perpetuating the cultural arts and traditions of the Pacific.

Aunty Kiki produces choreography and workshops to dance groups, youth outreach, community organizations, students and clients throughout the globe.

Information on shows, workshops, events and cultural dance classes, contact: TAUPOU SAMOA/FB: Taupou Samoa Polynesian DanceTroupe  
Email: [info.taupousamoa@gmail.com](mailto:info.taupousamoa@gmail.com) or [kiki.taupousamoa@gmail.com](mailto:kiki.taupousamoa@gmail.com)



**TAUPOU SAMOA POLYNESIAN DANCE TROUPE**

# PIYA 2021

*Taupou Samoa presents*



Talofa lava! Malo le soifua maua ma le lagi e mama!

It is my honor and pleasure to present the SAN FRANCISCO PACIFIC ISLANDER YOUTH ALLIANCE (PIYA) - Youth Summer Program 2021...

As the Director and Choreographer of Taupou Samoa Polynesian Dance Troupe and Choreographer for the Samoan Community Council of San Diego, I was given the privilege this year to share and teach the Pacific Islander Youth Alliance (PIYA) San Francisco. The PIYA is a youth program and entity of the Samoan Community Development Center (SCDC) - San Francisco, CA. SCDC is a 501(c)3 organization under the leadership of Executive Director Patsy Tito, who is a driven leader, familiar face, and strong voice in the Samoan/Pacific Islander community. Patsy is a true advocate, actively involved in the San Francisco sectors of education, healthcare/wellness, outreach/volunteer, family/senior/youth programs, and so much more. She is taking strides in making a footprint and positive movement for a thriving community and for generations to come. This year's 25th anniversary performance was no different, Patsy and her staff took extra measures in making this year a more special one for the youth.

In celebrating 25 years of PIYA, I was blessed to be invited to choreograph and produce the PIYA youth summer performance. Every summer, the youth of up to 200+ students, predominantly Samoan students from Pre-K to High School Seniors, enroll and participate in a very structured program/curriculum of 6 to 8 weeks, Monday thru Friday from 9 to 5pm. The program takes place at the Samoan Community Development Center in Sunnydale, San Francisco. (Sunnydale is a former Army barracks turned housing projects neighborhood).

Due to Covid restrictions and guidelines, PIYA was only allowed 100 students to participate in this year's summer program. The PIYA Program opens its doors to youth from around the San Francisco region, majority from the inner city and underserved communities. 95 percent of the students are of Samoan descent, who learn about the origin, heritage, and traditions of their culture and nuances of their motherland. The majority of the students in the PIYA program, do not take formal dance instruction and do not dance or perform on a regular basis. Many of the students this summer have no dance experience, dancing for their first time, and with no experience performing on a stage. For the past years, the youth performed in venues such as school auditoriums, however, to make this monumental year extra special, leader Patsy Tito and her highly competent staff, orchestrated to have a beautiful venue for the youth to perform. PIYA's 2021 performance was at the San Francisco War Memorial & Performing Arts Center in downtown San Francisco, a breathtaking building and theater which is one of the largest performing arts centers in the United States.

Within a short 2 and half weeks working directly with the PIYA youth, my assistant choreographer and daughter Cyrrona, along with the talented dance and music teachers of the PIYA program, together we accomplished a performance production for PIYA. The song list for this year's performance was provided by SCDC-PIYA Managers and it was our job to bring it to fruition. The vision and song list was inclusive of past years and keeping God and faith as the foundation of our Samoan people. The most rewarding take-away from this experience, was spending the hours and days with these beautiful young souls, watching the innocence and excitement on their faces behind the masks; the peculiarity in their body language learning new dances, techniques and structure; the eagerness and excitement leading up to performance day; and our special moments with Helen (our Autism student dancer who always put a smile on my face and did amazing!). What a blessing to witness the youth as they embarked in this journey, as well as, their progress and accomplishments to make their parents and families proud.

A special THANK YOU to Executive Director, Patsy Tito, for entrusting me with your children; To the amazing SCDC Managers: John Eisha Ena, Lynn Peleseuma and Tino Felise for welcoming us and going over and beyond with accommodations and support; A huge and special shout out to the talented Coordinators/Teachers: Vonnie, Jason, Sonya, Tive, Maiah, Soma, Kayla, Matagi and ALL the SCDC/PIYA staff for your time, support and patience. Fa'afetai, fa'afetai ma le ava e tatau SCDC/PIYA!

Thank you PIFA Board of Directors for another year of service and the opportunity...

We are proud to present the Island of SAMOA at PIFA 2021, performance by the SAN FRANCISCO SAMOAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SCDC) - PACIFIC ISLANDER YOUTH ALLIANCE (PIYA).

SCDC - PIYA, 2055 Sunnydale Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134, (415) 841-1086

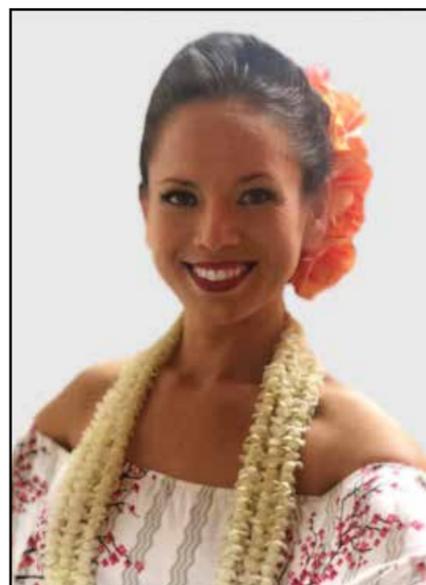
<http://sdcscf.org/>

# The Power of HULA

Edieann Heali'i Stanley



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBYp-K2yMwY>



## POWER OF HULA

Inspire, motivate, heal, understand and connect across all boundaries.

"Inspire, motivate, heal, understand and connect across all boundaries." This is truly the embodiment of the Power of Hula. Formally established in the beginning of 2021, Edie Heali'i and her team sought to bring light, love, positivity, and healing amidst a time of uncertainty during the pandemic of COVID-19. It was their mission to help people around the world to connect, to understand that they were not facing situations alone, and to help them to rediscover their passions on a deeper level so that they could fully express themselves and heal their soul. It would become a creative and safe place for people to come together and share their stories. The Power of Hula is an acronym for a world of self-discovery and a system of reflection to honor and appreciate others.

P – be Passionate

O – keep an Open Mind

W – Work Hard

R – Empower yourself and others

R – Remember your worth

of

H – Heal the soul

U – Understand your purpose

L – Love full-heartedly

A – Appreciate and Honor your foundation

By understanding these distinct aspects, we can focus our attention into discovering our passions and understanding our purpose. We should take the time to fully vest into what we are doing and to uncover the depth behind the stories that we bring to life. Remember to keep an open mind while appreciating and honoring all those who have come before us. Our teachers, mentors, and Kūpuna/Tūpuna (elders) have paved a pathway for us to build upon by keeping our traditions alive. Love full-heartedly and work hard to focus your efforts into achieving your dreams. When difficult times arise, it is important to remember your worth. By doing so, you can empower yourself and inspire others. Yet through it all, we should remain humble with a pure heart and pure intentions.

In situations where we may find it difficult to verbally articulate our feelings and emotions, we can turn to our passions for the answers. Every Thursday, Edie Heali'i takes us on a journey to "heal the soul" using her own personal life experiences. Through sharing her struggles and triumphs, we realize that we are not alone. On Instagram live @powerofhula, she discusses all aspects of life, often with special guest appearances, viewer interactions, and ending the broadcast with a hula from the heart. For Edie Heali'i, dancing hula full heartedly puts her into a trance and allows her to express herself from the depths of her soul.

Holding a bachelor's degree in Communications and a deep cultural connection to Polynesia, Edieann Heali'i O Nāimī brought the Power of Hula to life. She is the daughter of a kumu hula/ra'atira and plays an active role alongside her family as the Akaka'i/Artistic Director of Heali'i's Polynesian Revue (est. 1967). Edie Heali'i understands the importance and responsibility of carrying on traditions for future generations and has helped to further enrich the community through unifying workshops and motivational speaking. Edie Heali'i has been blessed to represent the Polynesian community as a former Miss Pacific Islander, a former Miss Hui O Hawai'i and has regularly traveled throughout the world with many of Hawai'i's music legends as the dance soloists. These experiences have allowed her to witness the beauty and necessity for cultural understanding which led her to identify the elements for the "Power of Hula."

Follow the "Power of Hula" and you will discover its personal connection to you through our LIVE "Talk Story" Series, YouTube videos, workshops, and more!



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POWER OF HULA



EDIE HEALI'I - POWER OF HULA

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## Memories of PIFA CROWD

*Photo montage*



# Atkinson **PLUMERIA**

*The Beauty of Flowers*

Stacy and Mike Atkinson and we've been growing plumeria in San Diego's east county since 1997. Their lives have been changed because of plumeria – yes, the plants, flowers, and scents are glorious, but more because of meeting amazing fellow growers who have become dear friends.

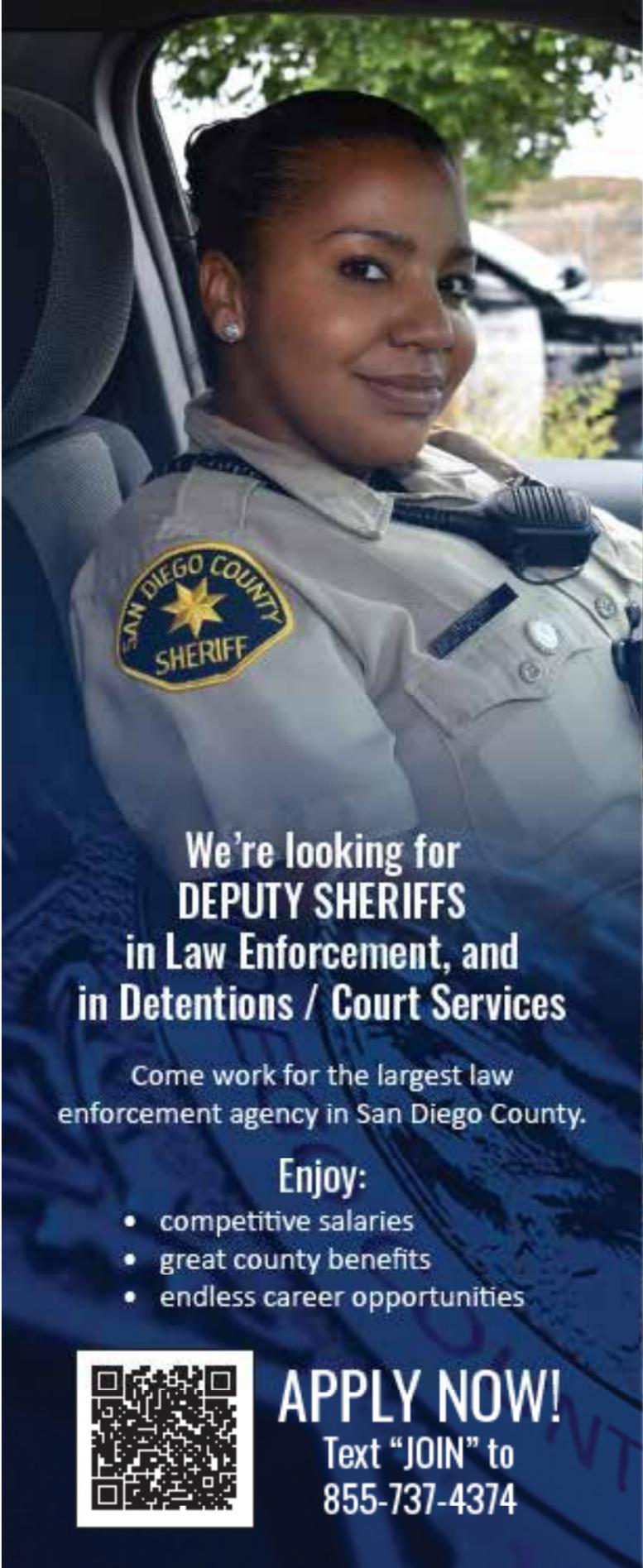
It is their mission to spread the love of plumeria with others, to introduce them to these amazing creations. And with that, the lovely spirit of Aloha they bring forth.

Stacy has taught innumerable classes on making plumeria leis and arrangements over the years, inspiring so many to creatively utilize plumeria blooms to share their beauty.

Mike has taught plumeria workshops in Southern California (San Diego Horticultural Society, San Diego Botanic Garden, plus many garden clubs and nurseries), all official plumeria societies in the United States, and was the emcee, moderator, and speaker at the International Plumeria Conference in Naples, Florida (2016). He has authored many articles and has been interviewed many times, including in the Los Angeles Times.

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Memories of **PIFA CROWD**  
Photo montage



# Through my Lens

## Over the Years with THE LAGMANS

Michael Lagman is a professional photographer specializing in Weddings, Seniors and Families. His style of photography is a mixture of fashion and glamour.

Michael is married to his lovely wife Suzanne who also works along side with him. They live in San Diego County and loves to share their adventures with anyone who wants to listen.



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## Memories of PIFA CROWD

Photo montage



# Through my Lens

## Over the Years with Binh PHAM

Photographer Binh Pham is a regular attendee at the PIFA festival. He studied photography in Vietnam from 1989-1991. He is a member of Glamour Photography International from 1994. He happened to see the event of Pacific Islanders Festival on the Internet more than ten years ago, and has attended the festival every year since. He sits in front of the stage and takes pictures of all the entertainment.



# Scott Coan

Keurig Dr Pepper (KDP) as Top leader in San Diego has been proud to be involved with the PFA Organization for the past 14 years.

Scott Coan has been involved with the PFA organization at a personal level for the past 18 years.

He looks forward to the football season and every year doing with his wife Heidi and Son Chase.

2021 has been a challenging year and it's very sad that the football season will go forward as the usual season. The staff at KDP look forward to continuing our proud friendship with the PFA organization for many years to come.

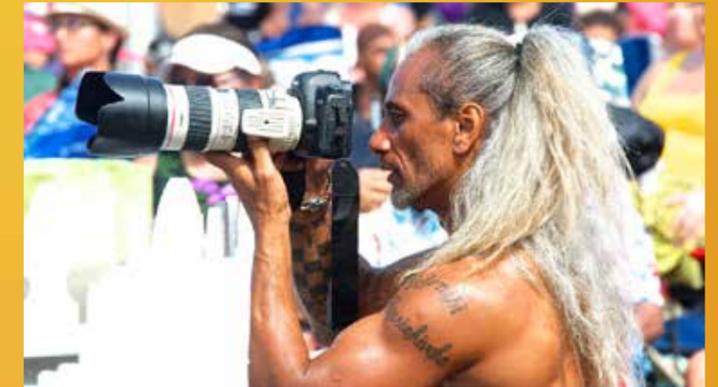
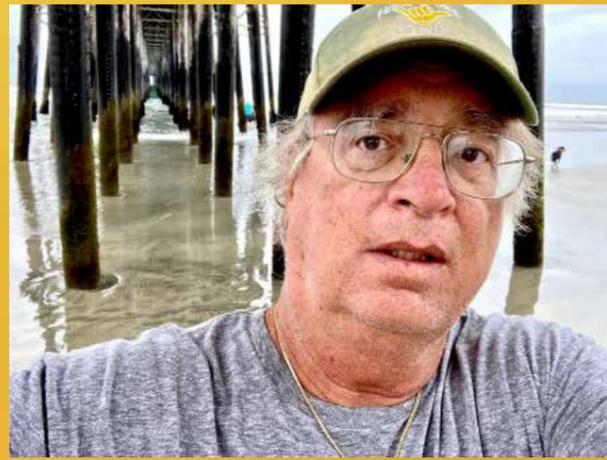
Thanks, Star Line. And we appreciate!



# Through my Lens

Over the Years with **John BRYANT**

I have been taking Pacific Islander Festival photos for more than 20 years. The festival has always been a photographer's paradise for me, with so many talented artists in colorful costumes, proudly sharing their culture for an appreciative crowd that becomes part of the show by filling the venue with their love and emotion. When I take photos, I'm looking to capture this emotion, with close-up, clear photos that could not have been taken with a phone. It's my way of paying tribute to the dancers and their families and thanking them for the privilege of sharing their talent. I am a former newspaper reporter, editor and photographer, mostly in Texas, where we did not have Pacific Islander festivals, so attending PIFA is really a special event for me. Hopefully, I'll see you all in person, in 2022.



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## Memories of PIFA VENDORS

*Photo montage*



# Through my Lens

## Over the Years with Jon BIGORNIA

Jon Bigornia is a retired postal employee, having worked nearly 33 years before calling it a career in 2018. As a former media contact for the postal service, he photographed various events for press releases and postal publications. During that time, he also took interest in photographing both of his son's youth sports activities. He moved from their little league baseball and youth football teams to high school football, and is a regular contributor to the South Bay newspaper The Star-News sports column. His photo contributions include several high school prep sports, CIF championship game coverage, as well as Southwestern College, San Diego State, and San Diego Chargers football coverage.

He is currently the media contact and social media coordinator for California District 42 Little League, the governing body for the south county little leagues. During tournament season, he is a fixture on the fields taking action photos for their website and for local media use. Jon assisted with the PIFA media team for a couple of years, capturing both behind-the-scenes images, attendees and vendors, displays, and of course the performances from various festivals.



# SONS & DAUGHTERS OF GUAM CLUB, INC.

## Mission

The Sons and Daughters of Guam Club, Inc. is dedicated to preserving the Chamorro culture. We are a home away from home located in San Diego on a 2.7 acre property that belongs to the members of the organization. In 2018, we celebrated our 65<sup>th</sup> year and plan to continue to educate and celebrate traditions for many more years to come. This will be accomplished through programs such as language, arts, food, music, and religion for starters and includes all generations.



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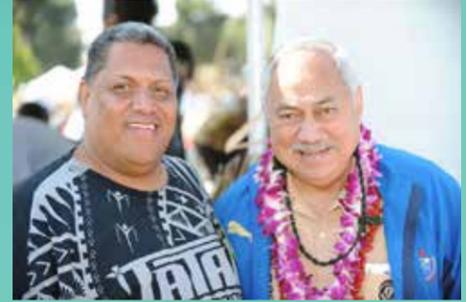
# Memories of PIFA CROWD

Photo montage





Memories of **PIFA CROWD**  
Photo montage



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## The Samoa Association of San Diego



In 2019, PIFA was planning its 25th Anniversary and were looking for a worship group to lead the Sunday morning service. The Katinas had never participated at PIFA and when we invited them, they promptly accepted. We realized that for The Katinas to take part in the PIFA festival we would need to seek out sponsors to make it happen. We started looking for sponsors or other non-profit organizations for any assistance to help make this possible, but we were met with no success.

We were determined to include this Dove-award winning five-man band from the Island of American Samoa, so we discussed different fundraising ideas to raise money to sponsor The Katinas. Some of the people in the Samoan community embraced the idea and helped, either by preparing or planning different fundraisers. Some purchased food plates and participated in the casino bus runs. Others also donated money out of the kindness of their hearts.

This event has shined light on the need to form a non-profit organization for the Samoan Community. Most of the people who fundraised for The Katinas joined together as a group and formed what is now known as The Samoa Association of San Diego. We held our meetings at each other's houses. We appointed executive officers and drafted our first By laws. We applied for our 501(c)(3) and successfully was accepted by the IRS. We are a group of proud, willing Samoans equipped with different talents and admiration to continue this journey for the betterment of the Samoan community. The mission of The Samoa Association of San Diego is to promote the Samoan culture, customs, traditions and language to the Samoan community and the general public. To provide public benefits and charitable activities through community-wide education and awareness of Samoan culture.

In February 2020, President Rita Gorniak travelled to Samoa to hand deliver monetary donations to the families affected by the measles pandemic. This pandemic claimed more than hundred young innocent lives. A container full of necessities such as diapers, sanitizers, wipes, clothing and non-perishable foods were shipped to Samoa. The Samoa Association would like to express their sincere gratitude to those who donated, Pastor Iosefa and Ester, Pastor Suitulaga and Edna, PIFA, Hanna Taliaoa and her coworkers, Fetu Ao Rosary group and TSA members.

When San Diego was first inflicted by COVID last year, The Samoa Association was looking for ways to help the people. PIFA, Guam Club and The Samoa Association joined together to form a food drive to benefit those of different communities in San Diego, this was a successful event. The Samoa Association started a new tradition of gifting baskets filled with delicious authentic Samoan pastries to Pastors "Faifeau" of different churches in San Diego. It is our way to show our appreciation for your prayers, guidance and your teachings to instill faith into the community.

Our last fundraiser for this year was the golf tournament held on August 21, at Cottonwood Golf course. To our surprise, more family and friends from afar took time out of their busy schedules and joined us to raise money for the organization. It was more than a fundraiser; it was a reunion. This fundraiser has provided us with the opportunity to join hands and form new relationships with the Samoan golf clubs from Arizona, Oceanside and San Diego. Thank you, Mose Letoi, for all your hard work in organizing this event. Thank you to the community and the endless support all of you have provided this organization with, whether that be through attending events or donations. Lastly, thank you to TSA executive officers, BOD and members for your monetary donation, efforts and time you have put into planning these events. May the Lord continue to bless you all for the kindness you have shown us,

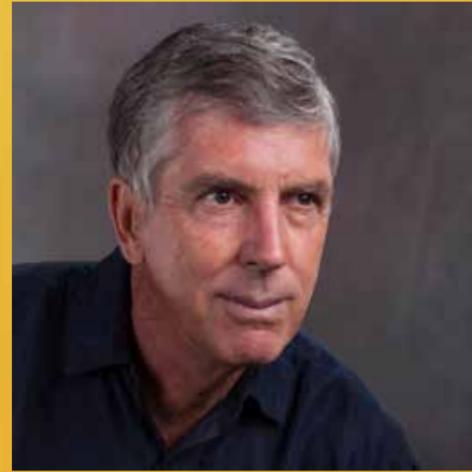
God bless you ALL.



# Through my Lens

Lance PECCHIA

Lance Pecchia specializes in portraiture, sports, wildlife, pets, and event photography. His fine art photography has earned many awards at various competitions. Lance especially looks forward to capturing the spirit of the island peoples, their dances and creative arts at PIFA each year.



# Talofa & Congratulations to PIFA

on the

## 2nd Virtual Online Festival

and

## 27th Festival Anniversary!

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## Memories of PIFA CROWD

*Photo montage*



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## Memories of PIFA CROWD

Photo montage



## A Day at the PIFA Festival

Our festival is preserved forever in the hundred of thousands of pictures and video shared world-wide on social media and with friends and family in all reaches of the world who share a love of family, tradition, and culture.



# PIFA THROUGH THE YEARS

*All about Family*

## The Tree

For many years our family and friends look forward to getting together at PIFA. It's a time to reunite and learn more about our culture & tradition. Best part is watching the performers represent the islands, check out the vendors, and create more memories as we gather by "The Tree"



2008



2009



2010



2012



2014



2016



2017



2018



2019

# Through my Lens

**Bryson KIM**

I am thankful to be able to meet so many people from so many diverse backgrounds. Over time some have become good friends and I have been able to share in their lives and have them enrich mine. Each PIFA festival brings back memories and creates new ones.



# Miss PIFA 2017 **LILLY GLENISTER**

*Law School graduate - Cal Western*



Talofa Lava!

My name is Lilly Glenister and I had the honor of serving as your Miss Pacific Islander of San Diego Queen from 2017 to 2018. From Samoan descent, I humbly competed for the Miss PIFA title in the hopes of building a platform to inspire Samoan and Polynesian students to pursue and succeed in higher education. During my reign, I spearheaded and created the Miss PIFA program's first ever educational conference, called the "Next Generation: Voice of the Sea Summit." The summit took place in February 2018 at San Diego State University and was a cultural, education, and leadership event targeted toward Pacific Islander students from middle school to university-age. By working together with PIFA and SDSU's Pacific Islander Student Association (PISA), the event was a success, featuring keynote speakers Shalee Kekawa and Sefa Aina, as well as four cultural workshops, and an education and leadership panel.



After the Voice of the Sea Summit, I went on to graduate summa cum laude from San Diego State University in May 2018 with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism and political science, receiving outstanding graduate awards in both majors. As I prepared to pass on the crown to the next Miss PIFA Queen, I also began my journey through law school. In Fall 2018, I enrolled in law school at California Western School of Law in downtown San Diego, where I was awarded with a full ride scholarship for all three years.

As a first-generation college graduate, and now the first person in my family to attend law school, I was very nervous. When you first start law school, many professors will tell you that learning the law is a lot like learning a new language. I had no idea what I was in for and didn't know if I would sink or swim. What many people might not know is that becoming a lawyer isn't always like what you might see on an episode of Law & Order. Law school is actually about 99% based around reading and writing, and many legal careers are also heavily writing based. Lucky for me, my background in journalism and my love of writing proved to be very helpful in my law school success. After my first semester of law school was completed and I received my grades, I knew I was on the right path. Throughout law school, I went on to create my school's first Pacific Islander Law Student Association (PILSA) and became the Editor-in-Chief of the school's International Law Journal. I was also blessed with many great opportunities to explore different legal careers during law school. As someone dedicated to helping my community, I knew that I wanted to stick to jobs that were focused on public interest. I interned with various government organizations, including the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, the California Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and also had extraordinary opportunities to extern for a federal judge and the administrative presiding justice of the California Court of Appeal's Fourth Appellate District.

Despite the transition to online learning in early 2020 and the many struggles that the COVID-19 pandemic brought to students across the United States, I went on to graduate magna cum laude from California Western School of Law in June 2021 with my juris doctor degree, and took the California Bar Exam in July 2021. Once I pass the California Bar Exam, which hopefully will be this November when test results are released, I will finally be a licensed attorney in California. This September, I am also beginning my legal career as a judicial law clerk for a federal magistrate judge in San Diego. In Fall 2022, I will continue working as a judicial law clerk for a federal district judge for the next few years before beginning my career as a litigator, ideally working in San Diego at either a law firm or for the California Attorney General's Office.

I am eternally thankful to my family—in particular, my parents Perry and Lorraine, my boyfriend Juan Carlos, and my grandparents, Piuai and Roland—for their endless support and encouragement over the last few years. I would also like to thank my halau, Pride of Polynesia, for their support throughout my Miss PIFA journey and for giving me an opportunity to perpetuate and show my love for my culture. I am so grateful and humbled by the opportunities that I have earned since my time as Miss PIFA, and I only hope that my experience can inspire and encourage other Samoan and Polynesian students to follow in my footsteps. There are only a handful of Samoan lawyers in the United States. I firmly believe that representation matters, and I hope that by seeing me in this position, other Samoan students can see that anything is possible with hard work and perseverance.

My email is LKGlenister@gmail.com and I am always available to answer any questions students may have about the LSAT, law school application process, or the law school experience/legal careers in general. Wishing nothing but health and happiness to all in the coming year.

Fa'afetai Tele Lava,

Lilly Glenister  
Miss PIFA 2017

# Miss PIFA 2019 **TEINI ELISARA**

*Pre Med at UCSD*

Talofa PIFA members and attendees! My name is Teini Elisara and I was your Miss PIFA 2019. When I moved to San Diego in 2017, I was so touched by the community created here and couldn't wait to immerse myself in it. I continue to feel awestruck by how the NHPI community in San Diego connects with and serves each other, especially in times of hardship. As a Miss PIFA legacy, I am amongst such strong and intelligent women that show me love, support, and inspiration! It is an honor and a privilege to be a former Miss PIFA.

After my reign as Miss PIFA, I began working as a team lead for the UC San Diego COVID-19 response team. Working as a contact tracer and case investigator for the university and the county, I entered it as an opportunity to serve my community. Making my goal to stop the spread of COVID-19 and promote the vaccine, I was also able to share this mission through other outlets, like on the Faika Podcast's "Koviki Talk".

I carried on this work until this summer when I matriculated into the UC San Diego School of Medicine. As a medical student, I am excited to continue to work with our community, to promote our culture and good health. I hope to also be a point of contact for young NHPI that want to pursue a career in medicine. I am so grateful for the opportunities that PIFA has opened up for me, not only from the scholarship, but also from the support that I have received, and I hope to provide that support for others.

Alofa tele atu,  
Teini Elisara  
Miss PIFA 2019



# Miss PIFA 2020 **JEWELS MENDIOLA SILVA**

*Serving the Community*



Jewels was the 17th Miss PIFA crowned in July 2020 on the shores of the Coronado Island peninsula by Teini Elisara Miss PIFA 2019. I had the privilege as the Chairperson for the Miss PIFA Pageant & Scholarship Program Committee to work alongside her throughout the year to the crowning of Alana Godoy, Miss PIFA 2021 in July at the Bali Hai Restaurant, Shelter Island.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, the usual full calendar for the remainder of the year for Miss PIFA to represent the Pacific Islander Community was cancelled one by one first with the Taste, Island Vibe, Heiva San Diego, PIFA Heritage Night with the Padres and the biggest main event of the year was the PIFA 2 day Festival. Instead we had the first ever Virtual Online Festival on September 26th to which Jewels emceed with other past Miss PIFAs and performed a beautiful dance.

Despite it all, Jewels continued her studies towards a Bachelor in Nursing as well as working as a certified Nursing Assistant at the Sharp hospital helping Covid-19 patients, doctors & nurses daily and seeing everything firsthand!

Jewels portrayed such grace, strength and resilience throughout 2020 and at the beginning of 2021 we saw the new vaccine Moderna, Pfizer, John & Johnson being approved for emergency use by the FDA. In February and March we saw the distribution and administering of the vaccines to San Diego Healthcare workers and others, Jewels seized the opportunity for her platform on health and awareness to spread the word to families, friends, the local communities on the benefits of getting vaccinated as well as helping to secure a vaccination site at the Sons & Daughters of Guam for the Community as it was wide spread out to the various churches, gymnasium and other facilities.

She was on the panel of the EPIC Facebook live and interviewed by the local TV media outlets, KUSI, Channel 5 and Channel 10. With the help of so many people with the same vision and purpose such as JoAnn Fields, Tana Lepule et al, the County of San Diego, UCSD this journey would not have been possible. She met the Mayor of San Diego at one of the vaccination sites and other officials. Jewels also helped to fundraise towards the scholarship program for Miss PIFA via the See's Candies Yum raising online that involved no contact or selling directly to people.

In July, PIFA held the first fundraiser event for over a year with the 2nd Luau fundraiser instead of the annual Taste. Jewels received a special recognition from Todd Gloria, the Mayor of San Diego for her diligent work in spreading awareness and health benefits of the vaccines to the community & the public, a testimony of her love and commitment to all people. Shortly after, she took her farewell walk, speech and beautiful performance as the reigning Miss PIFA before crowning Alana Godoy as Miss PIFA 2021!

On behalf of the Miss PIFA Committee, Rita & Jolene, we thank you Jewels and wish you all the very best and success in your future endeavors in education, life, career and family. We look forward to seeing you again.

Faafetai! Thank you.

2020 & 2021 Miss PIFA Pageant & Scholarship Program Committee

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## Memories of PIFA VENDORS *Photo montage*



# Hiva Katoa **FAMILY DAY**

## *The 1st Annual Kickball Tournament*

Hiva Katoa under the direction of Noa and Jeannie Napoleon hosted their 1st Annual Kickball Tournament. Always a good idea to have dancers and family members and friends have a great time outside of dance classes. Here are some of the action shots.



# Pacific Islander NIGHT

*With the Padres*

The San Diego Padres celebrated Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Week on September 7th and 8th with Theme Game Hats representing Filipino, Japanese, Korean and Pacific Islander Heritages. You received a hat based on the group you ordered your tickets under. These hats were not for sale and could not be traded for another groups hat.

This year was different from events from previous years with no dance group performances and other PIFA activities, but it was still a great way to get out and socialize with family and friends after being separated from each other for over a year and a half. Although the Padres lost on the September 7th game, they made up for it with an 8 – 5 win over the California Angels on the September 8th game. Win or lose, the weather was perfect to have fun spending time with others watching a ball game at Petco Park with a beer and a hotdog or cheese steak sandwich.

Hope to see you at next years San Diego Padres event at Petco Park.

John Quichocho





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*Biha!*  
PIFA 2021