



***Cy M. Bridges*** is from Hau'ula, Ko'olauloa, Oahu, Hawai'i but his ancestry connects him to a number of ahupua'a on all of the Hawaiian Islands. He is married, his wife (Atareta Iraani) is from Korongata, Heretaunga, Aotearoa (Bridge Pa, Hastings, New Zealand), and they have three children and six grandchildren.

As of May 30, 2014 Cy retired from the Polynesian Cultural Center where he has been employed for over 46 years starting from a guide, dancer, musician, electrician, Theater Manager, Cultural Presentation Division Manager, Product Manager, Vice President and Managing Director of Product and Vice President of Cultural Presentations which was the largest division, that included several departments with well over 400 employees. His responsibilities included but not limited to developing operating plans, approving and overseeing divisions budget, finance, personnel, research, planning, developing shows and programs, scripts, training, choreography, implementation, and evaluation reviews. He has also served in a number of other positions. The last post he has held was Director of Protocol. Each area of responsibility would always include overseeing the cultural authenticity, training and presentations of all cultural areas represented in the Cultural Center.

He has entertained as the leader of the group, Calabash Cousins under the Billy Gonsalves and the Paradise Serenaders Inc. providing, Hawaiian, Dance Music, Cabaret as well as director, choreographer and MC for his Polynesian Lu'au Show. He is a noted Kumu Hula, his halau Hui Ho'oulu Aloha, has participated many years in a number of cultural and hula events

including competitive cultural dance festivals and achieved a number of awards from the King Kamehameha Hula & Chant Competition and the Merrie Monarch Festival. He was the first recipient the Nipolo Award from The Chanters Art Foundation (James Ka'upena Wong). Chanter for the opening of the Year of the Hawaiian at Mauna Ala as well as the Aloha Stadium welcoming a multitude of participating halau, he led the procession as chanter at the Rededication of the renovated Kalakaua Crypt at Mauna Ala, chanter at the Dedication of Iolani Palace (downstairs renovations), Dedication and Blessing of the King Kalakaua Building on Merchant St., King Kalakaua's 168 Birthday Celebration at Iolani Palace, Kalakaua Jubilee Celebration, the Homecoming of the Relic of Father Damien at Iolani Palace, Hokule'a departures and Arrivals. Welcoming of Maori dignitaries from Aotearoa at the Bishop Museum opening the Te Maori and Sir Peter Buck exhibit. Dedication and Grand Opening of the Hawai'i Convention Center. Opening of the APEC Conference in Honolulu. Mea Oli or chanter for Princess Abigail Kekaulike Kawananaoia, funeral of Edward "Dudie" Kawananaoia. The welcoming of King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga. The Welcoming and hosting of Malietoa Tanumafili II, Head of State for Western Samoa. Te Ariki Nui Dame Te Atairangikaahu, Maori Queen, of Aotearoa New Zealand, Makea Nui Tapumanoanoa Teremoana Ariki, Queen of Avarua, Rarotonga, and Pa Tapaeru Terito Ariki Queen of Takitumu Tribe of Ngatangiia and President of the House of Ariki in the Cook Islands, Gaston Flosse President of French Polynesia, Oscar Temaru another President of French Polynesia as well as welcoming and hosting the Dalai Lama at Kualoa in conjunction and preparation for the Hokule'a's Malama Honua worldwide voyage.

Cy has lectured and given presentations on Hawaiian and Polynesian Culture, cultural protocol, traditions, oral histories and especially mo'oku'auhau which has been his passion since his youth. Aside from halau, he has taught hula seminars and workshops with the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts in Honolulu as well as the outer islands and overseas internationally. The International Waikiki Hula Conference at the Hawai'i Convention Center. Has served as a Judge for a number of competitions in Hawai'i, the continental U.S., Mexico and Japan, including the renowned Merrie Monarch Festival in Hilo, Hawai'i. He continues to be involved with cultural and hula events here in Hawai'i and overseas. Besides his own immediate kupuna and 'ohana or family, he has had the privilege of being tutored by a number of renowned hula masters; Aunty Hoakalei Kamau'u, Pele Puku'i Sukanuma, Pat Namaka Bacon, Lokalia Montgomery and others but went through a graduation or Uniki rites with Aunty Sally

Moanike'alaonapuamakahikina Wood Naluai. All of his teachers were in fact his 'ohana, they were addressed simply as aunty, because that is exactly what they were to him.

Cy is a former Bishop of the Hau'ula IV Ward (L.D.S.) and former member of the La'ie Hawai'i Stake High Council. Currently he is the La'ie Hawai'i Stake Historian. He is a founding board member and a past-president of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA), whose mission is to encourage the preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian values, customs, language, and artifacts, as well as to promote research in support of the economic value of Hawaiian culture in the Hospitality Industry and assisted in developing the Hawaiian Initiative for the Strategic Plan with the Hawaii Tourism Authority. He has served many years as the Ko'olauloa Representative on the Oahu Island Burial Council with the State Historical Preservation Department. Its purpose is to advise the Department of Land and Natural Resources on all matters pertaining to sacred and historic sites. He served on the Ko'olauloa Neighborhood Board, as well as a committee member for the Ko'olauloa PAC (Planning Advisory Committee) with the City and County of Honolulu. He has served as a member of the Board of Fellows for the Jonathan Napela Center for Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Studies at BYUH; organizing committee member for "Na Makua I Mahalo Ia" honoring our Hawaiian cultural treasures, a member of the Cultural Advisory Committee for the HVCB (Hawai'i Visitors & Convention Bureau); Advisory Board member for the School of Travel Industry Management UH Manoa, a member of the Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club, Historian for the Lanihuli Hawaiian Civic Club and the Kupuna Council of La'ie, Ko'olauloa, Oahu, a Cultural Consultant for HRI (Hawai'i Reserves Inc.) and assisted on many projects in Ko'olauloa and Ko'olaupoko with Cultural Surveys as a cultural advisor. He was a member of the Ahupua'a Project Committee in identifying and placing signage distinguishing the ahupua'a boundaries within our moku of Ko'olauloa. A Panelist & Presenter for three – 'AHA Kāne (Native Hawaiian Men's Conference), Presenter for NAPALI: National Pacific Leadership Institute. Kukulu Hou Assessment Project with OHA. Hula and Health Study Advisory Committee member, "KaHOLO Project" of the Dept. of Native Hawaiian Health, the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i, as well as the Holomua Hui 'O Ko'olauloa, Oahu, North Shore. He is currently a board member of the Mary Kawena Puku'i Cultural Preservation Society and a member of the Iosepa Leadership Council. Iosepa is a hand carved 57' double hulled ocean voyaging canoe that is part of a living classroom of the Malama Kai

Hawaiian Studies Program at BYUH in La'ie. He is a composer, lecturer, chanter, choreographer, musician and genealogist, as well as utility-man, janitor and yard man at home but feels that aside from all of his important, distinguished, prestigious callings, positions, committee assignments and responsibilities through the years, foremost among them are the titles of Honey, Daddy, and especially upon achieving a most honored, humbling and choice position since being elevated to the esteemed rank of Papa to his mo'opuna!