



Leah Kihara

Prior to her role as digital media kumu at Kamehameha Kapalam, Leah Kihara absolutely treasured her experiences as a film/video writer, producer and director. Born and raised in Hawai'i, she graduated from Kamehameha Schools then ventured to study filmmaking at the University of Southern California School of Cinema. Upon earning her B.A. in 1996, she gained experience while working on a number of PBS productions. She emerged as a Producer with the short film, *Hawaiian Sting*, which went on to screen at the Sundance Film Festival. Since then, she has produced and directed a number of independent productions allowing her extensive travel to countries such as Sri Lanka, Singapore, India, Tahiti and Rapa Nui (Easter Island). Yet, her passion for telling the stories of Hawai'i has always brought her close to home. Specializing in projects featuring and celebrating the kānaka maoli experience, she has forged a unique career bridging her creative and technical expertise with community and educational efforts. Her diverse portfolio of work includes *Hokule'a - Guiding Star*, an hour long documentary tracking the canoe's journey to Rapa Nui to *I scream, floats & sundays*, a short film which received the 2002 HIFF Hawai'i Film Award to the creation of *Hali'a Aloha Hawai'i* a video oral history project capturing the voices of Hawai'i's Kupuna. Currently, she teaches Digital Media at Kamehameha Schools Kapalama High School in hopes of inspiring the next generation of Hawaiian filmmakers to tell the stories of our home. While technology plays a large role in this medium, she emphasized the aspect of story for them to communicate their creativity to a global audience.