

## E. Nu`ulani (Nu`u) Atkins, Cultural Practitioner

Nu`ulani Atkins has served as a cultural practitioner for over 40 years in Hawai`i. Currently, he is the Curator for the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Heritage Center at the Kamehameha Schools Kapālama in Honolulu.

A graduate of the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa, Nu`u received his Bachelor's degrees in Liberal Studies (Hawaiian Studies) and Secondary Education. He also holds a Master's degree in Educational Foundations, with emphasis on Private School Leadership.

Nu`u began his traditional hula training at the University of Hawai`i with Kumu Hula Ho`oulu Cambra. Ho`oulu was the first Kumu Hula graduate of the renowned Ma`iki Aiu Lake.

Nu`u continued his hula training with Kumu Hula Henry Mo`ikeha Pa, formerly of Kaua`i Island. Training with "Uncle Henry" involved both hula kahiko (ancient) and hula `auana (modern).

Nu`u also studied and danced hula professionally with Kumu Hula Ed Collier. It was at this time that Nu`u performed at various hotels in Waikīkī and travelled throughout North America promoting Hawai`i.

Throughout his career, Nu`u has also immersed himself in various Hawaiian handicrafts, including feather work and lauhala weaving. He has taught many students to make feather lei, kāhili and capes. He has also shared the art of weaving lauhala hats.

Nu`u's cultural expertise also extends to designing. Throughout the years he has created numerous designs, including floral parade floats, floral exhibits and costumes and accessories for hula competitions. Currently, Nu`u serves as the costume designer for Kaleoolakaikahikinaokalā, the award winning Hālau Hula under the leadership of Kumu Hula Kaleo Trinidad.

