



Bula Akamu's sweet and soulful falsetto voice captivates crowds with his mélange of Contemporary and Island music. Growing up in Pahala, a small plantation town on the Big Island of Hawaii, he didn't have much but he did have his 'ukulele which would prove to be a treasure greater than any sum of money could bring him. Pahala town doesn't have any luxurious hotels or extravagant buildings, but it does emit a sense of aloha and love for the 'aina (land), kai (ocean), and its po'e (people). This embodiment of aloha is its greatest commodity and what molded Bula for his future.

Growing up as a young boy with certain learning and monetary struggles, he didn't have a lot of confidence in himself or faith that he could be someone that would inspire others. He looked to his father, guidance counselor, and family musicians as mentors who taught him dedication and self confidence. Coming from a family of musicians and entertainers ignited within him a love of music and with the encouragement of his mentors, that love would grow to shape his personality, career, and later his community, too. Bula began to master the 'ukulele which helped him on his journey to find his inner voice and be proud of who he had become.

His dedication to music earned his acceptance into the renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. There he studied music education and performance, earning a Master's in Guitar. Back in Hawaii, he turned his focus to Contemporary and Hawaiian music and became an island favorite playing regular gigs across Hawaii. Bula has also made a name for himself in the wedding business and leads the state in five star reviews from hundreds of brides and grooms.

Knowing how his personal mentors helped to shape his life, Bula had an overwhelming drive to become a youth mentor himself. After college he worked for six years as an elementary music and Hawaiian studies teacher. His program started with six kids and some dusty, unstrung 'ukuleles and grew into a program teaching hundreds of students. Given the opportunity of being a Kumu (teacher), he wanted to introduce music into children's lives in a way that would shape how they see themselves and who they could be to others. He now runs his own music school, Akamu Music Academy which focuses on self-development, health, and perpetuating island culture through living in pono (righteousness). Kumu Bula's students have performed all over the Big Island and have won numerous awards.



HONI HONI

In September 2017, Bula released his new album, Honi Honi, which transcends contemporary Island music with an infusions of bilingual lyrics and jazzy reggae beats. The album culminates in a truly artistic and original form to pay tribute to Hawaii's sacred greeting of affection, the honi. Each track honors Hawaii's magnificence in an epic representation of music in today's culture.

TRACK LIST :

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| 1. Wahi Pana | Bula Akamu – Vocals, Guitar, 'Ukulele, |
| 2. Honi Honi | Mati Laino – Bass |
| 3. Sun Sets Down | Duncan Bamsey – Saxophone |
| 4. Island Chain | Andrea Lindborg – Trumpet |
| 5. He Nani Poina Ole | Tom Zablan – Drums |
| | Jim Summey – Percussions |
| | Kawika Souza – Keyboards |

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