



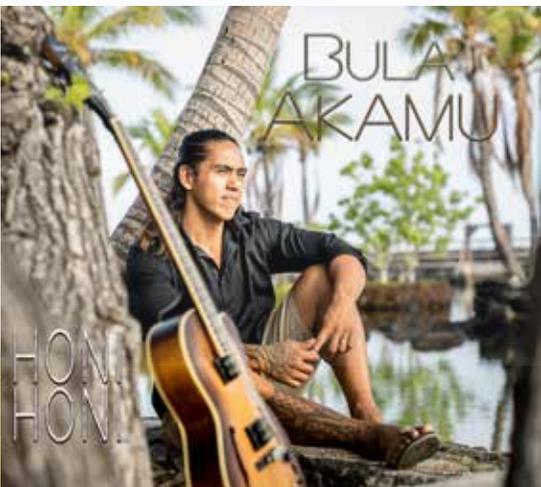
Bula Akamu's sweet and soulful falsetto voice captivates crowds with his mélange of Contemporary and Island music. The guitarist / singer / songwriter is as dynamic as he is talented. Growing up in Pahala, a small plantation town on the Big Island of Hawai'i, he didn't have much but he did have his 'ukulele 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, Bula's family of musicians and entertainers ignited within him a love of music. That love would grow to shape his personality, career, and later his community, too. As a child who felt insecure for his academic struggles and lack of material wealth, mastering the ukulele helped him to find his inner voice. He was able to redefine himself from the bullied kid to the talented kid who dominated the stage and created a good time for everyone.

His dedication to music got him acceptance into the renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. There he studied music education and performance, earning a Master's Degree in Guitar. Back in Hawai'i, he turned his focus to Contemporary and Hawaiian music and became an island favorite playing regular gigs across Hawai'i.

Bula has made a name for himself in the wedding business and leads the state in five star reviews from hundreds of brides and grooms. He is praised for his charisma and ability to set the perfect mood while conveying the deepest sense of emotion within his songs.

Bula's other love is teaching music to children. 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 to 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 mentorship, health, and perpetuating island culture. Kumu Bula's students have performed all over the Big Island and have won numerous awards.



Bula released his new album, Honi Honi, in September 2017 which transcends Contemporary Island music with an infusion 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:

1. Wahi Pana
2. Honi Honi
3. Sun Sets Down
4. Island Chain
5. He Nani Poina Ole

Bula Akamu – Vocals, Guitar, 'Ukulele,
Mati Laino – Bass
Duncan Bamsey – Saxophone
Andrea Lindborg – Trumpet
Tom Zablan – Drums
Jim Summey – Percussions
Kawika Souza – Keyboards

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