



2008 Kokua Awardee: Kaimikahu Mathews-Valdez

When Kaimi moved to Arizona from the San Francisco Bay area, she thought she was going to retire. Then she found Arizona Aloha Festival and the community found her.

Kaimi was pulled into the community after her first dance on the Festival stage. She danced for other groups awhile, started a small group and then opened a studio. Students flocked to her.

She has dedicated her life's work to educating others about the richness and depth of the Hawaiian culture.

She and her *halau*, Kaimikahu Hale O Hula, serve the whole community by conducting food drives, holding awareness- and fund-raisers for the Pearl Harbor Museum, performing for charity and school groups, and more while constantly sharing the culture.

Whether it is up-and-coming or established performers, Pacific Islander or other organizations, Kaimi always helps when called upon and she does it all with humor, grace, and consistency.

