

Kokua Award

Kokua: to help, assist.

The purpose of this award is to foster better understanding of and generate direct impact upon both Polynesian peoples and the community at large.

Kokua Award Ceremony
Sunday, March 13
Marketplace stage
1:00 p.m.

**Arizona Aloha Festival is proud
to recognize our 2011 honoree:**

Claudia Kaercher



To find out more about the Kokua Award, previous awardees, and nominations for the future, please visit the Festival website at www.azalohafest.org/Kokua_Award.html

Claudia de Leon Guerrero Fajardo Kaercher

Claudia is Chamorro, born on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Micronesia, a region in the Pacific. She spent the first 10 years of her life growing up on the tiny atolls of the Marshall Islands.

Claudia is an active and positive contributor to her community. While never letting those around her forget about South Pacific Islanders and their contributions, she works to strengthen the community as a whole.

Claudia has served in many and various community leadership positions and organizations. She has been a member of the Pacific Rim Advisory Council for the city of Phoenix, and is active in the JACL and Lau Kanaka No Hawaii.

She is also active with the LEADS Academy, a scholarship and leadership development program for youth, particularly Asian and Pacific Islanders. Claudia has written a column for the Asian Chamber of Commerce newspaper and served on their committees.

Claudia's considerable knowledge and expertise was put to tremendous service to the community while working with the US Census, which provides numbers to substantiate the size of the South Pacific Islander community in Arizona and brings attention to their needs and interests in Arizona.

Claudia credits her kumu hula, Hazel Po'okalani Soares of Halau Po'okalani, for inspiring her efforts to teach the History of the Hula and the Uses of the Hula Implements in cultural education presentations.

About the Arizona Aloha Festival

We are an all-volunteer organization registered as a charitable non-profit with the IRS to provide awareness and education about Hawaiian and other South Pacific Islander culture and heritage.

Besides the weekend's festivities, we honor our annual Kokua Awardee and provide speakers or teachers for educational programs, support gifts of learning materials to libraries, provide scholarships for cultural awareness programs and education, and support community groups.

The Festival is sustained through support from the community through grants and gifts, donations, sponsorships and sales at the event of souvenir teeshirts, soda and bottled water, and our raffle.

Our volunteers include our Board of Directors, the Planning Committee Team, performers on our stages and the hundreds of volunteers helping at the event.

