



# HOMETOWN LEGENDS

## MEDIA KIT

Prepared by Kolby Akamu Moser on November 20, 2023

CONTACT

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A man in a blue shirt and pants stands in a desert landscape, looking towards the horizon. The background features a range of mountains under a clear sky. The foreground is filled with low-lying desert vegetation.

"KA NA'AUAO O NĀ KŪPUNA  
KA LAMA  
E HO'OMĀLAMALAMA  
I KE ALA NO NĀ KEIKI."

THE WISDOM OF THE ELDERS IS THE TORCH THAT  
ENLIGHTENS THE PATH OF THE CHILDREN.

WILFRED KAUPIKO KEONI TURALDE ROBERT KEAKEALANI, JR MANNY VEINCENT SHIRLEY KAUHAIHAO



# HOMETOWN LEGENDS

Presented by ARIA STUDIOS

Directed by KOLBY MOSER & NAINOA LANGER

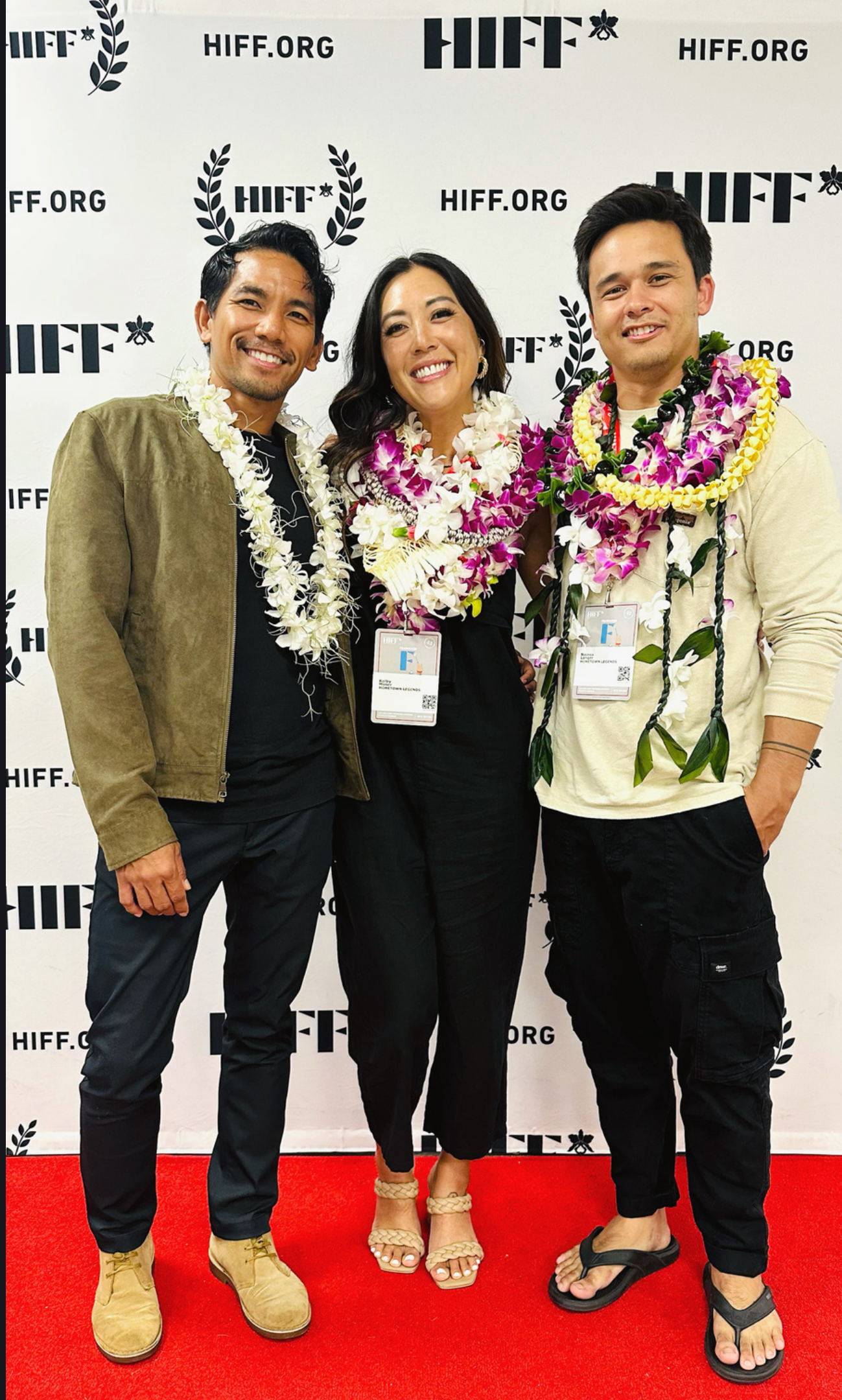
Director of Photography GABE CABAGBAG | Producer SHERI SALMON | Editor ROMEO LAPTIAN  
Photographer DUSTIN ACDAL | Written by KU'ULEI KEAKEALANI

## STORY SYNOPSIS

Hawaiians have long been known for their storytelling and oral history, so in a society quickly moving away from cross-generational conversations and traditions rooted in place, we sat down with five legendary Native Hawaiian kūpuna (elders) to document their history, mea hana (craft), and kuleana (responsibility) as it was passed down to them. We capture stories about their 'āina hānau (native land), adversities they've overcome in their lifetime and the lessons they believe are important to pass down to the next generation.

Hometown Legends pays homage to paniolo (cowboy), lawai'a (fishing), ulana lauhala (lauhala weaving), pahu (drum) carvers and hoe wa'a (canoe paddling). Through their stories, we get a glimpse back in time - what Hawai'i was like in the early to mid-1900's. This was a time soon after the overthrow when Hawaiian language and many cultural traditions were banned. Fortunately, the language and Hawaiian practices quietly continued in small pockets around Hawai'i.

We firmly believe that these films will not only act as a repository for this ancestral knowledge but will become a powerful platform to share these stories and inspire the youth to step into their own kuleana.



## 2023 AWARDS & FILM FESTIVALS

- **Hawaii International Film Festival,**
  - **Nomination: “Best Made In Hawai’i Feature”**
- **Santa Ana Independent Film Awards**
  - **Award: Best Feature Documentary**
- **Maui Film Festival**
- **International Cosmopolitan Film Festival of Tokyo**
  - **Award: Best Editing in Feature Film**
- **Santa Monica International Filmmaker Awards**
- **International Independent Film Awards**
  - **Award: Documentary Feature & Trailer**
- **DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival**
- **Wairoa Māori Film Festival**
- **SoCal Film Awards**
- **Austin International Art Festival**
- **Hawaii International Film Awards**
- **Melbourne Independent Film Festival**
- **Silver Telly Award Winner for Documentary: Long Form**
- **Bronze Telly Award Winner for History**



# INSPIRING A COMMUNITY

Hometown Legends has had a significant reach across Hawai'i and the world. Here are some highlights.



## INSTAGRAM

- 7,000+ FOLLOWERS
- 1,000,000+ REEL PLAYS
- 250,000+ STORY RESHARES

## PRIVATE SCREENINGS

- Kahilu Theatre, Waimea (December 2022)
- University of Hawaii, Mānoa (March 2023)
- Kamehameha Schools, Hawai'i (April 2023)
- Parker School, Waimea (June 2023)
- Grace and Growlers, Kailua (June 2023)
- Kamehameha Schools Maili (August 2023)
- Hawaii Preparatory Academy (September 2023)
- Kamehameha Schools, Kapālama (September 2023)
- Pu'uhonua o Honaunau (October 2023)
- Kahilu Theatre, Waimea (November 2023)
- Nā Pua No'eau Kaua'i (November 2023)
- Hilo Palace Theatre (November 2023)
- Waiahole Elementary (November 2023)
- UPCOMING: Laupahoehoe School



# DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY



Kolby Akamu Moser



Nainoa Langer

**Kolby Akamu Moser** is Native Hawaiian Director and Producer from Hawai'i island. She founded a media company, ARIA Studios, in 2008 and has directed and produced documentary and commercial films for elite brands such as Intuit, Microsoft, Google and Four Seasons, as well as International non-profit organizations such as Zoe International and Care Channels International. Her passion is to elevate Native Hawaiian voices by sharing stories that will perpetuate Hawaiian Culture and way of life.

**Nainoa Langer** is an Emmy Award-Winning Director and Cinematographer from Moloka'i, Hawai'i. He has traveled to 40+ countries capturing stories of people, place and culture. Some of his documentary films including "Aloha Aina" and "Back to the Wild" has been featured in festivals around the world. Nainoa has also collaborated with the world's largest brands such as Hublot, Patagonia and Lumix.

## Director Statement

We both grew up in small rural communities, semi-detached from technology and pop culture, with multi-generational families. Like many others, we grew up learning from our kūpuna - cooking, fishing and learning about life 'back in the day'. As our kūpuna passed away, we realized their voices can only live on through our memories and these memories would continue to fade away through the years. As filmmakers, we have taken on the kuleana to "nānā i ke kumu" (look to the source— our elders) and capture this ancestral knowledge before it is too late. Hometown Legends is the first in a series of films aimed at preserving culture in a way that is digestible for the modern community and the future of Hawai'i.

# HAWAI'I ISLAND LEGENDS



## MANNY VEINCANT

From growing on the ocean in Keaukaha to the fighting in the Korean War, being called to the slopes of Mauna Kea and starting Kawaihae Canoe Club 50 years ago, there are common themes that are weaved through Uncle Manny's story. He talks about his deep, spiritual connection to the ocean and land and what he wants the next generation to remember moving forward.



## WILLY KAUPIKO

Born and raised in Miloli'i – the last Hawaiian fishing village in Hawai'i Island, Uncle Willy returned home after the Vietnam war to fight to preserve the coastline, the ocean and the traditional fishing practices. He says it is important to know who you are and fight for what you believe is pono. We also interview his son, Kaimi, who has also moved home to Miloli'i to start a charter school for the kids in their village.



## SHIRLEY KAUHAIHAO

Shirley Kauhaihao was raised in Kealia by a family of farmers, commercial fishermen and cowboys. Her grandmother taught her how to weave lauhala and she is now a revered lauhala master. Auntie Shirley talks about overcoming tragedy when her husband passed away, then her youngest child and then granddaughter. She is a shining example of strength and grace.



## KEONI TURALDE

John Keoni Aweau Turalde is originally from Kaalaea, O'ahu where he was taught to hunt, fish and survive off the land. He was the youngest person to paddle in the Moloka'i Hoe and then became a commercial diver where he ultimately lost the use of his legs. Today, he is a master pahu drum maker in Keaukaha, teacher and keeper of so much cultural knowledge. We also interview his son Leomana.



## SONNY KEAKEALANI

Robert Sonny Keakealani, Jr. is a 3rd generation cowboy from Pu'uana'hulu. He grew up speaking 'olelo Hawai'i with his grandmother while fishing and ranching with his family. Uncle Sonny worked for Pu'uwa'awa'a Ranch and Parker Ranch which took him to every mountain, coast and corner of the island. He and his daughter, Ku'ulei, talk about aloha 'aina – to know your 'aina intimately and to care for, connect to and protect your places.

SERIES PILOT

# HOMETOWN LEGENDS

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## HOMETOWN LEGENDS TRAILER

TRT: 2 mins



## HOMETOWN LEGENDS

TRT: 59 mins



# PROJECT STATUS

We are near completion of our pilot episode: Hometown Legends, and have built a significant following through social media and public and private screenings. We were included in a dozen festivals around the world and won several awards including “Best Feature Documentary” in the Santa Ana Independent Film Awards and nominated for “Best Made in Hawai’i Feature” in the Hawaii International Film Festival.

We were fundraising to produce our second film in the series: Hometown Legends Moloka’i. However, in light of recent events, we are pausing to start research and pre-production of Hometown Legends Lahaina.

Fundraising goal for Hometown Legends Lahaina: \$250,000.00

**We look forward to  
discussing this with  
you.**

KOLBY MOSER  
Partner, Executive Producer  
(808) 394-7989

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