

Supporting Document for Item 5: Discussion on Polynesian Cultural Pronoun Usage

BIO

Hinaleimoana Kwai Kong Wong-Kalu, also known as **Kumu Hina**, is a Native Hawaiian *Mahu*— a traditional third gender person who occupies "a place in the middle" between male and female. She is known for her work as a *kumu hula* ("hula teacher"), as a filmmaker, artist, activist and as a community leader in the field of *kanaka maoli* language and cultural preservation. She teaches *Kanaka Maoli* philosophy and traditions that promotes cross-cultural alliances throughout the Pacific Islander. Kumu Hina is known as a "powerful performer with a clear, strong voice"; she has been hailed as "a cultural icon"

Kumu Hina was a founder of the Kulia Na Mamo transgender health project and cultural director of a Hawaiian public charter school. She was also a former Hawaiian language teacher at Leeward Community College. A candidate for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs,, she was one of the first transgender candidates for statewide political office in the United States. She also served as the Chair of the O'ahu Island Burial Council, which oversees the management of Native Hawaiian burial sites and ancestral remains.

Hinaleimoana Wong- Kalu was the subject of the feature documentary film *Kumu Hina*, directed by Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson.

In 2020, Wong-Kalu directed, produced and narrated *Kapaemahu*, an animated short film based on the Hawaiian story of four legendary *māhū* who brought the healing arts from Tahiti to Hawai'i and imbued their powers on giant boulders that still stand on Waikiki Beach after the introduction of U.S. government and tourism. Narrated in the rare Niihau dialect of Hawaiian, the film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and for the Grand Jury Award which qualified for the Oscars at Animayo in 2020.

She is a recipient of the National Education Association Ellison Onizuka Human and Civil Rights Award, Native Hawaiian Community Educator of the year, and a White House Champion of Change. *USA Today* named Wong-Kalu one of ten Women of the Century from Hawai'i. Kumu Hina is also featured in Naomi Hirada's 2022 anthology *We Are Here: 30 Inspiring Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Who Have Shaped the United States* that was published by the Smithsonian Institute.