



'Hawaiian Legends' bring musical magic back to Kaua'i



13 HOURS AGO • [CHRIS D'ANGELO - KAUA'I TIMES](#)

LIHU'E — Ken Levine, owner of Kuleana Music in Kalaheo, said it was his “dream” to bring this quartet of critically-acclaimed Hawaiian musicians together on one stage.

Levine said there are times in the history of music when all the stars align just right — when inspiration flows and a magical night materializes. He promises April 7 will be one of those nights, as The Hawaiian Legends — featuring Ledward Ka'apana, Nathan Aweau, Dennis Kamakahi and Mike Ka'awa — take the stage at the Kaua'i Community College Performing Arts Center in Puhī.

“They just catch on fire,” Levine said. “It's a profound experience.”

Prior to The Hawaiian Legends' debut performance on Kaua'i in 2011 — then without guitarist Ka'awa — Levine said someone asked Ka'apana what they could expect during the show.

“(Ka'apana) said ‘miracles — musical miracles,’” Levine said.

In a [phone](#) interview last week, Ka'apana said he and the other musicians each bring something unique to the stage and share it with the rest of the group. Above all, he said the quartet is spontaneous and fun.

"We didn't even get together to see what we're going to ([play](#)) ... We get there and then all the magic happens."

Kamakahi agreed, saying "we play off [the cloud](#)."

"It's a group that's very unique because we don't constantly play music together ... but when you've been in the business so long, you don't really have to rehearse very long."

Widely considered one of the finest musicians Hawai'i has ever produced, Ka'apana is equally accomplished on slack key guitar and 'ukulele as he is a powerful singer in both falsetto and baritone.

From a famous musical family on the Big Island, Ka'apana has received numerous awards, including the National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowship.

A wizard of the 12-string guitar, "The Hawaiian Boy" Ka'awa has been a musician, singer and composer for four decades.

After a brief flirtation with rock and roll, Ka'awa committed himself to Hawaiian music, but has always describe his style as "Hawaiian with attitude."

He has shared his robust playing and singing with a host of well-known musicians, including Gabby Pahinui, Moe Keale, Keli'i Taua and Chucky Boy Chock.

Ka'awa said the Kaua'i audience is in for some "really hot Hawaiian music."

"Kaua'i is great ... They don't get to see guys like us (often), so they come out and we give them our best shot," he said.

Hailed as one of the finest composers Hawai'i has ever produced, Kamakahi is a three-time Grammy winner, a five-time Na Hoku Hanohano recipient and a 2009 inductee of the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame.

He has crafted 700 songs, including many standards in both Hawaiian and English.

Finally, Aweau is a three-time Na Hoku Hanohano winner for Male Vocalist of the Year and a virtuoso bassist. He has performed with a host of leading artists in Hawai'i, including seven years with Hapa and 16 with The Aliis, the [backup](#) band for Don Ho.

Ka'apana, Kamakahi and Ka'awa all said they are looking forward to their return to Kaua'i and the opportunity to treat local fans.

"It's going to be a lot of fun ... When you put the four of us together on stage it's going to be a magical night," Kamakahi said.

Ka'awa added that watching the camaraderie between he and his fellow musicians is "going to be exciting."

“We just put it out there man, and it’s fun,” he said. “Playing with this caliber of guys makes things so interesting.”

The April 7 performance begins at 7:30 p.m. at KCC. Tickets cost \$32 in advance and can be purchased online <http://hawaiianlegends.bpt.me> or at select island retailers, including the Hawaiian Music Kiosk (Princeville and Kapa‘a), Kaua‘i Music & Sound (Kapa‘a), Pictures Plus (Lihu‘e), The Wine Shop (Koloa), Scotty’s Music (Kalaheo), Kalaheo Cafe & Coffee Co. and Banana Patch Studio (Hanapepe).

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