



# Kainoa Horcajo

Speaker. Storyteller. Student.

*He Hawai'i Au.*

Founder, The Mo'olelo Group



Born and raised on the island of Maui, Kainoa Horcajo is an established leader who has studied under the guidance of highly respected kūpuna (elders) in varied disciplines such as traditional celestial calendars, martial arts, herbal and energetic healing, and more. In an effort to bridge the gap between culture, commerce, and community, Kainoa recently launched *The Mo'olelo Group*, where he focuses on sharing and building cultural competency in organizations by applying traditional narratives and indigenous philosophies in ways that resonate with today's audiences.

Kainoa Horcajo has been praised by CEOs, cultural elders, and industry leaders for his eye-opening and moving speeches that have the ability to draw connections between the modern business world and indigenous wisdom. Utilizing an oft-mind-bending blend of pop culture references and traditional stories, Kainoa artfully simplifies the complex and reveals the commonalities within us all. He is the co-creator and co-star of the Emmy award-winning TV show *SEARCH Hawaii*, former Director of Culture at both Grand Wailea and Andaz Maui, and 3-time TEDx Maui host. Speaking on a wide variety of subjects including personal fulfillment, self-knowledge, Hawaiian history & culture, and workplace culture, Kainoa continues to inspire audiences and leaves them with a deeper sense of connection to themselves, their mission in life, and the surrounding world.

*"Kainoa was an integral part of the APEC Conference here in Hawaii. His simple, yet profound stories and discussion on the integration of true Hawaiian Hospitality and the often misunderstood "Aloha Spirit" into personal and business life will lead you down a path of introspection - to a foundation of respect, loyalty, and honor."*

– Craig Tanaka, Makena Golf & Beach

*"If you're looking for someone innovative to speak about culture or indigenous peoples, Kainoa Horcajo is the emerging leader of this field."*

– Emma Castle, Spice News

*"We needed someone to energize and motivate our group, and Kainoa's keynote absolutely fit the bill. He inspired and challenged us in meaningful ways that showed us how we can differentiate ourselves and align with Hawaiian cultural values, kindness and respect for one another and our future business leaders"*

– Brian Lynx, Hotel Magic



*featured in:*

- The Washington Post** ■ [How to be a better tourist in Hawaii, according to locals](#)
- Bloomberg** ■ [Hawaii Is Rethinking Tourism. Here's What That Means for You](#)
- AFAR** ■ [Cultural Ambassadors Are Improving Hawaiian Hotels—Here's How](#)
- INSIDER** ■ [People are flocking to try a luau-themed Chick-fil-A, but chefs and experts say there's nothing Hawaiian about it](#)
- TRAVEL WEEKLY** ■ [Grand Wailea's cultural ambassador aspires to be obsolete](#)
- TRAVEL+LEISURE** ■ [The Most Delicious Way to Protect Hawaii's Natural Beauty? Eat the Invasive Species](#)
- Sierra**  
THE MAGAZINE OF THE SIERRA CLUB ■ [If You Must Venture Out During COVID-19, Here's How to Do It](#)
- Maui**  
NŌ KA'ŌI  
MAGAZINE ■ [The Thousand-year-old Gift](#)
- HONOLULU**  
MAGAZINE ■ [Local Food-Based TV Show Wins Emmy](#)

#### Current Titles, Associations & Affiliations

- Principal Owner, The Mo'olelo Group
- Co-Owner, Valley Isle Distilling Company
- Vice President, Kipuka Olowalu
- Lead Trainer, Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association
- PBS Hawai'i, Advisory Board Member
- ProArts Playhouse, Humanities & Community Advisor

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