

PROTECTING HAWAI'I'S AGRICULTURE THROUGH BIOSECURITY

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KEALOHA DOMINGO CHEF & FOUNDER, NUI KEALOHA

Kealoha Domingo is the chef and founder of Nui Kealoha, a family-run company that offers food and education grounded in the traditional values and cultural practices of his Hawaiian ancestral roots.

Nui Kealoha's work honors the spiritual connection between the 'āina (land), kānaka (humankind), and mea 'ai (food). The meals they prepare and serve express respect for traditional foodways, together with innovation born from contemporary creativity in the professional kitchen.

Born & raised on Oʻahu, Kealoha is part of a multi-generational lineage of Hawaiian practitioners with a genuine love for food. His aloha for the 'āina of his home and the community that he feeds is informed by his grounding in Hawaiian perspectives, and has earned him praise and respect throughout the pae 'āina Hawai'i. Raised in a food-centric 'ohana, Kealoha grew up preparing meals for countless gatherings, with traditional 'imu and other elements of traditional Hawaiian food. Kealoha was mentored by family members in the food industry as well as generations of ancestors who carried the cultural responsibility for cooking and healing. He has inherited an innate need and responsibility to continue his family's kulena to those duties in service to his community.