

# EDMONDS CENTER for the ARTS

2025 | 2026

*A Season of Discovery*

EDMONDS  
CENTER  
for the ARTS



KANEKOA

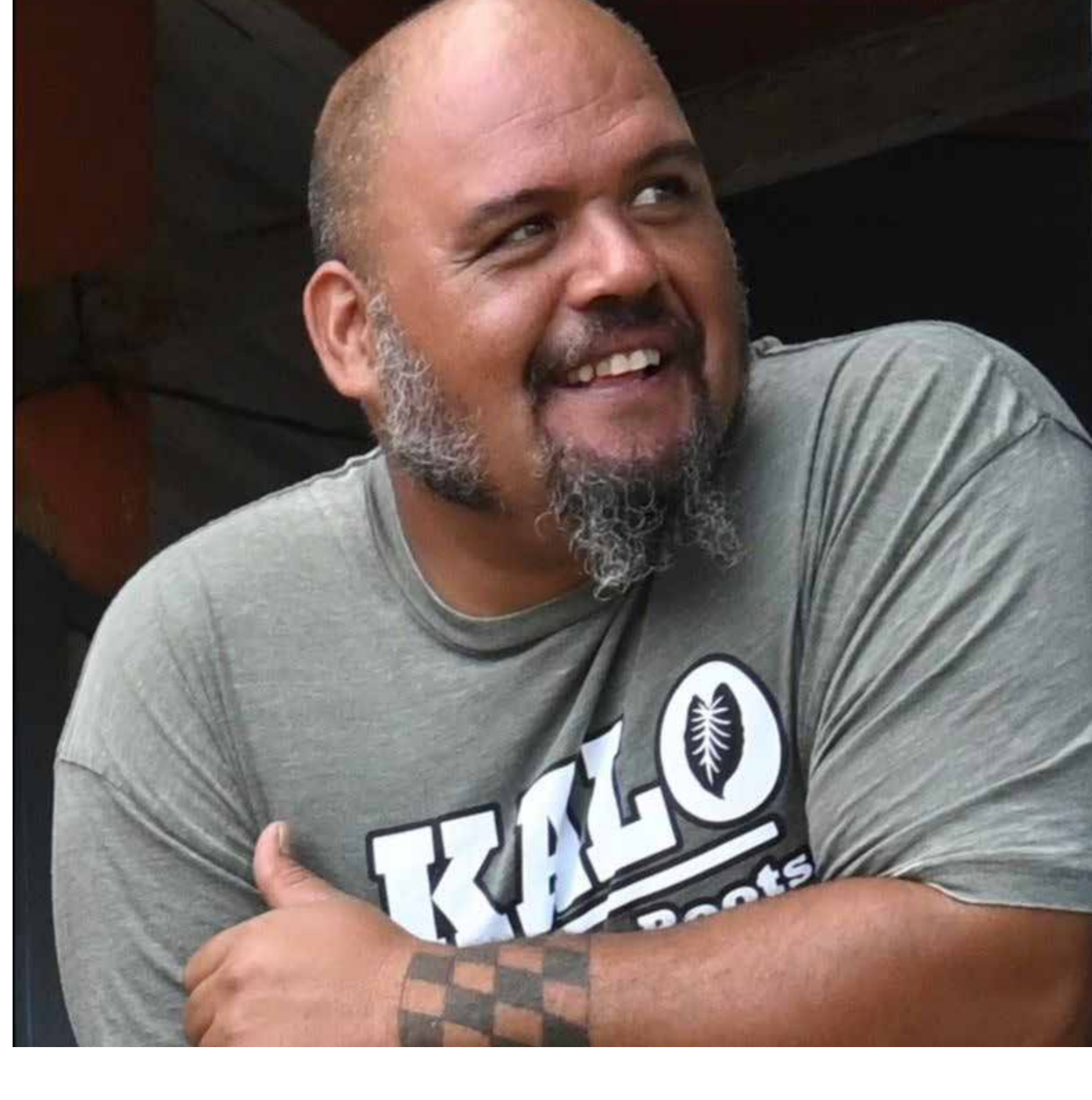
OCTOBER 2

## About Kanekoa

Kanekoa is one of Hawaii’s premier live music experiences. Maui’s Nā Hōkū Hanohano (Hawai’i’s “Grammy”) Award-winning band Kanekoa fuses eclectic roots with flavors of reggae, blues, funk, jazz, Hawaiian, and island music with jamband energy. Playing ‘ukulele-powered “Hawaiian jam-rock” and pushing the envelope of Hawai’i’s joyful 4-string instrument, soulful singer Kaulana Kanekoa on rhythm uke, phenom Vince Esquire on lead ‘ukulele, and master of the U-Bass Don Lopez, are joined by Travis Rice on cajon to round out their unique sound.

Original songs mix with jamband interpretations that continue to surprise and delight audiences and fans. Powered by electric ‘ukuleles and driving rhythms, these ‘ukulele masters draw inspiration from the Hawaiian roots of this instrument as well as their love of multiple music genres, from traditional Hawaiian to 80’s Pop to Jamband Blues, creating a sound unmistakably their own. Kanekoa has been celebrated on the cover and feature article of Ukulele Magazine as “Hawaiian Trailblazers.”

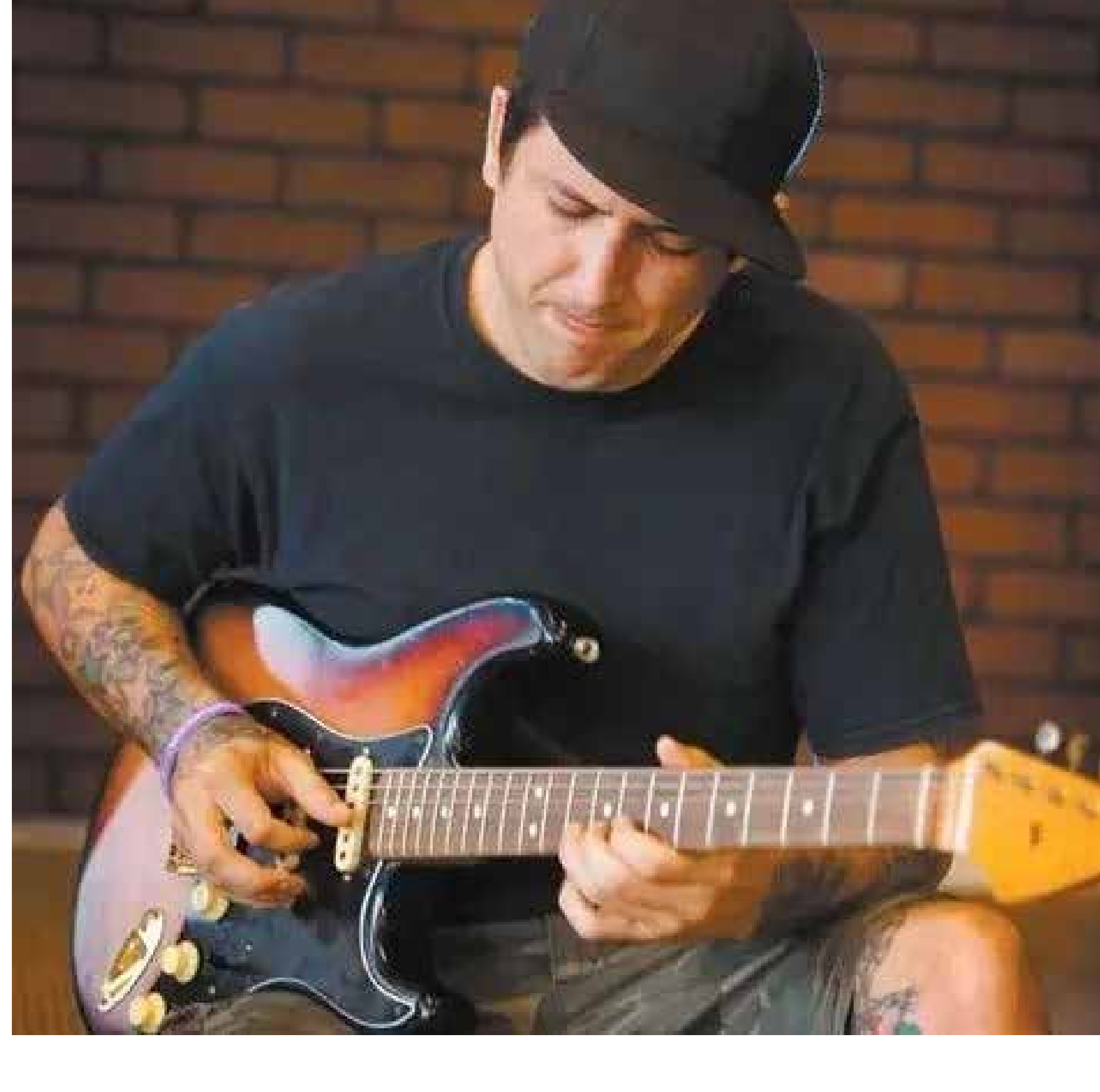
Live audiences rave over their soulful originals and insightful covers interpreted with pure originality. Kanekoa has taken the ‘ukulele into new territory.



### Kaulana Kanekoa | Lead Vocals +

### Rhythm Ukulele

Inspired by the beauty of Hawaiian slack-key music, Kaulana was drawn to the guitar. “I loved ki ho’alu,” Kaulana says, “My dad was a great slack-key player. Eventually I started playing the uke all the time. To me, it’s yoga—a release.” Absorbing a diverse range of influences, from Gabby Pahinui and Peter Moon (of Sunday Manoa fame) to Led Zeppelin and Bob Marley, Kaulana began composing his own songs. “Then I got together with these two guys, and it grew from there.”

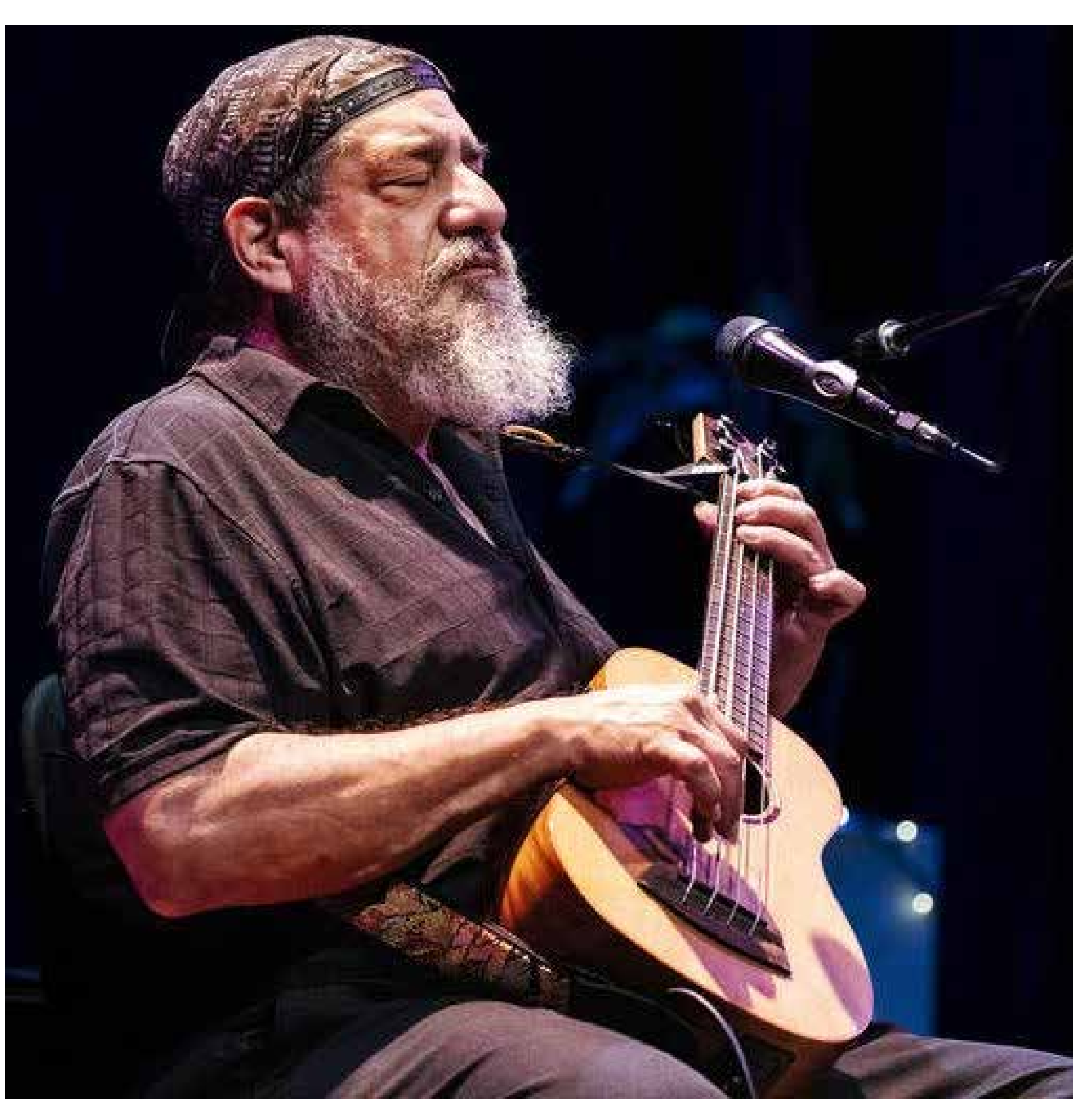


### Vince Esquire | Lead Ukulele + Backing

### Vocals

Vince was exposed to music at an early age by his father, he picked up the uke at seven and by 15 was blazing on guitar. Vince was so good on guitar that he was invited to play with the Allman Brothers Band in New York by mentor Gregg Allman as well as tour and record with Gregg Allman. “I started on ‘ukulele and I transmitted that to the guitar, and it evolved, and then I went back to the ‘ukulele,” Esquire says.





## **“Uncle” Don Lopez | U-Bass + Backing Vocals + Jokes**

Uncle Don Lopez has been a staple on the Maui music scene anchoring Hawaiian music legend Willie K on bass for years. Don also played and toured with Vince’s blues band for many years, which created a musical bond between the two. Don is a virtuoso on the bass and can play anything. His fretless Kala U-Bass adds a dynamic groove to the ukes that rounds out the Kanekoa sound.



## **Travis Rice | Cajon + Percussion + Backing Vocals**

Percussionist Travis Rice was inspired by the Grateful Dead’s improvisational approach. “I had never heard a band that would purposely lose time and play with that,” Rice recalls. He eventually gravitated to the cajon (which fittingly has four strings inside). “The cajon is perfect for what we’re doing,” he says.



All stage work performed by employees represented by I.A.T.S.E., Local No. 15