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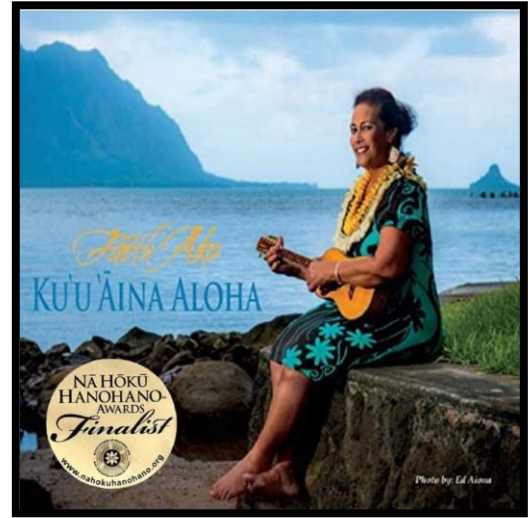
Faith Ako

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## HAWAIIAN MUSICIAN FAITH AKO'S ALBUM MAKES MELE.COM'S 2020 YEAR END TOP 12

**Sonoma County, California, March 2021** - Award winning Hawaiian musician Faith Ako makes Mele.com's 2020 YEAR END Top 12 with her fourth album *Ku'u 'Āina, Aloha*. An arrangement of Hawaiian melodies, her sultry voice whisks you to the islands with original songs and Hawaiian classics.

Mele.com is widely recognized for its extensive and varied online Hawaiian music. The first independent online retailer brings the music and sounds of Hawai'i to shores far beyond the islands. Each year Mele.com tallies their top 12 selling albums; this year, Faith Ako's fourth album *Ku'u 'Āina, Aloha* makes top 8.



*Ku'u 'Āina, Aloha*, “speaks to my birthplace on the windward side of O‘ahu where my 15 brothers, sisters and I were raised and where my heart is truly at peace,” said the singer. The CD includes six original compositions, “it was important to me that I weave together stories and memories of my home - the fragrances, the sounds, the sights, and the beauty of the islands. And of course, I’ve included some of my favorite hula standards, which are a must!”

Faith has been singing and playing music all her life. As a child growing up in Hawai‘i she was influenced by her culture and the sounds of Rock-n-Roll and Motown. A resident of the Bay Area since the early 80’s, Faith has been a member of several local Hawaiian bands and began a solo career in 2007.

As the Bay Area's premier female artist in Traditional/Contemporary Hawaiian music, Faith has graced the West Coast with her powerful voice, charismatic personality and passion for Hawaiian music for over two decades. Her awards and recognitions include:

- **2008 Hawai'i Music Awards-Best Traditional Album, New Artist of the Year for her debut album: *Kūkahī*;**
- **2010 Top 20 Grammy Entries-Genre, Hawaiian Music for her second album: *Papakū, Bring It Home*;**
- **2013 *Kulāiwi, My Beloved Homeland* sold out shows in Northern and Southern California, Honolulu, Osaka Japan (third album release);**
- **2015 Kuli'a I Ka Nu'u Strive for the Summit Award, Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce Northern California Chapter;**
- **2015 San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, Honorary Citizen Award, Island Cultural Heritage Efforts through Public Works;**
- **2019 Board of Supervisors San Mateo County, Commendation Award Pacific Islander Community Partnership;**
- **2020 Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts, Na Hoku Hanohano Award Finalist 2021 Hawaiian Album of the Year Category;**

Faith has made special appearances at Pakele Live, Honolulu, Maui's Four Seasons Hotel, HI\*Session's Ko'olau Ballroom, Yoshi's San Francisco, Oakland locations, Berkeley's Freight and Salvage, Whittier College Los Angeles, Boston's Westborough School District, Martha's Vineyard, and numerous Hawaiian Festivals and Ukulele Workshops throughout the states.

To learn more, visit [www.faithakomusic.com](http://www.faithakomusic.com). Contact: [faith@faithako.com](mailto:faith@faithako.com).

Photo: Courtesy of Ed Aiona Photography.