

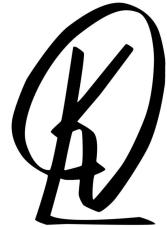


Aloha! I'm **KINOHI ABAFO**

I am a multidisciplinary artist and educator exploring identity, culture, and storytelling through visual media. Rooted in my biracial (White and Native Hawaiian) heritage, my work spans fine art photography, logo/concept design, portrait photography, and event design. I blend personal narrative with commercial aesthetics to create work that is both meaningful and impactful. With a background in TESOL, fine arts, and community engagement, I view art as a bridge between cultures and a tool for connection.

Cincinnati, OH | Covington, KY

Welcome to My Portfolio



EDUCATION

Hawaii Pacific University

MA | TESOL | 2023

University of Cincinnati

BA | Fine Arts | 2021

EXPERIENCE

Creative Director & Brand Manager

Kealoha's Kitchen | 2020 – Current

Freelance Photography/Graphic Design

Covington, KY | Cincinnati, OH | 2016 - Current

SKILLS

Photography

Photo Editing

Graphic Design

Adobe Suites

Event Design

Microsoft Office

Customer Service

PERSONALITY

Extrovert

Introvert

Spontaneous

Planner

Collaborative

Independent

CONTACT ME



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Detailed Nature Photography

DSLR | Canon Rebel T7 | Lens 18-55mm

This collection focuses on the quiet intimacy of the natural world, capturing close-up moments that often go unnoticed. Featuring textures of bark, the rich patterns of soil, the delicate presence of insects, and the quiet strength of trees, these images explore the subtle beauty found in everyday landscapes. Through careful attention to light and composition, each photograph highlights the intricate relationship between nature's smallest elements and the environments they shape. Shifts in shadow, reflection, and illumination are used to reveal depth, texture, and form within each frame. This series invites viewers to slow down, look closer, and rediscover the wonder woven into the details of the earth itself.



Landscape Photography

DSLR | Canon Rebel T7 | Lens 18-55mm

This series explores the expansive beauty of the natural world through wide-angle compositions that emphasize scale, atmosphere, and spatial depth. Featuring the dramatic mountain ranges of Colorado, the powerful waters of Niagara Falls in Canada, and the skies and architectural silhouettes of Indiana's rural homes, each image is crafted to evoke a strong sense of place and perspective.

These photographs aim to capture not only the visual grandeur of the environment but also the emotional experience of being immersed within it—inviting viewers to pause, breathe, and connect with the vastness and serenity of the world around them. Through intentional framing and attention to light, the work encourages a quiet, contemplative engagement with landscape and space.



Documentary Photography

DSLR | Canon Rebel T7 | Lens 18-55mm

Photographed during the fall season at the *Knob Creek Gun Shoot and Military Show* in Kentucky, this documentary-style series captures the visceral atmosphere and layered narratives of one of America's most distinctive firearms events. The images document a striking juxtaposition of history and spectacle—featuring displays of historic guns, the aftermath of range fires on everyday objects like boats and washing machines, and the explosive energy of active shooting ranges, with brass shells caught mid-air. Interspersed are quieter moments: gatherings of individuals in conversation, exchanging stories, perspectives, and shared culture. Through an unflinching lens, this series explores not only the intensity and drama of the event, but also the rituals, contradictions, and sense of community that define this uniquely American space.



Documentary Photography

DSLR | Canon Rebel T7 | Lens 18-55mm

This documentary-style photographic series captures the energy, emotion, and collective power of a Black Lives Matter rally held in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 2020. Through candid, on-the-ground imagery, the photographs chronicle moments of protest, solidarity, and reflection: expressive gestures, handmade signage, and the faces of individuals standing together in pursuit of justice and visibility. The series balances scenes of communal strength—marches, chants, gatherings—with more intimate moments of personal determination. This body of work highlights both the quiet intensity of individual resolve and the collective presence of a unified movement grounded in resilience and hope. With a keen eye for storytelling through composition and expression, the collection preserves a critical civic moment, serving as both historical record and emotional testament.



Portrait Photography

DSLR | Canon Rebel T7 | Lens 18-55mm

This series showcases a range of portrait photography created through freelance work—spanning engagement sessions, high school senior portraits, and personal self-portraiture. Each image is crafted with careful attention to lighting, emotion, composition, and setting, capturing the individuality of the subject and the significance of the moment. Thoughtful use of natural and controlled light helps shape mood and draw focus to subtle expressions and gestures. Whether documenting the anticipation of a shared future, celebrating a personal milestone, or turning the lens inward, these portraits aim to reflect authenticity, connection, and care. Through a balance of posed and candid imagery, the series honors both the art of portraiture and the trust shared between photographer and subject, revealing stories that are intimate, joyful, and deeply human.



Product Photography

DSLR | Canon Rebel T7 | Lens 18-55mm

This series highlights product photography captured for two Cincinnati-based creative spaces: The Cupboard, a smoke shop featuring intricate blown glass pieces, and Indigo Hippo, a nonprofit focused on art supply reuse and creative accessibility.

At The Cupboard, images showcase the vibrant color, craftsmanship, and organic forms of hand-blown glass—elevating each object as both functional and sculptural.

At Indigo Hippo, the focus shifts to donated textiles, tools, and supplies, arranged to celebrate material abundance, texture, and the quiet beauty of secondhand creativity.

Through careful lighting and intentional composition, this series honors the artistry embedded in everyday objects and the spaces that make them visible.



Archival Photography

DSLR | Canon Rebel T7 | Lens 18-55mm

This series serves as a visual archive of the lifelong work of my grandmother, Janet Driehaus, who has been creating art for over 94 years. Each piece was photographed in her home and then edited to appear against a clean white background to draw full attention to the craftsmanship, color, and detail of her work. From expressive brushstrokes to intricate stitching, the images highlight the quiet brilliance of a life dedicated to making.

More than documentation, this project is a tribute—an effort to preserve and honor her creative legacy. It captures not only the physical beauty of her work but the emotional and generational significance woven into every canvas and thread.



Concept Designs

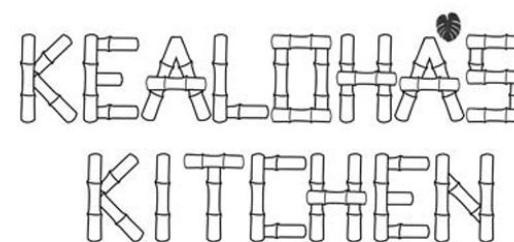
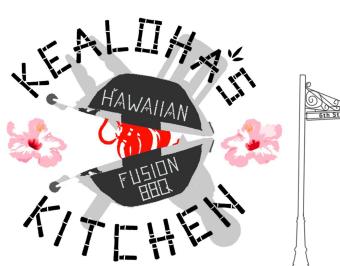
This section features freelance branding projects for two distinct clients: Precision Waxxing, a Northern Kentucky waxing company, and a specialty brand introducing a hybrid pepper combining the Carolina Reaper and Ghost Pepper. For Precision Waxxing, the branding incorporates bamboo, a woman's leg, and wax sticks to convey care, precision, and approachability. Design elements include logos, color palettes, patterns, and typography—refined through ongoing collaboration to match the client's evolving vision. The pepper brand features a bold identity centered around a logo inspired by the pepper's actual shape. Fiery colors, sharp graphics, and bold type evoke heat and intensity, tailored to its unique product offering. Each brand was developed with careful attention to audience, market positioning, and visual impact. Together, these projects reflect a flexible, client-focused design approach that blends strategy, visual storytelling, and custom execution.



Kealoha's Kitchen Designs

Since 2020, this ongoing collaboration (that sadly ended in 2025 when the restaurant closed permanently) with *Kealoha's Kitchen*, a Hawaiian-inspired restaurant, has evolved into a full-scale creative partnership. The project began with logo development and expanded into a custom font, menu design, website creation, and interior décor planning. Each visual element is grounded in the spirit of Hawai'i—featuring native flora like hibiscus motifs, island-inspired color palettes, and design choices that reflect the warmth and vibrancy of Hawaiian culture. This page is dedicated to past and present logo designs that collectively trace the visual legacy of *Kealoha's Kitchen*, documenting how its identity was shaped, revisited, and reinterpreted over time. Together, these marks reflect a sustained creative partnership and demonstrate how culturally grounded, story-driven design can hold meaning, memory, and continuity beyond the life of the space itself..

KEALOHA'S KITCHEN

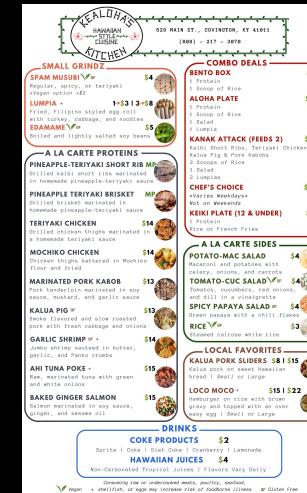
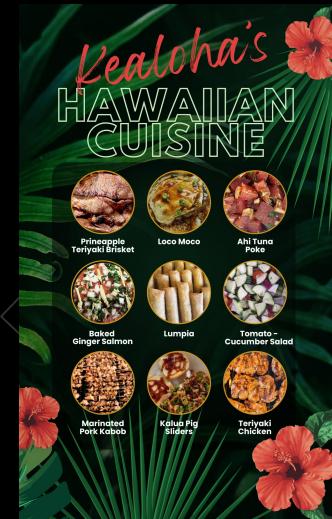


Kealoha's Kitchen Continued

Expanding beyond the identity marks shown on the previous page, this section documents the evolution of Kealoha's Kitchen through its applied design materials, including posters, advertisements, and a range of menu formats developed over time. Featured works include event-specific designs such as wedding menus and signage created for ceremonies hosted within the space, two-page bar menus crafted to support high-volume service, and catering menus designed for off-site and large-scale events.

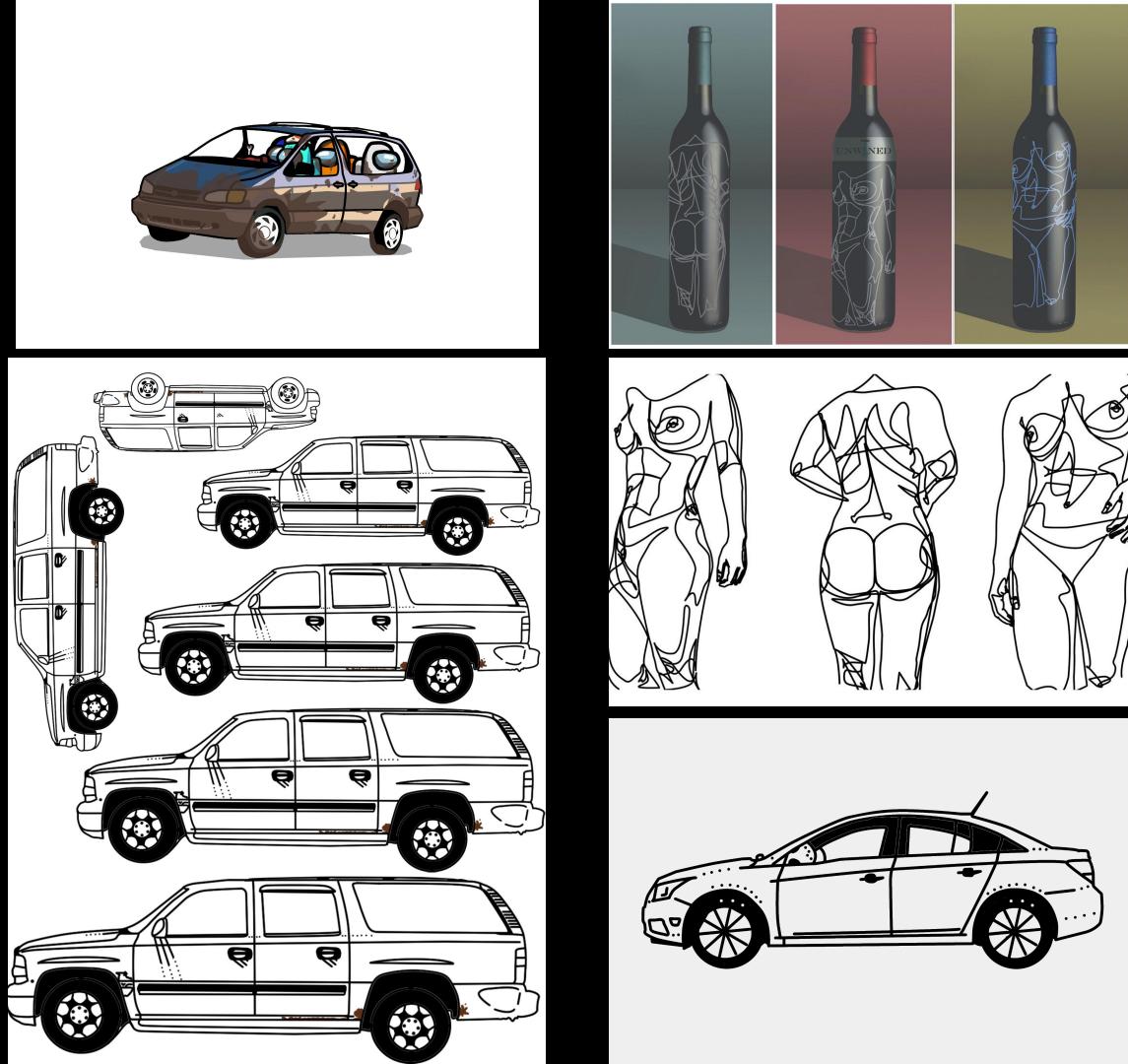
Together with promotional posters used for community outreach and advertising, these pieces reveal how the brand adapts to varied contexts while maintaining visual continuity. The menus are thoughtfully crafted not only in design but in voice, incorporating Hawaiian Creole English (Pidgin) to create an authentic, welcoming tone that resonates with the local community and honors cultural roots.

Collectively, these materials serve as a visual archive of the restaurant's progression, illustrating how design operates as both a functional tool and a means of sustaining community connection and identity over time.



Freelance Design

This section highlights a range of small-scale freelance projects created for individual clients—spanning custom t-shirt graphics, tattoo designs, and conceptual illustrations. The work varies in style and complexity, from clean, minimal outlines to intricate, detail-rich compositions that often feature hand-drawn, custom typography designed specifically for each project's tone and message. Some pieces are playful and bold, while others are symbolic, sentimental, or abstract—each rooted in deep personal meaning. Several designs incorporate culturally specific references, including visual nods to gaming culture, automotive forms, and bespoke wine bottle graphics created for independent brands, grounding each piece in the client's lived interests and identities. Each project is developed through close collaboration and thoughtful dialogue. These projects showcase the versatility of design as a tool for personal expression and the collaborative process of translating imagination into compelling visual form, reflecting the trust clients place in design to help tell stories that are both lasting and meaningful.



Wedding Event Design

This full-service wedding event design took place at *Kealoha's Kitchen*, blending Hawaiian cultural aesthetics with personalized celebration. My role spanned creative direction and event coordination, including table layout and seating design, custom menu and program creation, venue decoration, client consultation, billing management, and day-of execution.

The design drew inspiration from Hawaiian traditions, featuring tropical florals, natural textures, and a warm, inviting color palette. Printed materials incorporated island-inspired motifs and typography to complement the restaurant's ambiance. Every element was curated to reflect the couple's story while honoring the cultural setting. This event exemplified the balance of meaningful design, logistical precision, and the aloha spirit—resulting in an intimate, memorable celebration.



Educational Event Design

This project involved the creative direction and execution of a full stage and event design for a K-4 elementary school musical performance of *Jungle Jamboree*. As the school's art instructor, I developed and adapted curriculum-aligned visual arts lesson plans based on the Ohio Standards for Visual Arts for over 500 students. These lessons guided students in creating artwork that visually supported the musical's jungle theme. The resulting pieces—colorful, student-made works—were proudly displayed along the auditorium walls and as a backdrop on stage during the performance. My role extended beyond instruction to include overseeing the installation process, with students actively participating in hanging their own work. This design served as both a learning experience and a community celebration, allowing students to share their creativity with their families in a vibrant, immersive environment that connected visual art to performance.



MAHALO! THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking the time to explore my portfolio.

My work reflects a strong commitment to visual impact, customer engagement, and commercial values. These pieces are designed to be both aesthetically compelling and purpose-driven.

After navigating these selections, I encourage you to share your thoughts, ask questions, or reach out to start a conversation. I welcome collaboration and dialogue—please feel free to connect if you'd like to discuss the work further or explore future opportunities together!

