

Kinohi L. Abafo

Cincinnati, OH | (859) 512-2340 | Kinohi@KinohiAbafo.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Multidisciplinary educator and creative director with a strong background in visual arts, TESOL, curriculum design, branding, and photography. Equally experienced in classroom instruction and creative direction, with a passion for integrating art, language, and culture. Skilled in Adobe Suite, social media strategy, and engaging diverse audiences through storytelling and design. Committed to building inclusive learning environments that foster creativity, cross-cultural understanding, and visual storytelling.

EDUCATION

M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (Spring 2023)

Hawai'i Pacific University, Honolulu, HI, USA

B.A. in Fine Arts (Spring 2021)

University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, USA

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

Dean's List (2020, 2021)

University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, USA

CERTIFICATES

Adobe Certified Associate (2020 – 2023)

University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, USA

TEACHING, TUTORING, AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE

Elementary Art Teacher (January 2025 – June 2025)

Symmes Elementary School, Cincinnati, OH, USA

Grades: K-4. Designed and delivered an inclusive visual arts curriculum aligned with state and national standards, integrating TESOL strategies to support English language learners alongside native English speakers. Facilitated student-centered instruction across diverse media, incorporating vocabulary development, scaffolding techniques, and visual literacy to enhance language acquisition through art. Created cross-curricular connections with subjects like science, social studies, and ELA to deepen content understanding. Maintained a supportive, culturally responsive classroom environment, managed formative assessments, and provided differentiated instruction to meet varied learning needs. Led schoolwide art exhibitions, and collaborative projects to promote student voice and community engagement.

Student Teacher (January 2023 – June 2023)

Farrington High School, Honolulu, HI, USA

Completed TESOL student teaching at Farrington High School, supporting multilingual learners in a school where over 60% of students speak a language other than English at home. Delivered scaffolded, standards-based instruction across all language domains, using culturally responsive strategies to support diverse proficiency levels. Collaborated with teachers to create an inclusive, engaging learning environment that fostered language growth and academic success.

TESOL Instructor (2022 – 2023)

Hawai'i Rainbow Academy, Honolulu, HI, USA

As a dedicated educator at Hawai'i Rainbow Academy, I created a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that supported academic growth, cultural awareness, and social-emotional development. I designed and implemented engaging, standards-based lesson plans tailored to diverse learning styles, while fostering a classroom culture rooted in respect, collaboration, and curiosity. Working closely with colleagues, families, and support staff, I contributed to the school's mission of nurturing the whole child through personalized instruction, culturally responsive teaching, and a commitment to equity and excellence.

Supplemental Instructor (January 2015 – June 2016)

University of Cincinnati Clermont College, Batavia, OH, USA

Planned and led curriculum-based activities. Attended courses previously passed with a proficiency to help the students with further instruction and clarity that the professor could not provide.

CREATIVE & CUSTOMER SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Creative Director | Brand & Visual Experience (October 2019 – Current)

Kealoha's Kitchen, Covington, KY, USA

Design and photograph logo, merchandise, storefront, etc. Organize public/private events. Train new employees. Prep food and workplace daily. Helped establish business models and employee duties. Handle transactions of up to \$5,000 daily.

Bartender (June 2021 – Current)

West Side Brewing, Cincinnati, OH, USA

Memorize up to 2 new beers every week along with their flavor profiles and various brew processes. Promote the brewery and their products. Document newest merchandise including shirts, cans, and hats using photographs for social media and marketing. Satisfy needs and questions of up to 500 guests at a time. Handled multiple transactions and sales up to \$8,000 daily.

Bartender & Server (June 2020 – June 2021)

The Summit Hotel, Cincinnati, OH, USA

Accumulated more than 25 hrs./week. Handled multiple transactions and sales up to \$2000. Ensure guest satisfaction of over 50 people at once. Demonstrated exemplary communication skills along with knowledge and understanding of necessary food and alcohol.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/VOLUNTEER WORK

Maslow's Army (2020, 2021, 2024)

Cincinnati, OH, USA

Helped against the fight of homelessness through the donation of authentic Polynesian cuisine. Served hundreds of individuals and their families warm meals during the harsh winter months.

Hosea House (2020, 2021)

Newport, KY, USA

Provided nourishment to men, women, and children in the Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati area. Gave out over 1,000 free meals to those in need. Prepped hundreds of dollars in food. Served and interacted with people from various backgrounds and ethnicities.

Volunteer Sri Lanka (May 2016)

Galle, Sri Lanka

Assisted in cross-cultural education programs. Helped lead educational games and exercises. Interacted with the students to ameliorate their English. Resided within common living quarters to acclimate to their cultural lifestyle.

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Hawai'i TESOL Annual Conference (2023)

BYU Hawaii, Laie, HI, USA

Integrating Visual Arts into TESOL Classrooms to Support Language Acquisition

Abafo, K (2020). Comfort, *The Hiding Place*, 5-6

<https://av776315.wixsite.com/thehidingplace/post/occupy-me-by-kinohi-abaf0>

Abafo, K (2020). Occupy Me, *The Hiding Place*, 34-35,

<https://av776315.wixsite.com/thehidingplace/post/occupy-me-by-kinohi-abaf0-1>

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Hawaii TESOL Conference (2021-2024)

BYUH, Laie, HI, USA

Talking Story with Da Pidgin Guerilla: Micheline Soong interviews Lee Tonouchi (2021)

Hawai'i Pacific University, Honolulu, HI, USA

Prof. Juhn Ahn (University of Michigan) Lecture at UC Riverside

University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, USA

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent) | Hawaiian Pidgin Creole (Fluent) | Spanish (Beginner) | Japanese (Beginner)

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

Adobe Suites (Photoshop, Lightroom, Premiere Pro.) | Audacity | Blackboard, NEO Learning | Management Systems | COCA | Fruity Loops Studio | Lesson Writer | Microsoft Outlook (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc.) | NEO | NetSpeak | Oxford Owl | TedEd