



Danny Kaleikini (1937–2023), Hawaii’s “Ambassador of Aloha”

Ambassador of Aloha

After beginning as a performer at hotels including the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Kaleikini became famous as the longtime headliner at Oahu’s Kahala Hilton. He sang, danced, and joked with the audience, as well as playing the rare Hawaiian nose flute. Known for his mastery of greetings in many languages and his easy rapport with audiences, Kaleikini headlined the Kahala Hilton from 1967 until his retirement in 1994, the longest-running tenure of any Hawaiian showroom star. His act was seen by notables including presidents and celebrities. Kaleikini also performed in Las Vegas and recorded his music, founding the record label DK Records. He appeared on several episodes of “Hawaii Five-O” and in the 1970 movie “The Hawaiians.”

