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**PRESS RELEASE****Pasifika series: embodied Pasifika artistry in nyc****FEBRUARY****Oli, with Kahu Kris****Sun 2/25 @ 1-2:30PM****Peridance Center****Open-Level, Ages 16+****Community Class, \$25 Suggested****Limited capacity, pre-registration recommended:****<https://incorpus.betterworld.org/events/pasifikaseriesoli>**

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**Welcoming Kahu Kris to the Pasifika Series! The February offering is Oli, the art of Hawaiian chant.**

"A junction where memory and na'au (intuition, gut feeling) meet and produce instantaneous moments when ancestral knowledge is reborn again." –Dr. Pualani Kanaka'ole Kanahale, *Ka Honua Ola: The Living Earth*

Oli describe forms and patterns in the natural world, including nature's endowment for both life and destruction. There are chants for prayer purposes and chants that describe the births of places, people, and things. To enter the world of ancestral memory, one embarks on an exploration of embodied consciousness.

**This 90-min, open-level workshop will cover exercises for chant practitioners, offer an introduction to 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language), and explore select Oli that access the cultural significance of Ka Piko o Wākea, the Spring Equinox. All are welcome, especially folks interested in Hawaiian culture + supporting Indigenous artistry.**

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KRIS KATO is a Kahu Oli (caretaker of songs and chants) who has achieved the title, Kahu Oli Lae O'o, having completed the 'uniki rites of the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation under the direction of Dr. Pualani Kanaka'ole Kanahale. His practice shares his pursuit of knowledge found in Hawaiian mele.

Kahu Kris has shared chants for: Pagan Pride III (National Opera Center), Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage (New York), Ke Aloha Outrigger (Hoboken Cove), Indigenous Peoples Day with Te Ao Mana, Lili'u: Tribute to a Queen (La MaMa), Ka Lā Hoihoi Ea New York, Oceania (The Met Museum), Margaret Mead Film Festival (Museum of Natural History), Mother Tongue Film Festival (Smithsonian - DC), Heiva Pasifika NYC, Hui 'o Kaulana Mahina NYC, Kiernan Surfing Association, Hālāwai NYC, and Hui Ho'okahi o Tejas. He lives on the ancestral homeland of the Lenape people, Lenapehoking, in Brooklyn, New York.

**ISLAND TO ISLAND (Jacqueline Hazen, 2016)**

This film tells the story of two men living in New York who are initiated as kahu oli (caretakers of the tradition) in a time when only a select few are fluent in its nuances.

**[LinkedIn/KrisKato](#)**