



## THE HAWAII ACADEMY OF RECORDING ARTS Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards Submission Guidelines

**Submission Deadline: January 15, 2016 by 4:00 p.m.**

These are the official guidelines to submit albums, EPs, singles, and DVDs for Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards consideration. **NOTE: there have been some changes effective for the 2016 Awards.** **Please read these guidelines carefully before going on to the Submission Form.**

### Definition of Eligibility:

- All recordings created, produced, engineered, and recorded by a Hawai'i resident artist(s), musician(s), or technician(s), released during the eligibility year, are eligible for inclusion on the preliminary voting ballot provided that they are available for purchase through established retailers and/or distributors.

**Physical products** such as CDs and DVDs must be available for purchase at "brick-and-mortar" stores or established online retailers in order to be eligible. **Digital download-only releases** must be available for purchase through established online services such as iTunes, Rhapsody, Amazon, CD Baby, etc. in order to be eligible.

Physical products (CDs/DVDs) sold on artist websites and/or at live performances are eligible for inclusion on the preliminary and final ballots provided they are also available for purchase in at least one established brick-and-mortar store or online service (as defined above) by December 31, 2015.

- For eligibility in the Male Vocalist, Female Vocalist, Group, Most Promising Artist, and Favorite Entertainer of the Year, artist(s) must be **alive within** the eligibility year. Artists on compilations and anthologies are not eligible in these five (5) categories.

• The number of producers eligible for Album of the Year, Anthology of the Year, and Compilation of the Year is limited to no more than four (4) in number.

- Residency requirements apply in certain General, Genre, Technical, and Adjudicated categories. A resident is defined as one who lives in Hawai'i more than six (6) months a year; or who is a Hawai'i-based touring artist. Proof of residency (e.g. driver's license, state of Hawai'i ID, utility bills, etc.) is required for Hawai'i based artists who reside here for less than six (6) months a year.

- In the Genre Categories, **non-resident artists** (Mainland residents with physical product or digital download-only releases) are only allowed in the specific, Hawai'i-originating genres:

- |                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| – Hawaiian Album of the Year  | – Island Music Album of the Year      |
| – Slack Key Album of the Year | – 'Ukulele Album of the Year)         |
| – Haku Mele Award             | – Hawaiian Language Performance Award |

**Artists and producers who reside outside of the United States are only eligible for the International Album – Special Recognition Award.**

- Recordings released between January 1 and December 31 will be eligible each competition year.
- Five (5) recordings must be released within the competition year in order to establish a new category (subject to approval by the Board of Governors).
- A minimum of three (3) recordings must be released within the competition year in order to maintain an award category.
- Releases must contain a minimum of nine (9) tracks or a minimum overall play length of 30 minutes to qualify as an album, or for artists, producers and other contributors to qualify for any of the general, genre, technical or adjudicated categories. See **General Categories** below for definitions of EP (extended play) and single releases.
- **Releases must contain 75% of newly-recorded or previously unreleased material by the artist to**

qualify for submission. Anthologies as albums of previously released material, are the only exception.

#### **Selection Procedure:**

- All eligible releases in the **General** and **Genre Categories** are included on the preliminary ballot and are voted on by current regular and associate members.
- For **Technical Categories** a panel of producers, engineers, industry specialists and technicians selects five nominees in each category; these finalists are voted on by the regular membership on the final ballot.
- The Selection Committee will vet the releases to determine their placement within the **Genre Categories**. The final arbiter will be the Selection Committee.
- For the **Adjudicated Awards**, a panel of Hawaiian language, composers, engineers, and music specialists appointed by the Board of Governors selects the finalists and the winner.
- Only voting members of HARA that have applied for membership at least one (1) month prior to the awards ceremonies are eligible to vote in the Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards balloting. Members whose membership has expired must renew at least one (1) month prior to the award ceremonies to be eligible to vote.
- An accounting firm will tabulate the votes on the preliminary ballot, and forward the top five (5) vote getters for inclusion on the final ballot.
- In the event of a tie in the fifth position, six (6) submissions will advance to the final ballot. In the event of six (6) submissions on the preliminary ballot, all six (6) names will advance to the final ballot.
- An accounting firm will tabulate the votes on the final ballot, and the winners will be announced at the Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards ceremony.
- The public votes for the **Favorite Entertainer of the Year**. The vote for the Favorite Entertainer is conducted at the HARA website ([www.nahokuhanohano.org](http://www.nahokuhanohano.org)) and tabulated by an independent agent. Artists must have released an album in the eligibility year, be residents, and living within the eligibility year. Artists on compilations and anthologies are not eligible.
- The deadline for the receipt of the submission form at the HARA office is January 15, 2016 following the eligibility year. There will be no exceptions to the deadline. Forms can be submitted via hard copy, faxed, emailed or submitted online. **Submissions are not considered complete without the required deposit material as specified on the submission form.**
- Once the finalists are announced nominees will not be allowed to withdraw their names from competition.
- The Selection Committee reserves the right to review and adjudicate any release that falls outside these rules/guidelines.

#### **General Categories:**

Artists(s), producer(s) or composer(s) must be residents of the State of Hawai'i. See below for exceptions.

#### **Album of the Year**

**(Producer's and Artist's Award)** Best produced album release of the year. Non-resident producer(s) is eligible provided the artist(s) is a Hawai'i resident and 75% of the album is recorded in Hawai'i.

### **EP (Extended Play) Release of the Year**

Best release of the year that contains **more than three (3) but no more than eight (8) separate tracks**. **Compilations meeting the song quantity requirement are eligible**. Anthologies are not eligible in this category.

Non-resident artists are eligible if 75% of the tracks feature vocals in the Hawaiian language or are performed in slack key, 'ukulele or Island Music styles.

If a compilation, non-resident producers may be considered for the award if 75% of the EP is recorded in Hawai'i or if at least 75% of the tracks feature vocals in the Hawaiian language or are performed in slack key or Island music styles.

Artists submitting entries are eligible for the Male Vocalist, Female Vocalist, Group of the Year, and Favorite Entertainer of the Year categories. If an entry is an artist's first recorded effort, they are eligible for the Most Promising Artist category. New Compositions on the release are eligible for the Song of the Year and/or Haku Mele categories. Graphic artists and liner annotators are eligible for consideration under the rules of the Technical Categories (see below).

EPs featuring the same tracks as a nominated full album by the same artist are eligible in either category (EP or an album category) but not both.

### **Single of the Year**

Best-recorded performance of a song released as a single in either physical (CD) or digital format. The release may be of only one or two distinct tracks. If two tracks are included, an "A" side must be specified for consideration. The "B" side may be a different song or a different version (remix, karaoke, acoustic, etc.) of the "A" side.

There is no limit to the total playing time; only one single per artist may be submitted.

The track(s) may not be included on a physical CD or packaged and promoted as part of a digital "album" on any online service unless the release of the single precedes the CD/album release by at least 30 days.

Artists submitting entries in this category are not eligible for the Male Vocalist, Female Vocalist, Group, Favorite Entertainer, Most Promising Artist of the Year; and are not eligible for Technical, or Engineering Award categories. New compositions on the release are eligible for the Song of the Year and/or Haku Mele categories.

### **Song of the Year**

**(Composer's Award)** Best achievement in creating a first-time recorded song containing both words and melody. Only one song per release may be submitted. Non-resident composers (and/or co-composers) are not eligible.

### **Instrumental Composition of the Year**

**(Composer's Award)** Best achievement in creating a first-time recorded instrumental composition. Only one composition per release may be submitted. Non-resident composers (and/or co-composers) are not eligible.

### **Female Vocalist of the Year**

Best performance by a female artist of newly recorded material, 75% of which must be of vocal content.

Groups that credit a single, featured female vocalist (e.g. "Joan Jett and the Blackhearts") are considered groups and **may not** be entered in this category even if the group was previously allowed to define itself as being a female vocalist.

Duos may not be entered in this category, regardless of the vocal or instrumental contribution of the named members.

### **Group of the Year**

Best performance by a vocal duo or group of newly recorded material, 75% of which must be of vocal content.

Groups that credit a single, featured vocalist (e.g. "Bill Haley and the Comets" or "Gladys Knight and the Pips) **must be** entered in this category even if the group was previously allowed to define itself as being a single male or female vocalist.

Duos must be entered in this category, regardless of the vocal or instrumental contribution of the named members.

### **Male Vocalist of the Year**

Best performance by a male artist of newly recorded material, 75% of which must be of vocal content.

Groups that credit a single, featured male vocalist (e.g. "Paul McCartney and Wings") are considered groups and **may not** be entered in this category even if the group was previously allowed to define itself as being a single male vocalist.

Duos may not be entered in this category, regardless of the vocal or instrumental contribution of the named members.

### **Most Promising Artist(s) of the Year**

Best first-recorded effort as a featured artist or group. First recorded effort shall be defined as first commercially available CD or DVD by an artist or group and shall include retail sales worldwide.

First time participation on a compilation with other artists, and/or participation as a guest artist or previous release of a single shall not constitute a first recorded effort.

Artists who have previously recorded and who form new groups, or artists who have previously recorded as a member of a group who then release as a solo artist are ineligible for Most Promising Artist of the Year.

Extenuating factors may be considered to determine eligibility including:

- total number of members in the new group
- number of recordings the member participated in, or the number of recordings the group recorded
- prominence of the member either as a solo artist or of the group, which recorded previously

The intent of the Most Promising Artist Award is to recognize and encourage new artists.

### **Favorite Entertainer of the Year**

Best performance by an artist or group. Artists on compilations and anthologies are not eligible.

### **Genre Categories:**

Albums by non-resident artists (Mainland residents) are eligible in the Hawaiian, Island Music, Slack Key and 'Ukulele categories ONLY. Singles and EPs (Extended Play releases) are ineligible in any genre category.

### **Alternative Album of the Year**

**"Alternative"** is defined as music of a non-traditional form that retains an outsider and underground perspective, and is mostly outside the mainstream music consciousness. Currently viewed as avant-garde in nature, the music and recordings may utilize new and vintage technology, innovative production techniques and could contain trace elements of mainstream punk, rock, pop, R&B, reggae, dance, folk classical, Hawaiian, and other musical forms.

### **Anthology of the Year**

**(Producer's Award)** Best album of previously released material. At least 75% of the album must have previously released material from at least two (2) different releases. The album must also have a revised song order, be repackaged, or be substantively different from the original releases. Non-resident producers are eligible if at least 75% of the tracks feature vocals in the Hawaiian language or are performed in slack key or Island music styles.

**Christmas Album of the Year**

Best performance in a Christmas theme. At least 75% of the album must contain Christmas material. **All albums containing Christmas-themed music will automatically and without exception be placed in this category.**

**Comedy Album or Comedy DVD of the Year**

Best comedy performance released on album or DVD. At least 75% of the album or DVD must contain comedy material.

**Compilation Album of the Year**

**(Producer's Award)** Best album of newly released material. The album must contain a minimum of three (3) distinct artists on distinct tracks. Non-resident producers are eligible if at least 75% of the tracks feature vocals in the Hawaiian language or are performed in the slack key or Island music styles, or if 75% of the album is recorded in Hawai'i. Christmas compilations are eligible in the Christmas Album of the Year category only.

**Contemporary Album of the Year**

Best performance in a contemporary style.

**Hawaiian Music Album of the Year**

Best performance of Hawaiian music. At least 75% of the album must contain material in the Hawaiian Language.

**Hip Hop Album of the Year**

Best performance of music in a Hip Hop Style. At least 75% of the album must contain Hip Hop material.

**Instrumental Album of the Year**

Best instrumental performance. At least 75% of the album must contain non-vocal material.

**Island Music Album of the Year**

Best contemporary performance of music of or about Hawai'i. At least 50% of the album must contain material of or about Hawai'i.

**Jazz Album of the Year**

Best jazz performance. At least 75% of the album must contain jazz material.

**Music DVD of the Year**

Best performance of music and video on a DVD. At least 75% of the DVD must contain musical performance: (a) Musical performance may include educational, hula or scenic features provided the emphasis is on musical performance and not solely on instruction, hula or scenery; (b) Compilation DVDs (in which more than three (3) artists are featured) the award goes to the producer.

**R&B Album of the Year**

Best performance of music in an R&B style. At least 75% of the album must contain R&B material.

**Reggae Album of the Year**

Best reggae performance. At least 75% of the album must contain reggae material.

**Religious Album of the Year**

Best performance of religious material. At least 75% of the album must contain religious or inspirational material.

**Rock Album of the Year**

Best rock performance. At least 75% of the album must contain rock material.

**Slack Key Album of the Year**

Best performance of slack key or vocals with slack key accompaniment. Release can be 100% vocal

with slack key accompaniment, 100% instrumental or any combination of the two, provided that 75% of the instrumental tracks and instrumental accompaniment to vocals must be in a slack key tuning and played in a slack key style; 75% of the vocal tracks must be in Hawaiian Language.

The SC may consult with acknowledged practitioners to determine the appropriateness of entries into this category.

Slack Key Guitar or Ki Ho'alu Kika is a uniquely Hawaiian approach to guitar playing that is unlike any other guitar style in the world. It gets its name from the way the guitar is tuned – some of the strings are loosened or slacked. It is usually characterized as having an alternating bass line while the melody is plucked on the higher pitched strings.

Techniques and ornamentations include slides, pull-offs, add-ons, hammers, slurs, and harmonics (sometimes referred to as chimes). The music sometimes reflects hula rhythms and is characterized by turnarounds or “vamps”, phrases, and chordal structure of the compositions. Just playing in an alternate tuning does NOT make it slack key. It's the dedication to the bass in support of the melody that differentiates it.

#### **'Ukulele Album of the Year**

Best 'ukulele performance. 75% of the tracks must feature the 'ukulele predominately without vocals; may contain up to 25% vocal tracks with 'ukulele accompaniment, provided the 'ukulele accompaniment is not subordinate to any other accompanying instrument.

#### **Note:**

- Compilations of any genre (Comedy, Jazz, Slack Key etc.) are not eligible in that particular genre category, only in Compilation Album of the Year. Christmas compilations are the **exception**, to be considered with other Christmas albums. Producers of Christmas compilations must be Hawai'i State residents. Non-resident producers are eligible provided the artists are Hawai'i residents and 75% of the album is recorded in Hawai'i.

**The 75% quantum required on an album of 9 songs is 7 songs; on an album of 10 songs it is 8 songs; on an album of 11 songs it is 9 songs; on an album of 12 it is 9 songs; on an album of 13 songs it is 10 songs; on an album of 14 songs it is 11 songs, etc.**

#### **Technical Categories:**

Graphic artists and writers must be residents of the State of Hawai'i.

#### **Graphics Award**

Award for the best total packaging – exterior (*cover*) and interior (*booklet/insert, disc art*) graphics – that artistically conveys the record's theme. Digital download-only releases are not eligible for a Graphics award.

#### **Liner Notes Award**

Award for best liner notes that enlightens the reader about the artist, the project's theme, significance of song choices, and in the case of Hawaiian language recordings, provides lyrics and translations. Digital download-only releases are not eligible for a Liner Notes award.

#### **Adjudicated Categories:**

#### **Haku Mele Award**

**(Composer's Award)** Best first-released song or chant primarily in the Hawaiian language. **Only**

one (1) composition per composer per release is permitted. Compositions co-written with one or more composers may be submitted up to a total of three (3) distinct composer(s)/composer groups per release. Entrants must submit lyrics, translations and kaona (if any) for each entry. A panel of judges selects the Award based on:

1. Poetic style of the Hawaiian language where appropriate.
2. Proper wording (choice of words and/or phrases) of the Hawaiian Language.
3. Musical composition.

#### **Hawaiian Language Performance Award**

**(Artist Award)** Best performance in the **use of the** Hawaiian language. **Singles**, anthologies and compilations are not eligible. Reviewing the release in its entirety, a panel of judges selects the award based on:

1. Proper pronunciation of the Hawaiian language.
2. Overall interpretation of the Hawaiian language in the musical performance.
3. **At least 75% of the tracks must be in the Hawaiian language.**

#### **General Engineering Award (Must be a resident of the State of Hawai'i)**

Best technical achievement in a sound recording and mix-down for all genres of music other than Hawaiian music albums, slack key, and 'ukulele albums. Digital download-only releases are eligible in this category. Albums and EPs are eligible; singles are not.

#### **Hawaiian Engineering Award (Must be a resident of the State of Hawai'i)**

Best technical achievement in a sound recording and mix-down for Hawaiian music albums, slack key, and 'ukulele albums. Digital download-only releases are eligible in this category. Albums and EPs are eligible; singles are not.

#### **International Album – Special Recognition Award**

Award is restricted to non-US artists (those born in, and who reside in the country in which the submission originates). Eligible albums include those whose tracks are one of the following:

- 75% in the Hawaiian language, or
- 50% of or about Hawai'i, or
- Performed in slack key styles (**see eligibility rules above**), or
- Performed on the 'ukulele (**see eligibility rules above**), or
- Compilation albums (3 or more distinct artists on distinct tracks) must have 75% of the tracks in the Hawaiian language or 50% of the tracks of or about Hawai'i, performed in slack key styles or on the 'ukulele.
- Anthologies are not eligible

Albums will be judged on a point system, 10 points being the highest number awarded and the sum of points will determine the award.

Albums with vocal content will be judged on:

- Musicality (10 points)
- Language/pronunciation (10 points)
- Production quality (10 points)

Slack key and 'ukulele albums will be judged on:

- Musicality (10 points)
- Instrumental performance (10 points)
- Production quality (10 points)

Five (5) additional points will be awarded to albums produced and recorded in the country of origin without participation of Hawai'i based artists/producers/engineers.

**Deadline is Friday, January 15, 2016 by 4:00 p.m.**

All submission forms and deposit material (CDs, DVDs, lyric/translation copies; and for online digital releases only: track sheets, credit listings and cover art) must be received at the HARA office by the deadline, **without exception**.