

= Grammy Award for Best Hawaiian Music Album =

The Grammy Award for Best Hawaiian Music Album was an honor presented to recording artists from 2005 to 2011 for quality Hawaiian music albums . The Grammy Awards , an annual ceremony that was established in 1958 and originally called the Gramophone Awards , are presented by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences of the United States to " honor artistic achievement , technical proficiency , and overall excellence in the recording industry , without regard to album sales or chart position " .

Campaigning resulted in the Hawaiian category 's establishment in 2005 . Prior to its creation , Hawaiian music recordings were eligible for the Best World Music Album category but no Hawaiian musician or group had ever won a Grammy Award . During its seven @-@ year history , awards were presented to Charles M. Brotman for Slack Key Guitar : Volume 2 , producers Daniel Ho , Paul Konwiser and Wayne Wong for Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar : Volume One , the same production team plus George Kahumoku , Jr. for Legends of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar : Live from Maui in 2007 followed by Treasures of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar in 2008 , and Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar : Volume 2 in 2010 , Tia Carrere and Ho for Ikena , and Carrere for Huana Ke Aloha in 2011 . Eligible recordings had to feature the Hawaiian language on " more than half of its vocal tracks " , though instrumental albums were also acceptable . Awards were presented to the engineers , mixers , and / or producers in addition to the performing artists .

Daniel Ho holds the record for the most wins , with five . Four @-@ time recipients include Paul Konwiser and Wayne Wong as producers . George Kahumoku , Jr. earned three awards as a producer , and Tia Carrere earned two as a performing artist . Ho also holds the record for the most nominations , with seven . Amy Hanaiali'i Gilliom holds the record for the most nominations without a win , with five . Six of the seven Grammy @-@ winning albums were released through the record label Daniel Ho Creations . In 2011 , the Recording Academy announced the retirement of the award category . Beginning in 2012 , Hawaiian music recordings were eligible for the Best Regional Roots Music Album category .

= = Background = =

For decades prior to the creation of the Best Hawaiian Music Album category , advocates for Hawaiian music took issue with recordings only being eligible for the Best World Music Album category . Advocates included musicians , record labels , government officials , and the Seattle @-@ based Pacific Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences . No Hawaiian musician or group had been awarded a Grammy prior to the establishment of the Hawaiian Music category . One obstacle to the category 's creation was defining Hawaiian music , and the eligibility requirements , in terms of music stylings and language restrictions . There has been conflict between traditional and Western @-@ influenced Hawaiian music , mostly pertaining to the use of the slack @-@ key guitar , an instrument invented in Hawaii but commercialized by " mainlanders " . According to Academy representative Bill Freimuth , the category was designed " for recordings of a more traditional nature " . Requiring the use of Hawaiian language on more than half of its vocal tracks encouraged the recognition of traditional music , but instrumental albums (such as the compilation album honored at the 47th Grammy Awards) circumvented this requirement .

= = Recipients = =

Nominees for the 47th Grammy Awards (2005) included : The Brothers Cazimero for Some Call It Aloha ... Don 't Tell , producer Charles M. Brotman for Slack Key Guitar : Volume 2 , Ho 'okena for Cool Elevation , Amy Hanaiali'i Gilliom , and arranger and multi @-@ instrumentalist Willie K. (born William Kahaiali'i) for Amy & Willie Live , and Keali'i Reichel for Ke'alaokamaile . Hanaiali'i and Reichel both expressed happiness at being nominated , the latter stating , " This is the culmination of the work of chanters , singers and poetry writers that dates back over a thousand years . " One NPR contributor wrote that the nominees illustrated the range of Hawaiian music at the time , " from

traditional songs for guitar and ukulele to more modernized approaches " . Some Call It Aloha ... Don 't Tell contained traditional Hawaiian folk songs and chants and the use of traditional instruments such as the acoustic bass and 12 @-@ string guitar . Ho?okena members Many Boyd , Horache K. Dudoit III , Chris Kamaka and Glen H.K. Smith created music for Cool Elevation using the ukulele , acoustic bass , and guitar . Scott Iwasaki of the Deseret News described Amy & Willie Live as a " playful array of Hawaiian jazz " . Ke 'alaokamaile , a concept album about Reichel 's immediate ancestors , combines traditional Hawaiian chants with original songs . The album also included contemporary covers of Babyface 's " You Were There " , Karla Bonoff 's " Goodbye My Friend " , and Sting 's " Fields of Gold " . The award went to Brotman for the slack key guitar compilation album recorded in Hawaii and described by journalist Nate Chinen as " an easy @-@ listening instrumental compilation seemingly tailored to mainland tastes " . According to Jon de Mello , founder of Hawaiian record label Mountain Apple Company , other nominees ' " jaws dropped on the ground " at the ceremony in reaction to their works being overlooked . Chinen claimed the Academy 's " safe , bland " choice set a precedent for compilations and slack key use (five nominees the following year were slack key albums) .

For the 48th Grammy Awards (2006) , nominees included : Kapono Beamer for Slack Key Dreams of the Ponomoe , Raiatea Helm for Sweet & Lovely , Ledward Kaapana for Kiho 'alu : Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar , Sonny Lim for Slack Key Guitar : The Artistry of Sonny Lim , and Daniel Ho , Paul Konwiser and Wayne Wong for Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar : Volume One . Allmusic 's Adam Greenberg described Slack Key Dreams of the Ponomoe as an ambient album with an " easy listening " sound accented with slack key motives . Songs about Beamer 's family and childhood were sung in Hawaiian but also English . Sweet & Lovely featured " classic , early tourist @-@ era " Hawaiian music and guest performances by Keali'i Reichel and Auntie Genoa Keawefor . Greenberg complimented Helm for her ukulele playing and " stunning " falsetto . Lim 's first solo album contained slack key compositions fused with " touches of folk and possibly even adult contemporary stylings " . Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar , which peaked at number fifteen on Billboard 's Top World Music Albums chart , featured twelve live tracks recorded from the weekly slack key guitar concerts that took place in Maui . Awards were presented to Ho , Konwiser and Wong as producers of the compilation album . Peter deAquino , George and Keoki Kahumoku , and Garrett Probst joined producers Ho and Wong on stage at the podium during the pre @-@ telecast ceremony to accept the award .

2007 nominees included : Amy Hanaiali 'i for Generation Hawai 'i , producers Daniel Ho , George Kahumoku , Jr . , Paul Konwiser and Wayne Wong for the compilation album Legends of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar : Live from Maui , Ledward Kaapana for Grandmaster Slack Key Guitar , Henry Kapono for The Wild Hawaiian , and producers Chris and Milton Lau for the compilation album Hawaiian Slack Key Kings . Generation Hawai 'i and The Wild Hawaiian were the two vocal @-@ driven albums nominated , while the three remaining nominees were slack @-@ key driven . The Wild Hawaiian consisted of rock songs in Hawaiian which drew sound comparisons to Jimi Hendrix and Carlos Santana . Awards were presented to Ho , Kahumoku , Konwiser and Wong . Ho , Konwiser and Wong became the first multiple recipients in the category as well as the first consecutive award recipients . Musicians Peter deAquino , Richard Ho 'opi 'i , Kaapana , and Garrett Probst of Da Ukulele Boys , all of whom contributed live tracks to the album , joined the producers on stage to perform " Hawaii Aloha " a cappella for the audience and to accept the award . Kahumoku 's acceptance speech stressed the importance of funding public arts and music education , earning him a standing ovation from the audience .

Nominees for the 50th Grammy Awards (2008) included : Keola Beamer for Ka Hikina O Ka Hau (The Coming of the Snow) , Tia Carrere for Hawaiiiana , Raiatea Helm for Hawaiian Blossom , Cyril Pahinui for He ? eia , and previous award recipients Ho , Kahumoku , Konwiser and Wong for Treasures of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar . For Ka Hikina O Ka Hau , Beamer layers multiple guitars in different tunings to works by John Dowland , Ástor Piazzolla , Erik Satie , Igor Stravinsky , and other composers . Carrere 's nomination resulted in People magazine including her on their list of " Strange Grammy Nominees " for her past associations with the Wayne 's World films and television show Dancing with the Stars . Hawaiian Blossom , Helm 's third studio album , included guest artists

Robert Cazimero and Led Kaapana . Greenberg again complimented Helm 's falsetto vocals and recommended the album for fans of traditional Hawaiian music with a " contemporary twist " . Awards were presented to Ho , Kahumoku , Konwiser and Wong ; Daniel Ho also received an award as the engineer of the compilation album , which reached number twelve on Billboard 's Top World Music Albums chart . This marked the third consecutive win for the production team 's live recording of Maui 's long @-@ running " Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar " concert series . 2008 was also the first year in which the presentation of the award for Hawaiian Music Album was broadcast live on the Academy 's official website .

2009 nominees included : Tia Carrere and Daniel Ho for Ikena , Amy Hanaiali 'i for Aumakua , Led Kaapana and Mike Kaawa for Forces of Nature , producers Chris and Milton Lau for Hawaiian Slack Key Kings Masters Series : Volume II , and Ho , Kahumoku , Dennis Kamakahi , Konwiser and Wong for the compilation album The Spirit of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar . This year marked the first time in the category 's history that all nominees were previous Best Hawaiian Music Album nominees ? Hanaiali 'i and Kaapana both received nominations in 2004 and 2006 , Carrere was nominated in 2008 , and Chris and Milton Lau were also nominated in 2006 . Awards were presented to Carrere and Ho as performing artists , Amy Ku 'uleialoha Stillman as a producer , and Ho as both a producer and engineer . Carrere and Ho became the first nominees to win awards as recording artists following four consecutive years of producers and engineers receiving awards for compilation albums .

For the 52nd Grammy Awards (2010) , nominees included : Tia Carrere and Daniel Ho for He Nani , Amy Hanaiali 'i for Friends & Family of Hawai 'i , Ho 'okena for Nani Mau Loa : Everlasting Beauty , and producers Ho , Kahumoku , Konwiser and Wong for Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar : Volume 2 . A tied vote for the fifth nominee resulted in only four nominated works . Family & Friends of Hawai 'i contained vocal pop duets set to Matt Catingub 's orchestral arrangements and reached a peak position of number three on Billboard 's Top World Albums chart . The album featured guests Dennis Kamakahi , Willie Nelson , and Keali 'i Reichel , among others . The second volume of Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar contained performances by falsetto vocalist Richard Ho 'opi 'i , steel guitarist Bobby Ingano , and slack @-@ key players Kawika Kahiapo , Dennis Kamakahi , Sonny Lim , and co @-@ producer Kahumoku . Hanaiali 'i and her brother Eric Gilliom performed during the awards ceremony , providing a " mock opera lead @-@ in " for Jamie Foxx on the song " Blame It " . In addition to Ho , Kahumoku , Konwiser and Wong , awards were given to Peter deAquino , Ho and Sterling Seaton as the engineers / mixers . Guitarist Jeff Peterson joined the award winners on stage during the presentation . The win marked the fifth for a compilation album and the fourth to be co @-@ produced by Ho . Konwiser and Wong became four @-@ time award recipients , while Kahumoku (who was not credited as a producer of the 2006 award @-@ winning compilation album) became a three @-@ time recipient .

Nominees for the 53rd Grammy Awards included : Tia Carrere for Huana Ke Aloha , Amy Hanaiali 'i and Slack Key Masters of Hawaii for Amy Hanaiali 'i and Slack Key Masters of Hawaii , Daniel Ho for Polani , Ledward Kaapana for The Legend , and Jeff Peterson for Maui on My Mind : Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar . Neither of Ho 's nominated compilation albums featured the slack @-@ key guitar . In addition to Carrere , awards were presented to Amy Ku 'uleialoha Stillman as a producer and Daniel Ho as a producer and engineer / mixer . Related to the controversy surrounding Ho 's multiple wins and supposed connections to the music industry , New York magazine called Carrere 's win the " Best Grammy That 'll Piss People Off " . Carrere reportedly gave much of the credit to Ho , her long @-@ time friend and producer . Huana Ke Aloha became the sixth consecutive Grammy @-@ winning album released through the record label Daniel Ho Creations , causing some musicians and journalists to question whether or not the " playing field " was level . Carrere , Ho and Stillman claimed to have faced " serious consequences for the reception of [their] work and success " by being nominated , since all three lived and worked outside of Hawaii . Ho had been specifically targeted for residing in Los Angeles and participating in various Grammy @-@ related events throughout the year , providing an unfair advantage . Voting members of the Academy had also been criticized for not being qualified to judge Hawaiian music .

= = Category retirement = =

In 2011 , the category Best Hawaiian Music Album , along with thirty others , was eliminated due to a major category overhaul by the Recording Academy . Four additional categories in the American Roots Music field were eliminated (Best Contemporary Folk Album , Best Native American Music Album , Best Traditional Folk Album , Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album) . These were all replaced by one American Roots Music award , the Grammy for Best Regional Roots Music Album .

Daniel Ho was disappointed by the category 's retirement , but considered the seven years the award was presented a " gift from the Recording Academy " . Ho hoped that the category 's elimination would eliminate the " craziness " surrounding the Hawaiian music controversy (he and Carrere were accused of lacking appreciation for Hawaiian music and for having inside connections to the music industry by residing in Los Angeles) . Four @-@ time award winner George Kahumoku , Jr. expressed similar disappointment , but was partly consoled by the fact that Hawaiian music recordings would still be included in the Regional Roots Music Album category . The record label Mountain Apple Company issued a statement claiming : " Hawaiian music deserves to be acknowledged as a category in its own right , not only for reasons of language but for cultural and historical reasons as well ... The loss of the Grammy for Best Hawaiian Music Album is not only a major loss to the Hawaiian , but to music lovers across the globe " . Michael Cord of HanaOla Records was also saddened by the elimination , but considered it " a long time coming " . Hawaiian music works will now be eligible for the Best Regional Roots Music Album category .