



## MELONIE LEIHUA (VILLANUEVA) STEWART

EHCC CO-FOUNDER & VICE CHAIRMAN

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### ABOUT

Melonie Leihua (Villanueva) Stewart, a Kū'au Maui native, is E Ala E Hawaiian Cultural Center's (EHCC) Co-Founder and Vice Chair. With an unwavering commitment to preserving and perpetuating Native Hawaiian culture, Leihua's leadership is shaped by EHCC's mission to educate, engage, and connect with the community.

In addition to her role at EHCC, Leihua is a Technology & Engineering and Homeland Security Instructor. Her dedication to education extends beyond traditional classrooms, as she also assumes the roles of Head Volleyball Coach, CyberPatriot Coach, and Athletic Leadership Committee Coach. Through these diverse roles, she fosters growth, empowerment, and leadership development among her scholars.

Leihua holds a master's degree in Education | Curriculum Studies: STEMS<sup>2</sup> (social science and sense of place) from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a bachelor's degree in Organizational Management from North Park University in Chicago, Illinois. She leverages her educational background to provide enriching opportunities that showcase the vibrancy of Native Hawaiian people. A devoted servant leader in the DMV (District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia) community, Leihua served as the President of the Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association – East Coast Region and remains a lifetime member. Her advocacy for educational initiatives that uplift and inspire the community's youth reflects her commitment to empowerment and cultural preservation.

In her personal life, Leihua finds joy in spending time with her 'ohana in Maryland, including her mother, Diane Ululani Garcia, and her husband of 30+ years, Harold Edmonds Stewart, Jr. Together, they nurture a loving family and are proud parents to five children: Jonah Ke Ali'i Kona Stewart, Victoria Naleialoha Stewart, Kalia Ka'iulani Kaiona Stewart, Adara Leialoha Stewart, and Micah Makanaokekaiohawai'i Stewart. Inspired by the concept of Nā keiki o ka 'aina (the children of the land), Leihua is driven by a belief that they are the future and deserve every opportunity to live a culturally connected and impactful life.

As Co-Founder and Vice Chair of EHCC, Leihua embodies the spirit of I MUA!, propelling EHCC forward with determination, passion, and a deep-rooted commitment to Hawaiian culture