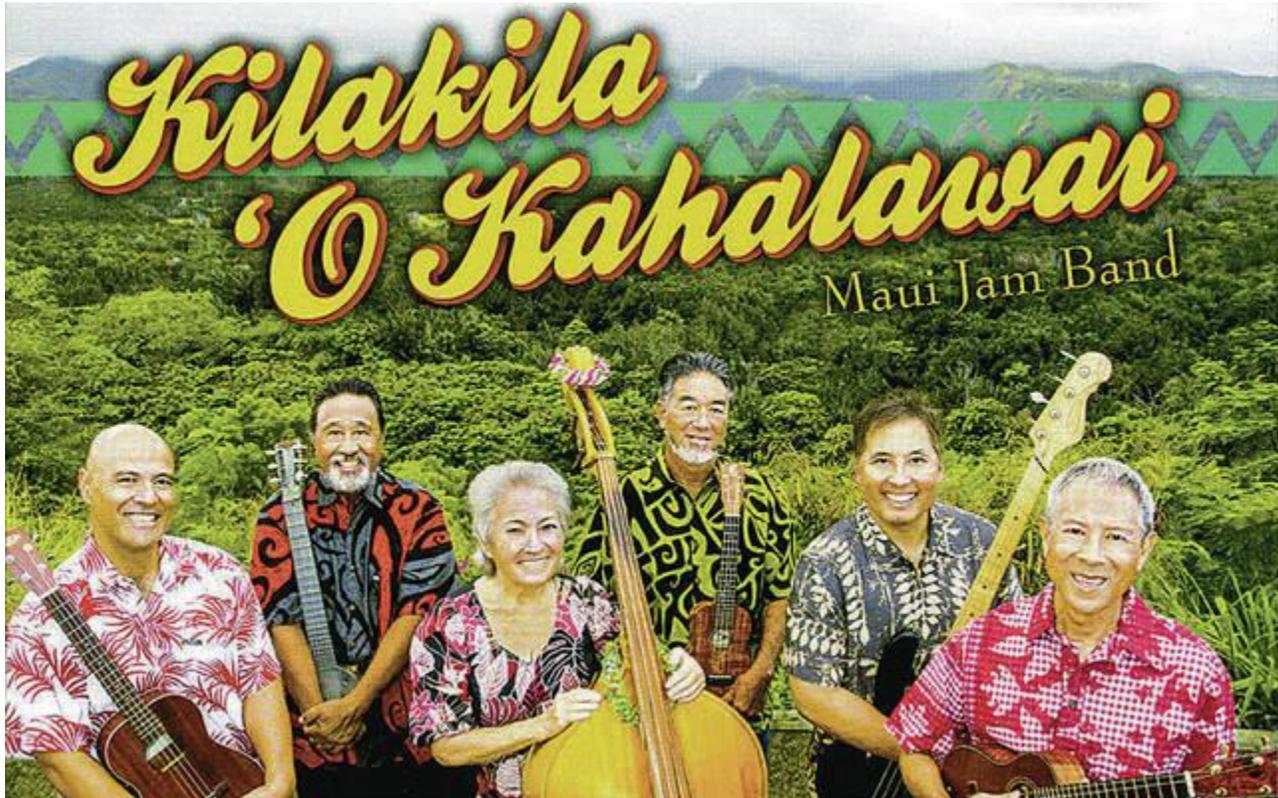


Maui Jam Band features Hawaiian standards

Reviews by [John Berger](#)

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COURTESY MAUI JAM

Multi-instrumentalist Al Nip is the leader, primary vocalist and solid foundation of the Maui Jam Band, made up of Valley Isle residents who play Hawaiian and hapa-haole standards.

“KILAKILA ‘O KAHALAWAI”

Maui Jam Band (Maui Jam)

Multi-instrumentalist Al Nip is the leader, primary vocalist and solid foundation of the Maui Jam Band, made up of Valley Isle residents who play Hawaiian and hapa haole standards in the traditional nahenahe (sweet, melodious) Hawaiian style.

A majority of the songs here are the work of other writers — James ‘I‘i (“Makee Ailana”) and Lot Kauwe (“He Aloha No ‘O Honolulu”), to name two — but there are several originals as well. Unfortunately no information about these artists other than composer’s credits is included in the liner notes or at the group’s website.

Nip shares the vocal duties with several guests. Kelly Covington makes a welcome return to local music in an enticing arrangement of “In A Little Hula Heaven,” the 1937-vintage composition by Hollywood songwriters Leo Robin and Ralph Rainger. Covington doesn’t record often; this is a memorable example of what she can do.

Patti Kuwaye gets the vocal spotlight on an appropriately somber rendition of “Ku‘u Pua I Paoakalani” (The lyrics refer to Lili‘uokalani’s beloved estate in Waikiki; she wrote it while she was imprisoned by Hawaii’s enemies).

Band member Lance Tokushima closes the album singing lead on “Ko Aloha Makamae,” a song that shares his Christian faith in Hawaiian and English.

Visit mauislackkey.com.
