



## Kurt Brunner

March 29, 1959 - July 7, 2013

Kurt Brunner, 54 of Kalihi died July 7, 2013 at Kaiser Foundation Moanalua Medical Center. He was born in Switzerland. He worked as an IT Specialist for the Departments of English and Linguistics at the University of Hawai'i Manoa. He had a passion for studying and learning the Hula. He is a member of Halau Mohala Ilima. He is survived by his mother, Margrith Witter, father, Peter Brunner and brother, Roland Brunner of Switzerland.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at 4pm on Sunday, September 8 at Duke Kahanamoku Beach, Waikiki. His cremated remains will be scattered at sea after the service.

Please, send no flowers at this time.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP 8. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (HST)

Duke Kahanamoku Beach, Waikiki  
Waikiki, HI

# Tribute Wall



“ Kurt Brunner

November 15, 2022 at 12:05 AM



“ Kurt Brunner

November 14, 2022 at 10:52 PM



“ I recently found out about Kurt's passing . I became friends with Kurt while I was working at a music store . He would come in often and I would talk with him about music. We became good friends. He had a passion for music and Hula . He was the most gentle and kind person someone could know. I will miss our conversations Kurt. Your friend always .  
Richard

Richard - September 01, 2015 at 11:01 AM



“ 7 files added to the album A fond farewell, until we meet again...



Kalani - September 12, 2013 at 02:41 AM

NO

“ 1 file added to the album *NYC Ohana*



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**NYC Ohana** - August 05, 2013 at 06:41 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Michelle Stevens** - August 01, 2013 at 09:54 PM

MS

“My condolences go out to Kurt's 'ohana in Switzerland, NY, and Oahu. We were blessed by his light in our lives, his warm smile, his sharp wit, his easy laughter, and his humble heart. Kurt was absolutely one of my favorite people.

*My favorite of his little sayings are “The only thing that brightens the day is faith. Never let religion dictate what your faith should be. Believe in the good, in doing no harm, and most importantly in yourself!”*

*“Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.”*

*And “Being human is not a state, it is a journey.”*

*Kurt's deep love of hula, wholehearted enjoyment of friends and family, and his belief in the good in the world will echo through the hearts of those whose lives he touched.*

*You are dearly loved and missed my friend. Aloha~*

*Michelle Stevens*

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**Michelle Stevens** - August 01, 2013 at 09:51 PM

JC

“ With sincere condolences to Kurt's family in Switzerland, Hawai'i and across the world.  
Everyone in his Hi`ikua `Elua `uniki hula class is struggling to reconcile the loss.... those still on the `aina, those that have already returned home .... and those that started with our class but now dance with us only in our hearts. Although the loss has disconnected us in some ways , it is through hula and Kurt's humble passion for the dance and culture that we will remain unified. Aloha nui Kurt, ku`u pilialoha.

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**Jennifer Kamalei Casani** - July 29, 2013 at 01:16 PM

NM

“ 2 files added to the album Memories



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**Nersa Miller** - July 25, 2013 at 03:27 PM

NM

“ The untimely death of our hula brother has left his NY 'ohana devastated. He enriched our lives in so many ways. We will hold his memory in our hearts forever.

*Aloha 'oe ku'u hoa.*

*Nersa Miller*

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**Nersa Miller** - July 25, 2013 at 03:25 PM

NL

“ I still can't believe this really happened. Kurt has helped me so much with my experiments and was always so patient. I can't imagine a LAE lab without Kurt...”

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**Nian Liu** - July 24, 2013 at 09:53 AM

TG

“ Kurt embraced Hawaii, yet kept the best of Switzerland: with a modest and friendly smile, he was innovative, reliable, efficient, knowledgeable, and always helpful. And he knew the value of a good Znünpause! It was a pleasure and honor to work with him.

*Kurt, du wirsch ois allne fehle.*

*Theres Grüter, LA'E labs & Dept. of Second Language Studies*

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**Theres Gruter** - July 24, 2013 at 03:48 AM

SC

“ I wish I had a recording to post of Kurt's big "He-llooo-o" as he came into Kuykendall 402 every afternoon. We all knew when he was "in the house."

*On behalf of the Department of English at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where Kurt worked, designing our web site and helping us with our computer-related problems, for over a decade, may I offer our condolences to the family? I suspect that most all of us in the Department have heard Kurt say, "You did WHAT to the machine? Yes, I can fix that, but not NOW." And yes, he DID fix what we screwed up. Kurt will be fondly remembered for a long time. Stephen Canham, Associate Chair, Department of English.*

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**Stephen Canham** - July 23, 2013 at 10:15 PM



“ Aloha, Kurt! Thank you for always helping us in the MANOA office. Remember the time I hugged you, and you blushed :- ) Love always, Pat

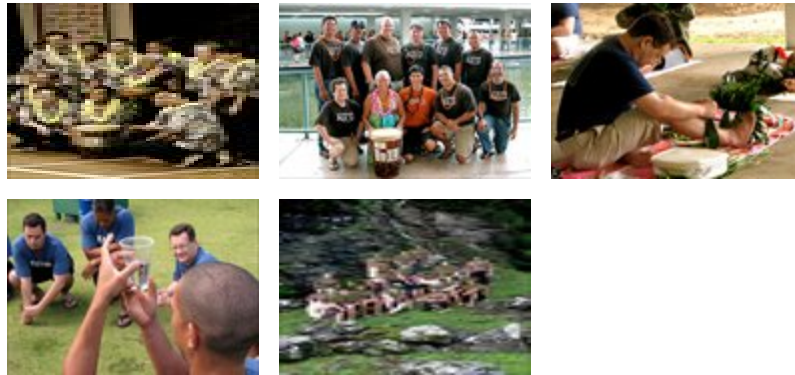


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**Pat Matsueda** - July 23, 2013 at 03:10 PM



“ 13 files added to the album Kurt & Halau Mohala Ilima

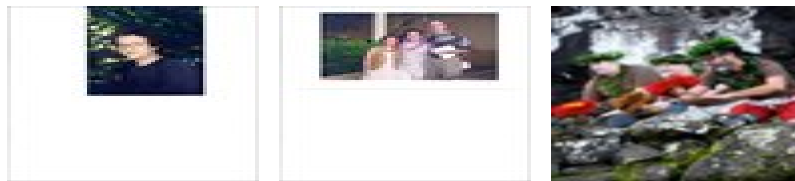


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**Ken Ordenstein Funerals** - July 22, 2013 at 02:09 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories



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**Ken Ordenstein Funerals** - July 22, 2013 at 01:31 PM

KS

*My dear hula brother Kurt's departure is still so fresh, and while I hoped for some closure with the memorial, grief still accompanies my thoughts and memories. Thank you New York Ohana for the video and a mele I always associate with leaving this earth, and for the pics of Kurt from before we knew him here, thanks Michelle for your sharing and smiles, thanks Kumu and halau for being family, and Maggie and Roland for sharing Kurt with us. Today i practiced Ke Aloha without Kurt here physically, but with his translation and voice ("snuggle") and presence with me...also listened to Laslo and his synth-pop...tried to remember the tune that he chanted Popoki's mele to, and as always remembered him as i pet her...grief is the price we pay for love, and yet it is only love that makes us alive-so hula is life, and love, and a way of staying connected with all who went before, and all who will come after-Kurt helped me live hula, and he still does, another unexpected gift that i will always treasure and be grateful for, my hula brother who will never be forgotten. me ke aloha pumehana, kathy*

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**Kathy Sassi** - September 14, 2013 at 06:38 PM

PR

*I am incredibly shocked and sad because I only found out about Kurt's death a few weeks ago...  
We made music together in a band in Switzerland in the 80s. Those were good times. Unfortunately we lost sight of each other after that, everyone went their separate ways, and the last thing I found out back then was that Kurt had emigrated to the USA.  
I only found out about his death a few weeks ago through a former singer in our band.  
Kurt, I will always remember you as a warm-hearted, intelligent, funny and thoughtful person. Rest easy...*

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**Paul Rutsche** - July 21, 2025 at 04:37 AM