Artist Biography: Dave Del Rocco

Dave Del Rocco has been a student of the Hawaiian language for many years and in 2006 completed a degree in Hawaiian language at the University of Hawaii, where he also obtained a Masters Degree in Library Studies. He has translated thirteen children's books into Hawaiian for the Department of Education's immersion program, and has recently done the Hawaiian translation for two commercially produced children's books. The Hawaii Book Publishers Association awarded one of his translated books, "The Shark Man of Hana," the 2005 Ka Palapala Pookela Award for excellence in children's Hawaiian culture.

He worked as a librarian for the Hawaii State Public Library System for nearly eighteen years, twelve of those as a children's librarian. He was selected as Hawaii's Public Librarian of the Year for 1998. He is now working as a Hawaiian Culture teacher and Hawaii reference librarian at Punahou School.

He began storytelling while working as a new librarian at the Hawaii Kai branch. David has made four storytelling circuits throughout the statewide library system, visiting 47 libraries on six islands. He has also shared stories for a library conference in Corvallis, Oregon at Oregon State University, and at workshops in American Samoa with librarians, parents, and students.

He originally comes from New Jersey although has lived in Hawaii for 28 years. His undergraduate degree is in Spanish, from Rutgers University, and he has a great interest in languages. Before becoming a librarian he worked as a flight attendant for a number of years. He is also interested in cooking, traveling, hiking, singing, and dancing hula.