

MidWeek

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By Melissa Moniz

Also taking an untraditional approach to music is **Eric Lee** of the group **Na Kama**. The hard-working single dad is releasing a direct-to-download album available May 1 on both iTunes.com and Amazon-.com.

"Due to the rapid decline in CD sales in music store venues, my manager and I have decided to take this step into uncharted waters," says Lee. "Hopefully, we'll pioneer some success and pave the way to inspire other artists to not feel discouraged with today's economy, but to look ahead because there are still many opportunities to sell their music."

And yes, along with all his many Na Kama responsibilities, he's decided to also pursue a solo career and record his first solo album, *Crossroads*.



Photo courtesy of Eric Lee

Eric Lee

"I've actually been working on this CD for over the course of the last 8 to 10 years," says the Waianae-bred Kamehameha graduate. "I've always had an ambition to one day record a solo CD. And when Na Kama went on a little break in the beginning of this year because we were burnt out, it gave me a little time to really put my foot down and really finish this thing."

The album, which has been dropped in the Hawaiian/contemporary genre, is a mix of what Lee says has a little bit of everything - Hawaiian, rock, blues, country, samba and instrumental.

"It's not all of me, but its kind of the best of me for what I can get in 10 tracks," he adds.

Next up for Lee is a bit more time in the recording studio and touring. He plans to record a few bonus tracks that will be added to the album before it releases in stores sometime around August. And he also plans to get back to the studio with his band mates of Na Kama, **Brian Mersberg** and **Danny Naipo**.

The Na Hoku Hanohano award-winning trio hopes to finish up an album they began recording last year, *Ho'okopono*.

For more info on Lee, visit <http://www.ericlee-hawaii.com>. For more on Na Kama, visit www.nakama.com ...

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