



IZ

IZ was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i surrounded by music. After being exposed to numerous Hawaiian musicians, he started performing at age ten in front of his elders with a ukulele. His childhood nickname was "the kid with the ukulele." Together with his cousin, they formed Makaha Sons of Ni'ihau which blended contemporary and traditional Hawaiian music, and toured the United States. IZ's *Alone in IZ World* (2001) debuted #1 on Billboard's World Chart. He had already gained commercial success when he went solo with his album *Facing Future* (1993) with the medley of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World." It reached the Billboard charts. This song was later featured in over forty-two movies and shows including the movie *Fifty First Dates* (2004). Pixar's short film *Lava* also featured IZ's cover of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" in 2014. The song was selected in 2020 for preservation in the US National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress. IZ always supported Hawaiian rights and independence. He used his own music to promote awareness and the second-class status that Native Hawaiians have in the tourism industry.

Note: Some songs listed might have explicit content; listener discretion advised.