

BRENDA KWON

Brenda Kwon is 2.5 generation Korean American writer, performer, and educator who was born and raised in Hawai'i. She teaches English at Honolulu Community College and has just received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach for the 2006-2007 school year in Seoul, Korea.

She is the founder and co-host of several poetry events on O'ahu, including Rhythm&Rhyme, Words@Ward Rafters, and most recently re:VERSES at the Arts at Marks Garage. An active member of GiRL FeST Hawai'i, a nonprofit organization that seeks to end violence against women and teens, she performed in the 2004 GiRL FeST benefit production of Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues* at the Hawai'i Theater.

The author of *Beyond Ke'eaumoku: Koreans, Nationalism, and Local Culture in Hawai'i*, as well as the co-editor of *YOBO: Korean American Writing in Hawai'i*, she has published her creative and academic work in several anthologies, journals, and collections, including *Making More Waves*, edited by Elaine Kim, *Amerasia Journal*, and *Konch*, Ishmael Reed's online magazine. A former Los Angelean, she has read her poetry with Mitsuye Yamada and Renee Tajjima-Pena, and has been a featured performer at the Japanese American National Museum and on NPR in Los Angeles. She currently teaches writing and literature at Honolulu Community College.