

## Rebecca Kow

Rebecca Kow has been a preschool teacher at Hilo Hongwanji Preschool on the Big Island since 1986. A graduate of the University of Hawaii with a Bachelors in Social Science, Rebecca has been a preschool teacher for a total of 35 years and counting! A firm believer in the mantra that it takes a village to raise a child, Rebecca credits her fellow preschool teachers and her preschool director, Michelle Kitagawa, for their “supportive encouragement and planning that provide a place to grow and continue learning as a teacher.”

A prolific ongoing learner, Rebecca loves attending preschool workshops, classes and early childhood education conferences. “Through the years, I’ve learned so much. The PATCH classes inspire me to learn new methods and to improve teaching skills. I like the hands on approach in the classes and incorporating the new ideas into my own class activities is always fun to do.” Continuing education is very important to her as she feels her job is to “help prepare the children for their path ahead.” Honored to be nominated for Favorite Preschool Teacher, Rebecca feels “blessed and privileged to walk a little while with them in the garden of life.” Rebecca is married with two children and one grandchild and her favorite pastimes are crossword puzzles and reading.

### What parents had to say about Rebecca:

“Ms. Becky was my husband's preschool teacher and is now my daughter's! Even after 30 years, she has the same excitement, energy & passion for teaching. She has helped my daughter grow & develop socially & academically. She creates fun creative lessons aligned to the standards, which incorporate math, science, arts & crafts, literacy, music, creative movement & much more. On our way home, my daughter & I talk about her day. In addition to “having fun”, she mentions learning about weather, rhyming words, letter sounds, counting games, songs, etc. Ms. Becky incorporates social skills, and models them. Waiting in line, using your words, and being polite are just some of the skills that my daughter shares with us and her litter sister.”

“My daughter has a solid foundation upon which she can continue to build upon in her quest towards becoming a life long learner and caring person, thanks to the early teachings received from Ms. Becky.”

“I appreciate Becky's endless energy she gives to the children, parents and staff of Hilo Hongwanji Preschool. She is a true role model for all teachers. Her endless love can be observed daily in her works with the children. It's found in her lesson plans all the way to her class. She makes learning fun, captivating the attention of the children in whatever lesson she's presenting. She's always willing to share her ideas with the staff and parents. After her job is done, she goes home and plans for what's next. She is always ready to greet the children with another moment of new exciting adventures!”

“Ms. Becky is always smiling, whether it's 7:15AM or 4:50PM. She always has a "hello Chloe" or "bye Chloe" ready & always speaks kind, helpful words of encouragement, praise, reinforcement, and correction.”

“A newsletter is sent home @ the start of the year with pictures, daily schedules, descriptions of subjects taught, student products & suggestions on how to help our child. Ms. Becky creates & posts "The Classroom Times" weekly with lesson plans, WHAT'S NEW & the standards. This helps me prepare my child for school and converse about her day. My child has a notebook (a collection of her work) that is sent home and I see how she is progressing. It gives also my child a chance to show & explain her work.”

“Parent Conference is another way I am kept informed. She creates a "picture" report for each parent, a collage of their child at work & play.

“Ms. Becky's classroom is a welcoming & safe environment where my child feels comfortable and is able to learn. It is clean, neat and organized. There are many different areas in her room like a doll corner, kitchen area, book corner, science corner, a carpeted area for story time & singing,& tables for coloring & writing. There are also many toys and books available & the walls are filled with student work.

“Ms. Becky treats every child as an individual... not all children are the same and she treats every child with respect and kindness. She makes my child feel special by simply listening to her. “

“Ms. Becky is also very easy to approach and talk to. She is very honest and open with parents, always looking to find ways to turn negatives into positives.”