

Honouring the Legacy of Reremoana (Mo) Houkamau

Kāhui Tautoko Consulting is proud to honour the extraordinary life of Reremoana (Mo) Houkamau — a trailblazer, advocate, and beloved leader whose mahi in Māori health and community development has left an indelible mark across Wairoa, Hawke’s Bay, and beyond.

For more than 35 years, Mo dedicated her career to uplifting whānau and strengthening Māori-led health and wellbeing services. Her partnership with Kāhui Tautoko CEO, Mara Andrews, began in the early days of the Health Funding Authority and grew into a lifelong collaboration that helped reshape the health landscape in Kahungunu. Together, they played a pivotal role in the creation of the Kahungunu Māori Executive in 1999, securing greater access to funding and achieving primary provider status for vital community services.

Mo’s leadership and vision sparked transformative change. She worked closely with Hon. Dame Tariana Turia to establish a Primary Health Organisation (PHO), and she championed business cases that attracted millions in funding to expand whānau ora services. Her commitment to creating safe and empowering spaces led to the growth of Te Whare Māori o Tapuwai in Wairoa — a hub for collaboration, innovation, and Māori-led solutions.



But beyond her achievements, Mo was cherished for her warmth, wisdom, and ability to bring people together. She often described Mara and the Kāhui Tautoko team as more than consultants — they were whānau. “Mara operates as a friend to our team, connecting with various perspectives within the community and taking the time to learn about their motivations,” she once reflected.

Sadly, Mo passed away earlier this year. Still, the impact of her work can be seen in the health partnerships and initiatives she helped establish across Hawke’s Bay and the East Coast, each a testament to her unwavering commitment to tino rangatiratanga and the power of Māori-led solutions.

“Kāhui Tautoko is often too humble for their own good,” Mo once said. Those same words mirror her own character: humble, steadfast, and devoted to the well-being of her people.

Today, we honour Mo’s memory, her remarkable mahi, and the countless lives she touched. Her influence will continue to guide generations to come.