



# Island Life

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## DJ AKI200 is the man behind the beats

### AKI200

9 tonight  
Lotus Soundbar,  
2301 Kūhiō Ave.  
21 and older only  
\$15  
www.double-o-spot.com, 591-3500

AKI200 brings his Planet of the Drums tour to Lotus Soundbar tonight.

Dave Minner photo

BY LACY MATSUMOTO  
Special to The Advertiser

Drum 'n' bass, the electronic music known for its heavy, pulsating bass line and fast-paced broken-beat drum sound, stirs emotions and shakes audiences to the core. Drum 'n' bass pioneer AKI200, aka Dave Minner, is an original member and founder of the annual Planet of the Drums tour — now coming up on its ninth year — which has served to create a base for the genre, proving that drum 'n' bass could draw crowds on its own. We asked Minner a few ques-

tions about the music and his career:

**Q. Can you tell us a little about the technical side of drum 'n' bass? How is it created?**

A. Basically, drum 'n' bass songs are built around the drum break and the bass line. You want a tempo ranging from 170 to 176 beats per minute, and a nice beat that sounds good at that speed. You split it up, usually over three channels, one being the kick, another for snare, and one more for the hats and percus-

sion fills of that breakbeat. You put some EQs (equalizers) on each and some compression to get everything sounding nice and punchy. You may want to layer the snare with a detuned copy of itself or maybe a different snare to add the depth to it, and you just let it play in a loop over and over while you go

through some bass sounds and think of a bass line that complements the break. Once you have that, you can do virtually anything you want to create the sound you want for it. You add some sweeps and effects

and riffs and layer everything, and then you start arranging it. It's pretty much how you make most any kind of dance music.

**Q. It seems like drum 'n' bass plays off a lot of human emotion. Crowds get so hyped when you play. Does this affect you at all?**

A. I am a crowd DJ. ... Every time I play is different — meaning, I usually only know what I am going to start with, and from the crowd reaction, I

SEE AKI200, D9