Dr. Hauata Palmer epitomises unwavering dedication and leadership in advocating for Ngāi Te Rangi and te Iwi Māori. Born and raised on Motuhoa Island, amidst the cultural richness of Te Awanui, his journey reflects a profound connection to his roots and an enduring commitment to his community.

As one of 17 children, Dr. Palmer's upbringing was marked by resilience and perseverance. His daily commute by rowboat to Matakana School and later attendance at Hato Petera instilled in him a deep appreciation for education as a pathway to empowerment. Becoming the first of his generation to attain a Bachelor's degree in Māori Studies, he not only paved the way for his own family but also set a powerful example for future generations, highlighting the transformative impact of education within the whānau.

Dr. Palmer's illustrious career spans across various roles, including his tenure at the Department of Māori Affairs, where he dedicated himself to serving the broader Māori community. However, his true calling emerged when he returned home to Tauranga to serve his hapū and iwi. Here, his contributions have been invaluable, particularly in his pivotal role in establishing Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Te Rangi Iwi Trust.

A revered kaumātua, Dr. Palmer's influence extends far beyond his professional achievements. His embodiment of te reo Māori me ōna tikanga embodies a deep-rooted commitment to preserving and perpetuating the cultural heritage of Ngāi Te Rangi. His tireless advocacy and leadership serve as a beacon of inspiration for his community, inspiring unity, resilience, and cultural revitalisation.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to Ngāi Te Rangi and te Iwi Māori, Dr. Hauata Palmer is undoubtedly deserving of recognition and honour. His journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of education, cultural stewardship, and unwavering dedication to community upliftment.