A Letter To You, Kuʻu Moʻopuna

Nanea Lo

University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa

Follow this and additional works at: https://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/horizons

Part of the Indigenous Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/horizons/vol3/iss1/7

This Creative Work is brought to you for free and open access by Kahualike. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mānoa Horizons by an authorized editor of Kahualike. For more information, please contact sheilyeh@hawaii.edu.
A Letter To You, Kuʻu Moʻopuna

NANE'A LO

POLS 304 (Indigenous Politics—Nā Koʻokoʻo)

Mentor: Dr. Noelani Goodyear-Kaʻōpua

Artist Statement

I wrote this poem on the island of Molokaʻi on a huakaʻi (journey) to this place. I went with a group of amazing individuals of a cohort for a Political Science course in Indigenous Politics called Nā Koʻokoʻo, taught by Professor Noelani Goodyear-Kaʻōpua. In essence the class served as the Koʻo which means to support so the class as a whole is meant to kākoʻo one another like the walking stick koʻokoʻo. We spent a week on Molokaʻi in where we were challenged to dig deep into our experience there and formulate spoken word, poems, and to articulate our feelings and emotions. In this poem that I created during my time there I reflect on my future generations that will come before me. My knowledge of what I know now about my heritage and nation and what they will know and future generations will know. It is a love line I created for them to know how much I love them, our ancestors, and Hawaiʻi.

A LETTER TO YOU, KUʻU MOʻOPUNA

Aloha e kuʻu nā moʻopuna,
Your futures are BRIGHT.

Generationally we as a people have been suppressed.
Neglected and ashamed of who we are.
YOU’VE KNOWN THE OPPOSITE,

Grown to know your culture, beliefs, and language.

Continue to make me PROUD.

Guide and hānau the coming future generations.

As you know, to be Hawaiian is to be POLITICAL.

I am a Native Hawaiian, scholar, activist, feminist, and woman. I come from the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi that is currently occupied by the United States of America. During Spring 2015 and Summer 2015 I was a part of a Political Science class on Nation Building. This course was comprised of a cohort of amazing individuals, and together we were Nā Koʻokoʻo, lead by Dr. Noelani Goodyear-Kaʻōpua. During this time we traveled on a huakaʻi (journey) to Molokaʻinuiʻihana (the island of Molokaʻi) for the summer. We were challenged as a group as well as individually to think about what nation building of Hawaiʻi means to us. In this poem I am writing a love letter to my grandchildren. Aloha wau iʻaʻoe e kuʻu Hawaiʻi. Aloha ʻĀina a mau a mau. #letthemalwaysremember #ea #thehawaiiankingdomstillexists #ʻalohaʻāina #baelife #perpetuatehawaiianculture

Copyright © 2018 by the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa

34
A Letter To You, Kuʻu Moʻopuna

So stand for and defend aloha… ʻāina, your ancestors, history, and love.

Aloha ʻāina is the truth and it is SACRED.

Always protect your ʻohana.

NEVER FORGET WHO YOU ARE AND WHERE YOU CAME FROM.

In aloha you will always find RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Do not be afraid of going against the grain.

For you are RESILIENT, STRONG, INSIGHTFUL.

You've been descended from a long line of WARRIORS.

ARM YOURSELF WITH YOUR GENEALOGY,

With historical context that we have left our legacy for you to PERPETUATE.

Engage in writing, education, debates, and protests in TRUTHS YOU BELIEVE IN

As I have done, as what our ancestors have done

We are here because of them, because of me, BECAUSE OF YOU.

Some people have said that Hawaiʻi will be a better place when Hawaiians

no longer stand in the way of progress.

THIS HAS BEEN PROVEN TO BE WRONG.

Because without us there is no Hawaiʻi.

Even those people must know, must have known, will know.

Because of us,

That without us—Kānaka Maoli,

This won’t…this will no longer be Hawaiʻi.

E HOʻOLOHE KUʻU MOʻOPUNA in what I am telling you.

BE PROUD, LIVE, PERPETUATE, AND HOLOMUA!

YOU ARE MY EVERYTHING.

YOU ARE EVERYTHING.

WE ARE EVERYTHING.

I love you e kuʻu moʻopuna always and FOREVER!