Welcome to “The New Sin City”

Inside:

Jon Osorio on “The Solution”

The Rise of Artificial Nature
Hawai‘i vs. Mainland Showdown
Return of the Plantation
Has Pele Lost her Mana?
Much Mahalos

Tracie gets first billing cuz she’s Da Supahvisor’s Supahvisor. Super planny appreciations to our “Champion of Justice” who wishes for remain anonymous. Da Bicycle Bell Fixer is da man. May his son grow up for make his momma and poppa proud. Get well Tammy Camanse—you gotta come strong like King Kong.

Much mahalos to Harry Wong V-3, Malia Yamamoto, Gavan Daws, Karen Jones, Sharon Sussman, Lisa, Davin even though you only make trouble, Dustin, Leigh, Ryan Okuno, Cedrie Yamanaka, Kenneth Taira, Joy Watari, Lois Hamaguchi, Ashley Cassel, and da KCCBOSP.

Lisa would like to send her love to her family, friends, and Scotty Saito. Matt and Zhi would like to give a shout out to all the supporters. Lee would like for tank Kent “Yoda” Sakoda a.k.a. Da Pidgin Jedi from Kaua’i for teaching him everything dea is for know about da word “bombai.” And den, we is foreva grateful to all the people who made Bumbye Hawai’i possible.
Introduction to da Bumbye

In da future, wot going happen to Hawai‘i? In Bumbye Hawai‘i we wen go ask Jon Osorio, Director of the Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies at da University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa for his thoughts on how Hawai‘i going deal wit over development, one increased military presence, da possibilities of bioprospecting, da debate over Hawaiian Sovereignty, and oddah controversial kine issues. And den, special, jus for you, we went straight to da top for get one exclusive (das means nobody else get ‘em) interview wit da leader of our state, Governor Linda Lingle wea we wen go ask her if Hawai‘i will ever figgah out how for fix its worsening traffic situations, if Hawai‘i will ever wean itself off of tourism, if Hawai‘i will ever lose its sense of place, and if we can really handle all da frightening “ifs” das facing Hawai‘i’s future.

I dunno if you seen ‘em, but da December 2004 issue of HONOLULU magazine wen report dat “Hawai‘i is becoming less local. Over the next 15 years, the state’s population growth will be driven by an influx of people from the Mainland. . . . if current migration trends continue, by 2020, the majority of adult Hawai‘i residents, 54 percent, will have been born out of state” (56). And if das no nahf, da article wen report dat lotta da growth going be on da neighbor islands wea “Many of these new Neighbor Islands residents will be wealthy, buying second, part-time residences in high-priced coastal areas” (56). So wea does dat leave da Hawai‘i people who maybe no more ukubillion bucks?

I teach college level in Hawai‘i and when I talk to Local students, planny of ‘em tell me dey probably goin end up leaving Hawai‘i, not cuz dey wanna, cuz dey force to. Dey tell, no mo’ job, unless dey like work chree junk jobs, jus for equal one semi-decent job. Dey tell dey hate for leave da place dey wuz born and raise, but da economic reality is hod fo’ make one living in Hawai‘i. In Bumbye Hawai‘i we wen go ask young, college-age Hawai‘i peoples for their creative thoughts on how Hawai‘i going deal wit over development, one increased military presence, da possibilities of bioprospecting, da debate over Hawaiian Sovereignty, and oddah controversial kine issues.
David Hsin Shan Lee

Aloha, my name is David Hsin Shan Lee. I was born on O‘ahu and I lived in Kapahulu until I joined the Army in 2003. I come from a small family that includes my mother who is Korean and an older sister. My father is Chinese and he passed away a few years ago. After graduation from high school, my major was undecided. I was simply unsure because there was so much I wanted to be. I wanted to be a musician or a film student. I also wanted to write a novel and then draw the cover art. I wanted everything to do with the right side of the brain. But ultimately, I was too fearful of criticism and decided to use my wit in the medical field for the job security. With bills adding up, I chose the Army’s way of education and in October 2003, I left Hawai‘i for basic training on the road to becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse. After a successful graduation in 2005, I came home for the first time in two years. I’m currently trying to turn my LPN license into a RN license. I hope to transfer to UH after the summer and add an English degree to the belt. This time around, there will be no hesitation to finally follow my old dreams.

Albert Leung

I’m a Chinese American. I grew up with my dad, sister, and grandma. My mom left when I was one, so my grandma basically took motherly care of me. She taught me the old generation’s way of life. I always wondered what it would be like to have a normal family. Everything else that I’ve learned thus far came from watching T.V., playing video games, reading books and hanging out with friends who were a bad influence on me. I went to Good Shepard Preschool, Kauluwela, St. Theresa’s, and then later on to Punahou for high school and I graduated of course. Then I went to college at the University of Oregon to showboard for a year. I later realized it was too cold and I learned a lot about myself. Now I’m back home, but stuck in a rut in college. I’m trying to be successful and make my dad proud.

works—we told ‘em for focus their imaginings on one future Hawai‘i as dey forsee ‘em. From da kine contributions we got, seems like one overwhelming majority of Hawai‘i’s young people not very optimistic about how Hawai‘i going be. Das why you can read da title of dis anthology two ways. Da Hawai‘i Creole English word “bumbye” can mean “later on” so our title Bumbye Hawai‘i can signify da obvious dat dis is one book about Hawai‘i’s future, which is our theme. But by taking into account dat “bumbye” can also mean “consequently,” our title can also serve as one cautionary warning, “Bumbye if we no do someting, den Hawai‘i going come out li’dis.”

Hopefully dis anthology might inspire Hawai‘i’s young people for no give up on their home state—maybe dey da ones dat can come up wit innovative ideas for help make tomorrow’s Hawai‘i one mo’ bettah place. And hopefully if da leaders of today see da kine concerns raised by Hawai‘i’s young people insai dis book, den dat might get da peoples in powah for really contemplate their policy making, cuz every decision we make today affecks life for everybody in Hawai‘i bummye.

K,
“Da Pidgin Guerrilla” Lee A. Tonouchi
Welcome to The New Sin City where Hula dancers are now topless Showgirls, where the state licenses Hawaiian hoochies who solicit sex, where the ‘āina has been lost to the Lāna‘i Four Seasons, Maui Wynn Hotel, Venetian Kapolei, ‘Ewa Bellagio. and the Waikīkī Grand Casino that was once home to the Royal Hawaiian.

My name is Dylan Lai. I was born and raised in Kīne‘ohe. I graduated from St. Louis School in 2004. I wrestled and did judo while at St. Louis. I am really into cars and tattoos. Right now I have three tattoos. I have a half sleeve, my middle name across my back, and a koi with kanji on my leg. I am planning to get more tattoos in the future. I just don’t know what to get yet. All I do is work, go to school, and I help coach judo at St. Louis. My dream job is to become a dock worker, because the pay is good. The thing is there aren’t that many positions available. Most important to me is I don’t want a job where I sit all day in an office and type on a computer. Right now I plan on becoming a fire fighter because you have to stay in shape and it’s a hands-on job. I want to eventually move to the mainland if I don’t get into the fire department here, only because its hard to make a living down here in paradise.

Rez Nakamura was born on May 27, 1987. He moved to the westside of O‘ahu back in 1995 while attending school in town. He graduated from Kalani High School in 2005. He’s currently pursuing a career in nursing and possibly minoring in graphic design or entrepreneurship. His art is influenced by mainstream illustrators as well as graffiti artists. His future plan is to someday release his own line of t-shirts, one to overthrow the masses, the brands known only for producing countless versions of their own logos.

Rez Nakamura

The New Sin City
by Celeste Cebuma

Welcome to The New Sin City where Hula dancers are now topless Showgirls, where the state licenses Hawaiian hoochies who solicit sex, where the ‘āina has been lost to the Lāna‘i Four Seasons, Maui Wynn Hotel, Venetian Kapolei, ‘Ewa Bellagio. and the Waikīkī Grand Casino that was once home to the Royal Hawaiian.
I am Nöweo L. K. Kai, daughter of Umi Kai of Kaimukï and Jancie Lua of Lä'ie. My older brothers adore their only sister but not as much as I admire the three of them. I have enjoyed my twenty-four years of living and learning with family in the Waikïkï ahupua’a, and am grateful for my home in Kaimukï. “My good friends,” is what I still call those I attended St. Patrick’s School with even though not all of them joined me at Kalani High School. I eat for pleasure as well as sustenance and enjoy taking pictures (not of me eating). My parents have and continue to support my desire to travel. It is because of them, and their money, that I have been fortunate to witness the sun rising over Waimea Canyon, Kaua‘i; dream under a blanket of stars on Kaho‘olawe; smell the crisp, spring morning of northern France; feel the spirit of the Moai in Rapa Nui; laugh with the locals of the Society Islands; experience the differences between American and Western Samoa; harvest clams for supper in Aotearoa and visit with loved ones on Hawai‘i’, Maui, Lāna‘i, and Moloka‘i. I feel that time is very precious and there’s no time to dwell on negative things. I cannot understand how people get bored; there’s so much to do, so much to discover.

Sakitsu Hayataro was born and raised in Kumamoto, Japan. As a child he loved drawing cartoon characters and fish. From the age of seven to the age of eight, he went to an art studio called The Art House where he learned the joy of art and craft. In 1986, one of his wood-craft works entitled “Four Little Birds” won the first prize in the prefecture’s annual pupil art and craft contest. However, for much of his younger years visual art was just one of his hobbies. In fact, Sakitsu studied economics in Kumamoto Gakuen University, Kumamoto. While in the college, he was deeply into music. Till today, Bob Dylan is his #1 hero. Following his graduation in 2001, Sakitsu made his way to Hawai‘i where he has been greatly impressed by its culture and nature. He is currently a student in New Media Arts. In addition to employing graphic design principles, Sakitsu enjoys integrating illustration and painting into his digital art. Sakitsu is strongly influenced by artworks from the Art Nouveau period and Japanese Bijin-ga (pictures of beautiful women) prints. Many of his works also show his keen interests in Hawai‘i’s flowers, birds, mythologies, and cultures, especially hula.
I'm Celeste Cebuma. I was born and raised in the Philippines. I finished High School at Saint Mary's College and spent a year and a half at Far Eastern University in Manila. I came to live in Hawai'i in 1996 with my parents and younger brother. I am now a US Citizen and a sophomore in college. I'm looking forward to enter the interesting field of Nursing. Aside from English and Science, my interests also includes traveling, photography, studying animals, and sampling different music and delicacies. Fashion and singing are also my thing! I've spent the past ten years living in O'ahu, but I have been blessed to see and photograph gorgeous places in Maui, Lāna'i, Hilo, Kona and Kaua'i. Such traveling experiences have given me the chance to learn Hawaiian culture, meet new people and somehow consider myself a part of the island for Hawai'i is now my second home. I am a F. O. B. no more.

Celeste Cebuma

Alex Domingo was born and raised in beautiful Kalihi Valley. After high school, Alex served in the military. He now works full time as an auditor for a warehouse retailer and he goes to school part-time. In his spare time Alex enjoys lounging, socializing, and listening to reggae. Alex has been a long time fan of many Local artists and Local musicians, but it was a creative writing class at KCC that introduced him to the wonderful works of Local writers.

Alex Domingo
Bumbye Tour Guides

Ansr invests most of his time in creating art. He enjoys beautifying the neighborhood in interesting ways.

I was born in November of 1981 and raised as a 3rd generation of Brights to live in Hawai‘i. My experience of growing up was a pretty damn haole one. Our house was in Kāhala, I went to Punahou, and I paddled for Outrigger Canoe Club. After graduating in 2000, I went to LA in the fall to start school at USC. At first I was really excited to get off the island, but Los Angeles turned out to be kind of a sprawling mess of a city with no sky, just a constant sheet of gray. Having been away, I found I could appreciate the islands much more. Maturity and experience had taught me to see the beauty and value of living in a place where the look and feel of the land was still strong enough to beautify everything else. I’m still haole as can be and I’m not tied in much to local culture, but my connection to Hawai‘i and its mana is strong and very personal. Upon returning I now find myself pulled more and more towards doing art. Mostly I paint, but I find it worthwhile to try all media. Currently weighed down by the idea that I’d like my work to try and say something, however vaguely, more and more I find myself working in the direction toward environmental issues, mostly due to the awe of the islands and the fear of what we might end up doing to them if we are careless.

Nick Bright

Stoneware w/ glaze, leaves, & water.
A growing population within a limited amount of space is a very complex issue that doesn’t have just one solution. I hope that Hawai‘i will never turn incoming residents away. I am sure that we will continue to see more high-rise buildings in Honolulu in the urban core. Other areas in our islands, however, have had height limits on buildings for many years. Hawai‘i’s government officials will continue to work to ensure that all of Hawai‘i’s residents can have a place to call home. To find more information on the current laws and restrictions, you may want to contact the Hawai‘i Community Development Authority as well as county planning departments.

Q: According to one article in *HONOLULU* magazine (December 2004), da statistics predict dat by 2020 Hawai‘i going get more non-Hawai‘i born people living hea than those who were born ova hea. Is dis someting we should be afraid of? Wot you tink we can do for retain more Hawai‘i people?

A: Hawai‘i residents enjoy the opportunity to live in the most culturally diverse state in the United States. We have a long history of welcoming different cultures while perpetuating and embracing our native Hawaiian host culture. Our diversity has truly been one of our greatest strengths. I challenge the young people of Hawai‘i to welcome this diversity, not fear it. In the past three years, we have seen a “brain gain,” a reversal of the “brain drain” of the 1990s, when many of our young Kama‘aina left Hawai‘i because of the lagging economy. Now, our economy continues to grow, there will be more opportunities for good jobs, and I am confident this will assist in keeping Hawai‘i-born citizens at home.

Bumbye Hawai‘i

Watch the palm trees dance, trunks built from wood slivers, palms woven of fine green silk. Just please do not touch for the material used to make them is fragile.

Enjoy the ocean view from your billion dollar beach homes You must remember though, swimming is not allowed for one must be careful, the artificial blue dye is very harsh.

Embrace your ‘ohana and spread the aloha to your neighbors. Just be sure to wear all of your protective gear, for there are too many germs, too many diseases.

Listen to recordings of your old tūtū as she talks about a time when trees grew, when the water and air were clean, and when people hugged and kissed. She asks you, “What could be better than this?”

Crazy old tūtū.

A: Do Not Touch
by Malie Medeiros

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Crazy old tūtū.
UH Mānoa now offers one certificate in Pidgin. HPU offers Pidgin Language and Pidgin Literature courses. As da Pidgin language gains more legitimacy do you one day forsee Pidgin being recognized as one of Hawaiʻi’s three official languages for go alongside Hawaiian and English?

No, I do not foresee the official languages of Hawaiʻi changing to include pidgin.

Lotta wot gives Hawaiʻi communities their unique Local character is da small businesses. As more big-box kine retailers come Hawaiʻi do you see Hawaiʻi as maybe one day becoming indistinguishable from da mainland?

I created the Economic Momentum Commission in June 2005 to develop an action plan to sustain our State’s current economic momentum, while protecting our environment and perpetuating our host culture. Small businesses are the backbone of our community, comprising 80% of all businesses in Hawaiʻi. By creating a business-friendly environment in which Hawaiʻi’s businesses can grow, we are fostering job creation, and thus a high quality of life for all our residents.

Hawaiʻi only get limited space. Eventually we cannot keep building more subdivisions. Is da solution for build upwards? Is da solution for limit da amount of people? Is dea one answer?

“I challenge the young people to welcome this diversity.”
Gangsta Surf in Waikiki
by Ans

The barrel of salt water glistens on top the wax. I relax, smoke fat sacks. I got packs of gats, full clips strapped on my back. And I shoot m***** f****** that snake my wave and I wave my gun at them when they misbehave cause I’m the king of the water, H2O. I kill and slaughter on my surfboard with spinner rims and diamonds, ‘cause I rule the ocean and represent these islands.

would be unconstitutional to limit the number of automobiles in our state. Instead, we hope that switching to a more environmentally friendly fuel will lower the amount of emissions that we experience. We continue to encourage commuters to take advantage of our public transportation system or carpool. Additionally the state has actively promoted vanpooling and bus ridership.

Q: Is there a future in Hawai‘i to legalize gay marriages, especially for health and insurance purposes?

A: During the General Election on November 3, 1998, Hawai‘i voters were given the power to amend the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i. Nearly 70% of residents voted in favor of reserving the marriage contract to opposite-sex couples. Couples that are prohibited from marriage in Hawai‘i can, however, enter into a “reciprocal beneficiary relationship,” which is a legal relationship that provides the couple with some of the benefits of marriage, such as hospital visitation rights, property and inheritance rights and an extension of family health insurance benefits.

Q: Will da dream of Hawaiian Sovereignty become one reality in da Future Hawai‘i?

A: Hawaiian sovereignty is a complex issue that holds many different meanings for people. It is important to me that Native Hawaiians receive the same status that other indigenous people enjoy from the United States government. My commitment has always been fairness and justice for the Hawaiian people, and I’ll continue to champion this goal.
would not support a cap on food, clothing, shelter, etc., as the effects would likely hurt consumers and businesses more than it would help. Instead, I support open reporting of wholesale, shipping and other costs so that consumers can decide if they are paying a fair price. To ease the burden of the rising cost of living for our residents, I will continue to encourage the Legislature to pass tax credits for food, medical services and non-prescription drugs.

**Q:** Is it conceivable that we will ever put a limit on the number of automobiles in our state?

**A:** While we are all concerned about the growing number of vehicles in Hawai‘i, it
Do you foresee Hawai‘i as being foreva dependent on Tourism for drive da economy? If not, wot’s your vision?

A: Because Hawai‘i is one of the top tourist destinations in the United States, tourism will continue to be an essential aspect of our economy. I have also proposed an initiative that would make Hawai‘i the center of America’s development of renewable energy including hydrogen fuel as an alternative to petroleum products. The Department of Agriculture will also be promoting the development of energy crops, such as sugarcane, which can be converted into ethanol fuel. This will continue to support agriculture as another major industry to expand and diversify Hawai‘i’s economy.

Q: With the cost of living being so high in Hawai‘i, and we have a cap on gas prices, do you foresee a cap on other necessities that are needed in our lives here in Hawai‘i, like food, clothing, shelter, etc.?

A: I opposed the gas cap in Hawai‘i because it resulted in price volatility and higher gas prices. It is estimated that within the first four months of the wholesale price controls, Hawai‘i consumers paid an estimated $50.1 million more for gasoline products than they would have if the law had not been in place. The gas cap also caused hardships for some gasoline station owners and independent distributors. Fortunately, the legislature passed a repeal of the cap this legislative session, and I signed it into law.

“My commitment has always been fairness and justice for the Hawaiian people, and I’ll continue to champion this goal.”
Governor Linda Lingle was born in St. Louis Missouri in 1953. She later moved to Southern California where she attended public school—she grad Birmingham, class of ’71. In 1975 she graduated cum laude with a degree in journalism from California State University, Northridge. She then relocated to Hawai’i where she immediately took a strong interest in community affairs. In 1976 while living on Moloka’i, she started the Moloka’i Free Press. She served her first term on Maui’s County Council in 1980, eventually serving five two-year terms. In 1990 she was elected Mayor of Maui County where she completed two terms. From 1999-2002 she served as the elected chair of the Hawai’i Republican Party. In 2002 she was elected Governor of the State of Hawai’i becoming the first female elected Governor in Hawai’i’s history. (Editorial note: This interview was conducted via e-mail. Tammy Camanse and Lee Tonouchi contributed to the questions.)
Psssss. . .
Hey kid, wanna try some of this?

I got lime, liliko‘i, grape, pineapple, strawberry, and the latest flavor tropical mango.

Buy some.
I guarantee it’ll make you strong.
It’ll put you in a relaxing mood and chicks will dig ya.

Flavored Ice Kreem, the drug made specially for kids.

It goes down smooth.

Now, get some money and tell your friends all about it.
I, Bu La'ia Junior Jr. Jr. stay running for be your new President of the United States. Oh, just to let you guys know, if elected I going move the White House to Waimānalo. Cause that's where I live. My biggest concern is the President now, he only like start wars. Mo betta he go play *Star Wars* instead of starting real wars. My platform is built on aloha. If elected, I going eliminate wars and procreate mo Hawaiian peoples in the United States. Personally I going do em if need be. All the peoples going be Hawaiianized. Instead of mash potatoes, baked potatoes, and french fry potatoes, poi going be the main staple across America. Lau lau going be on top every menu inside restaurants in the United States. Why? Cause the bagga is ‘ono! We going spread da aloha and put one end to road rage. Everybody betta be happy when dey drive. You like change lanes, you gotta shaka. That’s going be one new law. And this last one, I dunno how popular going be cause I know if the V.P. shot all the lawyers, whether it be by mistake or on purpose, might be one good thing. Still my beliefs is we gotta take away the guns. So those who no mo get chance. False crack, mo fair, ah, watchoo think? Remember my name is Bu La'ia Junior Jr. Jr. and I running for be yo new President. HA-wai-an!
Dr. Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio is a respected educator, noted scholar, and an accomplished composer and musician. He’s an Associate Professor and the Director of the Kamakakuokalani-Gladys K. ‘Ainoa Brandt Center for Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. In 2002, UH Press released his book *Dismembering Lāhui: A History of the Hawaiian Nation to 1887* to much critical acclaim. (Editorial note: This interview was conducted via e-mail. Lee Tonouchi, Tammy Camanse, and Matt Akiyama contributed to the questions.)

**Q:** Hawai‘i in da 70’s and 80’s had one strong anti-development sentiment. We can look back on da newspapers and see all da front page headline protests of da times. We can also see those anti-development feelings reflected thematically in planny of da music, literature, and Local comedy of da times too. Right now as housing prices soar, dat anti-development sentiment no seem for be as strong as before even though now get even mo' demand for build more homes, for develop more land. Is da future going be to da point wea no mo' space leff for build?

**A:** Worse. If Kanaka Maoli and others who have long roots in the islands and who are not land-owners now will have to compete with others over the rising cost of housing, we may continue to see our people leave the islands in increasing numbers. It is easy to imagine a society here far more stratified by wealth than even the old plantation days, with the wealthy living well and a population of service providers barely hanging on. On the other hand, the eventual crises in petroleum fuel may completely price tourism out of business, so it’s difficult to predict how attractive Hawai‘i will be. Then of course, there is the fact of global warming which could very dramatically change the geography and economics of this place.

“Whoa, whoa, whoa, WHOA!,” the tourist interrupts. “I asked for your race, not for a lesson in Algebra III.”

The tourist grabs all of his stuff and heads back to the hotel.

“Pff… he wen ask.”
As we getting mo' and mo' push for mo' military stuff in Hawai‘i, some people saying try wait, try wait. Da people who support argue dat all dis brings in money for da state. Da people who oppose say yeah, but wot’s da price we gotta pay. Wot’s your take—in da future, you see more coopera-
tions between Hawai‘i and da military or is Hawai‘i going put up more resistance?

I honestly think that resistance to military usage will continue to be marginal and limited mostly to Native Hawaiians, environmentalists and peace activists. I think it’s unfortunate that more people don’t have an awareness of how wasteful military usage is. But just think of how prosperous Japan became when it didn’t spend half its budget for a military. Consider the wealth of nations like Switzerland who maintain a minimal commitment to national defense even now that the Alps are no longer the protection they once were from invasion. If Hawai‘i was not a part of the United States, what would we need a military for? But maybe Americans should ask these questions too. What has military superiority given that it could not earn through leadership in commerce, literature and arts and higher education? What has military superiority cost this country?

One tourist tells me very proudly that he is what they all refer to now in California as hapa (a Japanese(!!) word for bi-racial he explains) because he’s half Spanish and half Caucasian.

Looking at me perplexed, he says, “I can’t quite place your race. Can you please tell me what you are?”

Tourists always ask that question, but I take a slow breath for the haole and I tell ’em,

“Hachikoraihihi’ijigermolofrenkinawanese,”

Of course da buggah gasps and says, “What on Earth is that?”

“Hachikoraihihi’ijigermolofrenkinawanese,” I repeat for him before I break it down. “Braddah, no get confuse. One ninth I stay German, a fifth Hawaiian a quarter Popolo, a twentieth of Okinawan which is not included in the one seventh of Japanese.

I get Chinese and Tahitian, but no confuse that with the Fijian. And Korean is tricky cuz my grampa had quarter but my maddah nevah have. No ask me how that works. But one fifth had my faddah who also had Thai, one fraction of French, and oh try wait, try wait…”

Q: Had one Honolulu Star-Bulletin newspaper article (10/02/04) about how dis botanist from Kaua‘i wen go help set up one deal between UC Berkeley and da government of Sa-
moa wea dey would split da royalties 50/50 if da drug dey wen derive from da indig-
genous Samoan mamala tree works i n fighting AIDS. Patenting kalo in Hawai‘i is diff’rent cuz das like patent-
ing your ancestors. But wot about oddah kine native plants? Wot’s your take on da fu-
ture of bioprospecting in Hawai‘i?

A: I’m the wrong person to ask. I don’t like the process of patenting living things, period. The notion that an individual should profit from the work and ingenuity is fine, but that they should have ownership of a life form just because people can now alter dna presents some real problems in ethics. For centuries humans have cross-bred species to enhance desirable traits, but the resulting life-forms became public property, anyone would mate a horse and a donkey once people knew it could be done.
There is a lot of talk about who is of Hawaiian ancestry. Because you cannot find out how much Hawaiian you have through a blood test, they go according to birth certificates. According to the birth certificates when the state was a Territory everyone who was born in the Territory of Hawai‘i was considered Hawaiian even though the parents were immigrants from Okinawa, Philippines, etc. In the future, if there is a way to test, should these people who are not of true Hawaiian ancestry be allowed the same privileges with Hawaiian Homelands and other native Hawaiian services?

No. In the first place, people were not routinely identified as part Hawaiian in the Territory. One had to declare one’s nationality and the nationality of the child. The public has a pretty good idea today of who has and who hasn’t Hawaiian ancestry and any kine of more invasive test, I would consider deeply troubling. In general, I think of Hawaiians as people who identity themselves thus: “My father or my mother was Hawaiian, they came from so and so’s family. I am Hawaiian.” For someone to claim Hawaiian ancestry that has no right to it, I think is as despicable as someone claiming a degree of achievement that is unearned. More despicable, because it implies that one is not proud of his or her own ancestors.

Do you believe Native Hawaiians will have sovereignty in the future? If so, how do you envision this new government to look like?

“You know, Local, short, long black hair. Sweet. And she laugh like one little pua’a.” I don’t know why, but Julius’s expression changes all of a sudden. He looks at me with concern as he puts down his bar towel. He leans in to ask, “What the waine’s name?” “Rissa.” I reply. I smile as I think of her and raise the glass to take a sip. Out of nowhere Julius’s hand appears in front of my face slapping the glass out of my hand. “Get out of my bar!” Drunk, I stumble off the stool and stand back. “Sorry brah. What I did?” I hear the glass shatter as it hits the floor. “You stay away from Marissa. She’s my niece,” he says pointing to a picture on the wall.

“The rumors were never proven but Luna that were reported as missing were never found.”

I look at the photo for the first time. It’s an old faded shot of Marissa when she was a kid and two men in HBF worker uniforms; one of them is Julius. From the resemblance I guess the other man to be Rissa’s dad. But I never knew he worked for HBF. I think back to the day Rissa quit school. She said her father was in the hospital. Now I make the connection. I remember hearing how a Luna had his workers working nine hours straight without a break. One guy died; he was so exhausted he tripped on one of the rails and got crushed by a transport train. It was a big scandal, was on the news for weeks. I never knew that guy was her dad. Rissa always used to talk about how she wanted to finish college, get a good job, so her dad could spend life taking it easy. Instead, I realize now, Rissa just ended up taking her father’s place.

“Without land and wealth, we are proud to be Hawaiians and we have things to teach Americans about sharing, cooperation, integration, conservation, and frankly about living well.”
“Who would’ve guessed that a high-octane fuel could be created from the rich volcanic soil of the Big Island’s Kilauea coast.”

“Usual Chief?” I nod my head as I take my place at the end of the bar. Julius, the bartender pours me a shot of Lani’s and a beer.

“How’s ‘em today? Beeg harvest ah?” he says. My empty shot glass clacks like a mah-jongg tile on the bar. “Yup, biggest one dis season.” He pours me another shot. “So how’s that little wahine you keep talking about?” I wipe the foam off my lips, “She all right, still neva get one chance fo ask her out yet.”

When HBF first opened they paid the Luna according to production, the more you made, the more you got paid. The union wasn’t in place yet and some Luna made their workers work 14-hour days just to maximize processing. Regulations and a union were put into place after rumors spread about workers attacking several Luna and throwing their bodies into a combine. The rumors were never proven but Luna that were reported as missing were never found. Some Luna were able to retire early after making their fortunes. They bought multi-million dollar houses all along the coast. I was hired as a replacement. Since I was Local they figured I’d have a better chance at surviving. Just your token Local manager to keep the workers happy.

I ask Julius if he can tell me what’s wrong with me. He just shrugs his shoulders. I know I’m not that bad a catch. I’m not ugly. I get along with people. Well, except for the people I supervise. I got a good job. I made some good investments. I may not own a mansion, but I’m on my way to getting at least a small one.

I tell the Julius about what happened the last time I tried to ask Rissa out. Even though I had a massive hangover, I managed to get to work on time for once and I saw Rissa drive into the parking lot at the same time. I approached her car and greeted her. Her silki black hair swayed in the wind. There was a long silence before I finally asked her, “Are, are you busy tonight?” She hesitated before she answered, “Yeah, but I can work if you need me.” I smiled to try and get her to smile. “No no, I mean if you like go out with me?” I swear she sneered at me when she said, “Oh, no. Sorry, I no can,” before quickly walking away. She didn’t even give an explanation.

I take another swig of beer. I tell Julius, “I gon ask her out after lunch today see if she like go out with me tonight. Den I gon wine her, dine her, and do a number you know what to her.” I find myself getting all bold and bawdy. Must be the shots of Lani’s talking. Julius laughs cause he’s not used to seeing me all acting up. “What she look like anyway, your gir？”

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companies like to hire managers from New York, California, or wherever, anywhere but from here. I can’t believe my timing. I can’t believe sugar cane is back. Just like it was over 200 years ago. But this time it’s not by design, it’s by accident.

Years ago a professor at UH had an idea to create a powerful rum. He spliced the ‘awa plant and the sugar cane and he developed a very potent hybrid sugar cane. He opened a little distillery that processed the hybrid cane into a sweet, smooth rum with a very high alcohol content. Sweet Leilani Rum grew from a little bar and lei stand on the beach into a huge thriving business. But ultimately his passion led to his demise; the professor also became a thriving drunk and soon drank himself to death. But his manufacturing company lived on and soon after another company, HBF, was created.

Hawai‘i Bio-Fuel saw great potential in developing hybrid cane as fuel. Its vision soon meant re-opening the old cane fields on O‘ahu, Maui, Lāna‘i, and the Big Island. Who would’ve guessed that a high-octane fuel could be created from the rich volcanic soil of the Big Island’s Kilauea coast. Bio-Fuel soon became Hawai‘i’s biggest export. Locals thought the new industry would mean less relying on tourism to drive Hawai‘i’s economy, but it turned out to have the opposite effect. Cheaper fuel meant cheaper flights In turn even more hotels had to be built. Now we’ve got more tourists than ever.

I make my way to the North Field. It’s a long and lonely walk. I read about cane in the olden days. The plantation would be all lively—there’d be workers cutting the cane, driving the trucks, and everyone would sing those songs about digging the dirt. When HBF pitched the industry they promised new jobs. But they never said how many. Turns out it was more “cost effective” to invest in new technology. Most of the operation is automated. Huge combines harvest the burnt cane then dump it into trains on magnetic rails for delivery to the mill for processing. The only manual labor needed is the re-seeding. Rissa’s a seeder. She’s a beautiful girl but you’d never know it unless you saw her out of her uniform. I knew her from KCC but she dropped out. I don’t remember exactly why but I think it was a family thing. I felt bad she couldn’t go to school anymore. But what could I do? I figured, she could always save up and go back later if she wanted to. We were pretty good friends back then. We kept in touch even when I went to the mainland to get my business management degree. My parents would always fly me down for all the vacations and I’d always give Rissa a call and we’d hang out. But since I became a Luna she hardly talks to me anymore. Basically, I’m just trying to do my job. I just try and make the day go smooth for these guys, so the work gets done on time and everyone can get paid.

In your musical colab wit Sudden Rush “Can You See Me Now (Hawaiian I’Z),” da song talks about how Hawai‘i musicians in da present get mana‘o from da musicians dat came before (mostly from ova hea, but elsewhere too). As more forms of pop music permeate our culture, do you forsee Hawai‘i music eva losing da connection to Hawai‘i?

No. We make other music our music, and we have shown no interest in forgetting our ancestral music and poetry. So we’re good to go.

Wit all your knowledge about Hawai‘i history, wotchoo tink is da greatest lesson we can learn from Hawai‘i’s past for make da future one bettah place?

Listen to Hawaiians. We bring a really long and deep knowledge of this place and this ocean to the table. The educators, businessmen and the politicians have really ignored our voices for such a long time, that they still think that the only thing Hawaiians have to offer is music and aloha. Even when we don’t speak the same form of English that they do, we’re really much smarter than they think, from KCC but she dropped out. I don’t remember exactly why but I think it was a family thing. I felt bad she couldn’t go to school anymore. But what could I do? I figured, she could always save up and go back later if she wanted to. We were pretty good friends back then. We kept in touch even when I went to the mainland to get my business management degree. My parents would always

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I can smell ash in the air. Cane fire last night. I shake my head in disgust. We’re gonna be pumping today. “What’s up Chief?” the security guard smiles at me as he raises the gate. He’s missing a tooth; probably rotted away from sucking down too much Lani. For some reason, everyone calls me “Chief.” It feels kinda weird cause a lot of these guys are way older than me. But I actually am a “Chief,” not a descendant of Hawaiian royalty or anything, but “Chief of Operations” is my job title. I wish they named me “Manager” instead. I wonder if Rissa’s working already? Probably, cause I’m late as usual. My hangover’s not going away this morning. My iCom buzzes. I’m logged into the network now. [North field ready for re-seeding. Cane processing at 100%].

I always imagined I’d end up staying on the mainland, because management jobs in Hawai‘i are few and far between. Usually and we have much more at stake here than those who come for the weather and the exotic mix of cultures.

We responded to a very cynical takeover of our government and the systematic oppression of our language, history and self-hood with such grace and dignity that one of the things that really characterizes a modern Hawaiian is an intense and well-deserved pride. We have built a diverse and effective movement to reclaim our culture and our political identity while so much of America behaves like it has lost its way. Without land and wealth, we are proud to be Hawaiians and we have things to teach Americans about sharing, cooperation, integration, conservation, and frankly about living well. Americans should listen.
Hawai‘i’s thirst for energy needs to be fed.

Her uniform, a construction hat strapped to her head.

With her armored face, concrete working gloves, and smokestack ears, her lava flows and dries like tears.

Nine-to-five, even a goddess must work to survive.

She’ll wear her uniform until one day she’ll die.
What it Comes Down to
by Noweo Kai

native species
native species
native species
native species
native species
native species
invasive
