

**The Big Review:**  
**By: Thomas Kanemaru:**

Hi, my name is Thomas Kanemaru, and welcome to the Big Review- a podcast that will be reviewing the Podcasts by Fo da People, The Fantastic Four, and Nā Leo o ka Lāhui Kanaka. The purpose of this review is to give those of you listening a little preview of what to expect with these podcasts, which all talk about the people of Hawaii in some way or another.

But before we begin, I'd like to give a little bit of context by defining a concept that you'll be hearing a lot in these three podcasts: the Contact Zone.

The Contact Zones are what you call it when you take two or more different cultures, put them in the same place, and then watch them interact with one another. These can result in all kinds of things happening- but more often than not, these Contact Zones have unbalanced relationships between the cultures in them- that is to say, one group may have some advantage over the other, and what these inequalities create are what define the contact zones.

Now that we've got that out of the way... let's begin, shall we?

Our first subject of review is the podcast by Nā Leo o ka Lāhui Kanaka- which is best described as the story

of the tragedy of how Hawaii was affected by the likes of the colonizers.

From how Hawaii was illegally overthrown, to the story of how the Hawaiian language almost died, the commodification of Hawaiian culture, the exploitation of the land... the list goes on.

And perhaps the worst part of it all is that, according to them, these are the things that aren't generally taught in public schools. Indeed, looking back on it, I myself didn't really grasp the full implications of the overthrow until I was in my freshman year in college.

However, the most powerful part of this podcast are the stories its members tell of how their lives are affected by these tragedies. A particularly memorable anecdote is the story of one of the members, who worked in Hawaii's tourism industry, tells about an entitled customer- stories like that paint a picture of what kind of place Hawaii has become.

But to their credit, the group is willing to move past this- and indeed, their solution to this problem of ignorance in particular is to try and develop programs meant to educate tourists on Hawaii- be it an infomercial an airlines can show tourists before they leave, fliers and pamphlets- I personally believe that this is how you truly fight ignorance: You don't fight it with contempt and hatred.

You fight it with knowledge.

And they're not the only group either looking to fight against that ignorance.

The next group, Fo Da People, tell a sobering tale about the homeless of Hawaii- about how the social stigmas against the homeless keep them from getting the help they need to no longer be homeless.

About how we are taught that, when we are young, that homelessness is a choice- that it is the result of bad choices, when in reality, it's far more complicated than just that.

The particular highlight of the podcast is what they shared when they asked their peers about what they think about the homeless. Just about all the people they asked empathized with the plight of the homeless, but all of them had different ideas as to why it happens.

A remark I particularly found myself identifying with was one about how the fear of making the wrong decisions- or even accidents- resulting in homelessness, and it makes me realize that I could have very much ended up like them as well.

Again, though, much like the previous podcast covered, it's not all doom and gloom- there's a bit of light at the end of the tunnel in the form of their idea on how to help- a reminder to empathize with the plight of the homeless.

They also recommend contacting groups like the Valoha program, which help the homeless.

As an aside, they also play music during their podcast that helps to truly set the somber mood of it- an excellent touch that really helps sell the entire thing as a whole.

That said, if you're a bit depressed by this point about all this, I don't entirely blame you. But hey, if you're feeling down, give the podcast made by the Fantastic Four a go.

It's a what-if scenario describing a Hawaii that has become... how to put this... imagine a world where the solutions put forward by Nā Leo o ka Lāhui Kanaka worked, and the homeless problem wasn't an issue in Hawaii anymore.

In other words, a modern-day Arcadia- which describes what a week in that society might look like from the perspective of three different people over the course of the podcast.

This is a story of what such a world could be like- it's a lot more relaxed, and really, it has a feel I can only describe as being 100% local.

You can clearly feel the love and fun the group had in putting this together to show what kind of a place Hawaii could be- and I think that's the best part of it. Unlike the previous two, which were serious documentaries with lights at the end of the proverbial tunnels, the Fantastic Four's podcast is just a much more light-hearted adventure overall, especially compared to the previous two podcasts... which is also probably why, if I'm going to be honest, this one's my favorite.

So what do I think of these podcasts? Well, all in all, I think they're all good in their own right at describing what Hawaii is, and could be- and I wish them all the best in that regard.

That's all from me now. If you enjoyed this review, please, go check out not just the podcasts mentioned here, but all the others this class is performing as well too. This is Thomas Kanemaru, signing off.