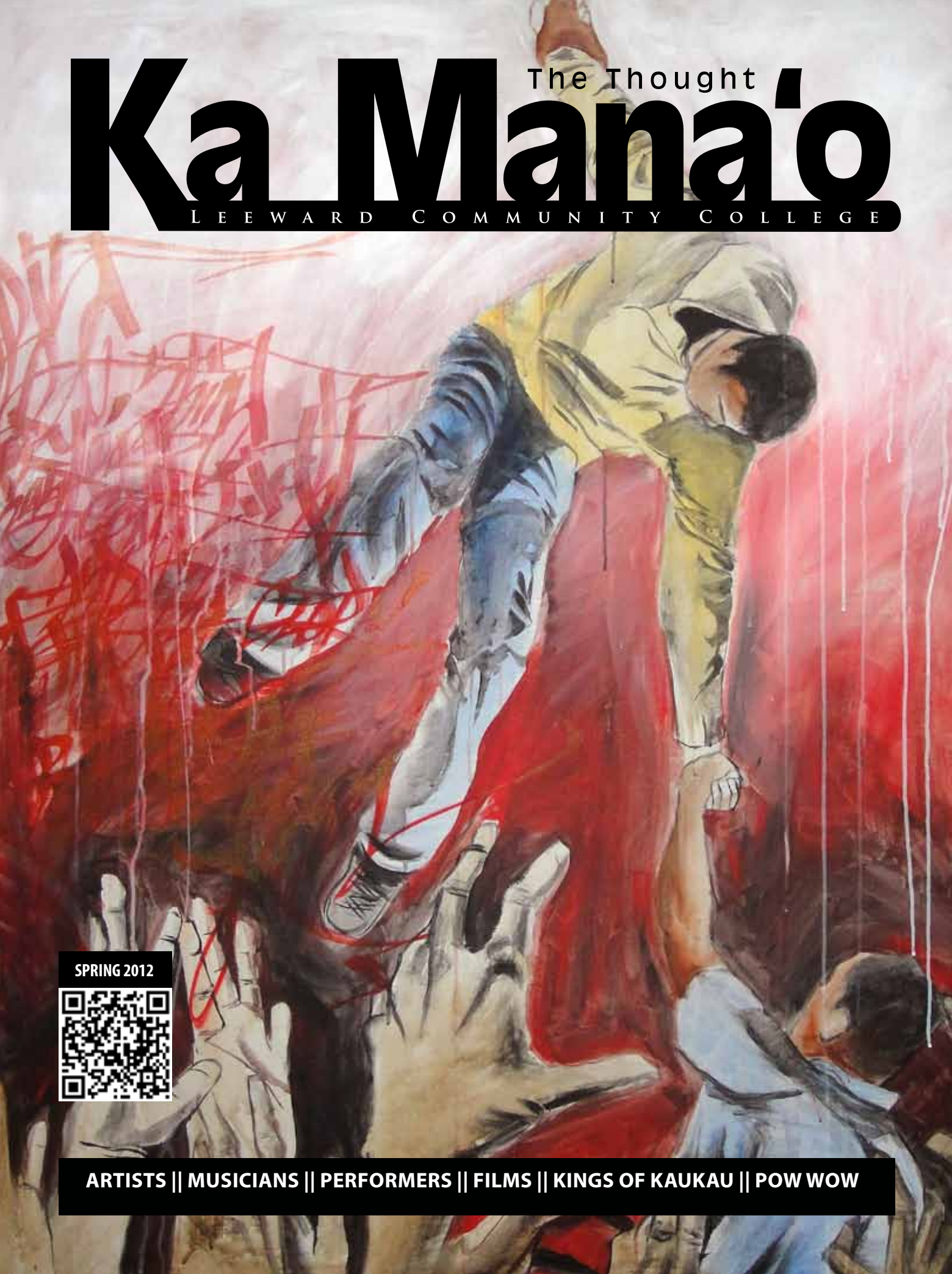


# The Thought **Ka Mana'o** LEEWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE



SPRING 2012



ARTISTS || MUSICIANS || PERFORMERS || FILMS || KINGS OF KAUKAU || POW WOW

# Ka Mana'o

## We Want You!

We're looking for students who would like to join our staff. We have openings for writers, photographers, and graphic designers. Info: stanley1@hawaii.edu or visit room AD-220A.

### Follow us

[www.Facebook.com/kamanao.leeward](http://www.Facebook.com/kamanao.leeward)

[www.leeward.hawaii.edu/kamanao](http://www.leeward.hawaii.edu/kamanao)



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII  
**LEEWARD**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# Commencement 2012

Tuthill Courtyard | 05.11.2012 | 5-7pm

If you're planning to participate in the Commencement Ceremony, please read the following steps:

- 1 To have your name printed in the Commencement Program and to participate in the Ceremony:** Pay fees at the Cashier's Office by Friday, April 20
- 2** Any "Application for Degree/Certificate" received after April 20 is not guaranteed to be listed in the Commencement Program. However, you are still eligible to participate in the Ceremony.
- 3 Deadline to participate in the Commencement Ceremony:** Pay fees at the Cashier's Office by Wednesday, May 2. Applications received after May 2 does not guarantee participation in the Ceremony.
- 4** You will receive a postcard in the mail and an e-mail to your hawaii.edu email with instructions on how to RSVP for Commencement after you pay your fees. You can **ONLY** RSVP online and the link will be included in the postcard and the e-mail.

For updates check out our website: [www.leeward.hawaii.edu/studentlife](http://www.leeward.hawaii.edu/studentlife):  
Click on Student Life and scroll down to Commencement after March 1.

**Contact Lexer Chou at [achou@hawaii.edu](mailto:achou@hawaii.edu)**





# INSIDE

**6- Scholarships**  
\$100K for area students

**7- Dalai Lama**  
Speaking with students in April

**8- Campus News**  
Student government, job fair

**9- Commentary**  
Students hurt in hiring process

**10- Soccer showcase**  
Pro teams play in Hawaii

**12- Semester of Shakespeare**  
Issues still relevant today

**15- Campus Voices**  
What type of art do you enjoy?

**16- Kings of Kaukau**  
Indulging online

**18- Vinny Begg**  
Class led to Hawaii Five-O

**20- Shaun Castro**  
Art with a message

**22- Gensen Rabacal**  
Talented musician

**25- Hip-hop**  
Events happening weekly

**26- TTYM**  
Band racking up awards, hits

**30- Transforming art**  
Waianae students up for challenge

**32- Films**  
Favorites of 2011

**34- Fashion**  
Pow Wow inspiration

**40- Student Showcase**  
Artwork, photography, poetry

**46- Travel**  
Winter wonders in Europe



# OUTSIDE



"Arise" was painted by former Leeward student Shaun Castro at the Campus Harvest: Arise conference in Los Angeles. The 5 feet x 4 feet painting was completed in three 30-minute sessions.

Ka Mana'o is the student publication of Leeward Community College. Ka Mana'o is published quarterly, funded by student fees and advertising, and administered by the Board of Student Communications. Editorial content reflects views only of Ka Mana'o staff and not of BOSC, students, faculty, and staff of Leeward Community College. Ka Mana'o welcomes students interested in being staff members, as well as submissions of creative works. Ka Mana'o reserves the right to edit for length and content. Publication is not guaranteed.

All content published in Ka Mana'o and its Web site may not be reprinted or republished in any form without permission. Copies of Ka Mana'o are available at newsstands throughout campus or in room AD-220A.

Copyright 2012 Board of Student Communications.

# KA MANA'O STAFF

## Graphic Designers

Maisha Abbott, Michael Arellano, Joel Gaspar, Jadine Hirschag, Jasmine Hirschag, Irene Ilalio, Audrey Mayfield

## Writers

Keo Akina, Amanda Barr, Elizabeth Daligdig, Dahvontae Elzey, Suzette Farnum, Leimaille Guerrero, Valerie Mako, Jason Oliveros, Andrew Outwater, Dwight Relente, Chloe Richie, Sazza Self, Matthew Schultz, Missy Trippett

## Photographers

Carlo Cayetano, Chelsey Dale, Brandon Hicks, Ethan Hubbard, Azure Ng, Paul Topp, S'meta

## Copy editor

Ryan Yamura

## Adviser

Stanley Lee, stanleyl@hawaii.edu

**KA MANA'O (The Thought)**  
Leeward Community College,  
University of Hawai'i  
96-045 Ala 'Ike, AD-220A  
Pearl City, Hawai'i 96782

(808) 455-0250  
[www.leeward.hawaii.edu/kamanao](http://www.leeward.hawaii.edu/kamanao)  
[Facebook.com/kamanao.leeward](https://www.facebook.com/kamanao.leeward)  
[Twitter.com/Ka\\_Manao](https://twitter.com/Ka_Manao)



# \$100K FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

## More financial aid available for students

Writer: Keo Akina  
Photographer: Azure Ng

If you are a full time or part time student and have graduated from either Kapolei High School; Campbell High School; Nanakuli High School; Waipahu High School or Waianae High School then you qualify to take advantage of The Kalaeloa Partners Scholarship.

A gift of \$100,000 from the Kalaeloa Partners, L.P. to Leeward Community College has made the scholarships possible.

“More than one third of our students are supported by either private or federal aid, and often it is a combination of the two,” said Aileen Lum-Akana, Leeward’s financial aid director. “Another third of our student body is seriously struggling, often dropping out of school to support children of their own, or even their parents. The support of Kalaeloa Partners will play a large role in the future success of many of our students.”

Scholarship details will be posted on the STAR scholarship site at [www.star.hawaii.edu](http://www.star.hawaii.edu).

Tommylynn Benavente, Leeward’s culinary arts professor, played an important role in attracting Kalaeloa to the

campus. “Our decision to support Leeward CC students through a scholarship grew out of our relationship and respect for Tommylynn Benavente,” said Hans Tobler, Kalaeloa general manager. “We were impressed with Tommylynn’s commitment to the community, and the caliber of students we encountered at The Pearl, and wanted to make a difference in the community by helping to make quality higher education affordable for Leeward residents.”

Kalaeloa Partners L.P. is an electrical energy provider for Oahu. It’s cogeneration plant uses low-sulfur fuel oil. The facility sells all of its electric power to Hawaiian Electric Company. The plant also supplies steam energy to a local re-

finery, Tesoro Hawaii, one of only two refineries on the island. Kalaeloa supplies approximately 20 percent of Oahu’s electrical needs.

Added Leeward Chancellor Manny Cabral: “We are overjoyed to accept this generous offer by Kalaeloa Partners to help our students who are in need of financial assistance. Ruedi Tobler and the Kalaeloa Partners ‘ohana have provided a tremendous benefit for all potential and current students. On behalf of all those who will benefit, I express my mahalo nui loa.”



# DALAI LAMA TO VISIT HAWAII

## Talk with students in April

*Writer: Matthew Schultz*

This spring, the Pillars of Peace Program brings its first speaker to Hawaii, the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso. The Dalai Lama, a spiritual leader from Tibet and a Nobel laureate, is one of the most prominent advocates for peace and promotes values such as compassion and responsibility around the world today.

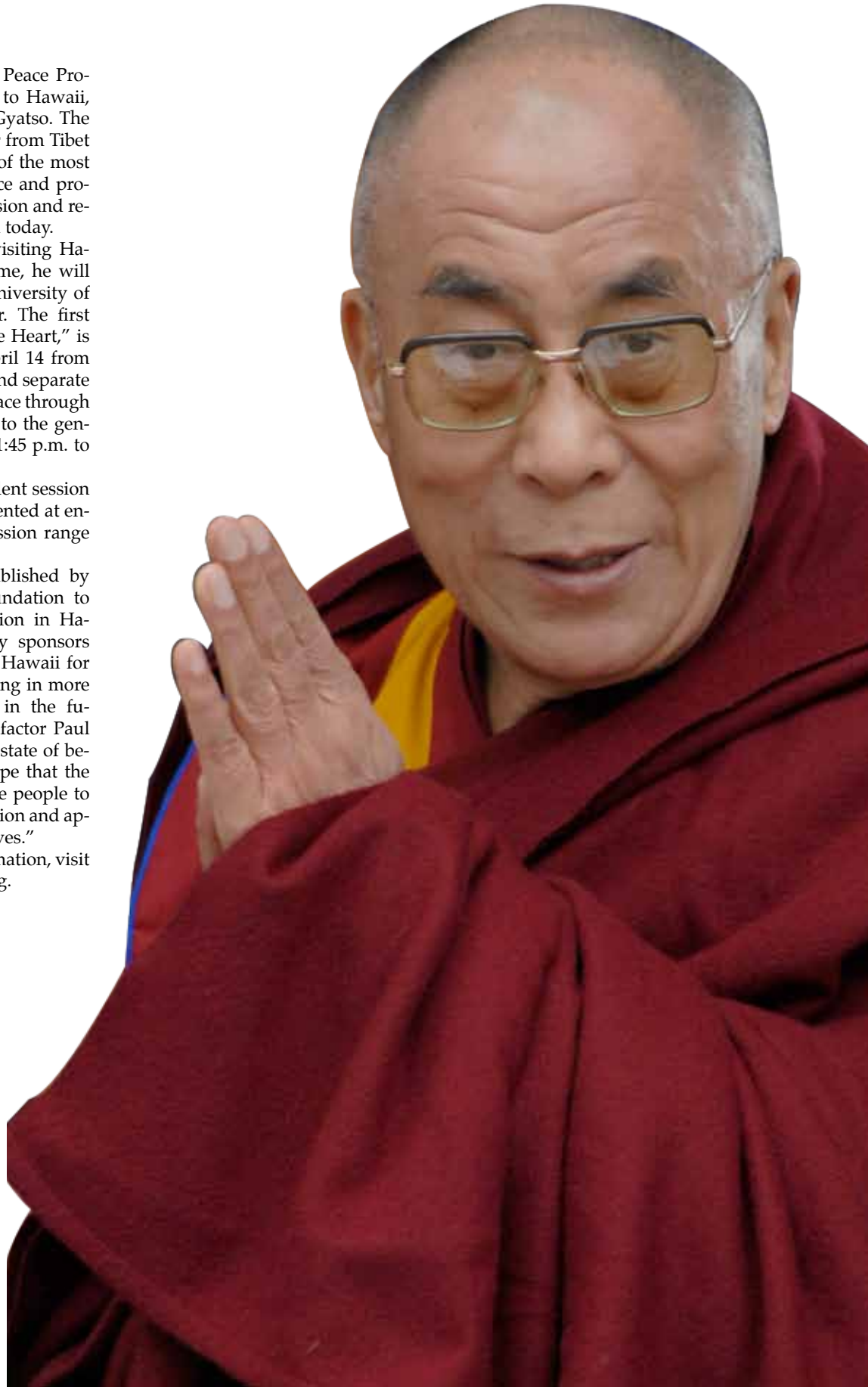
The Dalai Lama will be visiting Hawaii in April. During that time, he will speak at two events at the University of Hawaii's Stan Sheriff Center. The first event, entitled "Educating the Heart," is for students on Saturday, April 14 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. A second and separate event entitled "Advancing Peace through the Power of Aloha" is open to the general public on April 15 from 1:45 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for the student session and a school ID must be presented at entry. Tickets to the Sunday session range from \$30 to \$90.

Pillars of Peace was established by the Hawaii Community Foundation to support peace and compassion in Hawaii. This program currently sponsors workshops and education in Hawaii for that purpose and plans to bring in more Nobel Peace Prize winners in the future. According to HCF benefactor Paul Omidyar, "Peace is an active state of being—it is not passive. We hope that the Dalai Lama's visit will inspire people to consciously embrace compassion and apply peace in their everyday lives."

For tickets and more information, visit [www.pillarsofpeacehawaii.org](http://www.pillarsofpeacehawaii.org).

*Photo courtesy of dalailama.com*



# STUDENTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Leeward Student Government President Tracey Imper recently facilitated a workshop at the annual Ho'opili Hou Conference at Kauai Community College.

This is the first time a student government member from Leeward has led a workshop at the conference organized for students leaders of local colleges. Imper was one of 16 students from Leeward's student government and Student Activities Board that attended the three-day workshop that focused on leadership skills, sustainability, and serving the community.

"Ho'opili Hou was an amazing experience," Imper said in an e-mail. "The opportunity for me to present a workshop was an unreal experience. It empowered me as a leader. The whole process from creating the workshop to actually executing it taught me so much, and has allowed to me grow more as a leader. I think being able to do this on my own

gave me confidence in my abilities. I know that I can use these skills to represent the student body at Leeward Community College."

Student government elections for the upcoming school year will be held April 2 to 4. Voting will be done online at [www.leeward.hawaii.edu/elections](http://www.leeward.hawaii.edu/elections).

## Employers, colleges at Fair

Over 20 employers are expected at the upcoming Career, College, & Job Fair on April 4.

Now in its 10th year, the annual fair, which attracts up to 1,500, will be held on the library concourse from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Employers will be looking for full- and part-time employees as well as interns. Colleges in attendance include the University of Hawaii at Manoa and West Oahu, Hawaii Pacific, Chaminade, Argosy and Phoenix. UH's law school, nursing school and admissions office will also be participating.

Through a partnership with Hawaii Energy, this year's fair will focus on "Clean Energy Connections" — highlighting clean energy careers and training opportunities as well as educating fair attendees about the importance of energy efficiency in their homes and businesses.

## Art Show looking for entries

The Leeward Community College Juried Student Art Show is looking for student submissions.

Students interested in entering the art show must submit their artwork, along with a 500-word proposal about how their artwork corresponds to the theme of "what is student life?" Entries must be replicated onto hardboards of a larger size. Selected pieces will be displayed permanently in the student lounge and those students will receive a \$150 stipend.

For more information contact Lexer Chou, [achou@hawaii.edu](mailto:achou@hawaii.edu).



## It's not too late to apply to *Hawai'i Pacific University*

HPU has a number of online services to make getting information and applying easier.

HPU is known for the personal attention students receive in class. We also offer admissions and advising services - in person and online - to make sure you get the attention you deserve right from the start.



Get the 411 on HPU  
[www.hpu.edu](http://www.hpu.edu)



# EDUCATIONAL BUREAUCRACY HURTS STUDENTS

Process 'gives no consideration for their needs, wants, or concerns'

Writer: Sazza Self

It is inevitable that as we go through life, we will see many people enter and exit our lives. Some of these people are destined to have an impact that results in positive outcomes in regards to our present as well as the future. Others will pass through our lives unnoticed and unheard like the clouds floating overhead.

Leeward Community College recently lost one of these people that touched the lives of people he came in contact with in a very positive manner. David Starbuck was a disability services specialist for about six years with the Kakoo Ike program.

While I am an admirer of Starbuck, it is not my purpose here to state what a great person he really is. I do believe that it is important to discuss the effects he had on students he came in contact with in order to describe what is wrong with our educational system. I came from another country, am visually impaired, and left my family on the other side of the world. Starbuck was the first person I met at Leeward and without his gentleness, kindness, and understanding, my transition to America and Leeward would have been next to impossible.

Stephen Yap, a student who uses the KI program said, "It's like losing a family member." Yap further stated that "in the past, I could come to the KI office to discuss my problems and concerns, but am now left to wonder who to turn to in

times of need."

Another student, who prefers to remain anonymous, said, "I feel that I have no one who can offer me motivation and the reassurance about my goals that I received from Starbuck that now he is gone."

Having said all of this now brings me to my point which is, who are the real sufferers here, and should the system take a long hard look at the way business is conducted?

Bureaucracy in any institution is inevitable, but somewhere over time its prevalence should be minimized. In our stated case, we have a person who had been doing the job for six years. The problem is that the promotional or renewal process in our educational setting is faulty. First, the person is allowed to work a year after not receiving tenure before exiting the institution. If the person is not appropriate enough to continue in the position for another year? It seems that for a person to be eliminated from a position, the condition should warrant immediate termination, and not an exit strategy that lasts for one year.

The biggest problem is the committee personnel who make this decision know little if anything about the person or the situation outside of a 50 or 60 page report that is compiled by the person seeking the promotion or renewal, so the main question here is throughout this process, where is any consideration given

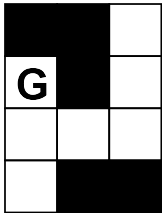
to the students themselves? The students should be the only concern of the institution but are completely ignored throughout the process.

The bottom line is the students of the KI program are the ones who suffer because of a bureaucratic process that gives no consideration for their needs, wants, or concerns. In this situation, it is definitely the students who are suffering because even with two disability specialists on staff, the record number of students attending Leeward makes it difficult for quality services to be provided for everyone that needs them. To take it one step further the remaining disability specialist, who was already stretched to the limit, must now do twice the work.

In addition, a great deal of time is also taken in an effort for the specialist to find the replacement. So again, I ask you what happens to the students who are affected by such a decision. The answer is they are pushed aside or neglected because of decisions that are most likely made on personal preference.

In closing, I would just like to say that Leeward is considered the home institution for most students in attendance. Home institution is a term that is out of place in a setting where bureaucracy is second to none. I know at least in my home that my wants and needs are considered, so it will be with great pleasure when the day comes that I am able to call another institution my home.


**Pathem**™ the path word puzzle topic: 2012 Academy Awards



**"Beginners"**

Difficulty ★☆☆☆☆ (15pts)

**HOW TO PLAY:**  
Spell the phrase in the grid above it, writing each unique letter only once. The correct solution will spell the complete phrase along a **single continuous spelling path** that moves horizontally, vertically and diagonally. Fill the grid from square to square - revisiting letters as needed to complete the spelling path in order. Each letter will appear only once in the grid.

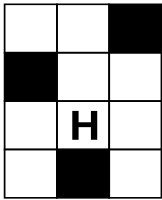


**"Freeze"**

visit [www.Pathem.com](http://www.Pathem.com)

© 2012 Thinking Machine, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

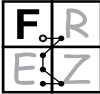
**Pathem**™ the path word puzzle topic: Surfing



**"Duke Kahanamoku"**

Difficulty ★★☆☆☆ (50pts)

**HOW TO PLAY:**  
Spell the phrase in the grid above it, writing each unique letter only once. The correct solution will spell the complete phrase along a **single continuous spelling path** that moves horizontally, vertically and diagonally. Fill the grid from square to square - revisiting letters as needed to complete the spelling path in order. Each letter will appear only once in the grid.



**"Freeze"**

visit [www.Pathem.com](http://www.Pathem.com)

© 2012 Thinking Machine, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Answers online at [www.leeward.hawaii.edu/kamanao](http://www.leeward.hawaii.edu/kamanao)

# PROS PLAY AT ALOHA STADIUM

Four professional soccer teams descended on Aloha Stadium for the Hawaiian Islands Invitational.

In the championship game, Busan I'Park FC (Korea) defeated Yokohama FC (Japan), 3-0, on Feb. 25. Seungwhan Bang had a goal and an assist. Sanghyub Lim and Jose Fagner Silva Da Luz also scored for Busan. In the third-place game, the Colorado Rapids defeated Melbourne Heart FC (Australia), 1-0, behind Tony Cascio's goal.

*Photos from top to bottom:*

1- Toyoma Uchida of Yokohama FC is challenged by a Colorado Rapids defender in an opening-round game on Feb. 23. Yokohama won 2-1 behind a pair of goals from Hiroaki Namba. Uchida assisted on Namba's first goal. Drew Moor scored for the Rapids.

2- Colorado Rapids players line up for the playing of the national anthem alongside youth soccer players from Hawaii.

3- Quincy Amarikwa of Colorado tries to hold off Yokohama's Keiji Takachi in an opening-round game. Busan I'Park defeated Melbourne, 4-3 in penalty shootout, in the other opening-round game.

*Opposite page- Players signed autographs for fans after the game.*

*Photos by Ethan Hubbard*







# SEMESTER OF SHAKESPEARE

Issues such as love, jealousy, racism still exist today

Writer: Amanda Barr

Photographer: Joel Gaspar

The Bard is back for the Semester of Shakespeare. What started off as a one-day event in 2006 has evolved into a semester-long “extravaganza” with events going on each month.

The project gained some recognition when it earned a WO Innovation Award. Leeward Community College literature professors Michael Nester and Susan Lum created this project to bring Shakespeare to students and to give them a platform to showcase their creativity.

“I think personally we have some of the most creative students here at Leeward, they are very talented,” Lum said.

Besides showing off the interdisciplinary departments, art, music, theatre, and history, the event also strives to show the relevance of Shakespeare’s work to today’s world. Why study Shakespeare? Let’s face it, the guy’s work is old, it’s hard to read and he uses words that don’t even exist in today’s vernacular.

“There are only so many writers that cross time and space,” Lum explained. “He was so ahead of his time as far as psychology and human nature goes.”

While wading through Shakespeare’s old English can be daunting, the issues

he covers in his plays and sonnets are some of the very same issues that exist today, both globally and individually.

“Sometimes we think times are so different now, but when it comes down to things like love and murder, betrayal, jealousy, racism, those things haven’t changed very much,” Lum said.

Shakespeare highlights in his work emotions and parts of human nature that everyone can relate to on some level. By shedding some light on human nature, Lum claims he actually indirectly offers solutions to some of the problems that we face now. Sometimes the lessons are of the what-not-to-do variety and this makes for some great schadenfreudic entertainment.

Lum offered some advice for students who may have to study Shakespeare for a class. “Read the footnotes, read it more than once and Shakespeare’s work was meant to be seen not heard, so go see a film version or a production of it.”

As for the project itself, this semester’s focus is Shakespeare’s *Othello*. Literature students have been divided up into groups and are working on projects that portray one of the play’s major themes, such as jealousy or racism. Theatre students will also be performing some of the major scenes from the play. All of the

students’ creative efforts will culminate on April 24 in the Eucalyptus Courtyard. Students are invited to watch and enjoy the final product of all the work that students put into their projects and performances. All workshops and events are free and open to the public and if you are interested in participating, don’t hesitate to contact Lum.

“Students are always surprised at the end when they see how fun Shakespeare is,” Lum laughed.

*Top photo—Tony Pisculli (front right) of the Hawaii Shakespeare Festival leads a stage combat workshop for Semester of Shakespeare students.*

## Event Schedule:

April 5 to 7 and 12 to 14  
Drama: Tyke Dreams of Plumeria Stars  
Director Kemuel DeMerville  
Lab Theatre  
8 p.m. each night

April 24: A Day in Cyprus  
Drama Performances and  
Student Presentations  
Eucalyptus Courtyard Noon to 2:30 p.m.



## PLAYWRIGHT LEADS CLASS IN PRODUCTION

Writer: Suzette Farnum  
 Photographer: Ethan Hubbard

Protesters, war and rampaging elephants; what more could you want in a theatre show?

These are just some of the ingredients of a new play, "Tyke Dreams of Plumeria Stars," written and performed by Drama 262 students opening April 5 in the Leeward Community College Lab Theatre. Instructor and director Kemuel DeMerville allowed his students to decide what was important to them, and then from just a title they began the process of writing a play.

"Working on the plot as we go along, the rehearsals start without any dialogue and the play emerges through repeated tries of what sounds true," DeMerville said.

Being an accomplished playwright, DeMerville is a fitting guide for this process. His most recent show, "Cane Fields

Burning" premiered last October at Kumu Kahua Theatre. Starting as a high school theater teacher in California he then moved to Hawaii in 2005 to finish his Masters in Fine Arts at the University of Hawaii. From here, he and his wife moved to New Zealand in 2008 to allow her to pursue her Masters in Fine Arts.

DeMerville began teaching at Leeward upon their return to Honolulu. "I want to create theatre that is meaningful to the community in which it is performed; theatre that touches people on an individual level and stays with them after leaving the theatre," he said.

These are the values he is instilling in his theatre students by having them pick what is meaningful to them. The play runs April 5 to April 7 and April 12 to 14 at 8 p.m. each night.

*Top photo— Reyn Afaga and Kehaulani Brown rehearse in class.*

*Right— Ylysha Diocares (front) and Lehua Simon.*





# OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

## Simmons shares his story on television

*Writer: Suzette Farnum*

*Photographer: Joel Gaspar*

If you have ever wondered if you could overcome your obstacles to accomplish something great, Kendrick Simmons wants you to know that you can. And he is living proof.

If you walk around Leeward's campus, you may have seen him with a camera interviewing students. He is not only taking courses at Leeward towards his degree, but he also had his own show on Olelo called "Evolution Hawaii." Simmons' show has even premiered on KHON2.

He did not graduate from a private school, or live in a big house in a rich neighborhood. Instead, Simmons grew up in Las Vegas foster homes, separated from his siblings and family until adulthood.

Simmons got the television bug when he was about 8 years old when he was featured on the "Wednesday's Child" show. The show highlighted a child that needed a family and he got to be the lucky one who attended a baseball game and throw out the first pitch, on television. He then acted in an Oscar Meyer commercial and that was his inspiration. At first, Simmons wanted to do music videos and comedy sketches but he then decided there were more important things to do.

"I came up with 'Evolution Hawaii' because I wanted to help people in any way possible," he said. "That is the key to life, helping as many people as you can.

"I made lots of mistakes growing up and those were the topics I chose for my show. I did not want people to make the same mistakes I did."

To get a show on Olelo, a public access station, Simmons said just call them with a show ready to produce every week. Getting a show on KHON2 however, was more difficult. That was his real goal, and one semester he decided to go for it. He called them and pitched his show, and they loved it. That was when the hard work began. He had to do all the work himself.

"It was hard work but it paid off and I accomplished my goal," Simmons said. "That's why I feel that it is so important to set goals in life and go for it."

Not only did he come from humble beginnings but he is also a cancer survivor. He wants other survivors to know, "If you are a survivor and you are reading this I just want you to know that I love you with all my heart, I know we share a connection that not a lot of people will ever be able to understand, but fear of life, has no hold on us anymore."

Simmons feels as though he has been tried and tested and God has given him a stamp of approval to continue on with life. "This is only the beginning, close your eyes and image how great God's plan is for you.

Different variations of dance inspire me to do what I love to do. It allows me to express my emotions and feelings. I choreograph according to what I feel, and perform what I want. I also like different photography and black-and-white films.

*Krystina Nakanishi*



*Danny Ramos*

I love all kinds of art like music, dance, photography, film, etc. because it's what keeps me going, what keeps me sane. It allows me to express self-creativity without any limitations.

Traditional art like drawing and illustrations. I've always enjoyed it since I was a little and I'm constantly inspired by my surroundings.

*Stephanie Ha*



# What type of art do you enjoy?

*Photos by Chelsey Dale*



*Jenna Ozaki*

I absolutely love the art of dance. Dance allows me to express in ways that words can't. No matter what mood I am in, joyful, sorrowful, or even pissed, dance allows me to release these emotions. Because of dance, I am able to cope with anything that comes my way. Dancing is the bomb. com!

I enjoy photography and drawing because ever since I was a kid, I've been drawing photorealism art. Throughout my middle and high school years, I've been competing in art competitions. I've gotten numerous awards competing in New York. Recently I've been liking photography. I want to try different medias.

*Jerek Allen Quidez*



*Leilina Molale-Toro*

Music and dance most of all. Throughout my whole life, music and dance never ceased to amaze me. Whether it is someone else or myself singing or dancing, I absolutely love doing it, listening to it, watching it, whatever. This is no cliché, if music or dance were edible; I would only survive off of those two things.



# KINGS OF KAUKAU

Indulgence kingdom on YouTube

*Writer: Missy Trippett*

Things are winding down at Oahu's monthly Eat the Street event; "sold out" signs are scattered across the menus of nearly every truck, and sluggish event goers are milling about, fighting off the inevitable kanak attack that follows a great meal.

In the middle of the lot in which Eat the Street is held, with no markers other than the shirts they're selling and the exclamations of recognition they periodically get from the crowd, three men stand. They converse with curious strangers and are quick to serve a waiting customer — I've found who I'm here to interview; these three are ruling their piece of pavement

like true Kings of Kaukau.

As they introduced themselves, it was clear that the guys have just as much fun off camera as they do on. Jesse Macadangdang, Ian Isla, and Nickoli Doble took turns jumping in on each other's sentences and making wise cracks at each other, saying "We're a chef, filmmaker, and a professional dishwasher."

The trio are the masterminds behind the YouTube series "Kings of Kaukau". A typical episode consists of larger-than-life local fare (malasadas, manapua, and the classic loco moco have all been featured so far), usually prepared with a Kings of Kaukau twist, which is then eaten by the crew and their friends. The first episode of "Kings" mirrors the Canadian series,

"Epic Meal Time", which also features oversized, over-the-top food.

Macadangdang explained the events leading up to the creation of their first video. "We went for a jog ("Ironically", the other two add) one day and somebody asked if we had ever seen this video on YouTube called "Epic Meal Time," so we pulled it up and said 'oh, we should do a tribute to them with local food!'. I have a background in filmmaking, Ian is a chef ... we never really expected it to be much of anything. After we cut it up, we were like, 'this looks pretty good!'. Our goal is to showcase local food with the world."

While their first video was intended as a tribute to "Epic Meal Time," their





subsequent videos have strayed from the Epic Meal format.

"We're trying to distance ourselves from them, so when people compare us, it's not like we're 'Hawaii's Epic Meal Time,'" Isla said.

Their efforts to make a name for themselves have paid off, as Kings now has a growing group of followers, and has even received international attention.

"We got attention from the Netherlands! It was weird, we didn't even know how they got our e-mail, it was kind of like, 'this Internet thing ... how does this work?'" Isla joked.

Despite all the jokes, the response to Kings of Kaukau is, in no small part, due to the serious work and thought that goes

into each episode. "I wanna show how hard the work is, as far as the filming and cooking," Isla continued, "everything we do keeps it honest; no fake eggs (in reference to an ostrich egg used in the episode "King Moco"), everything is real."

They also have detailed plans to make the jump from cyberspace to ... a parking space? "We want to expand to a food truck eventually," says Macadangdang, "as well as expand on the rest of the franchise, maybe take over the world."

While plans for world domination are still being drawn up, the guys readily expressed their gratitude towards their viewers. "Thank you everybody for supporting us. Without the fans, we're just a bunch of people buying too much food at

Tamura's."

As I leave the event and its sleepy energy, I hear that "bunch of guys from Wahiawa" keeping the party going. Laughing with passersby and posing for pictures, they hold court like true Kings of Kaukau.

*Online at [www.youtube.com/kingsofkaukau](http://www.youtube.com/kingsofkaukau)*

*Photo courtesy of Kings of Kaukau*



# VINNY BEGG

## Theatre class led to “Hawaii Five-O”

Writer: Missy Trippett

Photographer: Joel Gaspar

*Vinny Begg is a former Leeward Community College student who landed himself a spot on “Hawaii Five-O.” After a career in the military, a few semesters of college, he had a stint as a criminal on the CBS hit show. After playing a Yakuza gangster that went to prison, he sat down with Ka Mana’o for a little Q&A.*

### So how long were you at Leeward?

Off and on, since ‘06. I wasn’t really full time, just feeling it out, taking classes here and there. I had just gotten out of the military, didn’t know where I was going.

### How was your time at Leeward?

I did pretty good in psychology; the teacher asked me to be an assistant. I had a really good teacher, he gave good advice — not just on psych, life stuff too. I also took a lot of drama.

### Drama ... do you think taking those classes led you to where you are now?

Yeah, it opened me up. I didn’t really expect (to see) myself acting. After taking one class, it became a little hobby of mine. The professor, Dr. (Paul) Cravath, is retired now, but he gave me a little boost and encouraged me to turn my resume in to different places.

### Did you get any jobs?

I was on “Beyond the Break” a bunch of times, doing background work. I played a crack head as comic relief for [a] local independent movie called “All for Melissa.” “Hawaii Five-O” is actually the third TV show I’ve been on. I was doing a whole bunch of background, then they asked me to be a Yakuza.

### How many episodes of “Hawaii Five-O” did you film?

I lost count already — a lot for background and I was featured once. That one

I was part of a Yakuza biker gang. I got arrested by Grace Park. Daniel Dae Kim took my gun.

### Wow, so will we be seeing your character around more?

Well, as an actor, once you are a “featured act” you just see your face, then they don’t use you anymore. [Since] my character was arrested, they had me in prison and everything.

### What was it like filming in prison?

It was pretty nuts! There were guards and stuff to make sure nothing happened. They cleared out a yard for a fight. It was a one-day shoot so, about seven hours. It was just really weird; I was just like, “Man, I really don’t wanna be here!”

### It must’ve been interesting with all of those big names around. Did you get to talk with any of them while on set?

Yeah, it was cool. I got to talk to Grace, she’s really cool. She’s from Canada;



she's very nice, and personable! I also got to meet Cary Tagawa!

**With all of the excitement of being a part of "Hawaii Five-O," do you think it has changed you at all?**

It's probably just given me a big outlet. I guess that's how it has changed me – I'm looking into film acting more. I'm a stage actor first, and now I'm into film acting. Stage acting is a lot of exaggerated gestures and emotions; film acting ... they (the audience) have to see the emotion in your eyes. It's also opened me up a little bit more. Before I did acting, I kept to myself a lot. I've met a lot of people I probably would have never met if I never dove into this hobby.

**Hobby?**

I don't expect this to be full-time, if the opportunity arises and I get picked up for a big role, then yeah, but as far as moving to LA ... I think I should concentrate on getting my BA.

**Totally understandable, but I'm curious: what would your dream role be?**

My dream role ... hmmm ... let's see ...

my ideal character would be a bad guy whose bad actions are justified in some way.

**That's a complex character.**

Yeah, but a lot of bad guys are just ... bad! Nobody ever really sees into their backstory. It would be cool to show them as a "product of their environment," kind of like Carlito in "Carlito's Way."

**It sounds like you have a pretty good sense of direction now, is there any one thing that you feel helped you achieve that?**

Taking that class at Leeward, I have to give it up to Dr. Cravath. He helped me find my power. Leeward is a really good stepping stone as far as finding out what you wanna do. Especially after getting out of the military, I really didn't know what I wanted to do. Now I have a set idea of what I want to do with my life. It led me in a positive direction.

**Do you want to leave us with any final thoughts?**

Dr. Cravath was really a great teacher.

He's touched a lot of people's lives – I kinda give it to him, he opened up my eyes to this whole world of acting. It's something I'll continue to do, whether or not it pays the bills.

Former Leeward student Jomar Miranda also landed on the CBS hit show. He appeared as Wo Fat's bodyguard in the premiere episode of season two. According to honolulupulse.com, Miranda's character got knocked around by Chin Ho and was shot and interrogated by Steve McGarrett. His bodyguard character was his first major television role after appearing as an extra on the first season of "Hawaii Five-O." Miranda, who has a background in martial arts, has appeared in several independent and short films since 2007. Miranda was travelling out of state during production of this issue and was unavailable for an interview.



# SHAUN CASTRO

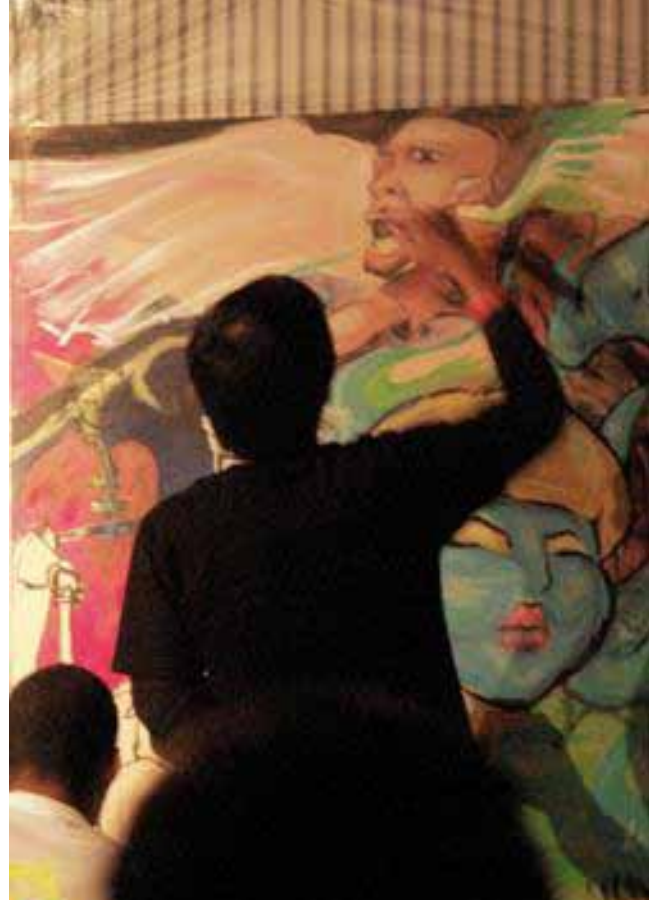
Creating art with a message

*Writer: Leimaile Guerrero*

*Photographer: Joel Gaspar*

Shaun Castro is an artist with a purpose. A former Leeward student, Castro believes that art should carry a meaning that is special to the artist. His projects are meant to “provoke and challenge people to love others”.

Castro picked up his first paintbrush in 1996 and started his journey to discover a meaning for his art. He began as an urban street artist versed in the art of graffiti. After graduating from Moanalua High School, Castro took every art class Leeward could offer. If Castro could have received an art degree at Leeward, he would have. Eventually he advanced to the University of Hawaii to complete his Bachelors degree in Art.



“(He is an) extremely talented artist,” Leeward art professor Alan Leitner recalled.

#### **DISCOVERING RELIGION**

During his time at Leeward, Castro found a true purpose for his art and his religion. After finding Christianity, he had a new view of life. He began to take an interest in his culture and people around him. He gained a new appreciation for life and began to translate his religion into art. He considers his faith and art to be inseparable and believes that some people are created by God and assigned with a talent for creating art.

Castro is currently working on becoming a pastor and participates in various groups to educate young adults on more modern expositions of the Bible. He also works with his church group at Kahala Elementary School, to hold workshops to help other artists. He also teaches urban art classes to students.

#### **LIFE-CHANGING TRIP**

In 2006, Castro left Hawaii for the first time to travel to the Philippines on a church mission. During this trip, he experienced a different world and realized that many of our daily complaints are nothing in comparison to many others around the world. There he learned of the simplicity of life. Children were playing in the streets with nothing more than a puddle of water and their slippers, and yet, they were content. These children did not have the luxuries of video games, fancy smartphones or nice clothes. Others lived in extreme poverty, with nothing more than a tarp to call home.

Amongst this destitution, he was able to find a form of beauty. He also found love, which would later lead to heartbreak. Castro gained new flavors to add to his pallet. He came to realize that not everyone was as lucky. His paintings and art took on a new meaning.

#### **VIVID IMAGERY**

Now, all of Castro’s pieces have a story or meaning. Drawing on various inspirations, Castro projects messages of social injustices, personal experiences, journeys as a missionary, and his interpretations of hymens and plasmas from the Bible. He

also participates in art shows and live paintings. Most of his work is only on display for short periods of time. Unless you attend one of his exhibits, it is unlikely that you will see his work displayed around town.

Castro said he has accepted the fact that not many people are going to buy his art to display in their homes. Some of his paintings are too jarring for those people who may be unprepared. He has depicted abused women, starving children in Africa and homeless kids here in Hawaii. Castro strives to bring awareness to the shadowed aspects of society. Those who view his art leave seeded with the emotions necessary to make a difference.

His art pieces are mostly mixed media. His favorite mediums are acrylic and O.T.R. markers. On occasion, he will also pick up an oil stick to achieve different looks. Many of his art pieces contain graffiti writing to illustrate the hymens and psalms he was inspired by, or to convey certain emotions that inspired the piece. Not only tied to painting, Castro also produces music and video clips to add to his exhibits.

Some of the shows he participates in also utilize b-boy’s. However, before he paints anything, Castro does his research. He makes every effort to understand the background of his subjects. When working with various organizations with different causes, Shaun wants to be sure he produces art that is relevant to the issues at hand. Understanding his subjects helps him to add more authenticity to the final piece. He has also worked with local shops such as prototype to produce exclusive wallets that help to raise awareness to global issues.

As an artist, Castro has had to discover his path and reason for art. Although not all people will appreciate his depictions or religious views, no one can deny him of his talent. He is not wavered by the social norm of painting aesthetically pleasing things. He has a message and a meaning, and his art will leave an impact on society.

To view more of his art, attend one of his classes, or to find more information about his upcoming exhibits, visit his website at [www.shauncastro.com](http://www.shauncastro.com).





# GENSEN RABACAL

## Ukulele one of his many talents

*Writer: Suzette Farnum*

*Photographer: Ethan Hubbard*

If you want to hear beautiful music as well as get to know a fantastic person, Gensen Rabacal is the man you want to meet.

He has already finished his Associates of Arts in Teaching and his Associates of Liberal Arts at Leeward Community College and has started classes for his bachelor's degree in education at Chaminade University. But he is also taking a few more classes at Leeward so there is a good chance you will see him around campus. His goal is to be a teacher and his passion is to help children that are blind, like him, to succeed.

Rabacal has been playing the ukulele since he was 4 years old. Like all children, he did not always want to practice but he is glad he did.

"I never realized that music would be one of my best friends, and that I could use it to bless others," Rabacal said.

And bless others he has. Erin Loo, the counselor for the AAT program said, "Gensen is a gifted musician and per-

former and we feel so blessed to have him as a part of our program. We have enlisted his talents for several of our events such as Teacher Academy Day and the Ka Mole o Na Pua Festival. When he performs, the audience is swept up in his music."

Rabacal started singing at eight with his elementary school choir and he "loved singing all over Oahu." At 12, he officially started performing on his own. He soon began taking voice lessons which helped him to sing more confidently. His next step is learning to read music in Braille.

Rabacal attributes his work to his strong faith in God. "It is not about me, but for the One who blessed me with a good singing voice to begin with. I believe my faith plays a big part of who I am now."

This may be why friends such as Clayton Takemoto say, "Just having him as a friend I am blessed because whenever I think of giving up, I can't because if Gensen can go through and conquer life, so can I."

Although he plays music from differ-

ent genres, his favorites are local, Hawaiian and worship music — anything that delivers God's message. Rabacal said music has brought him a sense of happiness and comfort.

"I can't help but remember the times when I had to go camping on my own for the first time with friends, or how I had to move out of my house and live in an apartment for training at the Ho'opono training center for the blind," Rabacal said. "There were times when I felt miserable, but luckily in our group, we had a lot of musicians, and so music became the cure for anything for me. It even helps me feel better when I am sick."

Many students like Sheldon Konno have heard Gensen perform at Leeward events and said, "he is awesome!"

Bobbie Martel, an AAT instructor said, "Gensen is an amazing young man who has so many gifts ... one being his musical talent. Through his joyful spirit, beautiful voice, fabulous skill in playing ukelele and passion for music, he connects with everyone around."



## POW WOW

How can you remake an industrial neighborhood in one week? From Feb. 13 to 17, artists gathered to create and showcase their work in small and big spaces in Kakaako in downtown Honolulu. Pow Wow allowed for the public to interact with local, national, and international artists on a personal level. While

artists were designing murals on various Kakaako buildings, the public was encouraged to interact with them. Pow Wow's mission is to allow the public to "witness the creativity in its entirety and become an essential part of the artists' process. It's about the breaking down of those closed doors and making art accessible." The event included a discussion panel at the University of Hawaii and gallery showing at Loft in Space. More online at [www.powwowhawaii.com](http://www.powwowhawaii.com)

*Photos by S'meta*





## HIP-HOP EVENTS WEEKLY

Large and diverse community in Hawaii

*Writer: Jason Oliveros*

An island in the middle of the Pacific is probably the last place you would expect to find a large following to hip-hop. Yet here on Oahu, there exists a rather large and diverse community of people who have coordinated and put on hip-hop events going down every week.

One can find every element of hip-hop right here on Oahu. There are regular emcee showcases and battles, B-Boy jams, producer beat battles, and graffiti showcases like the recent Pow Wow event. The last major event was 808SpeakerBox which was a fundraiser to support local hip-hop. A portion of the proceeds went to DJ Bone of the Got Rice? show, a local hip-hop radio show on KTUH 90.3 FM ([www.ktuh.org](http://www.ktuh.org)).

Most of the events are held at venues in Chinatown and around Ward Centers. One of the hot spots for local hip-hop is Fresh Café ([www.freshcafehi.com](http://www.freshcafehi.com)) in Kakaako, most recognizable by the rather large graffiti murals all along the parking lot walls.

If late night bar hopping isn't your thing, there is another place for you to get familiar with some of the local emcees and their music. If you go online and to [hawaiihiphop.bandcamp.com](http://hawaiihiphop.bandcamp.com), you can find over 20 different projects and songs released by local emcees for free distribution. The beauty of this site is that it is updated regularly by the Universal Zulu Nation's Hawaii chapter, making the site open to anyone with something

to offer and a chance to be included. The music is listed left to right and top to bottom by the number of downloads the song or project got, so if you're new to the hip-hop music scene you can start from what's getting the most love and work your way down the line.







# TALK TO YOU MUSIC

## Band racking up awards, hits

Writer: Matthew Schultz  
 Photographer: Brandon Hicks

To the people at Leeward Community College, Christian Bautista may look like an average student. However, this student doesn't just take classes.

He's also the drummer in the local band Talk To You Music. Inspired by local/homegrown bands such as Natural Vibrations, Fiji, and the Green, TTYM plays a soulful blend of R & B and progressive reggae music. In addition to their original songs, they put their own spin on tracks by artists such as Bruno Mars, the Kings of Leon, Michael Jackson, Bob Marley, Jason Mraz, and Jack Johnson.

TTYM's origin story goes something like this. Jeffrey James, lead vocalist and guitarist, was attending Hawaii Pacific University on a band scholarship when he decided to form a group with friends Juan Odeon (lead guitarist) and Shay Marcello (bass and backup vocals). They were able to enlist Jehua Evans (from Natural Vibrations) to play keys, and eventually chose Bautista to play drums.

And their combined hard work and talent has paid off. To date, they've won a Na Hoku Hanohano award for their hit track "Hawaiian Girls," were the champions of the Mai Tai Rumble music competition, and they've played for venues like the Perry and Price Show, the Uni-

versity of Hawaii, Señor Frog's, Rock Bottom, Breaker's, and Bob's Kailua.

They've also caught the attention of other local bands. TTYM has opened for Natural Vibes, 10 Feet, and Positive Motion. Also, two of their songs peaked at No. 1 on the radio, "Hawaiian Girls" and "Good". If they can make it big, they plan to eventually play on the mainland as well.

Bautista's success with TTYM didn't just happen overnight and he has definitely paid his dues. He decided to choose drums in middle school and that made all the difference. Drumming is his passion and he's been doing it for eight years and counting.

"I love playing the drums," Bautista said.

Playing drums at school built relationships that helped to bring him with the band today.

"That is where I met Chuck James (the lead singer's father), and I have been learning from him ever since."

In addition to playing in TTYM, Bautista teaches at the Chuck James Music Studio along with his fellow band mates, which has definitely helped him hone his communication skills.

"Teaching other people has taught me a lot about patience, especially little kids," he said.

What's it like playing drums on stage?  
 "Performing on stage is a great feel-

ing," Bautista explained. "I love seeing people dance to the music and the drum beats I am playing. I learn new things about performing live and how to better connect with the audience and the musicians I am playing with each gig."

Bautista isn't just stopping at playing drums. He's constantly working on ways to expand his musical repertoire. Currently, he's in the process of learning another popular percussion instrument, the piano. And after he finishes at Leeward, Christian says he plans to further his studies by pursuing music production at Berkeley.

You can catch the band on every third Saturday at Breaker's in Haleiwa, and it has a new album due out later this year.

They are also eager to help out up and coming talented local artists. Contact James jjamesjrums@gmail.com

More online at [www.facebook.com/TalkToYouMusic](http://www.facebook.com/TalkToYouMusic)  
[www.TalkToYouMusic.com](http://www.TalkToYouMusic.com)  
[www.youtube.com/TalkToYouMusic](http://www.youtube.com/TalkToYouMusic)

*Top photo—Performing at Breaker's in Haleiwa from left are Jehua Evans (keyboards), Juan Odeon (guitar), Earl Jam (percussion), Christian Bautista (drums), Jeffrey James (lead singer) and Shay Marcello (bass).  
 Opposite page—Bautista on the drums.*



*Mike Izon plays Thursdays and Fridays at Indigo in Chinatown.*

# MIKE IZON

## Setback returned him to music

Writer: Dahvontae Elzey

Photographer: Azure Ng

The life of a musical artist always seems so glamorous on television. However, many of those artists faced incredibly damaging hardships.

Mike Izon, a past student of Leeward Community College, has managed to make his lifelong aspirations a reality despite various life obstacles. Izon grew up in Whitmore in a home flooded with great music and two parents who instilled an everlasting passion for music into their young son.

"My biggest music influences are my dad and my mom, I grew up with them singing around me all the time." Izon, 22, explains that his dad toured with several bands throughout Hawaii. Apparently the apple didn't fall far from the tree.

Izon plays an incredibly diverse array of instruments such as the trumpet, French horn, percussion, ukulele, and guitar. Although the trumpet, French horn, and percussion were picked up in his middle school band class, his guitar, ukulele, and vocal skills were all self-taught. However, his high school band teacher seemingly dashed his passion when he was removed from the high school band for not coming to summer band camp.

Despite the setback he began to use his musical talents for worship at Grace Bible Church. "I just stopped altogether; then I started going to GBC and joined the worship team, which gave me a better reason to play music," Izon said. Through the GBC worship team Izon subsequently regained his craving for music.

That Halloween in 2010, the versatile musician decided to put his vocal talent range on display in a local karaoke contest where he blew through the competition. He jokingly explains that this is the where "I not only met my producer, Josh Yafuso, but where I beat him."

His career has since taken off, however yet another tragedy impeded on his newfound success. Izon suffered from two slipped discs which resulted in the loss of use in his left calf. The physical constraints kept him at home for some time, which led him to record his first demo CD. However the solitude of the recording sessions led to feelings of depression. In spite of the emotional trauma of the situation, he exclaims joyously that "I've made it past that and I'm greater than I've ever been."

His trials and tribulations are the inspirations behind his self-written and composed debut album "Book of Clichés." Based on his album he has had the opportunity to tour around Hawaii, playing in various venues almost every night. Excitedly he reveals that he will be touring in Japan soon; while also gearing up to travel to Los Angeles to try out for the hit television show "The Voice." Izon plays every Tuesday night from 9 to 11 at Hard Rock, Wednesdays from 10:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at the Sand Box in Waikiki. He can also be found at Indigo in Chinatown on Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. and Fridays from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.





## TRANSFORMING ART

Mailing tubes can appear rather dull, boring and gray. Challenged to create something that has value from these 40-inch tubes, students in Gladys de Barcza's Art 101 class at Leeward-Waianae designed pieces that incorporated their creativity as well as concepts of nature, knowledge, and character. Sparked by the creative process to shift the function of an everyday object, these transformations are currently displayed in Room 1 at Waianae. Below are artist statements about their pieces.

### Go Green

This sculpture was inspired by the concept of "go green." We should strive to produce energy from our natural resources like breeze, wind, and water. — *Corrina Molina and Kanoë Kahalekai-Willing*

### Know Your or No, You're Animals

These creatures were born out of a mailing tube. Everyone has animal traits in themselves. What animal are you? — *Andrew Amps*

### "In-Box" of Knowledge

This mailbox sculpture represents the knowledge we have learned in Art 101 to date. At semester's end, we expect the mailbox to be flowing over — *Raquel Pahukoa and Janice Kahawai*

*Photos by S'meta*

# DRINKING ART

Writer and Photographer: Joel Gaspar

When we think of coffee, we normally think of that nice hot or cold cup of liquid electricity that stimulates our mind every morning to get us through another monotonous work day or cumbersome exam. The last thing we may think about is art.

Yes, there may be a whole art to brewing your coffee, but putting art on your coffee? How odd would that be? Cupcakes, birthday cakes, sushi, and martinis are all art in themselves. They're all embellished with decorative details to please and

entice the consumer. Similarly, that's what latte art is all about.

Latte art is the process of intricately and creatively designing an image while pouring steamed milk over a hot cup of espresso. Such standard designs and patterns consist of hearts, leaves, and happy faces.

Latte art is usually done in small, artsy coffee shops where the overall vibe and ambience brims with music and art deco. These cool and hip places include Morning Brew in Kailua and Glazers near the University of Hawaii. So why not amplify the art by putting it on your drink? One can't necessarily say that having this art on your coffee will change the way your coffee tastes, but it sure changes an ordinary experience into something quite fascinating.



# PROJECTING ALOHA

Writer: Leimaile Guerrero

Through Project Aloha, Michael Paz strives to spread aloha to the world. A local boy from Wahiawa, Paz firmly believes "you can never have too much aloha". His concept plays on the word project.

"(It) was not meant to be pronounced like you would say science project, but more like when you project your voice," Paz explained. "You can project happiness or simply project aloha"

For one year, Paz has committed himself to producing a new and unique image for each day of 2012. By posting the images on Project Aloha's Facebook, he is able to share his message while receiving feedback from followers. Rather than compete with the various brands that tap into the local subcultures, Paz hopes to showcase and lift the aloha spirit. His inspiration comes from a combination of what he likes to wear, the Hawaiian islands and its people.

Paz hopes to turn his project into a brand one day. He has started printing T-shirts with his images and hopes to move on to sweatshirts, hats, and stickers. He is also thinking of desk calendars and an image book to remind people to spread aloha daily.

Paz is no amateur to the clothing industry. He has held positions as art director at companies such as Gotcha, MCD, and Hollister. He also started the North Shore Underground, or NSU brand, straight out of high school. Although he has never attended college or art school, his talent has shone through his



work. Due to harsh economic times, Paz is now a freelance artist with Aloha on his side.

To follow Project Aloha, people can "like" it on Facebook. Paz encourages feedback and wants to know which designs people like best. If you are not on Facebook, you can still follow his project at [www.projectalohahawaii.com](http://www.projectalohahawaii.com).

Photo courtesy of Project Aloha

# FAVORITE FILMS OF 2011

Writer: Andrew Outwater

*To briefly explain, these are not what I consider the "best" films of the year. This is my list of films that I call my favorite. Though I do think several of these films are among the best of the year. That said, here are my 10 favorite films of 2011.*

## 10. Take Shelter

What I loved about *Take Shelter* was that it addresses the common problems most "possible schizophrenic" movies have. The main character's mother was diagnosed with schizophrenia, and almost immediately the main character questions his sanity. Throughout the film, I was wondering whether or not he is crazy or if his visions of a coming apocalypse were real. Another possible problem these films face is having a satisfying ending. The build up can be immaculate, but if the pay off isn't enough, the film can feel like a waste of time. Luckily, *Take Shelter* delivers fantastically.

## 9. Limitless

While I love this film quite a bit, I can see its flaws and criticize it accordingly. However, I just enjoyed the story and the tone and style of the film so much that I was able to overlook its shortcomings. Neil Burger was able to pull together this crazy visual style that's unique, yet feels

somewhat reminiscent of "Fight Club" in a weird way. Tonal shifts and change of situations throughout the movie trigger alterations in the color pallet and even the overall graininess of the film. The visuals compliment the story's progression and bring a flavor to the film that I really haven't seen anywhere else.

## 8. Bridesmaids

I took my mother to see this in theatres. I'll wait and let that sink in for a second ... and we both loved it. I ended up buying it for Mother's Day and we've watched it several times since. Probably the funniest film in the past couple years; "Bridesmaids" was a breath of fresh air.

The script is brilliant and the movie doesn't fill itself with actresses who look fake. Every character looks like a real person. Along with that, this movie has women doing things that normally are reserved for males in gross-out, raunchy comedies. The infamous bathroom scene is one of the most disgusting gross-out gags of the year.

Above that, the movie focuses on the characters and their individual arcs. While some are most static than others, the main relationships in the film change drastically through the film and it really makes you care.

## 7. 50/50

A comedy about cancer sounds like risky subject matter. It definitely is. This movie could have been offensive if not handled with the right amount of care. Luckily the writer based the script on his real-life experiences with cancer and the director has a great sense of character to make this film work.

Having been affected by cancer in my life, my grandmother died of cancer, I found

the way they handled the cancer angle with incredible sensitivity. It actually reminded me of what my mother had to go through when her mom was dying. I wasn't always there to experience what she did, but watching this film made me feel closer to her experiences.

The film strikes a great balance of drama and comedy without diluting either. It's very genuine and the emotion in the film feels organic. What I love about the film is the pure emotion that the film is able to deliver. This movie actually got me choked up, and not a whole lot of movies can do that.

## 6. Rango

Two things about "Rango" that I love are that it didn't need 3D to enhance the experience and it doesn't cut corners on the details. I'm pretty sure this is the only animated film this year that was not in 3D, and it didn't need it. Every pixel of every frame of this film was meticulously crafted to perfection. This is, by far, the best looking computer-animated film that I have seen.

The scene when Rango first enters the cantina was astonishing. Every hair, scratch, scrape, scab, sweat, scale of every creature, even if they only appeared for a second, looked amazing. I've never seen that amount of detail before. While it's incredibly detailed, it feels very raw. These characters are not pretty characters. The movie has a very dirty look that fits the tone and story of the film. Speaking of, it's a great story. It's a true western in every sense of the genre. At its core, it's about someone who's trying to find purpose in life. Even if you don't like the story, the film's worth watching just for the visuals.

## 5. Midnight In Paris

It's kind of hard to describe why this movie is so good, but it's a movie that really triggers your emotions.

It's incredibly romantic without actually being a love story between two characters. It's more of a love story between a man and a place that he wants to be, a great, feel-good movie. It made me happy watching it and when it was over I felt energized and uplifted.



Photo courtesy of Drive Film Holdings





Saoirse Ronan in *Hanna*. Photo courtesy of Focus Features

#### 4. 13 Assassins

Takashi Miike is brilliant in his insanity. Or is it he's insane in his brilliance? Either way, "13 Assassins" will probably go down as his masterpiece. A truly unconventional filmmaker goes traditional - for the most part - in this samurai film that is probably the most violent film to come out in years. The film uses the first hour to build up to a 45-minute wall of set pieces where Miike just rattles every sense that you have. Unlike "Transformers 3," where it similarly ended in an extremely long series of set pieces, "13 Assassins" does a fantastic job of setting up the characters and situation to make you actually care about what's going on instead of admiring the view. And, unlike Michael Bay, Miike knows how to shoot and edit the action so there's a sense of progress. And, unlike "Transformers 3," you care about the characters. It has probably the worst, most despicable villain in a movie, and makes you want him to die a horrible death. And when the resolution comes, it's incredibly satisfying. The film also tackles some traditional Japanese culture questions such as honor and duty. I could go on all day about this movie, just go watch it.

#### 3. Attack The Block

There's just a lot of good to say about this film. I kept hearing this film disappointed many because "Alien Invasion" films usually have a lot of high-budget spectacle to them. But this movie isn't

that. This is a much more personal film and more of a throwback to what made '80s sci-fi horror so great. But unlike a lot of films that are "throwbacks" or "homage" to the films that inspired them, this film makes a modern-day version of it. The soundtrack is amazing and the monsters are all practically done. That means the monsters are not computer-generated images, they're people in suits, animatronics, and puppets. They were darkened in post-production to give them a pure black look, but they're actually there with the actors. Practicality is something that is lost with most films now. Add that to a brilliant script, great acting, solid directing, airtight editing, and, once again, a kick-ass soundtrack, and you get one of the coolest and most fun films of the year.

#### 2. Drive

"Drive" is an exercise of subtlety. The film is just oozing with style, yet the director shows so much restraint. Every frame of this film feels necessary, not over done. Yet it's so stylish that you can't help but be in awe at it. The story is very straightforward and simple. It's unique, yet familiar; calm, yet chaotic; somber, yet beautiful. Also, Ryan Gosling is simply amazing.

This was really close to making my top spot. This is the best film of the year, one of the best of the past several years. This is the closest thing to a perfect film that I've seen since "The Shawshank Re-

demption."

#### 1. Hanna

When this movie came out, it immediately became my favorite film of the year. It maintained that spot until "Drive" came out. Well, for a while "Drive" was number two, then I got the Blu-ray for "Drive" and it moved to number one. Until writing this, "Hanna" stayed at the number 2 spot. I decided to re-watch it last minute, and I'm glad I did. To me, "Hanna" is this year's "Pulp Fiction," and Drive is "Shawshank Redemption."

There's something about "Hanna" that really captured me. It's a basic plot or revenge, but it's still so much more than that when you break it down. It's sort of a dark fairy tale about a girl coming into the world for the first time of her life. It's got great action throughout the film, but it's a character-driven story.

What really drives the movie is the performance of Saoirse Ronan, the unique direction of Joe Wright, the crazy editing style, and the incredible score by the Chemical Brothers. This crazy combination of unorthodox elements elevates "Hanna" above what it should have been. Any other actor, any other director, any other editor, any other score, and this movie just wouldn't have been as good as it is. While "Drive" is a better film, "Hanna's" uniqueness is what locked it into my top spot.

# Fashion at



**Spirit Sooga:** 'Kiss Me' loose shirt  
(Jeans Warehouse), jeans and shoes

**Kalia Novajosky:** Black ruffle top,  
jeans, shoes (opposite page)

Olive green tube top, jeans, shoes,  
tribal necklace, blue-green earrings,  
gold bracelet (page 36)

# Wow Wow

Check out how these girls have fun through out the streets of Kakaako near the coolest graffiti art in town

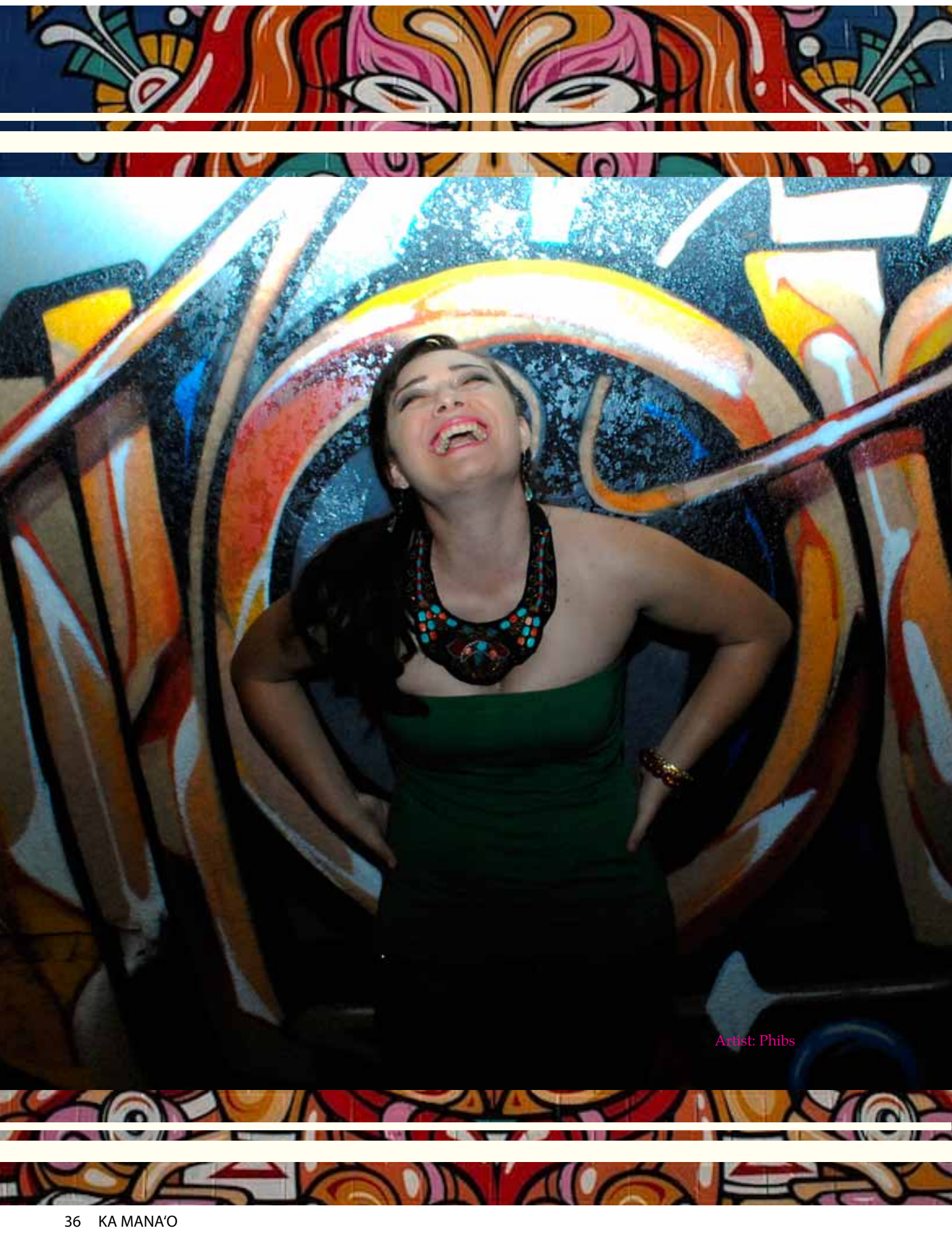
By:: Maisha Abbott

**Stylist:** Maisha Abbott  
**Photographer:** S'meta  
**Makeup Artist:** Elizabeth Daligdig  
**Jewelry By:** Kalia Novajosky  
**Models:** Kalia Novajosky  
Spirit Sooga  
**Location:** Fresh Cafe (Kakaako)

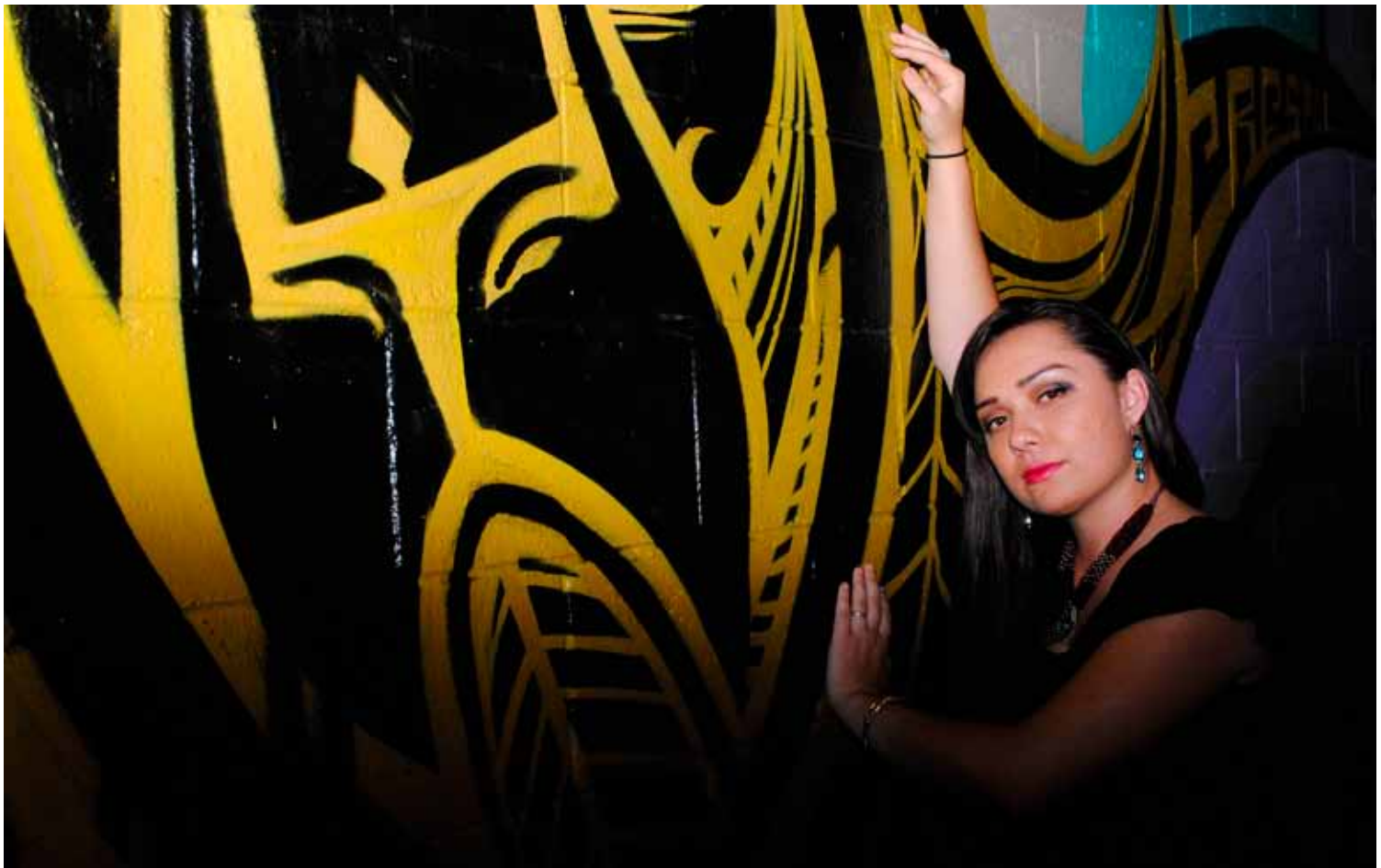
Artwork created at  
**POW WOW**  
**Hawaii**

Background Art piece (Peacock) by PRIME of Pow Wow





Artist: Phibs





Artists: (Artwork to the left) Aaron de la Cruz  
(Bottom piece) Meggs, Angry Woebots, Will Barras, Mr Jago and Pear Tarr  
(Background art) Jasper Wong



# How to get the perfect smokey eye

1. Using Urban Decay's eye shadow primer potion (\$20), prime eyes before beginning.

2. Next, use e.l.f.'s eye shadow brush (\$1) apply the lightest silver eye shadow from Coastal Scents' 88 Original Palette (\$18.95) to the inner eyelid from the tear duct to the midpoint of the eyelid.

3. With the same brush, apply a shade darker to the other half of the eyelid. Next, with e.l.f.'s blending brush (\$1) apply MAC's 4 shadow Hello Kitty collection palette's stately black shadow on the crease of the eye, starting from the outer corner of the eye to the center of the lid while staying on the crease.

4. Blend all harsh lines with the blending brush.

5. With MAC's 217 blending brush (\$22.50) apply MAC's yogurt shadow from the Hello Kitty palette on the brow bone as a highlight. Blend from the bottom of the brow to the top of the crease.

6. Finish by lining eyes with MAC's black track fluidline (\$15) using MAC's 209 eyeliner brush (\$18) and Maybelline's Falsies eye mascara in very black (\$8) – *Elizabeth Daligdig. Spirit Sooga (model)*



# STUDENT SHOWCASE

Leeward Community College  
Language Arts Division  
Fall 2011 Poetry Contest



SECOND PLACE

## DIXIE CUP

A P O E M B Y A S H L E E B R A N N I E S

Rough, Well Made Cloth  
Bleached White, Perfect — It Must Remain  
Printed On Its Inside Edge  
My Soon-To-Be Last Name  
And The Four Digits  
That Are His Existence To The World,  
To Anyone, Everyone, But Me.

The Little White Tag Is Warning Of The Dangers  
"You Must Tumble Me Dry Or Let Me Hang,  
Lest You Crease My Lines The Wrong Direction.  
That Would Be So Bad, So Sad To Me"  
Sincerely, #22, Size Seven And One-Half

Three Perfect Lines Cross Its Rounded Head  
A Sailor's Star, Leading His Way Home Again.  
And Just Below, On The Inside,  
Where No Captain's Mast Can See  
Lays A Dirty Line.  
Where Hard Work Stretched Across His Brow,  
And I Will Not Wash It  
For I Fear I Must Not  
Or Might I Lose Him Forever  
From My Sailor's Perfect White Cap.





“ B E L L A ” & “ S O A R ”



P H O T O G R A P H Y   B Y   A S H L Y N   Y A M A M O T O

# A T O N E M E N T

A S H O R T S T O R Y B Y G A V I N H U D S O N

The king gazed into the shimmering portal, contemplating how he might use it to conquer his enemies. His wise men had told him that it might allow time travel, but to when, they did not know; they needed to conduct more experiments to work out the kinks. However, the king could already see the possibilities; stepping back in time to aid himself in his endless conquests, or traveling to the future to acquire new technology.

The king's fantasizing was cut short when he heard a sound behind him. Turning around, he scanned the room in panic. Who could be there? He wondered. An assassin? The eerie blue light given off by the portal made the shadows of various elegant furnishings come to life, each dancing like a gloomy candle flame. The king jumped at every movement, fearing unseen assailants that hid behind each ornate column. He stood paralyzed with fear for several minutes before finally settling down, satisfied that he was safe. He turned to face the portal once again, when suddenly he was struck from behind by a heavy, blunt object. He tumbled forward, and was overcome by a strange sense of displacement as he was enveloped by the glow of the portal. As his consciousness slowly faded, he turned and caught a glimpse of his attacker. In horrified surprise, he thought he recognized the man, but before he could say anything, his mind slipped into oblivion.

He awoke in what appeared to be a castle courtyard, an idyllic patch of perfectly pruned grass and fruit trees surrounded by tall, gray stone walls that seemed to reach up and almost touch the sky. He stood up to explore this foreign place, and immediately his head started throbbing with an unbearable pain. He gingerly touched the back of his head, and felt warm blood plastering his hair to his skull. Wincing, he tried to recall what happened to him, but he couldn't remember a thing. In panic, he began to realize that he had no memory whatsoever, not even a name. Confused, he stumbled toward a nearby staircase. It led to the top of the castle walls.

From here, he had a majestic view of the surrounding countryside. He could see everything; the bustling town, the sprawling plantations, and the military barracks. He spent several hours here, watching the people go about their lives. As he watched, he slowly realized what poverty and squalor they lived in; the peasantry toiled endlessly in their fields, only to have the fruits of their labor taken by the relentless tax collectors. Citizens were beaten for their slightest transgressions. The people lived in constant fear of their oppressive government, not knowing what the capricious administration or military might do next.

The former king, standing atop the castle wall, was appalled at the injustice of this realm. Unbound by experience and prejudice, his newly purified heart demanded action. Christening himself Hero, he vowed to avenge the suffering of the people. Hero seized a fallen tree branch, and with fire in his eyes, strode toward the castle.

At the entrance, he came upon two menacing guards, armed with long, sharp pikes. Hero braced himself for a confrontation, but to his surprise, they did not try to stop him. He walked into the throne room, and there, he found the object of his rage: the king of this land, standing before a strange glowing orb. The king must have heard Hero's approach, because he suddenly turned around. Hero took cover behind a nearby pillar, and waited for his target to turn away. Hero risked a glance from behind his cover, and saw that the way was clear. He snuck toward the king, moving an inch at a time, until he was within range. He raised his weapon over his head, and struck down the king with a mighty blow. The king toppled forward into the glowing orb, which closed around him and winked out of existence. Hero was puzzled by this strange occurrence, but did not let it trouble him; his mission was complete.

Having successfully dethroned the tyrant, Hero loudly proclaimed himself king. The guards outside exchanged puzzled glances, then shrugged, thinking it was just another of their crazy lord's episodes. Inside the throne room, King Hero vowed to rule with a wise and just hand. His people rejoiced at the news, delighted at his promise of freedom and prosperity.

Soon, however, Hero's kingdom was attacked by a coalition of the old king's countless enemies. Inexperienced and naïve, Hero was unable to fight off the persistent hordes of enemy soldiers. Each crushing defeat was followed by another as the foreign armies approached the castle. The people began to panic; desperate for a true leader, they demanded that Hero step down and restore the old king to power. Hero tried to explain to them that this was impossible, but even he wasn't sure why. The people were dissatisfied with this response, and were soon calling for Hero's head.

Alone in the castle, Hero drank heavily. He couldn't understand why his people were so angry; he was only trying to help them. He could hear their shouts now as the furious mob broke into the castle. Hero sighed, and sprinkled poison into his wine. "I'm so sorry..." He said, as he took his last drink.



“ S U N S E T   A T   K O   O L I N A ”



P H O T O G R A P H Y   B Y   D A V E   C O P E N H A V E R

# MY HOMETOWN

A P O E M B Y J A M I E M C C R E A D Y

Tall Pines And Weeping Willows  
Set The Landscape Of The Place I Once Called Home.  
Plots Of Land Yawn With Outstretched Arms,  
Pushing Their Neighbors Away.

The Backyard Was A Racetrack;  
Wheels Of Go-Carts Spit Up Dirt And Grass  
As They Sped Past The Tall Pines.

Sparkle Of Sunlight Peering Through  
Mysterious Woods.  
Enchanted Playground,  
Tire Swing Attached To The Thickest Branch  
Of The Weeping Willow.

Stomach Drops And High Jumps  
Splashed Chlorinated Water On The Deck,  
As We Attempted To Jump From The Trampoline  
Into The Pool.

Seasons Curtsey And Cut In To Dance.  
Bright Orange Leaves And Bare Willow Trees.  
Pumpkin Pie And Haunted Houses In Friend's Basements,  
Where Peeled Grapes Were Eyeballs  
To Unseeing Fingers.

Winter Brought Blankets Of White That  
Tucked Us In And Kissed Us With Frosty Lips.  
Packed Cotton We Would Throw At Each Other,  
And Icy Ponds Allowed Our Skates  
To Slide Across Their Surface.

Malls Became Home To Teenage Crowds,  
Pushed In By The Cold.  
Cigarette Smoke Filling The Food Court Air.

My Grandparents Cut Down The Willow Tree,  
They Said That It Died.  
I Didn't Know Then That Trees Could Die.

High Schools Baptize Freshmen In The Latest Trends,  
Black Leather Jackets And Tommy Hilfiger.  
Spoiled Rich Kids Lavish In Ungratefulness,  
Driving Around In Cars Bought By Their Parents.  
Mine Was A Black Ford Probe, I Wanted An Eclipse.

Construction And Industry Leak Their Black Tar  
Into New Areas, Promising Abundance.  
Addictions Take People Away From The Present.  
Blood Pools On Cleared Grounds.

Tall Pines Whisper Goodbye And Willows Weep.

Leeward Community College  
Language Arts Division  
Fall 2011 Poetry Contest



FIRST PLACE



“ S U N S E T   A T   K O   O L I N A ”



P H O T O G R A P H Y   B Y   D A V E   C O P E N H A V E R

To showcase your creative work,  
contact [stanleyl@hawaii.edu](mailto:stanleyl@hawaii.edu)



1



2



3

## WINTER WONDERS

*Photographer: Brandon Hicks*

- 1: Snowflake view of a cold day. Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2: Quiet church. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- 3: Snow-covered dog and his owner. Zurich, Switzerland.
- 4: Man on boat. Lake Lucerne, Switzerland.



4

# Earth 2 Fashion Club

of Leeward Community College  
presents



## *The Hoa`aina Art Gallery/ Fashion Show Event*

Saturday April 7th, 2012 from 4pm-8pm

MA`O Organic Farms  
86-210 Puhawai Road, Lualualei Valley  
Wai`anae, HI 96792

General Admission: \$7 @ the door


Come and enjoy Food, Art Gallery featuring Paintings by Solomon Enos, Photos by Nathan Yuen and artistic sculptures by Susan Scott; Live GRAFFITI Art by members of POW WOW Hawaii, poetry slams and more!

For more info contact Maisha Abbott @ (808) 692-2837  
or email at [maisha3@hawaii.edu](mailto:maisha3@hawaii.edu)

Earth 2 Fashion Club began Fall 2011 by four students of Leeward Community College who calls themselves ' The FAB 4'. These girls created the club for students who has the want to express themselves in the arts of Make-Up and Hair Styling, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Photography, Modeling and more!

Interested in joining?

Contact Maisha @ [maisha3@hawaii.edu](mailto:maisha3@hawaii.edu) and attend their meetings at Leeward Community College Wednesdays at 4:30 pm and be a part of their earthly world of fashion!

A photograph of a college campus. In the foreground, a blue metal bicycle rack is partially visible on the right. The middle ground shows a paved plaza with several bicycles parked at a rack. In the background, there is a large, modern building with a prominent overhanging section supported by columns. A few people are walking near the building. The sky is clear and blue, and there are green trees on the right side of the frame.

*LEFWARD  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE*