

# CONTRIBUTORS



**Katherine Achacoso** (she/her/sija) is a queer daughter of the Filipinx diaspora, with ancestral ties to Surigao and Bohol. She is a current doctoral candidate in the Department of American Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, as well as a Guarini Pre to Post doctoral fellow in Asian American Studies at Dartmouth College. She currently lives in the ahupua'a of Waikīkī in Ka Mo'ili'ili with her more-than-human kin Kaimana Kalayaan. She is a co-editor of the #MaunaKeaSyllabusProject and the "Oceanic Filipinx Studies" special issue.

**Rosie Alegado** is an associate professor of Oceanography and Sea Grant at UH Mānoa, the Director of Sea Grants' Ulana 'Ike Center of Excellence. Alegado uses systems biology, microbial oceanography, and historical ecology to elucidate the influence and impact of individuals embedded in larger systems, and how these relationships differ under a changing environment, centering a critical 'ōiwi (Native Hawaiian) perspective on research as praxis. Alegado's research program is rooted in meaningful academic collaborations and partnerships with Indigenous communities. She is committed to training scholars to draw upon multiple knowledge systems to address key problems and empower communities to understand and protect their resources.

**Ellen-Rae Cachola** is the granddaughter of Ilocano immigrants who came to work on Maui's plantation fields. Her political and archival practices have been shaped within demilitarization movements led by Indigenous, diasporic, and international grassroots women leaders. Ellen-Rae currently works as the Evening Supervisor and Archives Manager at the University of Hawai'i School of Law Library, lectures for the Department of Ethnic Studies at Mānoa, and is a 2020–2022 Rare Books School-Andrew W. Mellon Fellow for Diversity, Heritage, and Inclusion. She offers a local Filipina view of modern Hawaiian history that can be read about in *DeTours: A Decolonial Guide Book to Hawai'i*, *Critical Ethnic Studies Journal*, and *Feral Feminism*; writings about her archival practice can be found in *Advocating for Ourselves: Working in Underrepresented Multicultural Archives and Libraries*, the Kolekole newsletter of the Hawai'i Library Association, and the University of Hawai'i School of Law Library Archives website.

**Grace Alvaro Caligtan** (she/her, they/them) is rooted in the ahupua'a of Kapālama, and routed via ili Tadian, Piddig, and Washington, DC. Co-founder of Urban Babaylan and Decolonial Pin@y, Grace has co-facilitated Pin@y and Filipinx diasporic circles of support, mutual aid,

knowledge-building, and kinship for nearly twenty-five years. These brave spaces have helped to assist in people's self-determination, bodily autonomy, and the collectivizing of resources for caregiving, child-rearing, and daily living. These spaces have also helped to heal conflict, create a culture of mutual accountability, and grow transformative solidarities and radical friendship. Their most profound spiritual practice of love and courage comes from the on-going work of (un)learning during the pandemic and parenting Malaya Phuong Caligtan-Tran.

**Malaya P. Caligtan-Tran** (they/them) is a current Fulbright research grantee in the Philippines. Growing up in Hawai'i as a Kankana-ey, Ilocano, and Vietnamese person surrounded by an active, involved, and vibrant community has shaped their politics, activism, and research. They have a self-designed B.A. in Indigenous Public Health from Pitzer College. They currently reside in Baguio City.

**Sean-Joseph Takeo Kahāokalani Choo** is a multi-ethnic and multi-hyphenate artist from Honolulu. He's the Lead Steward, Head Jester, and Primary Arts Advocate of Kamamo House, an artist cultivation organization, theatre advocacy organization, and podcast. Sean is proud to be the descendant of Japanese, Uchinanchu, Korean, Portuguese, English, Irish, Visayan, and Kānaka Maoli ancestors whose lives have enriched and complicated his story as well as the story of Hawai'i. His career highlights include the following: Being accepted into the inaugural Native American Artist Lab with The Playwrights Realm; being commissioned by TheaterWorks USA to produce an original song about Representative Patsy Mink entitled, *Think Mink!*; and being awarded a Regional Emmy in the category of Arts/Entertainment-Long Form Content for co-producing, co-writing, composing, and co-directing *Da Holidays* episode of the Honolulu Theatre for Youth's television show, *The HI Way*. He is a member of The Dramatists Guild, TYA/USA, the Hawai'i State Theatre Council, CAATA, and improvhi.

**Kim Compoc** is an assistant professor of history at the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu. She is affiliated with the Honolulu-based organization Women's Voices, Women Speak and the International Women's Network Against Militarism. Her work has appeared in *Amerasia*, *Journal of Asian American Studies*; *Q&A: Queer in Asian America: Voices for the 21 Century*; *Filipinx American Studies: Reckoning, Reclamation, Transformation*; and *Foreign Policy in Focus*.

**Shannon Cristobal** is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the College of Education-Educational Foundation. She is a fifth generation Filipina/o/x American woman born and raised on O'ahu, Hawai'i. Her great grandparents were plantation workers known as Sakada, the first wave of Filipina/o/x in Hawai'i. She received her BA in English with a focus in Filipina/o/x and Contemporary

Literature of Hawai'i from University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu. Her MA in American Studies also focused on the Filipina/o/x American experience, identity and representation at UH Manoa. Her research areas include Filipina/o/x literature, history, education, and ethnic studies. Specifically, she is exploring how Filipino food and foodways is a means of grappling with the complexities of Filipina/o/x American history, identity and culture in Hawai'i. Her aim is to contribute to the growing decolonial scholarship, resources and literature available to teachers and institutions of education and learning. Thus, her passion is to explore the way education, food, and culture are inextricably intertwined, and the ways it contributes to individual and social memory that inform cultural capital and production.

**Malialina Derden** is an Afro-Pinay writer and student who was born on the island of Oahu and raised in Kalihi. She currently resides in Chicago where she is based as a flight attendant. Malia started her writing journey as a high-school freshmen in the slam poetry club at Farrington. Since that time, she has competed in numerous spoken word competitions including Brave New Voice (BNV 2014 Philadelphia), Slam of the Pacific (2016 Honolulu), Women of the World Poetry Slam (WOWPS 2016 Brooklyn), National Poetry Slam (NPS 2017 Denver), and several other competitions. Malia also competed in the sixth season of the Community College of Philadelphia's Emmy nominated student spoken word competition Drop the Mic (2019 Philadelphia) and came out the winner of the season. Some writers who have changed her life include Janet Mock, Sonya Renee Taylor, Raquel Willis, Audre Lorde, and Maya Angelou. Malia is most inspired by her mother and the stories of the people around her.

**Bryant de Venecia** is an artist, actor, organizer, and a storyteller. He earned his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Bryant currently works as a Communications Organizer at UNITE HERE Local 5, a labor union that represents hospitality, healthcare, and food service workers in Hawai'i. He also had experience community organizing in the non-profit sector, focusing on housing, public safety, LGBTQ+ rights, and immigrant rights. Bryant channels his passion in storytelling through art, film, and other forms of media.

**Vernadette Gonzalez** is a professor in the American Studies department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her most recent book, *Empire's Mistress, Starring Isabel Rosario Cooper* (2021) is an exploration of the intimacies of imperial geopolitics through the life story of a mixed-race vaudeville and film actress and sometime mistress of General Douglas MacArthur. She is coeditor, with Hōkūlani K. Aikau, of *Detours: A Decolonial Guide to Hawai'i* (2019), which now anchors a book series with Duke University Press, with volumes on Guåhan/Guam, Palestine, Okinawa, Singapore, Korea, and other sites in development. She is also author of *Securing Paradise: Tourism and Militarism in Hawai'i and*

*the Philippines* (2013). She is currently co-editing an interdisciplinary critical reader about the K-pop group BTS for Duke University Press.

**Rebecca Maria Goldschmidt** is an artist and cultural worker engaging in place-based art and research projects. Her recent work reflects studies of cultural and land-based practices of her Jewish and Filipino ancestors, working in textile, sculpture, media, and performance. She received her MFA from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in Honolulu in 2020 and is pursuing her doctoral studies as a MEXT Scholar at Hiroshima City University in Japan.

**Aina Iglesias** (she/her) is a 1.5 generation Filipina immigrant from Pangasinan, Philippines and Mililani, Hawai'i. She became involved in the labor movement at 17 years old through UNITE HERE! Local 5's Aikea youth program where she organized high school and college students around community issues such as affordable housing. After graduating from the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, she went to work in the hotel industry where she successfully unionized a Hilton-managed Waikiki hotel in 2019. Aina's passion for labor organizing follows her to the Hawai'i Nurses' Association, where she currently works as a Labor Relations Specialist representing many Filipino/a/x workers in the healthcare industry.

**Lalaine Ignao** moved to Hawai'i after undergraduate school in March 2016 with hopes of becoming involved with the Filipino community. She began writing for *The Fil-Am Courier* in May 2017 and was inspired to further her education, which led her to obtain a Master's in New Media Journalism. To give back to the community, Lalaine started Pusong Filipinx, a quarterly event that aims to uplift young Filipino entrepreneurs and creatives, build community, empower culture, and give back to nonprofit organizations. In May 2021, Lalaine and her fiance, Eric Ganding, opened up Sama Sama, a Filipino inspired boba business to honor her late maternal grandmother and her middle school dream. They recently held a soft opening for their food truck and hope to have a storefront in the next two years. When she's not doing business, Lalaine reports for *TFC News*, formerly known as *Balitang America* and represents Hawai'i.

**Kahala Johnson** is a PhD candidate in Indigenous Politics and Futures studies, with a graduate certificate in Women Gender & Sexuality Studies at University of Hawai'i Mānoa. Their research focuses on gender queer and poly decolonial love. Kahala is from Nā Wai 'Ehā, Maui, and calls themselves a Hina-kia'i-mauna for Haleakalā. Kahala also resided for eight months on Mauna Kea as a protector and served as founding member and coordinator for Pu'uhuluhulu University as well as co-founder and kahu (caretaker) of the Hale Mauna Māhū, which they recounted in the "Native Stories" podcast interview series. They are a tabletop gaymer, science fiction writer, and zine artist.

**Germaine Lindsay Saladino Juan** is a student of Ethnic Studies and Philippine Language and Culture (concentration in Ilokano) with a minor in Computer Science at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, expected to graduate in May 2023. Motivated by her experiences as a 1.5-generation Ilokano immigrant growing up in Kalihi, she is interested in exploring the intersections of Filipino identity formations, cultural production, and social movements in Hawai'i. She co-founded Anakbayan Hawai'i, an anti-imperialist Filipino youth organization, in 2019 and currently serves as Chairperson for the 2022–2023 term. She also served for two years as an officer in the Timpuyog Organization, a student organization in UH Mānoa that preserves and promotes Ilokano culture.

**Roderick N. Labrador** is associate professor and Chair of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He is the author of *Building Filipino Hawai'i* (2015), co-editor of *Empire of Funk: Hip Hop and Representation in Filipina/o America* (2014), co-author of *Filipinos in Hawai'i* (2011), and co-editor of *Asian American Hip-Hop Musical Autobiographies* (a cluster issue of *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly*, 2018). He is currently working on two book projects focused on Filipino American hip-hop musical autobiographies.

**Davianna Pomaika'i McGregor** is professor and founding faculty member of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and is a historian of Hawai'i and the Pacific. She is the Director of the Center for Oral History in the Department of Ethnic Studies. Her ongoing research endeavors have focused on documenting the persistence of traditional Hawaiian cultural customs, beliefs, and practices in rural Hawaiian communities, including the island of Moloka'i; the districts of Puna and Ka'u on Hawai'i; Ke'anae-Wailuanui on Maui and Waiahole-Waikane on O'ahu, and the revival of Hawaiian cultural and spiritual stewardship of the island of Kaho'olawe. This work is featured in her book, *Kua'aina: Living Hawaiian Culture*, which won the Kenneth W. Balridge Prize for best book in any field of history written by a resident of Hawai'i from 2005–2007. She was an active member of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) in the 1980s.

**Nadezna Ortega** is an instructor in the Ilokano program in the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She teaches intermediate Ilokano, fourth level Ilokano, Philippine history and culture, and Philippine film courses. She is also a PhD student in Political Science at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa specializing in Indigenous Politics and Law and Policy. She hails from Barangay Pasaleng in the Municipality of Pagudpud and Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. She currently resides in the ahupua'a of Honouliuli on the island of O'ahu.

**Kenzie “Kenzo” Ozoa** is a student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa from Kailua, O‘ahu. They are currently in their fourth year and last semester of undergraduate school, double majoring in Ethnic Studies and Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies. Their work is rooted in a renaissance and re-centering of queer Filipina/x narratives throughout history, in the present, and in the future. As a result of said work, they hope to not only bring these experiences to the forefront, but to honor, revive, and keep alive the existences and legacies of our queer ancestors, elders, youth - such as themself, and generations to come.

**leilani portillo** (they/‘o ia/she) is a queer diasporic Kanaka ‘Ōiwi poet, potter, and artist. They were born and raised on occupied Ohlone Territory and moved to Hawai‘i in 2012. They have since been exploring their kuleana as a Kanaka from the diaspora who has returned to their ancestral home (is)lands. Since learning about and getting involved with the Hawaiian independence movement, leilani has shifted from academia-centered work to community centered work. They currently teach Kanaka ‘Ōiwi youth the importance of mo‘olelo and how to be better relatives to other oppressed people through literature. Their work overall seeks to weave ropes of resistance and solidarity through poetry, ‘Ike Hawai‘i, and hana no‘eau.

**Marie Ramos** was born in Baguio, Philippines and is of Kankanaey and Ilokano descent. She immigrated to Hawai‘i with her family via plantation ties. Although Marie has spent most of her life away from her ancestral homeland, Hawai‘i has taught her many of the values and beliefs she imagines she would have learned had her family stayed in the Cordilleras. Marie is a graduate of UH Mānoa with a bachelor’s degree in Ethnic Studies.

**Paola Rodelas** has over thirteen years of experience as a communications and community organizer in the labor movement and nonprofit sector. She currently works as the communications director of Jobs to Move America, a national nonprofit that secures good jobs in manufacturing through policy and grassroots organizing. Previously, she was a communications organizer at UNITE HERE Local 5, a labor union representing 12,000 workers in hospitality, healthcare, and food service. She built the union’s communications program from the ground up, and also started the union’s immigration program, working in coalition with local community groups and attorneys to help hundreds of immigrants apply for U.S. citizenship. Paola graduated from the University of California, San Diego in 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in Ethnic Studies and Art History. Her love for grassroots organizing began there, where protests arose against tuition hikes and racial violence. She was born in Baguio, Philippines and is of Kankanaey and Bontoc descent. Paola is also a competitive powerlifter, astrologer, and is ruled by one cat named Nef.

**Romyn Kim Sabatchi** (she/her) was born and raised in San Diego, California (Encanto) and identifies as Filipina/Igorot (Indigenous tribe in the Philippines)/Chinese American. She is the Director of Student Life for the Office of Student Life at Kapi'olani Community College. She has a Master's in Higher Education and Student Affairs from USF(CA) (2017) and a Bachelor's in Business Administration from USD(CA) (2013). She enjoys acting, working with student leaders, hiking, playing basketball and working in the community.

**Demiliza Sagaral Saramosing** is an educator, scholar, and teaching artist of Bisayan descent with genealogies rooted in the seas shared between the Visayas and Mindanao. Her paternal family returned to Hawai'i in the 1970s to escape state-sanctioned land-grab wars in Iligan City via their sakada labor ties to the Ewa plantation. Demiliza is a current doctoral candidate in the Department of American Studies at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and holds graduate minors in Race, Indigeneity, Disability, Gender, Sexuality (RIDGS) and American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS). She is the author of "A Filipina Hood Feminist Perspective: Youth Culture and the Politics of Feeling Good in Working-Class Kalihi" (*Weaving Our Stories*, forthcoming 2023). Today, Demiliza is a lecturer at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Ethnic Studies department and is conducting her PhD fieldwork back home in Kalihi.

**Dean Itsuji Saranillio** is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Born on the Hāmākua coast on the island of Hawai'i and raised on the islands of Maui and O'ahu, **Lyz Soto** is a performance poet of Visayan, Ilocano, Hakka, German, English, and French descent. Her *Bodies of Stories*, her spoken arts theater show, debuted in Honolulu in December 2016. Her book *Translate Sun/Son/Sum* was published in 2017. In 2019, she was the dramaturg and director of *She Who Dies to Live*, produced by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. In 2022, she co-edited the Bamboo Ridge Press speculative anthology, *Snaring New Suns*, with Tom Gammarino, Bryan Kamaoli Kuwada, and D. Keali'i MacKenzie, and she's currently the Director of Literary and Conversation Programs at Hawai'i Council for the Humanities.

**Catherine 'Īmaikalani Ulep** is from Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i, where she lived, worked, and attended school before moving to Minnesota. She is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of Minnesota. Her dissertation centers on Hawaiian women, gendered labor, and material culture in nineteenth century Hawai'i.

**Domi Ulep** is from Kalihi, Hawai'i. He attended Farrington High School before moving to Minnesota with his family. He currently operates a business that sells collectables.