



Hawaiian Art and Philosophy

*With three sisters: Dr Manulani Aluli Meyer,
Meleanna Meyer & Maile Meyer*

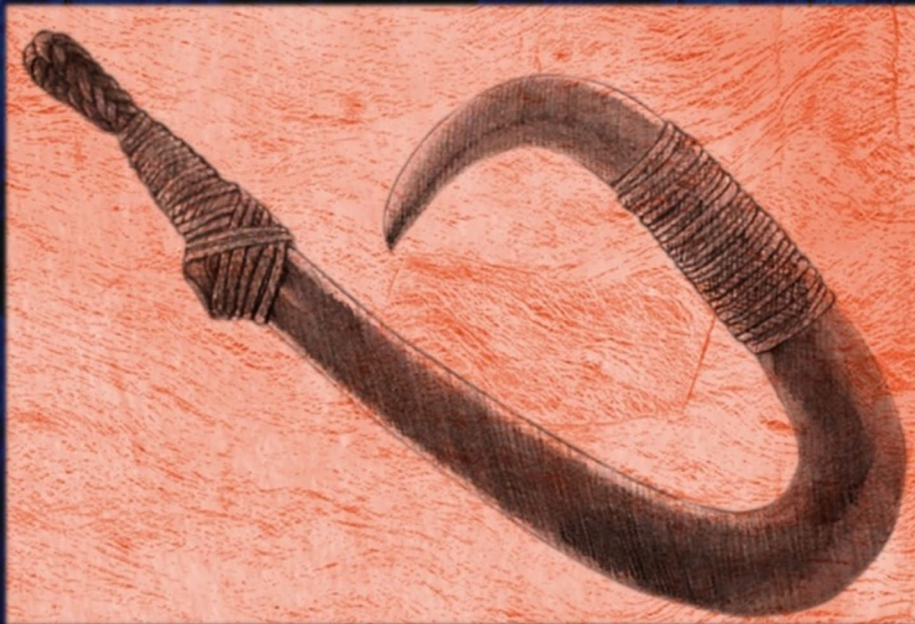


Illustration by Cecelia Faumuina

Authors



Dr Manulani Aluli Meyer is the fifth daughter of Emma Aluli and Harry Meyer who grew up on the sands of Mokapu and Kailua beach on the island of O‘ahu. The Aluli ohana is a large and diverse group of scholar-activists dedicated to Hawaiian education, justice, land reclamation, law, health, cultural revitalization, arts education, prison reform, food sovereignty, transformational economics, and music. Manulani works in the field of Indigenous epistemology and its role in world-wide awakening. She obtained her doctorate in Philosophy of Education from Harvard (Ed.D. 1998). Manulani is a world-wide keynote speaker, writer, and international evaluator of Indigenous PhDs. Her book: *Ho‘oulu: Our Time of Becoming*, is in its third printing. Her background is in wilderness education, coaching, and experiential learning and she has been an Instructor for Outward Bound, a coach for Special Olympics, and a cheerleader for the Hawaiian Charter School movement. Manulani has been an Associate Professor of Education at University of Hawai‘i at Hilo and spent five years in New Zealand as the lead designer/teacher for He Waka Hiringa, an innovative Masters in Applied Indigenous Knowledge degree at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, the largest Māori university with 30,000+ students. She is currently the Konohiki for Kūlana o Kapolei (a Hawaiian Place of Learning at University of Hawai‘i–West O‘ahu).

Front image caption & credit

Images Left to Right: 1) Lei hala making (Manulani Aluli Meyer making lei hala at Iolani Palace), 2) Lei hala (lei hala made by Manulani Aluli Meyer) & 3) Lei hala (art piece by Meleanna Aluli Meyer)



Name: Makau

Description: This makau or fishhook from Hawai‘i is finely carved from wood and intricately lashed with 3-ply braided coconut sennit fibre. It was gifted to Te Papa Museum in 1912.

Credit: Collection of Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, FE000361. Gift of Lord St Oswald, 1912.

Link: <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/863654>



LAGI-MAAMA
Academy | Consultancy



Meleanna Meyer multi-disciplinary artist, author and Teaching Artist. Meleanna received her B.A. from Stanford University and was mentored by Nathan Oliveira and Leo Holub. Her kumu (teacher) in mana'o Hawai'i (Hawaiian knowledge) is respected educator Keola Lake. Meleanna received her MA in Educational Foundations from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa under the mentorship of Dr. Royal Fruehling. An East West Center grantee, APAWLI and Salzberg Fellow, she has lent her many talents to a wide range of arts and culture collaborations. A tireless enthusiast for constructive and creative change in community, Meleanna loves to work to envision ways to make positive inroads wherever there is a need or call for positive change. A visual artist, activist, educator and filmmaker, Meleanna comes from a long line of dedicated folks who want to make a difference - on the ground, in places where Indigenous voices and wisdom needs to be heard. She believes wholeheartedly that a return and honoring of Indigenous wisdom traditions will ultimately save the planet. New Old Wisdom, the calling forth and reintegration of wisdom traditions of our elders from all Indigenous points on the planet are what is called for in these times. Focused intention, built in community through collaborative efforts is key to any real, substantive, sustainable change.



Maile Meyer Consultant, bridging Hawaiian communities. Founder, president of Native Books, a community resource of books, videos and educational materials that focus on Hawaiian culture, language, hula, music, history, voyaging, plants, and every other aspect of Hawai'i. Maile is the third of seven children born to Emma Akana Aluli and Harry Meyer. Raised in Kailua on O'ahu, educated in Honolulu town and on the continent, Maile returned home in the 1980s and started a family, and several businesses. Native Books, Native Books & Beautiful Things, Na Mea Hawai'i, Mana Hawai'i and Mea Makamae were all started to honor and expand the presence of things Hawaiian in Hawai'i. Most recently, Maile has been interested in supporting contemporary Hawaiian artists through her work with Maoli Art in Real Time POP-UP galleries at the Hawaii Convention Center and special creative collaborations including the Hawai'i Kakou Community Mural and the Sheraton Waikiki Helumoa Murals. The mural projects have been close collaborations with her sister Meleanna Meyer.

“...I think that’s the seed of how Hawaiian knowledge systems were and how they were planted - through aloha - and do you see how they are being rejuvenated today! We are unique as people, as practitioners, as educators, as artists in our principles and our love of land and care of people. We’re specific and clear about our priorities and values because we are island people. These thoughts actually boiled down into what is now described as Hawaiian epistemology. We began to ask the questions: what is enduring knowledge all about? What is the difference between knowledge, knowing and understanding, or mana’oi’o, mana’olana and aloha? These are big differences and we know what they are! We as Island Peoples have unique ways to respond to those questions, and responding to them and how they get expressed throughout the world has been a discipline, love, and joy to practice.... and all that is one way to describe Hawaiian Art.”

Dr Manulani Aluli Meyer