“Lee Cataluna’s new book brings Hawai’i life from the stage to the page”

(HONOLULU) Author and playwright Lee Cataluna, has a new book coming out October 2022 from Bamboo Ridge Press. FLOWERS OF HAWAIʻI (Bamboo Ridge Issue #121) features scripts and photos from four plays written and produced in the last dozen years that capture various aspects of Hawaiʻi life and culture infused with Cataluna’s unique brand of humor and style. It includes the title play and three others (Aloha Attire, The Great Kauaʻi Train Robbery, and Uncle’s Regularly Scheduled Garage Party is Cancelled Tonight.)

Introductory notes at the beginning of each play give readers insight into Cataluna’s inspirations and include some background and production history. For example, The Great Kauaʻi Train Robbery was inspired by the true story of Cataluna’s great granduncle, who was wrongly convicted in Hawaiʻi’s only train heist. And Flowers of Hawaiʻi, a collection of connected 10-Minute scenes, was inspired by the Vintage “Flowers of Hawaiʻi” Dinnerware.

You can hear about these stories and inspirations in-person at one of Cataluna’s book signings! Books are available for review and author is open to interviews. Lee Cataluna will be reading and signing books in person on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 5:30 PM at Native Books in Chinatown, Honolulu. More events will be announced in 2023.

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For more information, call 808.626.1481, e-mail read@bambooridge.org, or visit www.bambooridge.org.

Bamboo Ridge Press was founded in 1978 to publish literature by, for, and about Hawai’i’s people. It publishes two volumes a year: a literary journal of poetry and fiction featuring work by both emerging and established writers, and a book by a single author or an anthology focused on a special theme. Bamboo Ridge Press is an independent non-profit, tax-exempt corporation supported thru book sales, subscriptions, private donations, and grants.

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LEE CATALUNA was born on Maui to a Part-Hawaiian father and a Portuguese mother. She has a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from University of California, Riverside. After college in California, she came home to Hawai‘i to start a career in journalism. Her work for theater includes commissions from La Jolla Playhouse (What the Stars See at Night); Oregon Shakespeare Festival (Ipu); Arena Stage (Emma Riot); and San Francisco Playhouse (Sons of Maui). Her script Funeral Attire won the Von Marie Atochley Excellence in Playwriting Award from Native Voices at the Autry. Her play Heart Strings received a Relimagine: New Plays in TYA (Theatre for Young Audiences) grant and was developed at Atlantic Theater Company, New York City. Her play Home of the Brave is produced in schools around the country. Her books include Folks You Meet In Longs and Three Years on Doreen’s Sofa, both published by Bamboo Ridge Press, and Ordinary ‘Ohana, published by Bess Press. She also has a piece published in the Dramatic Publishing anthology I Have a Story: Plays from an Extraordinary Year.
a collection of
4 Hawai‘i plays
with introductions by
John H.Y. Wat
Actor, Director, and
Theatre Educator

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"While these plays have a universal appeal, it is obvious that the primary audience for them is us, the people of Hawai‘i, and Lee Cataluna’s plays invite us, the audience, to step up our stories."

—John H.Y. Wat