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## **New Story Collection Explores Windward O‘ahu Through Contemporary Struggles Between Legacy and Loss, Culture and Commerce.**

HONOLULU, HI—April 14, 2025

Bamboo Ridge Press is proud to announce the release of ***Blood Work and Other Stories***, a powerful new short story collection by award-winning author Donald Carreira Ching, who grew up in Kahalu‘u on the island of O‘ahu.

Through seventeen intimate and emotionally layered stories, Carreira Ching explores family, cultural identity, environmental threat, and the weight of intergenerational trauma. Against a backdrop of economic hardship, housing instability, and displacement, his characters live in a Hawai‘i far removed from tourist postcards—navigating grief, disconnection, and erasure while holding tight to the connections that root them in resilience and community.

From a daughter grappling with her mother’s fading memory to a man breaking into his childhood home before it’s turned into a vacation rental, these stories trace the struggle to hold onto love, land, and identity in a place shaped by colonization, development, and diaspora.

***Blood Work and Other Stories*** makes room for struggle while refusing despair. With grace and grit, Carreira Ching renders Hawai‘i as few others have—bearing witness to what’s being lost, while illuminating what endures: hope, love, and the deep connections between people and place. This collection affirms Carreira Ching as a vital voice in contemporary American fiction and a key contributor to the evolving canon of Hawai‘i literature.

The author is available for interviews, readings, and community workshops. Review copies available on request. Launch will be scheduled for mid-late June. Follow Bamboo Ridge Press on socials or subscribe to our eNewsletter for details and updates.



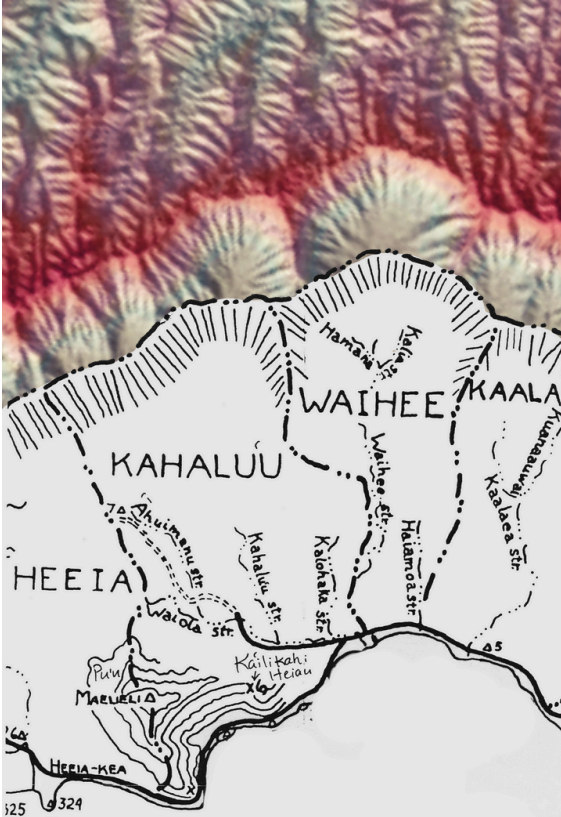
This project was made possible in part by funding from the Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (through appropriations from the Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts).

**For media inquiries, excerpts, or review copies, please contact us at [read@bambooridge.org](mailto:read@bambooridge.org), or visit [www.bambooridge.org](http://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 through book sales, subscriptions, private donations, and grants.

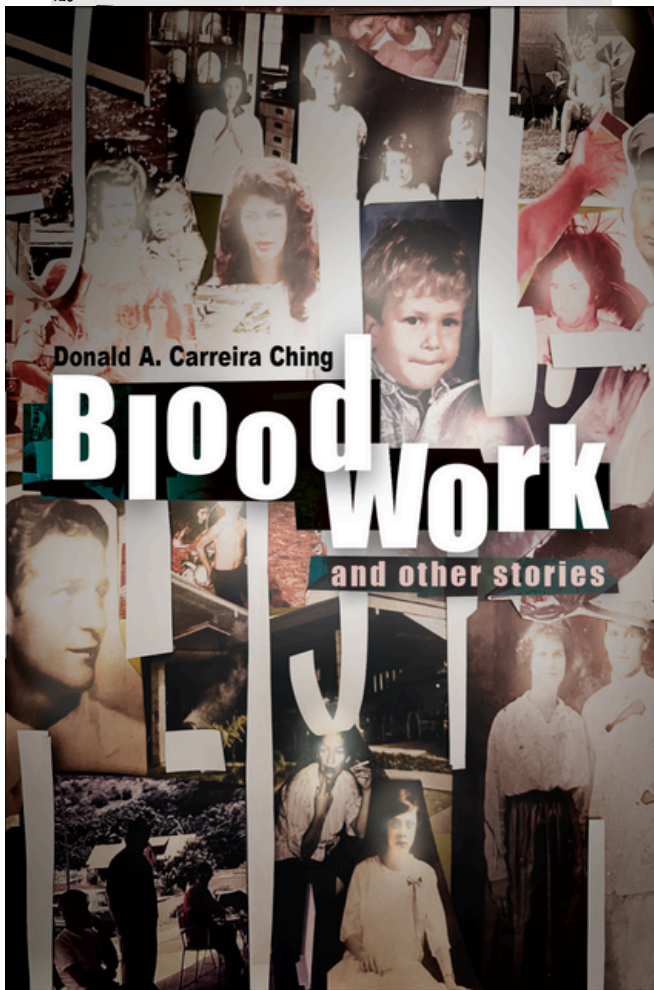
**What we carry. What we inherit.**

**What we leave behind.**



On the Windward side of O'ahu, change moves fast—developers buy up neighborhoods, locals move away, and families struggle to hold on to what's left. But beneath the surface of each loss is something more enduring: memory, love, and the quiet acts of resilience that refuse to be forgotten.

A father's silence. A mother's memory. A brother's grief. In seventeen unforgettable stories, Donald Carreira Ching offers a powerful and deeply intimate portrait of contemporary life in Hawai'i.



*Blood Work and Other Stories* is an unflinching portrayal of Hawai'i's harshest realities, but grittiness does not mean pessimism. Rather, Carreira Ching writes with tenderness. Threats are rendered in complex, often heart-breaking reality, even as Carreira Ching navigates his characters, and his reader, toward community connection and hope. In formally inventive stories filled with intimacy and grace, Carreira Ching invites us to understand the Windward coast of O'ahu as few other writers can.

— Kristiana Kahakauwila  
author of *This is Paradise* and *Clairboyance*

**Stories of connection and survival  
in a place caught between  
what's sacred and what's sold.**

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## More praise for *Blood Work*

“Donald Carreira Ching presents a collective portrait in darker hues of the vacant spaces that once housed all we have lost in a single generation. Each story in this collection is crafted exquisitely and is haunted by the truth that we are a place in transition because we are a people in transition. *Blood Work and Other Stories* is a rare gem for those of us who like our fiction honest.”

— Scott Kikkawa, author of *Kona Winds, Red Dirt, and Char Siu*

Carreira Ching’s stories rise to touch the universality of the collective experiences we all face in Hawai’i, our nation, and at its essence, our world in chaos; our worlds of loss, addiction, alienation, crime, kūpuna, and climate change seen through the eyes of the writer’s honesty and empathy—the quintessential intensity of bearing witness to catastrophic situations without judgment or shame, a release resounding with a generous pragmatic love.

— Lois-Ann Yamanaka, author of *Behold the Many* and *Saturday Night at Pahala Theatre*

In *Blood Work and Other Stories*, Hawai’i serves as both a sanctuary and a witness to lives shaped by loss, family bonds, and the fragile threads of culture. From a father searching for his daughter during the aftermath of a devastating flood in iconic Waikīkī to a young man searching for his mother’s story through a VHS tape he finds after her passing, each story explores the quiet, sometimes heartbreaking struggle to keep aloha alive in a rapidly changing Hawai’i. What kept me reading was how intimate the stories felt to me, how grounded I felt reading from one story to the next.

— Lisa Linn Kanae, author of *Islands Linked by Ocean*

In *Blood Work and Other Stories*, Donald Carreira Ching presents readers with a series of finely etched characters navigating their way through the nightmares, challenges, and glories of a vividly captured contemporary Hawai’i. The result is a panoramic view of the islands, assembled out of character portraits displaying all of the subtleties, strengths, and formal mastery that the best short story collections have to offer.

— Craig Howes, Professor of English and co-producer, *Aloha Shorts*, HPR 2009–2012

Set against a backdrop fraught with meth abuse, domestic violence, land overdevelopment, mass exodus of locals, and U.S. military’s continued intervention in the islands’ political and natural landscape, Carreira Ching has written seventeen finely crafted, timely, and heart-rending stories.

— R. Zamora Linmark, author of *The Importance of Being Wilde at Heart*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Donald Carreira Ching** was born and raised in Kahalu’u on the island of O’ahu, Hawai’i. He earned his PhD in English from the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. In 2015, his novel *Between Sky and Sea: A Family’s Struggle* was published by Bamboo Ridge Press. In 2017, he was awarded the Elliot Cades Award for Literature. He is an Assistant Professor of Writing at Leeward Community College and recently completed a near-future eco-thriller, *Hawaii 2038: The Bitter Storms*. To learn more, visit [donaldcarreiraching.com](http://donaldcarreiraching.com).

