

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hawai'i Author Donald Carreira Ching Engages Young Writers and Community Leaders with *Blood Work*

Honolulu, HI – September 2025 — Hawai'i author Donald Carreira Ching, whose new short story collection *Blood Work and Other Stories* was recently published by Bamboo Ridge Press, is taking his work beyond the page and into the classroom. Over the past month, Carreira Ching has visited local high schools where he led writing workshops, shared excerpts from his new collection, and sparked meaningful dialogue about literature from Hawai'i.

For many students, it was their first time meeting a local author. “Crazy. I’ve never met someone who wrote a book before,” said a student at Mililani High School. Others connected deeply with the work itself—one Moanalua student shared that it was the first time he felt like he could see himself in the characters, while another praised the book’s use of Pidgin.

Carreira Ching reflected on the significance of these visits:

“Growing up, I didn’t really know that there were authors from Hawai'i that were writing about this place. It took me a while before I found that connection and started to understand that my voice mattered too. So, for me, I’m just trying to do everything I can to get local literature into the schools and support our educators here.”

These school workshops build momentum toward “***Blood Work: Reading and Roundtable***,” a public event at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa on **October 16, 2025, from 3:00–4:30 PM in Kuykendall Room 410**. Carreira Ching will read from *Blood Work* and join a roundtable discussion with:

- **Della Au Belatti**, Hawai'i State Representative, District 26
- **Aiko Yamashiro**, Executive Director, Hawai'i Council for the Humanities
- **Moderated by: Craig Howes**, Professor of English and Director of the Center for Biographical Research, UH Mānoa

Together, they will explore themes of cost of living in Hawai'i, housing, climate change, sustainable economies, substance use/prevention, and the impacts/response to these issues for Hawai'i's people as well as the role of writing and storytelling in fostering connection and understanding.

“Community is central to my work and to this book,” Carreira Ching said. “That’s what I’m trying to do right now—get local literature out into the community and give back in the ways that I can.”

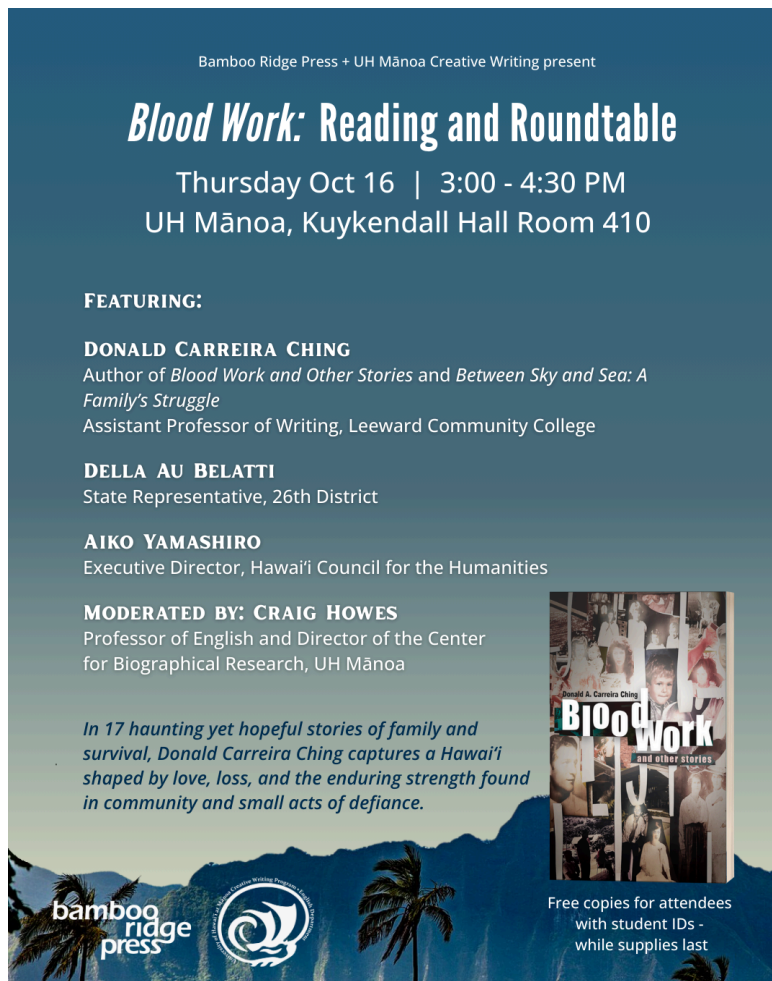
Blood Work and Other Stories is available now through Bamboo Ridge Press, and local independent bookstores. Donald Carreira Ching is available for interviews.

Event Details:

Blood Work: Reading and Roundtable

October 16, 2025 | 3:00–4:30 PM | UH Mānoa Kuykendall 410

Free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.bambooridge.org



Bamboo Ridge Press + UH Mānoa Creative Writing present

Blood Work: Reading and Roundtable

Thursday Oct 16 | 3:00 - 4:30 PM
UH Mānoa, Kuykendall Hall Room 410

FEATURING:

DONALD CARREIRA CHING
Author of *Blood Work and Other Stories* and *Between Sky and Sea: A Family's Struggle*
Assistant Professor of Writing, Leeward Community College

DELLA AU BELATTI
State Representative, 26th District

AIKO YAMASHIRO
Executive Director, Hawai'i Council for the Humanities

MODERATED BY: CRAIG HOWES
Professor of English and Director of the Center for Biographical Research, UH Mānoa

In 17 haunting yet hopeful stories of family and survival, Donald Carreira Ching captures a Hawai'i shaped by love, loss, and the enduring strength found in community and small acts of defiance.

Free copies for attendees with student IDs - while supplies last

For media inquiries, excerpts, or review copies, please contact us at 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 through book sales, subscriptions, private donations, and grants.

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