

## FROM THE EDITOR

Aloha e ku‘u lāhui aloha ē,

When I first saw Kahea Mahone-Brooks’s art piece depicting momona, I was captivated. Her fresh colors and bold vision call us to reacquaint ourselves with our traditional understandings of momona. The illustration, featured on the cover of this journal, invites us to question how Western norms of beauty and health have stigmatized momona out of proportion to actual medical research. It reminds us that the lushness and sweetness of ‘āina are what we should look for in our lāhui as well. Reframing and remembering momona shifts the way we look at the world, makes us think in terms of abundance, and is an absolutely fitting theme for this issue of *Hūlili*.

Our struggle for ea is also a struggle for momona; we want this abundance for our land and our people. Thus, at the core of momona is aloha ‘āina, and in a similar way, the scholarly visions in this issue really embody the momona of our academic landscape. We have beautiful new works from established scholars and those who are among the crop of newly minted Hawaiian PhDs. To have research in both English, a language we have made our own, or ma ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, the language that made us its own, in fields as varied as ethnomathematics, epigenetics, sociology, oratory, curriculum development, and more, with each approach grounded in Hawaiian ‘ike and the desire to nurture our lāhui, is to really come to understand the breadth of our abundance. And this is only the smallest sliver of what is going on in our thriving Hawaiian academic realm, an ‘āina we have built pilina with for centuries.

We are also proud and pleased to include in this issue a tribute to Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell—a person who for so long embodied the aloha ‘āina at the core of our push to return the abundance and possibility of momona to our ‘āina and our lāhui. While no single tribute can adequately reflect the impact that this great healer of our lāhui had, we offer these pieces in the spirit of abundance, as a reflection of the many seeds he planted for our future generations.

In the tribute, we reprinted one of Kekuni’s early works from the pages of *Hūlili* and included poetry, pictures, and personal reflections—all inspired by the pilina and hard work of one of the most generous souls our people have known. We invite you to read through these tributes written by friends and family, and to continue to carry on his legacy today. Because this is what abundance looks like.

me ke aloha ‘āina ‘oia‘i‘o,

Bryan Kamaoli Kuwada