

## POI MOUTH

*No'u Revilla*

“poi mouth” is a sonnet dedicated to ‘Ōiwi lesbians and wāhine who love wāhine. May we continue to aloha and feed each other well. E mālama ‘ono.

CORRESPONDENCE MAY BE SENT TO:

No'u Revilla

Email: [nrevilla@hawaii.edu](mailto:nrevilla@hawaii.edu)

*Hālili: Multidisciplinary Research on Hawaiian Well-Being* Vol. 12 (2026)  
Copyright © 2026 by Kamehameha Schools.

## POI MOUTH

you walked one river for days no ka mea  
the right stone is worth it. because i sound  
like that river when the stone is reborn  
a poi pounder and your thumbs pohole  
my skin. please, face me east to the stomach-  
climbing sun. we lepo, huli, wetness.  
we kū a mokumoku. the god of  
sour adorns the land of hā. knead me  
on the low papa made slick with your hands.  
who rules who? you tell me that lineage  
quivers. two fingers swirl clockwise while i  
crust your open lips. *wipe nothing away.*

poi mouth is mō'i mouth. rise and kiss me.  
eia au, your sticky makamaka.

---

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

No'u Revilla is an 'Ōiwi poet and educator. Born and raised on the island of Maui, she prioritizes aloha, gratitude, and collaboration in her practice. She is the author of *ASK THE BRINDLED*, a National Poetry Series selection and winner of the Balcones Prize. Her work has appeared in journals and magazines such as *World Literature Today*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Lit Hub*, *Split This Rock*, and elsewhere. She is an associate professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and lives with her wife on O'ahu.

