

Red Ribbons Journey 2016

Legendary activist and songwriter Liko Martin, along with his kako‘o, activist/musician Laulani Teale, are planning a “RED RIBBONS” Journey to Washington, D.C. this June. Please support!!

On June 17, 1897, after travelling by train from San Francisco, Queen Lili‘uokalani filed her official protest at the Department of State in Washington, D.C. against the forcible annexation of Hawai‘i to the United States. **That complaint is still unanswered.**

Before the Kingdom of Hawai‘i was treasonously invaded in 1893 by armed sugar barons backed by the United States marines, it was a **neutral country** with strong diplomatic relations worldwide. It had the world’s highest literacy rate, and strong protections in place for the human rights of everyone.

We are still a neutral country – a peaceful Kingdom under an illegal, repressive military occupation. Our sacred lands are used to launch brutal attacks worldwide. The waters of Pu‘uloa (Pearl Harbor) – once a flourishing aquatic garden symbolizing the mutual care and protection between people and other living beings – are contaminated by nuclear defueling, petroleum and hundreds of military chemicals, and used for the invasion of other lands, as well as serving as a target by those countries threatened by the U.S. Our people are driven from their homes, and chased from beach to street. Thousands are incarcerated. Human rights are abused continually. **Aloha between Kānaka and Americans has been damaged, and needs repair.**

We call upon the United States and its people to right this wrong. We call on the peoples and countries of the world to stand behind us in this call. We call on our indigenous brothers and sisters to stand beside us in protection and healing of Mother Earth, by taking a firm stand in our rightful place on our lands and leading humanity in pono, with peace and aloha for everyone.

Our vision is for the return of Hawai‘i to the peaceful, neutral country that it always should have been. For our lands and waters to be cleaned and returned. For Hawai‘i to be a center of peace in the Pacific, not a center of war. For human rights and the well-being of everyone to be protected, as they were in our Kingdom, so that we may serve once again as a model for humanity to thrive.

Our little islands might well be Planet Earth’s best shot at World Peace. Kupuna Pīlahi Pākī, who translated Liko’s song, “All Hawai‘i Stands Together” into the ‘Olelo Hawai‘i “Hawai‘i Loa” once prophesized that “The world will turn to Hawai‘i as they search for peace because Hawai‘i has the key...and that key is ALOHA.” By returning the center of Pacific militarization to a center of peace, ALOHA has a real chance to heal the soul of humankind, and the beautiful planet that we all share.

Liko and Laulani are on a mission to bring ALOHA, again, to Washington, D.C. We are calling upon PONO (righteous action, and a state of rightful balance between all things) to return to Hawai‘i. We are not seeking Federal Recognition, federal handouts, or any more apologies. What was stolen must be returned. True aloha must be restored.

We plan to travel from San Francisco to New York, and then Washington D.C. by train, as the Queen did, and to share music and aloha along the way, as she did on her journey. We will share our journey via social media – so everyone can come along!

Please join us! Follow the journey on Liko’s website, donate if can (info to follow), and spread the word!

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This photo was from the first public performance of “Red Ribbons” at the U.S. DOI hearings at the Hawai‘i State Capitol in 2014. Palani Vaughn holds the Queen’s “Red Ribbon Letter” behind Liko and Laulani, who combined their 2-minute time slots to play the song. The photo was featured on NBC, the BBC, and other major networks, and symbolizes our peaceful yet unrelenting musical resistance, and unyielding insistence on restoration of Hawai‘i’s freedom. The time to continue this message is now!

Liko Martin is one of Hawai‘i’s most beloved Haku Mele (cultural composers). Sometimes referred to as “Hawai‘i’s Chief Bard of Aloha ‘Āina”, his compositions include well-known anthems such as “All Hawai‘i Stands Together” (or “Hawai‘i Loa Kūlike Kākou”), “Nānākuli Blues” (aka “Waimānalo Blues”), “Red Ribbons”, and many others. He is also a seasoned activist who has stood on the front lines since the days of struggles over Kalama Valley and Kaho‘olawe, and has done considerable international peace work. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Ho‘opae Pono Peace Project, an affiliate of the Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, and is now completing major recording projects via a fellowship from the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation.

Laulani Teale is kako‘o (assistant/trainee) to Liko Martin, as well as a songwriter on her own accord. She is also a longtime activist, who has done many years of work on issues such as the rights of the houseless and the protection of sacred areas such as Hālawā Valley, where her eldest son was born. She is a trained cultural peacemaker, facilitator, birth worker, traditional practitioner and mediator, and a specialist (MPH) in Native Hawaiian and activist health issues. She is the Project Coordinator for the Ho‘opae Pono Peace Project and a pretty decent roadie.

DONATION INFORMATION:

Tax-Deductible Donations can be made by check to:

Ho‘opae Pono Peace Project

c/o Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, Inc.

P.O. Box 4569 Arcata, CA 95518

Please note “RED RIBBONS JOURNEY” on check. And please help us keep track by sending us an email at: likomartinhawaii@gmail.com. Mahalo!!

More information to come!! Please stay tuned!!

Aloha!!