

There is so much work left –

A century after the Overthrow, Annexation

Five decades since statehood

A quarter century since OHA was established

20 years since Waihe‘e led the State

15 years since the Apology Bill

and Kaho‘olawe’s return –

And we’re still waiting to see what Akaka can do for us.

I sit at my desk in Kuykendall, the cloud-draped shoulders of ‘Aka‘aka ma uka

hidden by foreign foliage and concrete

Another set of papers graded

Another class of haumāna Hawai‘i struggling

To pay bills, pass classes, honor mo‘okū‘auhau, understand the words, the deeds

of our mythic ancestors,

practices of our ancient culture

decipher the kaona’ed nuances of mo‘olelo, ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i

survive in a globalized economy

So much work left to save the nation –

300 years since Kamehameha

150 since Lili‘uokalani

Kūhiō, Wilcox, Nāwahī

50 since John Dominis Holt began writing

40 since Hōkūle‘a was dreamed to sail

30 since Eddie was lost

25 since George and Kimo were taken

15 since Haunani-Kay awoke the nation, proclaiming,

“We are NOT American, we will DIE as Hawaiians, we will NEVER be American!”

And we are still waiting – can Akaka do anything to help us?

Where are the leaders of our next generation?

Will we be defeated by American colonialism?

Justin Bieber? Jamba Juice? Quiksilver? Apple?

Who will remember the stories of Pele, Lono, Ka‘ahupāhau

Who will remember the chants of Hi‘iaka, Kumulipo, Kalapana

Who will remember the heroes Māui, ‘Umialiloa, Kaluaiko‘olau

Who will mālama the lo‘i

Who will practice our arts

Who will speak our ‘ōlelo

Who will heal the sick

Who will fight for justice?

---

They blog it, tweet it, text it, march it through the streets of Waikīkī,  
chant it, sing it, strum it, dance it, whispers clicking and humming, swirling through  
cyberspace, carried on the Kaiāulu  
winds –

*We will, kumu*

*We will, mākaua*

*‘Ae, no kākou e nā kūpuna*

*No kākou e nā ‘aumākua*

*No kākou, no kākou, no kākou*