

DISSERTATION DEFENSE

Kūlana Pāno‘ono‘o: Aloha ‘Āina Discourse Within a Hawaiian Political Imaginary

By

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Aloha ‘āina is a piko or central point in the Hawaiian world view which creates a rippling effect of knowledge and awareness that permeates all areas of life. The definition of aloha ‘āina in the *Hawaiian Dictionary* is translated as “love of the land or of one’s country; patriotism,” and it further explains that the many sayings connected to ‘āina illustrate the depth and rootedness of this love of the land in the Hawaiian worldview. In this dissertation, I argue that ‘āina can be employed as a kūlana pāno‘ono‘o (remembering function) that provides a continuity of Hawaiian national identity and consciousness. Building upon previous employments of this term by engaging the various definitions of both kūlana and pāno‘ono‘o, I postulate that the concept ‘āina kūlana pāno‘ono‘o provides a vantage point from which to view ‘āina within the context of the virtual. The Deleuzian concepts of the virtual and the actual are seen as characterizations of the real, the virtual is the idea of the perpetual past that is never actualized and the actual is constituted as what is present and past.

By contextualizing ‘āina kūlana pāno‘ono‘o within the virtual, as the past that is never present or actualized, I argue that ‘āina embodies continuity from which ‘āina actualizations and functions of ‘āina emerge. Through an analysis of ‘āina actualizations and the functions of ‘āina in Hawaiian literary forms such as place names, proverbial sayings, chant and songs as well as longer compositions in mele ko‘ihonua and mo‘olelo, I articulate that ‘āina kūlana pāno‘ono‘o provides a genealogical framework of relationship to ‘āina as well as an interaction of memory and history that sheds light on the philosophy of aloha ‘āina. By placing ‘āina as the piko (center) from which these concepts radiate, I postulate ways that ‘āina is narrating the nation and providing continuity of Hawaiian national identity and consciousness.

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