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# Pele‘aihonua

## *Mahina Kaomea*

The sharpness of her tongue  
devours land, sends foreigners  
away screaming.

They say she’s a crazy,  
racist, good-for-nothing  
Hawaiian.  
Don’t get too close—  
her fire might burn you alive.

‘Ae, lava destroys. And  
maybe we need a little destruction  
right now.

But this lava also births  
islands, feeds seeds  
and dreams that will grow  
into the night.

‘Ae, this lava will birth the ea  
of a nation.

He mele no Kumu Haunani

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MAHINA KAOMEA was raised by an abundance of ‘āina and ‘ohana in He‘e‘ia, O‘ahu. Community organizations Kauluakalana and Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea - Honolulu were also formative teachers of aloha ‘āina. Mahina graduated from Kamehameha Schools, Kapālama, and is now building pilina with occupied Muwekma Ohlone lands as an undergraduate student at Stanford University.



we are born  
kia'i, water protectors, aloha 'āina

and we will die as Hawaiians  
we will never be americans

