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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

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

