

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

KU‘U MELE, KU‘U MO‘OMEHEU: MY SONG, MY WAY OF LIFE RE-MASTERING AND RE/MEMBERING OUR TOOLS



By Kawika McGuire

Monday, May 16, 2016
11 a.m.

Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, Kama 202

This presentation will explore whether or not we must continue to search for and create new tools to throw off the yoke of the oppressive colonial discourse, or if we need to re-master and re-member our tools. It is my belief that, unlike the statement made by the well-known African-American feminist Audre Lorde, “The master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house,” which privileges the position of the oppressor as master, I would like to suggest that the master is really nothing more than a thief who stole *our* tools. The stealing of our tools was a necessary act, for without our tools the so-called “master’s” house could not have been constructed. One of the “stolen” tools that I will explore in presenting my argument is the Kanaka Maoli cultural construct of mele.

Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, 2645 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822