



UA HIKI MAI KE AU HULIHIA

15 JUNE 2020

Nā Hawai'i 'Imi Loa, the Native Hawaiian Librarian Association, stands in full and complete solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and our colleagues in the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. We endorse [BCALA's May 28 statement](#), and we join them in denouncing the never-sleeping "systemic machinery of racism."

We mourn the senseless murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others who came before them in a shameful and heinous history of racist violence against Black people.

We vehemently oppose the oppression, white supremacy, and systemic injustices that the Black community faces every day in America.

We affirm the power of protest. We strongly condemn police brutality and the use of weapons of mass destruction (tear gas, rubber bullets, brute force) against peaceful protesters and protectors.

We know that Black experiences differ from that of kānaka Hawai'i, and we also know that our histories share many similarities. In 1845, Prince Alexander Liholiho was forced by an American train conductor to leave his car because the conductor thought he was Black. In 1901, Queen Lili'uokalani was denied lodging at several hotels in New York City because of her skin color. In 1903, Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole and Princess Elizabeth Kahanu were removed from their viewing box at an American theater because of their dark skin. And in 1932, Joseph Kahahawai was murdered by his white kidnapers after being falsely accused of raping a white woman.

This is a human rights issue. This is a political issue. This is an environmental issue. Mai ka lā hiki a ka lā kau, mai ka ho'oku'i a ka hālāwai: this issue affects us all.

Hawai'i's communities are not immune to the indoctrinations of anti-blackness. Therefore, we, Nā Hawai'i 'Imi Loa, stand committed to upholding justice for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in our pervasively white profession. We commit to centering Black voices in the fight against racial violence and injustice.

Libraries, archives, and museums were built upon the backs of colonized, marginalized, and oppressed people. That ends with us. Now is the time for our local library communities to shift the burden from the underprivileged to the privileged. We challenge our colleagues to actively work towards dismantling systems of racial inequality using education and advocacy.

The greatest harm of this world is the culture of white supremacy. Ua hiki mai ke au huluhia. Black lives matter in Ke Aupuni Mō'i Hawai'i and beyond.

Na mākou nā lālā o Nā Hawai'i 'Imi Loa,
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EDUCATE:

- #PopoloSyllabus: <https://www.thepopoloproject.org/popolosyllabus>
- Black Librarians: <https://www.blacklibrarians.com/>
- Honma, T. (2005). *Trippin' Over the Color Line: The Invisibility of Race in Library and Information Studies*. InterActions: UCLA Journal of Education and Information Studies, 1(2). Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4nj0w1mp>
- Schlesselman-Tarango, G. (2017). *Topographies of whiteness: Mapping whiteness in library and information science*. Sacramento, CA: Library Juice Press.
- Sonnie, A. (n.d.). *Advancing Racial Equity in Public Libraries Case Studies from the Field*. Government Alliance on Race and Equity. Retrieved from https://www.racialequityalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/GARE_LibrariesReport_v8_DigitalScroll_WithHyperlinks.pdf
- Twitter thread of anti-racism LibGuides: <https://twitter.com/Kaetrena/status/1268207311786565639>
- WOC + LIB: <https://www.wocandlib.org/>

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- **We Here** <https://www.patreon.com/wehere>
We Here seeks to provide a safe and supportive community for Black and Indigenous folks, and People of Color (BIPOC) in library and information science (LIS) professions and educational programs, and to recognize, discuss, and intervene in systemic social issues that have plagued these professions both historically and continue through present time.