



## Red Hill Poetry Workshop by Laurel Nakanishi

***Thursday 1/27, 3:30-5pm***

Introductions (1 min)

Opening game (4 min)

*Video on if...*

- You are having a good day so far.
- You are feeling a little tired.
- You like to create things.
- You have written a poem before.
- You value fresh water, wai.

Background (20 min) with

- Concept of wai and importance in Hawaiian culture
- Why conversations about wai are especially important now in light of the contamination at Red Hill
- What Kapūkaki has meant historically and the region of 'Ewa, Pu'uloa

Poetry Waterfall (10 min)

- We'll write a group poem using the chat. It will be a "poetry waterfall," because we will all write out lines separately and then press enter at once to let our lines waterfall into a poem.
- This form is especially resonant because it mirrors the movement of water that trickles drop by drop down into the aquifer.
- Wai connects us to our ancestors (the rain that fell 80 years ago over the mountains in what we are now drinking) and our great-great-great (etc) grandchildren. It also connects all living beings. Let's think about one of these connections...
- Begin line with "Wai connects me..."
- End it however you wish
- Example: "Wai connects me to my grandma, Yoshiko and her wry laugh."  
    "Wai connects me, twining my blood with all beings."  
    "Wai connects me to the rainclouds."
- Write it in the chat, but don't press "enter"
- Poetry waterfall, read aloud

Prompt and Writing (25 min)

- Wai is the center of all life  
    \*Write WAI in center of paper, circle.
- Wai has thousands upon millions of manifestations. In this poem we'll meditate on different ways of seeing wai and write "Eight Ways of Looking at Wai"

(Inspired by Wallace Stevens:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45236/thirteen-ways-of-looking-at-a-blackbird>)

1. Let's have our first interaction be personal. Spend some time with your body.  
\*In a bubble, write down one manifestation of wai in your body.
  2. Think about your favorite watery place.  
\* In a bubble, write it down. Call it by name. Jot down some descriptions or adjectives of this place.
  3. Think about someone you love. How do you see wai in them or their life?  
\*In one bubble, write down their name and how you see this wai connection.
  4. Think about some recent interactions you've had with wai recently. How did this interaction affect you?  
\*In one bubble, write down this interaction
  5. Assuming that folks have been following the news about the water contamination by the US Navy, choose one headline or news item that was particularly striking to you. (For example, 5,000 people reported illnesses because of water contamination)  
\*In one bubbles, write down one piece of information and your immediate reaction to it.
  6. Think about how the Navy leadership perhaps views wai  
\*In one bubble, write down how they might view wai. Why do you think they have this perspective?
  7. Think about how the Board of Water Supply perhaps views wai  
\*In one bubble, write down how they might view wai. Why do you think they have this perspective?
  8. Think about someone who has a very different perspective about wai from your own. What do you wish you could tell them?  
\*In one bubble, write this down
- Now, take this brainstorm and use it to write a poem. Have each bubble become its own numbered section (show example). Let every section be different. Some might be individual words while others are longer descriptions.  
Read example  
Write for 10 min.

Share (25 min)

- Break out rooms
- Can share poem or talk about process
- Try Think style discussion

Close (5 min)