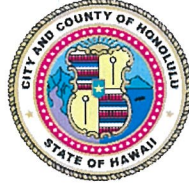


OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
KE KE'ENA O KA MEIA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 300 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-4141 • FAX: (808) 768-4242 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



MICHAEL D. FORMBY
MANAGING DIRECTOR
PO'O HO'OKELE

KRISHNA F. JAYARAM
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O HO'OKELE

June 21, 2024

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

Pursuant to Section 13-103(b) of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, I hereby appoint, subject to confirmation by your Honorable Body, Elizabeth Soto as the Theatre member of the Commission on Culture and the Arts. Upon appointment, Ms. Soto will replace Timothy Slaughter and serve for a term to expire on June 30, 2027. I would appreciate your favorable consideration of Ms. Soto's appointment and request adoption by the City Council in the most expedient manner possible.

I have enclosed a draft resolution and Ms. Soto's personal information for your review. For any general inquiries you may have regarding this appointment, please contact my executive assistant, Kevan Wong, at 768-6608.

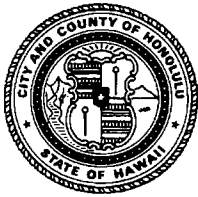
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Blangiardi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Blangiardi
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Elizabeth Soto
Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts
Commission on Culture and the Arts
Ethics Commission



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. _____

RESOLUTION

CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ELIZABETH SOTO TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

WHEREAS, Chapter 3, Article 2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("ROH"), as amended, establishes the Commission on Culture and the Arts ("Commission") to assist the City in attaining national preeminence in culture and the arts, to assist the City in the preservation of the artistic and cultural heritages of all its people, to promote a community environment which provides equal and abundant opportunity for exposure to culture and the arts in all its forms, and to encourage and provide equal opportunity for the development of the cultural and artistic talents of the people of Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is comprised of 11 voting members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council to five-year terms, and other ex officio, non-voting members; and

WHEREAS, ROH Section 3-2.2 requires ten of the appointed members to represent a particular cultural or artistic category and one appointed member to serve as an at large representative; and

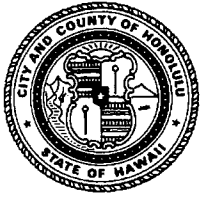
WHEREAS, via Mayor's letter, dated June 21, 2024, the Mayor has appointed Ms. Elizabeth Soto to serve on the Commission as the theatre representative; and

WHEREAS, if confirmed by the Council, Ms. Soto will replace Timothy Slaughter and serve for a term to expire on June 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, Section 13-103, Revised Charter of Honolulu 1973, as amended, which applies to the Commission on Culture and the Arts, includes a general qualification requiring a member to be a registered voter of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the qualifications and character of Ms. Soto and finds that she meets the requirements to serve on the Commission and deserves confirmation for appointment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it confirms the appointment of Ms. Elizabeth Soto to serve on the Commission on Culture and the Arts as the theatre representative for a term to expire on June 30, 2027; and



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. _____

RESOLUTION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Ms. Soto for her willingness to serve the City and County of Honolulu; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Chair of the Commission on Culture and the Arts, and Ms. Elizabeth Soto.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
NOMINEE/APPOINTEE FORM

1. Position Nominated to: Commission on Culture and the Arts
2. Name: Elizabeth Antoinette Soto
(First) (Middle) (Last)
3. Are you a citizen of the United States? Yes
Are you a resident of the City and County of Honolulu? -select- If yes, how long >20 years
Are you a registered voter in the City and County of Honolulu? Yes
4. Occupation: Director of Literary and Conversation Programs
5. Name and address of employer or firm:
Hawai'i Council for the Humanities
3599 Wai'alaie Avenue, Rm 25, Honolulu, HI 96734
6. Does your employer do any business with the City and County of Honolulu? No
If yes, state the nature of business and approximate dollar amount in the last five years:

7. Do you or does any member of your immediate family hold office or own stock in any firm?
No
8. Does the firm do business with the City and County of Honolulu? No
If yes, provide details including the name(s) of the firm:

9. Do you have any part-time employment, professional activity, or financial interests other than those indicated in the previous question? Yes
If yes, provide details:
I work for AK Designs.

10. Do you foresee any possible conflict between your present work, financial investments, business transactions or any other activity which would be incompatible with the proper discharge of your official duties or hinder you from effectively carrying out the duties for which you have been appointed? No
11. Are any members of your family employed by the City and County of Honolulu or any attached agency? No
If yes, please specify the department and division:

12. Are there any incidents in your past that may jeopardize your nomination? No
13. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? No If yes, provide details:

14. Education:

Sarah Lawrence College BA '93, Cambridge University MPhil '95,
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa PhD '18

15. Provide a summary of major work experience for the last ten (10) years. Begin with your present job including military (attach additional sheets if necessary or resume):

Please see attached

16. Community activities, etc. (also list any service on any other board or commission Federal, State or County):

Please see attached

17. Have you ever been a member of a board or commission with the City and County of Honolulu?

No

If yes, provide name(s) of board/commission:

18. Will you be able to commit to the full term of this appointment? Yes

19. Will you be able to commit to meeting dates and times? Yes

20. Are you regularly away from Honolulu? Yes If yes, please explain:

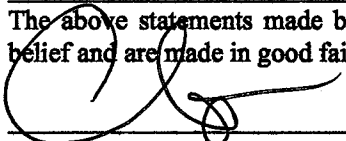
I travel interisland several times a year, but usually it's for a day or an overnight trip.

21. Are you willing to make a confidential financial disclosure to the city Ethics Commission upon appointment and yearly thereafter? -select-

22. What do you understand to be the prime duties of your county appointment?

I would be assisting in approving and advising on public art projects in the for
the City & County of Honolulu.

The above statements made by me are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are made in good faith.


(Signature)

6/20/2024
(Date)

The above statements made by me are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and
The completed form and any attachment(s) will be posted by the City Clerk and available on the City's DocuShare Website.

SUMMARY

I am a writer and performer with over thirty years experience working in Hawai'i in the literary, arts, and spoken word communities. For more than a decade of experience working as a teacher in English literature, Pacific Island literature and poetry. In my current position as director of literary and conversation programs, I have organized the launch of a new comprehensive state poet laureate program.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Hawai'i Council for the Humanities

Director of Literary and Conversation Programs -- 2023-Present

Creates and runs relevant and impactful literary and conversation community programming, including the Poet Laureate programming and Try Think programming in the correctional facilities and in the public. This position sets strategic missional-aligned programmatic directions and executes them. They can speak clearly and compellingly about our work to the broader community, as well as to institutions (i.e., corrections, higher education). They manage contractors (i.e., Try Think facilitators, humanities scholars) for projects, and maintains policies and budget for program. They regularly evaluate the impact of our literary and conversation community programming, with a focus on equity.

Communications Officer – 2019-2022

Create rich content for diverse audiences and media: create and share stories and interviews that highlight a wide range of past and current public humanities programs (i.e., flyers, newsletter stories, blog posts, social media, press releases). Develop and implement outreach approaches for various print and digital media (print, social media, video), and for various and diverse audiences (i.e., different generations, language, access, location).

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Graduate Assistant/Lecturer, Department of English – 2010-2019

My primary responsibilities consisted of developing course work and teaching classes, with 5 to 25 students, ranging from introductory composition in English to upper division literature courses. Most of my classes focused primarily on poetry and spoken word in the United States and the Pacific.

LYZ, Inc.

General Contractor: Owner – 1996-2019/President – 1996-2012.

As the President of LYZ, Incorporated, I was responsible for liaising with bonding companies and banks, and accountants, supervising the estimating and bidding of potential construction projects, writing and editing business plans, overseeing the management of projects ranging from the

installation of waterlines to the renovation of houses, negotiating with clients, and managing personal.

Pacific Tongues

Executive Director and Co-founder – 2012-2017.

Pacific Tongues was founded on the success of Youth Speaks Hawai'i programing, which focused on adolescents, and the desire to expand that programming to multiple generations. In our work in Hawai'i and the Pacific, we recognized as a culture we thrive best in multi-generational learning/teaching communities. As Executive Director, I collaborated with the executive team to establish protocols for curriculum and performance events that reflected our mission. I was also responsible for artistic development, which sought to create avenues for slam poets to explore creative possibilities beyond the competitive stage.

Youth Speaks Hawai'i

Executive Director and Slam Team Coach – 2007-2012.

While I was the Executive Director of Youth Speaks Hawai'i, my primary duties consisted of raising funds to support programing and events, such as weekly after-school writing workshops in slam poetry and the Interscholastic Poetry Slam. I also worked closely with the Outreach Coordinator and the Workshop Coordinator to manage schedules and develop workshop curriculum. One of the main focuses of the organization was to develop a slam poetry team for Brave New Voices, an annual international youth poetry festival. From 2007 to 2012, I also served as the Lead Coach for the slam team. In this capacity, I facilitated brainstorming workshops for the team to develop new work, edited pieces as they were constructed, and gave performance critique. As a coach, it was always my goal to create a collaborative atmosphere of truth telling.

Bishop Museum

Archaeological Collections Manager – 1995-1996

Sarah Lawrence College

Admissions Office

Student Interviewer - 1993

COMMUNITY AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Senior Reviewer for Poetry and Literature Abstracts, 18th International Graduate Student Conference at the East-West Center, Univeristy of Hawai'i, Fall 2018.

Peer Reviewer, *Biography*, Center for Biographical Research, Fall 2017.

Producer, Pacific Tongues Interscholastic Youth Poetry Festival, March 2016.

Producer, Pacific Tongues Interscholastic Youth Poetry Festival, November 2015.

Performance Organizer and Producer. *Wansolwara:Voices for West Papua*. April 24, 2015.

Committee Member. Melvin Won Pat-Borja & Jason Mateo, MA Thesis (Spoken Word Poetry), Center for Pacific Island Studies, Spring 2015.

Committee Member. Leora Kava, MA Thesis (Tongan Poetry and Music), Center for Pacific Island Studies, Spring 2015.

Performance Organizer and Stage Manager, *Diasporic Waters: Poetry and Art in the Gallery*. May 15, 2014.

Stage Manager. Evening Performance at 'Aha Mo'olelo Hawai'i is a Hawaiian Literature, History and Writing Symposium. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, October 2012.

Producer. Spoken Word Symposium: Building a Community of Oceanic Voices and Performances. Honolulu, July 2012.

Lead Coach, Youth Speaks Hawai'i Poetry Slam Team Winner of the Brave New Voices International Poetry Festival, 2009.

Lead Coach, Youth Speaks Hawai'i Poetry Slam Team Winner of the Brave New Voices International Poetry Festival, 2008.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of English, August 2018

M.Phil. in Archaeological Heritage and Museums, Cambridge University, Division of Archaeology, 1994

B.A. Sarah Lawrence College, 1993

PUBLICATION WORK

Creative Work

"When We Become Home," *An Ocean of Wonder: The Fantastic in the Pacific*, Edited by ku'ualoha ho'omanawanui, Joyce Pualani Warren, and Cristina Bacchilega. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2024.

"She Who Dies to Live" with Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, Jocelyn Ng, and Terisa Siagatonu, *An Ocean of Wonder: The Fantastic in the Pacific*, Edited by ku'ualoha ho'omanawanui, Joyce Pualani Warren, and Cristina Bacchilega. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2024.

Translate Sun/Son/Sum, Kentucky: Finishing Line Press, 2017.

Her Bodies of Stories, Performed at Doris Duke Theatre (2016) and Maui Arts and Cultural Center (2017).

Eulogies, Honolulu: Tin Fish Press, 2010.

Editing Work

Snaring New Suns: Speculative Works from Hawai'i and Beyond, Edited by Tom Gammarino Bryan Kuwada, David MacKenzie, and Lyz Soto. Honolulu: Bamboo Ridge Press, 2022.

Taylor, Grace. *Full Broken Bloom*. Honolulu: Ala Press, 2017.

Performed Works

Jetñil-Kijiner, Kathy and Aka Niviāna. "Rise: From One Island to Another." uploaded by *350.org*, 12 September 2018, 350.org/rise-from-one-island-to-another/.

Jetñil-Kijiner, Kathy. "Anointed." *Youtube*, uploaded by *Pacific Storytellers Group*, 15 April 2018, www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEVpExaY2Fs.

Wasasala, Jahra Rager. *A WORLD, WITH YOUR WOUND IN IT*. Dance Poetry Performance. Tempo Dance Festival: Auckland. October 2017.

Jetñil-Kijiner, Kathy, Jocelyn Ng, Terisa Siagatonu, and Jahra Rager Wasasala. "She Who Dies to Live." *'Ae Kai: A Culture Lab on Convergence*. Honolulu: Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, July 2017.

Jetñil-Kijiner, Kathy. "Lade." *Honolulu Biennial*. Honolulu, Hawai'i, May 2017.

Jetñil-Kijiner, Kathy. "Dear Matafele Peinam." Opening Ceremony for the United Nations Climate Leader's Summit. September 2014.

Osorio, Jamaica. "Kumulipo." White House Poetry Jam. November 2009.

Osorio, Jamaica and Ittai Wong. "Kaona." Brave New Voices International Poetry Festival. July 2008.

Dramaturg Work

Jetñil-Kijiner, Kathy, Jocelyn Ng, Terisa Siagatonu, and Jahra Rager Wasasala. *She Who Dies to Live*. sponsored by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, Performance Premiere at the Pacific Arts Association Symposium. Brisbane, Australia, March 2019.

Jetñil-Kijiner, Kathy. "Lōrro: Of Wings and Seas." Asia Pacific Triennial. Brisbane, Australia, November 2018.

Peer Reviewed Articles

"So Listen to Me: Spoken Word and Youth Activism," *The Value of Hawai'i 2: Ancestral Roots, Oceanic Visions*, edited by Aiko Yamashiro and Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua., Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2014.

Blog

"Mixed Messages: The Muliwai of Love." *Ke Kaupū Hehi Ale*. July 2015, hehiale.wordpress.com/2015/07/20/mixed-messages-love-as-muliwai/

"The Trenches We Dig, the Mountains We Build." *Ke Kaupū Hebi Ale*. April 2015,
hehiale.wordpress.com/2015/04/13/the-trenches-we-dig-the-mountains-we-build/

Papers and Presentations

"Political Cartoons and Graphic Novels- Process, Pedagogy, and Praxis." with Maiana Minahal.
*Democracy and the Informed Citizen: Visual Literacy from Political Cartoons to Graphic Novels for
 Hawai'i Council for the Humanities*. Chaminade University of Honolulu, November 2018.

"Becoming an Informed Citizen of the World and Imaginative Thinker." with Maiana Minahal.
Critical Reading and Engaged Writing Workshops for Hawai'i Council for the Humanities. Chaminade
 University of Honolulu, October 2018.

"Our Bodies as Autobiographical Matter." presented with Grace Teuila Taylor. The Center for
 Biographical Research Brown Bag Series. Honolulu, April 2018.

"US/Pacific Poets Confronting US Empire." presented with Collier Nogues, Brenda Shaughnessy,
 Lawrence-Minh Davis, and Lehua Taitano. Association of Writers and Writing Programs
 Conference, Washington DC, February 2016.

"Spoken Words: A Poetic Space for Reclaiming Indigenous Identities." Indigenous Studies Student
 Conference. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, March 2013.

"The Heart of Slam: Spoken Words, Testimonies, and Art in Competition" The Center for
 Biographical Research Brown Bag Series. Honolulu, November 2012.

"A Discussion on Pedagogy and Spoken Word." Panelist. Spoken Word Symposium: Building a
 Community of Oceanic Voices and Performances. Honolulu, July 2012.

Office of the City Clerk
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
STATE OF HAWAII

Voter Certificate

I, Glen I. Takahashi, City Clerk of the City & County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii do hereby certify that,

ELIZABETH A. SOTO

a resident of the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii is a duly registered elector (voter) of

Precinct, 05 Representative District, 50 State of Hawaii

Voter ID No: 1068333 Registration Date: 05/07/1996

Date of Birth

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City and County of Honolulu to be affixed on June 21, 2024.

Signature Block

Signature of Elector

Glen I. Takahashi, City Clerk
City and County of Honolulu
State of Hawaii