

“you can take the boy from the island, but not the island from the boy”

Lawrence Seward and Drew Kahu‘āina Broderick curated by Joshua Keonaona Yamauchi Boulos @ Apartment 13 in Providence, RI.



Clockwise from left to right: DKB, Hayden, and Josh at Kaimukī Community Park, O‘ahu, April 15, 2025. Photo: Lawrence Seward

The three of us (me, you, and Lawrence) met up at Kaimukī Community Park off Waialae Ave. to talk about doing something at your spot, Apartment 13 in Providence, Rhode Island. But a few minutes in our conversation got hijacked by a self-proclaimed descendent of “His Great Loneliness,” King Kamehameha ‘Ekahi, conqueror (or “unifier” depending on who you talk to) of the islands of Hawai‘i, O‘ahu, Maui, Moloka‘i, and Lāna‘i, and founder of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i.

We went with it, partially out of courtesy, partially out of amazement, but mostly out of a genuine interest in hearing more of his story. He shoved his hand into the bag of Maui Style Maui Onion Flavored Potato Chips that Lawrence brought and grabbed a fist full. “Ho brah, go easy!” I said. Unloading his chip haul on an empty Honolulu Cookie Company box, his 2-in-1 plate + storage container combo, he replied matter-of-factly, “Why?”

Bursting into laughter, the stories flowed from there—where we were from, where we lived now, what high school we went to, whether or not we were married or had children, the spread of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, the State of Israel's ongoing genocide against Palestinians, King Kalākaua of Hawai'i circumnavigating the globe in 1881, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" when it played up the street at the long-defunct Queen Theater back in the 1970s, underground lava tubes, how old we were...

Lawrence said 58, I said 37, you 23. We waited. "Pick one numbah," the guy said grinning, "it no mattah!" Then he told us about his father and how strong he was, how tall he stood—how he used to hold him in his arms as a young boy. After a couple cigarettes and a 6 pack of Aloha Beer, we listened for a while longer before getting up to go and talk about whatever we were supposed to be talking about. You, during a strangely long hug goodbye kept repeating over and over, "I feel your pain. I feel your pain. I feel your pain." As we were parting Lawrence asked for his name. "Hayden," he said. To which I replied, "No way, that's my Uncle's name. Kden, take care uncle."

We did a loop around the park. You said you had a budget of \$300 and wanted to open the exhibition in two weeks on April 26th, 2025. (You mentioned Chernobyl and the nuclear disaster but the relevance was lost on me.) Before dispersing, you told us you were catching a flight in the morning but if we wanted to drop anything off at your parent's place in Pālolo Valley to save on shipping costs you had an extra suitcase you could pack it in. The last time anyone expressed any real interest in showing Lawrence's and my work together was 2018, over six years ago. It's been awhile, many worlds have come and gone since then. Anyway, thanks Josh for doing your thing in the ways that you do. Love you, braddah.

– DKB

Works List

Lawrence Seward

The Fin, 2024-25. Coconut, paint, plastic, metal, glass, [dims needed].

South Star Sunset, 2025. Coconut, paint, dried starfish, [dims needed].

Dancing Shrimp, 2024-25. Coconut, plastic, paint, coral. [dims needed].

Old Wax Skull w/ Kukui, 2022. Coconut, surfboard wax, kukui nut lei, copper. [dims needed].

Negative Brutalist, 2024-25. Coconut, copper, paint, plastic, [dims needed].

[...]

Lawrence Seward x Drew Kahu'āina Broderick

Blowhole, 2019. Hand-altered postcards, stickers, temporary tattoos, glue, frame, 18 x 22 in.

Drew Kahu'āina Broderick

God Of Money/God Of War, 2014. .220 Swift-altered bronze cast of ABC Stores "12" Hapa Wood Tiki Statue: God Of Money Tiki", 4 x 4 x 12 in.

"That's All Folks!", 2015. Personalized plush photo blanket, 60 x 80 in.

Monster I, II, III (From a series for Teresia Teaiwa), 2016/2020. Slashed beach towels, 32 x 72 in.

SECEDE, January 20, 2013/2017/2021/2025. Vinyl banner, grommets, 30 x 240 in, dimensions variable, open edition.

Over the Rainbow (after FARMERS MARKET HAWAII), 2015. Bootleg "F*ck the captain Cook types" t-shirts and plastic hangers, dimensions variable.

Iron-on I (Coconut tree on fire) and *Iron-on IV (Three tikis in a sea of flames)*, 2015/2023. Assorted iron-on patches, all purpose polyester thread, canvas, stretcher bars, 18 x 25 ½ x 1 ½ in and 23 ¼ x 30 ¼ x 1 ½ in.