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Osorio lecture explores the politics in spoken word

KAMUELA, Hawai‘i—August 11, 2011—Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio will explore the politics in spoken word and in art created and consumed by communities of color in an upcoming *Puana Ka ‘Ike* lecture in Kona and an *Eia Hawai‘i* presentation in Hilo.

Osorio’s free presentation, “*Ho’i Hou I Ka ‘Iwi Kuamo’o: Return to the Backbone*” will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 1, at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, Campus Center Room 301, and from 5:30–7 p.m. on Friday, September 2, at the Kalanikai ocean-side open pavilion at Keauhou Beach Resort in Kona.

The daughter of Hawaiian activist, historian, and musician Jon Osorio, Osorio grew up surrounded by passionate artists and activists. Her presentations will explore writing as a means of returning, and they will include performance of what Osorio calls art as “a form of resistance.”

“Returning is a collective effort,” Osorio says, so come prepared to participate.

Osorio’s early journey as a slam poet is captured in HBO’s 2008 Documentary series “Brave New Voices.” Osorio helped to bring Back-to-Back International Poetry Slam Championships to the islands in 2008-09. On May 12, 2011, Osorio performed an original piece, *Kumulipo*, for the First Family and many other distinguished guests as part of The First Poetry Jam in the White House.

Currently Osorio is finishing her final year at Stanford University while touring the world. Osorio hopes to attend law school in New York City and then return home to work for the people of Hawai‘i.

For more information on Osorio’s presentations, contact Joy Cunefare at (808) 534-8528 or e-mail info@kohalacenter.org. For lecture schedules and webcasts of previous lectures, visit <http://kohalacenter.org/puanakaike/about.html> and www.keauhouresort.com/learn-puanakaike.html.

The Puana Ka ‘Ike and Eia Hawai‘i lecture series are presented in partnership with Keauhou-Kahalu‘u Education Group of Kamehameha Schools, The Kohala Center, the Kīpuka Native Hawaiian Student Center at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, and Keauhou Beach Resort.

[photo caption] Osorio Heolimeleikalani Osorio