

September 24, 2024

A Letter from the Executive Producer

This past year has been a time of deep reflection and perseverance. Grounding in the vision for this festival has not been an easy task, especially as I navigate personal injury, financial constraints, and a profound spiritual journey. It has been a process of ultimate trust and surrender. Guided by a clear direction from spirit, I've made the decision to move our festival to 2026. This extension will allow us the time to create the extraordinary experience we envision. I am proud of the magic that is unfolding, infused with love, aloha, and heartfelt intention.

As the Amazon forests burn for profit, African children are exploited in slavery for mineral mining, Native Hawaiian lands are stolen, and the military seeks to renew their \$1-a-year leases to further pollute our sacred spaces, we find ourselves surrounded by political unrest and death. This anger, though painful, is part of the healing process—a necessary force to expose the darkness and fuel the evolution of consciousness and rebirth. With the 2024 election ahead and looming conflicts, I sense a difficult political year marked by wars that have been called genocide and financial exploitation, all feeding back into the military-industrial complex.

But America, we can thrive through art, music, creativity, and eco-cultural tourism, not through the destruction of one another or our planet. This cannot be the foundation of our abundance. We can no longer support wars or ventures that destroy the earth for profit.

In the spirit of Woodstock, I envisioned PEACE, LOVE, and UNITY. Maluhia, aloha, and lokahi. At first, I thought it was a naive dream, and I faced some criticism. But as this vision has evolved, I realize these principles are exactly what we need at this moment in history. Now is the time for leaders to set aside differences, rise above the “a’ama crab” mentality, and unite for shared causes: sovereignty, ethical corporate practices, restoration of nature, and sustainable ahupua’a systems. We must co-create a world worthy of our children’s future, shifting from a culture of consumption to one of stewardship.

Where is our carbon footprint leading us? Are we in symbiosis with the planet, or are we acting as parasites? The roads to a sustainable future cannot be built on division. We must learn the art of mālama ‘āina—caring for the land—if we are to thrive in the world of tomorrow.

True healing comes through unity.

Aloha and Mahalo Nui Loa,
Kristie Manning
Executive Producer