



THROUGH OUR EYES  
**RECLAIM**  
FAMILY JOURNAL

# Dear Family,



Welcome to the award-winning documentary series, *Through Our Eyes*. The family in this episode, "Reclaim," invites us to enter their lives and visit with them as they celebrate, protect, and secure their cultural identities and connections to their ancestors, the original inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands. As you and your child watch this video together, use this journal to explore your ideas and questions, and to share your own family stories and traditions. Family sharing helps us connect our present to our past and future.

## Meet the Children



**Honor** lives in Hawaii on the Island of O'ahu with his parents, younger sister, and his older brother, Hanalei. He admires his brother and loves to dance Hula with him and play basketball after school. He is thankful and proud to study the Hawaiian language and culture at his Hawaiian language immersion school.

*"I'm so lucky to be in Hawaiian school and dance Hula. It's a culture that should keep on spreading around."*

– Honor, 11 years old



**Hanalei** has been dancing Hula since the age of six. To Hanalei, Hula is much more than dance. Hula helps him feel connected to his family, his culture, and his ancestors. He has been chosen by his kumu to participate in a Hula festival and soon he will travel to Hilo with his family and his Hula brothers to perform.

*"My kumu are basically like my 'ohana, too. They teach me a lot of valuable lessons, like, to stay grounded, to know what's right and wrong. I'm very grateful to have them."*

– Hanalei, 14 years old

# Family Viewing Tips

Take a moment, if possible, to watch the video before watching it together with your child. Doing so helps you prepare for questions your child may have. As you watch, write down how you and your family pass down your history, traditions, and more. Ideas could include:

- Family history or histories
- Family foods, music, and language
- Sharing family stories

The sharing of stories can become a discovery and even a rediscovery of what an event or moment means to you. Sharing provides families with opportunities to listen to and learn from one another.

## before

### Mahalo!

Being welcomed into a community calls on us to educate ourselves first. This preparation shows respect and honor. Here are a few key words you and your child may want to learn.

- *'Auana*: Contemporary Hula dance
- *Hālau*: School, academy, or group
- *Kahiko*: Traditional Hula dance
- *Kumu*: Teacher
- *Kāne*: Men
- *Keiki*: Children
- *Mahalo*: Thank you
- *'Ohana*: Family

## during

### Follow your child's lead.

Every family is unique, as is each child's bond with their trusted grown-ups and family members. As you watch the video with your child, feel free to pause the viewing to check in.

Does your child have any questions? How is your child feeling? Should you continue the viewing or take a break? Following your child's lead gives you the opportunity to listen closely. See the "Questions Kids Ask" list on the next page for additional support.

## after

### Sharing family stories and histories.

Setting aside special times to share stories, recipes, dances, and traditions helps to connect your child to their past and also may help you feel more connected to your culture as well. Your child could feel a connection to people they have yet to meet or may never meet. These moments can deepen the bond between you, by letting your child know that you're there to share *and* to listen.

# Questions Kids Ask

Talking about identities and cultures can help deepen children's sense of belonging and connections to their family and community. It can also help us all learn to honor and celebrate the wonderful diversity of our world—past and present—and to work for a more equitable world for all.

To support you, here are a few questions children may ask. In all cases, follow your child's lead. Talk about these ideas when you and your child are calm. Holding such courageous conversations with your child can take place during or after watching this episode. They can happen during everyday moments such as making a meal or during family time activities.

## **Why is the video called "Reclaim?"**

*The brothers in this video recognize that what they are learning and practicing is keeping their culture and heritage alive. Their commitment to dancing Hula is their way of reclaiming or claiming again something that could have been lost or taken away a long time ago.*

## **Where is Hawaii?**

*Hawaii is in the Pacific Ocean, west of California. It is one of the world's longest island chains. Hawaii is the only U.S. state completely made up of islands. Only 7 of its 132 islands are inhabited: Hawaii (also known as the Big Island), Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i, O'ahu, Kaua'i, and Ni'ihau.*

## **Can I dance Hula?**

*(If your family is not of Hawaiian culture and the community, the following may be how you would like to respond. Affirm your child's interest in the dance and culture.) Hula is a traditional Hawaiian dance and cultural practice. This is not a part of our culture and heritage, so we honor the tradition by learning about and respecting this form of dance. We can listen to Hawaiian music and dance the way our family loves to dance. Would you like to learn more about Hula?*

## **What language do they speak in Hawaii?**

*Hawaii is the only U.S. state with two official languages: English and Hawaiian.*

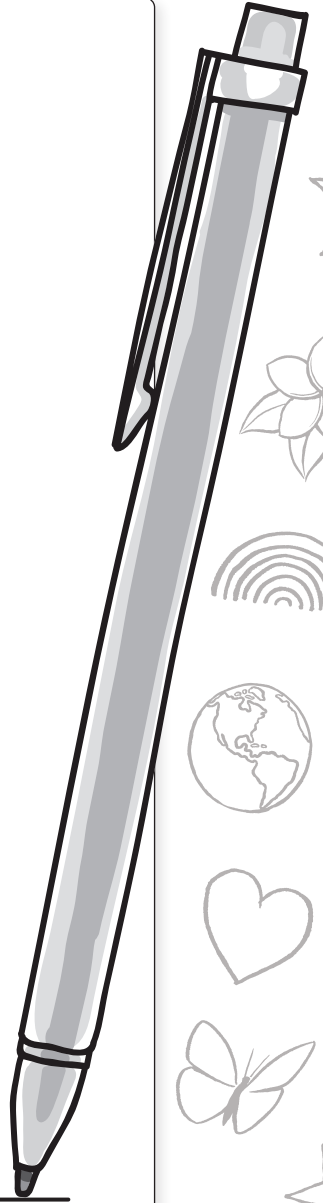
## **What is a Language Immersion school?**

*A language immersion school is a school where children learn all subjects using a specific language. In "Reclaim," Honor goes to a school where the language spoken is Hawaiian.*

This is your journal for drawing, writing, and sharing ideas about how you can show your connections to your family and community.



# MY JOURNAL: RECLAIM

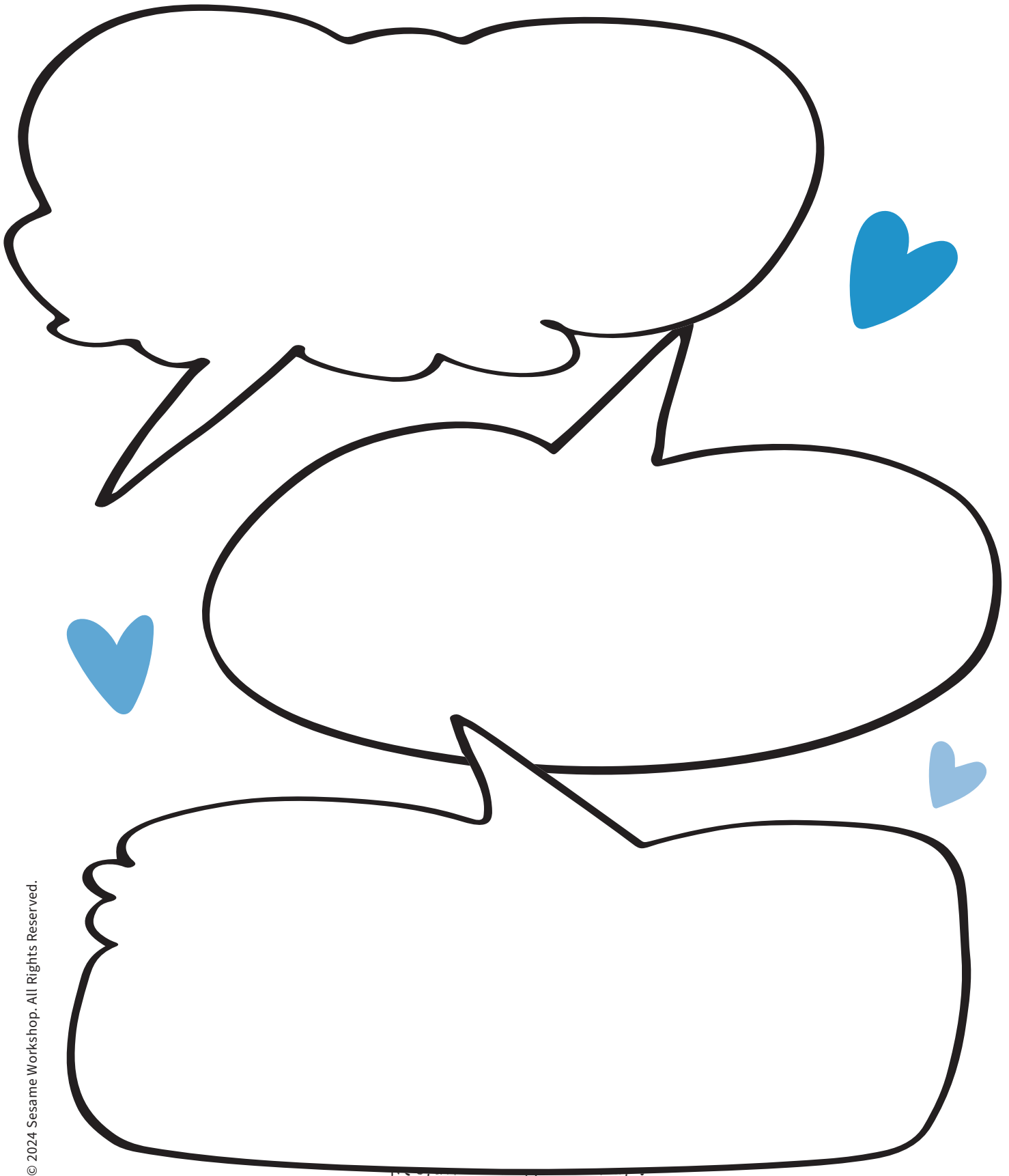


re·claim: **Reclaim** means to claim again or to reestablish a connection to something, such as land, language, identity, and heritage.

We are all a part of a family! Draw a picture of the people in your family, near and far.

My 'Ohana! My Family!

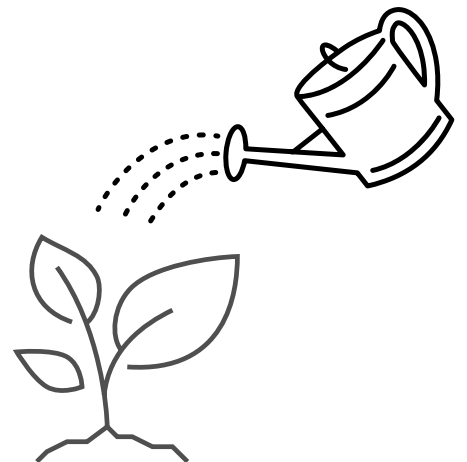
What would you like to ask Honor and Hanalei?  
What would you say to them if you were to meet them?



# OUR *Family* MEMORIES



What is your favorite family memory? Ask your family to share something that is special to them, like a recipe, story, or memory. Draw or make a list of their ideas.





# About Reclaim

This is a story about and between two brothers, Honor and his older brother, Hanalei. Honor knows that his community is an extended family network of caring and loving peers, neighborhood members, elders, and more. In this video, we come to understand how Hula strengthens the bond between the two brothers and becomes an important part of how Honor sees himself and his contribution to his family.

For more information and resources, please scan this QR code:



**About Sesame Workshop.** Sesame Workshop is the global impact nonprofit behind *Sesame Street* and so much more. For over 50 years, we have worked at the intersection of education, media, and research, creating joyful experiences that enrich minds and expand hearts, all in service of empowering each generation to build a better world. Our beloved characters, iconic shows, outreach in communities, and more bring playful early learning to families in more than 150 countries and advance our mission to help children everywhere grow smarter, stronger, and kinder.

**About the Producer/Writer.** Justyn Ah Chong is an Emmy-award winning Native Hawaiian filmmaker from O’ahu. From 2011-2018 he worked as a cinematographer and editor at the ‘Ōiwi Television Network, Hawaii’s first indigenous broadcast station. In 2019 his directorial debut narrative short *Down on the Sidewalk in Waikiki* screened at festivals around the world, winning several best short film awards. Justyn is currently in development on several projects via his production company, Olonā Media. He shoots, directs, and edits culturally-inspired, place-based films, music videos, and commercials.

**About the Director.** Geeta Gandbhir embarked on her career in narrative film under the guidance of Spike Lee and Sam Pollard. As a director, credits include the Paramount series *Born in Synanon* and *Eyes on the Prize* for HBO. Another episode of *Through Our Eyes*, “Apart,” was nominated for an NAACP Award and won a 2022 Emmy. Additionally, she co-directed *A Conversation on Race*, which was honored with an Online Journalism Award.

Funding for *Through Our Eyes* was provided in part by the Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation.

*Through Our Eyes* is a production of Sesame Workshop and in association with Multitude Films and The WNET Group.

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