

Our discussion of multi-culturalism over the internet, I admit, have been difficult at times for me to follow, probably because of my unfamiliarity with some of the concepts and a lot of the academic vocabulary.

My belief is that the success or failure of a multi-cultural society such as Hawai`i is not so much the individual immigrant population's or the indigenous population's ethnic characteristics and how they mix and match to fit into one another, but based upon at least three factors which make up the deep culture of the society. The first is the factor of **DOMINATION vs COMPATIBILITY**.

Certain people come from a culture in which domination is prevalent. We see this especially in the occidental culture which have arrived from North America and Europe to Hawai`i. Upon contact with the indigenous Hawaiian culture, they were met with a culture of compatibility. Over time, the dominant culture ruled over the formal, political, business, legal aspects of Hawaiian life while the compatibility culture governed the social interaction, the plantation and blue-collar, labor union working class. The Judicial system today is an excellent example of the domination culture. The search for mediation/hooponopono systems of dispute resolution is an expression of the compatibility culture seeking a place within that system.

It is dangerous to generalize too much of people from one race or another possessing 100% of one or another characteristic. These factors must be seen like Yin and Yang in which there is always some Yang in Yin and vice versa.

The second factor of the deep culture is that of **INDIVIDUALISM vs COLLECTIVISM**. Some cultures, especially occidental ones, place a very heavy emphasis on individuality. We see that from the Protestant approach to spirituality (which also contains lots of the domination mentality expressed earlier) and the heavy emphasis of free will and the direct relationship to the god-head. We see it also in the elevation of individual rights found in the American Bill of Rights, etc.

The deep culture of the indigenous Hawaiians were much more of a collective nature. The ohana (extended family) was of great importance. Sharing, not showing off and promoting yourself above others, pitching in when others needed help, etc. were basic requirement in Hawaiian life, as sacred as the American right of individual free speech. Pride in self was of course very important, but even more important was "no make shame" or don't embarrass your family, your class, your Hawaiian people.

The third factor of the deep culture is that of **EXCLUSION vs INCLUSION**. Occidental cultures generally operate on the basis of exclusion. (One major exception has been the Portuguese in Hawai`i.) The native Hawaiian culture has been generally one of inclusion. An excellent example of the inclusive nature of the indigenous culture here has been the intermarriage and multi-religious approaches taken in many of the Hawaiian/local families today.

Justice Robert Klein touches on this in his excellent opinion recently in P.A.S.H. vs. Hawai`i County Planning Commission & NANSAY HAWAI`i, Hi Supreme Court No. 15460 (August 31, 1995). In that opinion, he discusses the exclusive nature of private property coming into conflict with the inclusive nature of Hawaiian access across lands for subsistence, culture and religious practices.

I submit, therefore, the Hawai`i's experience is one of two very different deep cultures providing a platform upon which the people of Hawai`i have interacted with one another. Those who have remained in Hawai`i for a long period of time, having become "kama`aina" or "local" have become acculturated into a degree of flexibility and acceptance of paradox that they have been able to accommodate the culture of D.I.E. (domination, individualism and exclusion) within the Hawaiian deep culture.

Many people whose ancestors originated from various parts of the world have lived in Hawai`i for years, often, for many generations. The deep culture concepts of the native Hawaiians have become ingrained in people, not through the formality of schools or judicial/political systems, but through the simple process of living with each other, sharing the common `aina, and being blessed by the god-elements of Hawaiian land, waters, air, sun, and language. This deep acculturation process, constant yet unspoken, has become an imprint upon the Hawai`i society. So deep it goes, that at times it is difficult to articulate. But its there.

My apologies for taking so much of your computer space. I've tried to be as brief as possible. Mahalo to the organizers of capti-l. And to all of you, Aloha a hui hou. Poka.