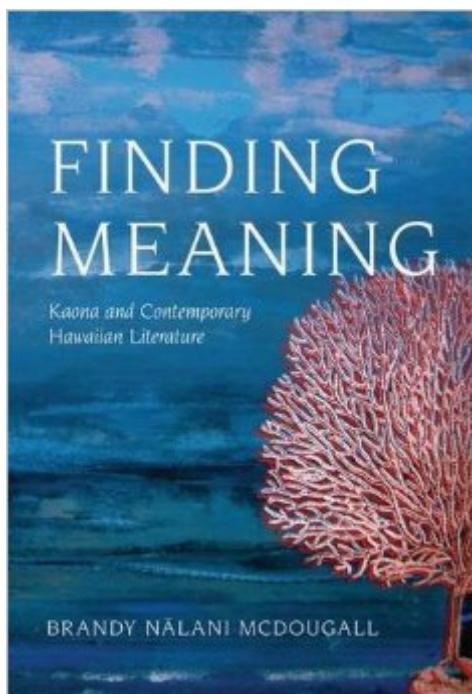


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# Finding Meaning: Kaona And Contemporary Hawaiian Literature (Critical Issues In Indigenous Studies)



## Synopsis

In this first extensive study of contemporary Hawaiian literature, Brandy Nalani McDougall examines a vibrant selection of fiction, poetry, and drama by emerging and established Hawaiian authors, including Haunani-Kay Trask, John Dominis Holt, Imaikalani Kalahale, and Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl. At the center of the analysis is a hallmark of Hawaiian aesthetics—“kaona,” the intellectual practice of hiding and finding meaning that encompasses the allegorical, the symbolic, the allusive, and the figurative. With a poet’s attention to detail, McDougall interprets examples of kaona, guiding readers through *olelo no‘eau* (proverbs), *mo‘olelo* (literature and histories), and *mooku‘auhau* (genealogies) alongside their contemporary literary descendants, unveiling complex layers of Hawaiian identity, culture, history, politics, and ecology. Throughout, McDougall asserts that a “œkaona connectivity” not only carries bright possibilities for connecting the present to the past, but it may also ignite a decolonial future. Ultimately, *Finding Meaning* affirms the tremendous power of Indigenous stories and genealogies to give activism and decolonization movements lasting meaning.

## Book Information

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