
THE HALI‘A ALOHA SERIES

Darien Hsu Gee, Series Editor

Hawai‘i Calling: Memoir Shares a Complicated Journey to Answer the Islands’ Call

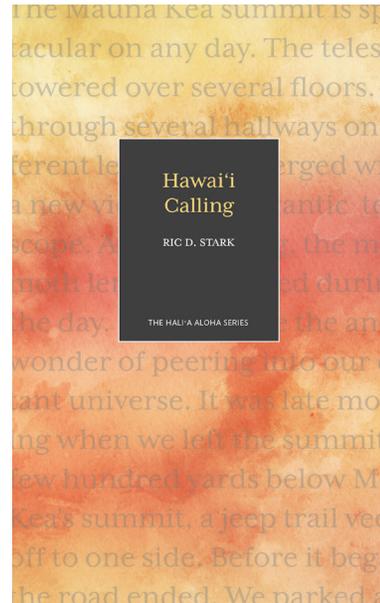
“Round Trip, Fourteen Nights—\$550,” the newspaper ad read. When a March vacation in 1986 offers an escape from yet another brutal Minnesota winter, it turns into an unexpected calling. In a leap of faith, Ric d. Stark leaves his mainland home behind and moves to Hawai‘i, changing the course of his life forever.

In intimate and poignant stories of loving friendships, bizarre encounters with Hawaiian spirits, and the challenges of navigating an unfamiliar cultural landscape, Stark invites readers of *Hawai‘i Calling* to join him on his journey to make the Islands his “heart home.” Revealing his personal struggles to discover his identity as a gay man and his place in the Islands, Stark observes, “I often feel that I’m the one oddity that doesn’t quite belong. Not just the ‘belonging in Hawai‘i’—it’s larger than that, and deeper too. A universal, human condition—don’t we all search our entire lives to find some communion with larger humanity? I answered with enthusiasm the deep, undeniable call of my spirit to live in this tropical home. Yet once here, I am forever just one more haole boy from the Midwest mainland.”

Inspired with a passion for creative writing in high school, Stark found his zest for the craft dimmed by a rigid college English composition professor. At age seventy-one, he returns pen to paper and once again finds joy in writing and proves it’s never too late to begin. “I have known that I would ‘write my book’ since I was seventeen,” Stark muses. “The question was always, ‘when?’ I never knew where to start, how to move forward, how to put it together into something whole and meaningful. Six months after joining the Hali‘a Aloha program, I joke with my friends: *I am about to add to my bio—Ric d. Stark, a gay old fart, an award-winning Hawaiian-quilter and published author.*”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, Ric d. Stark is new to a post-retirement career in literary nonfiction. A graduate with a Bachelor of Physical Therapy from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, he has worked in Hawai‘i as a home health physical therapist for thirty-four years. He is an award-winning quilter specializing in the Hawaiian quilt technique with accolades from the American Quilter’s Society Annual Quilt Show and the Hawai‘i Quilt Guild. He is the current president of the Hawai‘i Quilt Guild. Stark lives in Ewa Beach, O‘ahu, with his dog, Heno.



Hawai‘i Calling

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About Hali‘a Aloha and Legacy Isle Publishing

Hali‘a Aloha (“cherished memories”) by Legacy Isle Publishing is a guided memoir program developed in collaboration with series editor Darien Hsu Gee. The Hali‘a Aloha Series celebrates moments big and small, harnessing the power of short forms to preserve the lived experiences of the storytellers. Legacy Isle Publishing is an imprint of Watermark Publishing, based in Honolulu, Hawai‘i, and dedicated to “Telling Hawai‘i’s Stories” through memoirs, corporate biographies, family histories and other books. Visit www.haliaaloha.net for more.



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