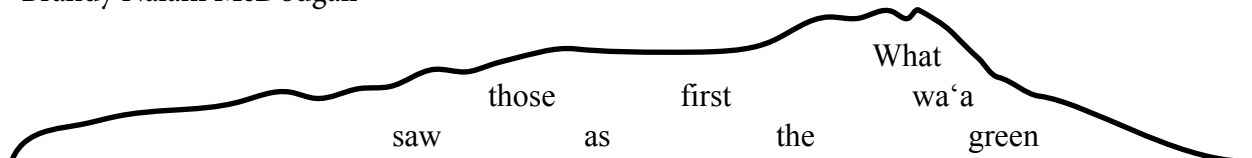


Lē'ahi

Brandy Nalani McDougall



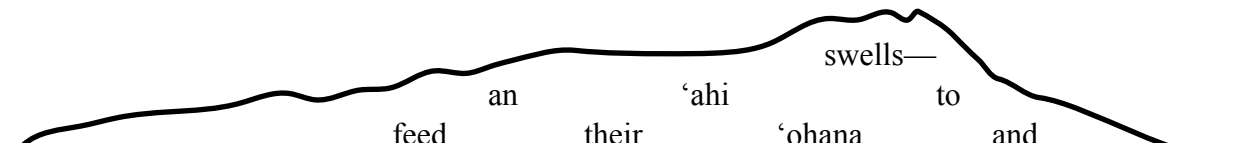
What
wa'a
green
meet
ocean

those
first
the
above

saw
rose
gaze

as
to

lae
their



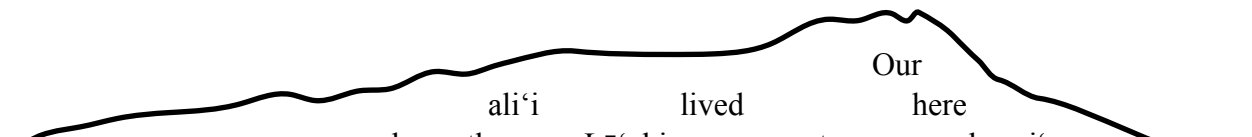
swells—
to
and
mo'opuna
generations

'ahi
'ohana
their
thousand

an
their
of
forty

feed
of
forty

all
for



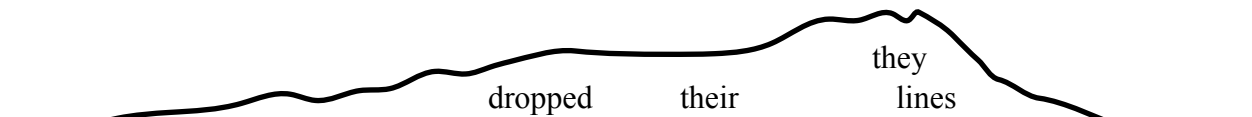
Our
here
lawai'a
ko'a
where

lived
sent
to
to

ali'i
Lē'ahi,
Kona

beneath
alone,

from
huna,



they
lines
up
over
waiwai.

dropped
forty
their
'ahi
once,

pulling
at
ka

all
and

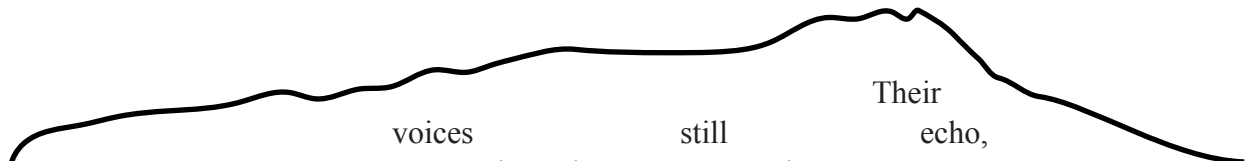
over—

diamond rose saw, those first What ships
shone over as the her sun
to her brow—
mine.

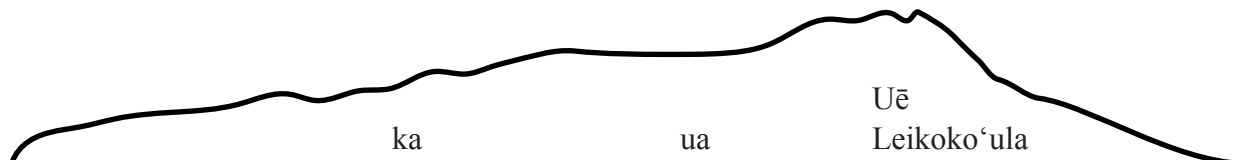
Hawai'i saw what from nā And
against they atop pū'alikoa
the fought Lē'ahi
for
usurpers:

*Lāhui, Kaua i Lē'ahi ka au A
Kūloko nani, 'ike
Ua o hui Ke
ka
lōkahi*


*launa ka i pu'uwai, E nā
me 'āina, ... pono imi o
Daimana hui
Hila.*



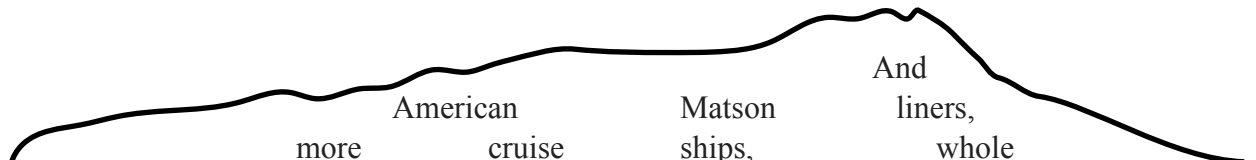
voices still Their
sweep through the grass—
Huli ma'ō a ma'ane'i
ka makani o Lē'ahi.



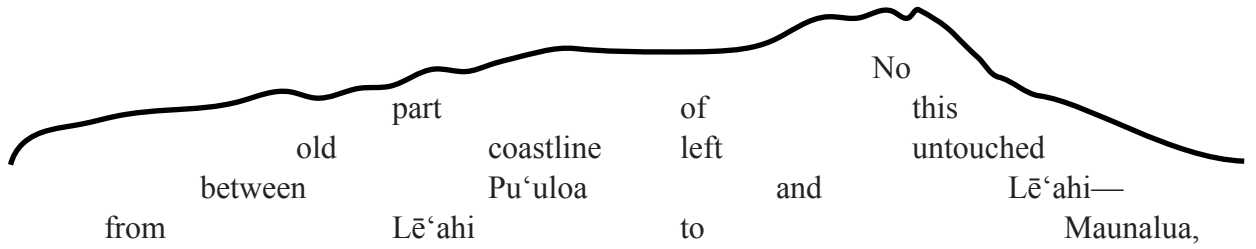
Uē
Leikoko'ula
Lē'ahi,
but a ka ola ua
more 'o battleships saw
the American flag raised,



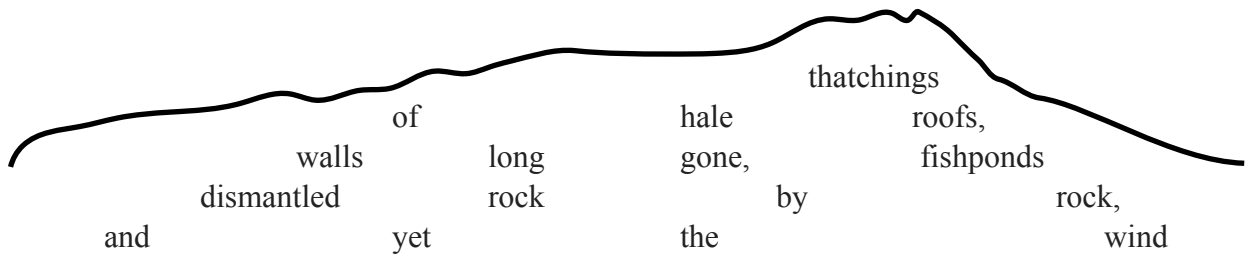
the
lowered,
emplacements
for a Hae fortress Hawai'i
five of artillery batteries,
dark tunnels, winding stairs.



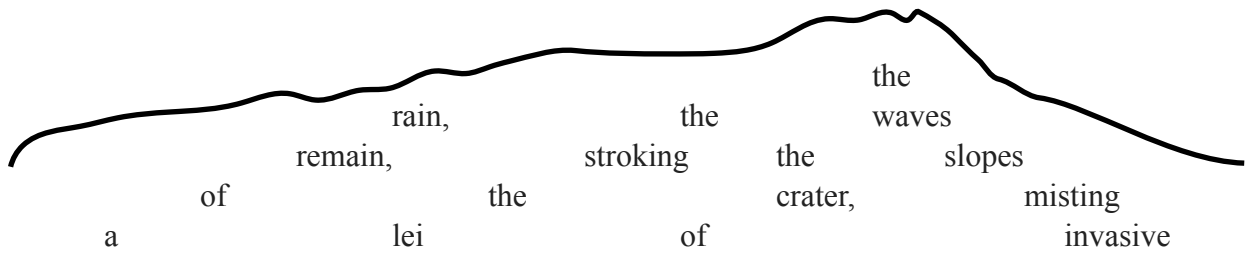
And
liners,
whole
floating American Matson
cities, ships, what
saw as they docked.



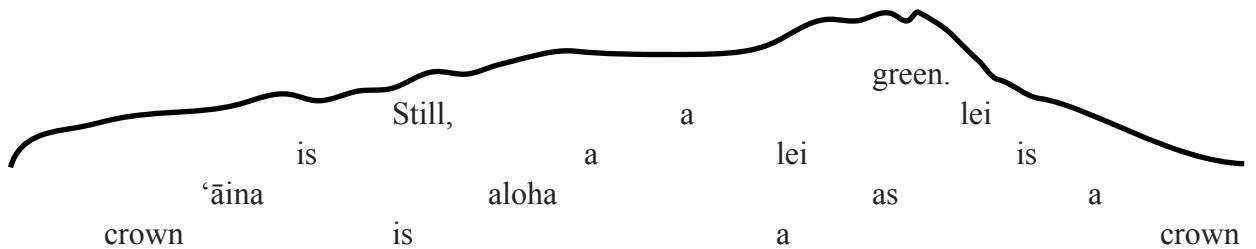
from between old part coastline of left No this untouched
Lē'ahi Pu'uloa and Lē'ahi—
Maunalua,



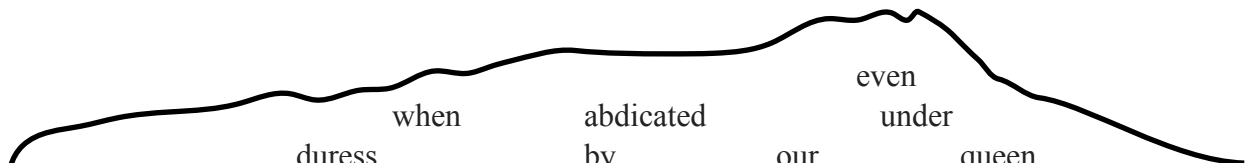
and dismantled walls of long rock hale gone, thatchings roofs, fishponds
yet rock by the rock, wind



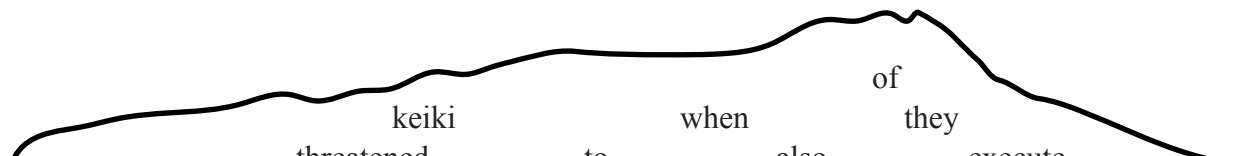
a of remain, rain, the stroking the waves the slopes misting invasive
lei the of crater,



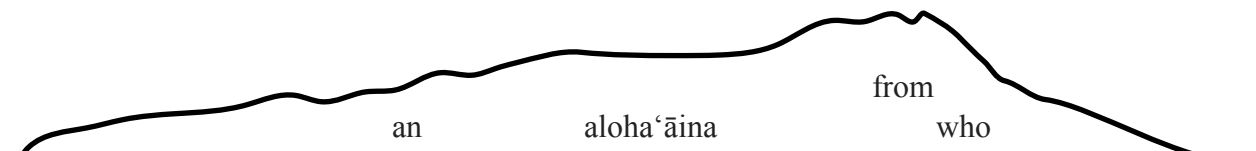
Still, a a lei is green.
'āina is aloha a lei is as is a crown



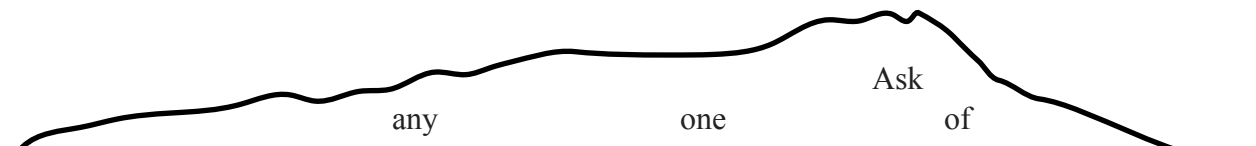
barrels as duress when they abdicated by our held the even under queen bayonet heads



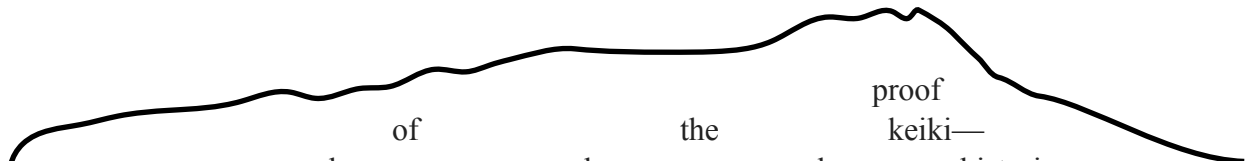
one nā threatened keiki to when also That I of they execute is heard



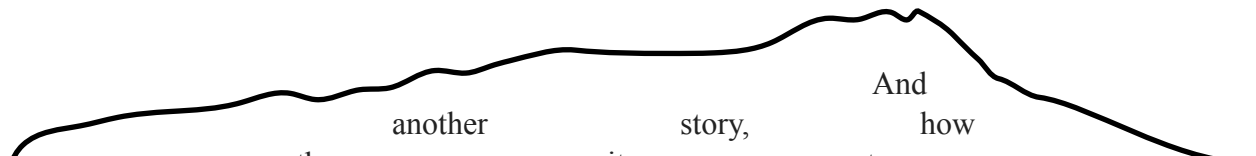
who who heard an heard aloha'āina from her from a from who kupuna hers, kōkua.



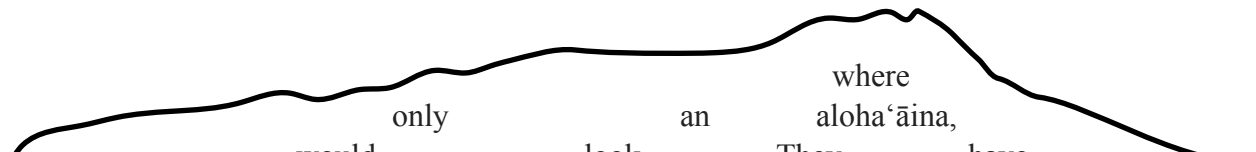
of be us any a if one it lie. with Ask of could None any




a coat only of our how the oral proof
keiki— histories like
coat our tongues of arms



And how
the witness accounts were
in recorded the then hidden somewhere
the Bishop Museum



where
only an aloha'āina,
would look. They have
done worse here we and
elsewhere. Do we doubt



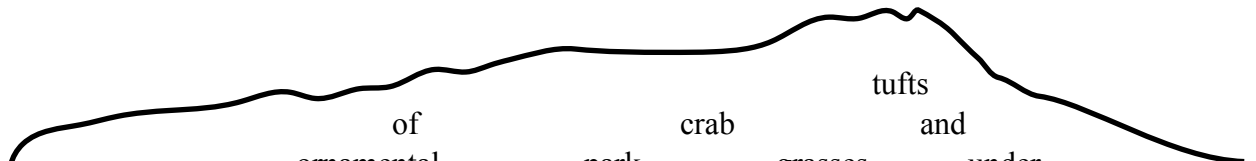
their
Their capacity for violence?
mining diamonds in to keep
tourist, and war sugar,
plantations?

Every generation of us
since— what we saw,
what we swallowed and what we heard,
we emptied.

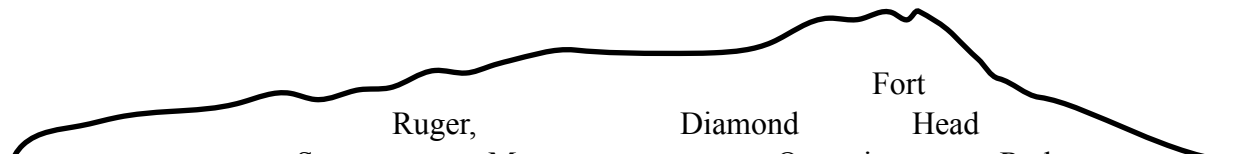
What we kept burying
to survive the lifetimes
following the war and lobotomy
of Lē'ahi, wealth

lining the
the broken bones tunnels, and the
of bombed lands and blood
peoples stockpiled in and
corners.

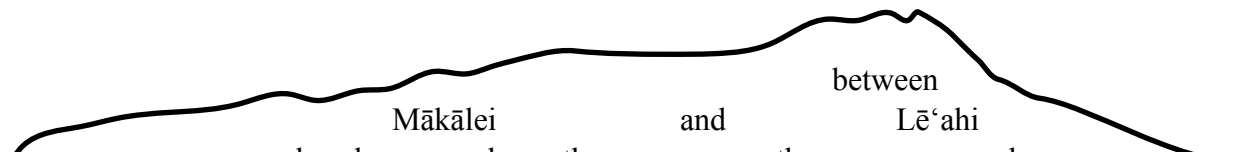
There is no doubt.
They tried lōlō to transplant
our haole koa, among the
the dry



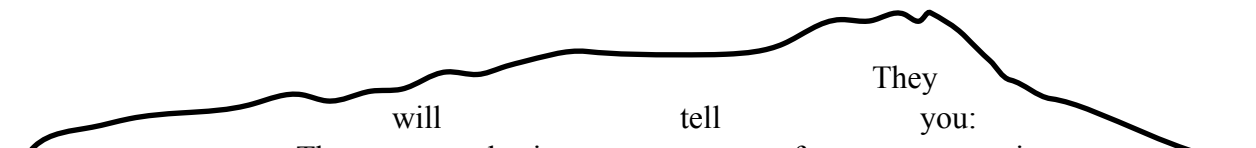
the a ornamental peace signs of park crab memorial, that tufts and under beneath read



Park, Wings State Monument, the Ruger, Diamond Operation of eroded Fort Head Red Honor seawall



their walls beaches of oceanview Mākālei beneath and the those always between Lē'ahi rock estates unobstructed.



business. is The It's will business bloody, not tell of but They you: empire just personal.

buried all the yet forgetting evidence of concrete And demands before, crimes foundations.

a in and is winding the dark staircases It tunnels hidden of Hila
pu'u, po'o Kaimana

This Kaimana dream of Kaimana Hila. diamonds
i kau mai i nani luna
Hila,

like as embedded they in crystal the looked only sparks crevices up the
'ahi from

Their flickering of seeing sharp light like kai piercing hooks depths uli, darkness, 'opelu. waiting.

The 'Ōle'ole'o, hōkeo 'Ōle'ole'o, calls 'Ōle'ole'o, The out: 'Ōle'ole'o
'Ōle'ole'o, hōkeo 'Ōle'ole'o, calls 'Ōle'ole'o, in: 'Ōle'ole'o

maoli, 'ahi po'onui, 'ahi palaha, 'ahi The 'ahi
mined for malailena 'ōpūhemo, 'ahi now shines.

it lae, kai war-hollowed asks must hohonu, hill how feed From lifts the its else us.