

# Honolulu Museum of Art

To whom it may concern,

My name is Taylour Chang, Director and Film Curator of the Doris Duke Theatre at the Honolulu Museum of Art in Honolulu, Hawaii. Our theatre screens independent, documentary, and international film throughout the year. Each month, we showcase film festivals that celebrate different cultures and genre cinema. I send this letter of recommendation on behalf of Edo Natasha who I have worked with during our African American Film Festival in February 2016.

We screened Edo's film *Popolo* to a sold out audience here at our museum. We support Edo Natasha's work not only because we value our local artists but also because his work represents an underrepresented demographic of storytellers who portray local communities in way that complicates the typical discourses of race and ethnicity. His film *Popolo* –the title of which is Hawaiian slang for African-Americans - confronts a very specific local issue in a way that broader audiences can access. The African American identity in Hawaii faces unique and sensitive challenges in the islands where African Americans make up only 1% of the population and Asians and mixed ethnicities make up over 60% of the population. Although Edo himself is not African American, he was not afraid to make the first narrative feature film to explicitly confront the issues of African American identity in Hawaii. His fearlessness sets him apart from other filmmakers. Far too often, I work with filmmakers of all ethnicities who are afraid to make their viewers and specific communities uncomfortable – it stunts their creativity. To work with a filmmaker like Edo who is not afraid is a pleasure and a breath of fresh air. Such fearlessness is rare and deserves to be supported.

I see the potential for him to continue growing. He deserves all the support in continuing to hone his craft such that he can channel his fearlessness in effective and impactful ways. It will be fearless filmmakers like him who will define diversity in the future. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 808-532-3033 or email me at [tchang@honolulumuseum.org](mailto:tchang@honolulumuseum.org).

Sincerely,  
Taylour Chang  
Director, Doris Duke Theatre  
**HONOLULU MUSEUM OF ART**

"That our children of many nationalities and races, born far from the centers of art, may receive an intimation of their own cultural legacy and wake to the ideals embodied in the arts of their neighbors....that Hawaiians, Americans, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Filipinos, Northern Europeans and all other people living here, contacting through the channel of art those deep intuitions common to all, may perceive a foundation on which a new culture, enriched by the old strains may be built in the islands."—Anna Rice Cooke's dedication statement, which she read at the opening of the Honolulu Academy of Arts (now the Honolulu Museum of Art) on April 8, 1927.

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[www.honolulumuseum.org](http://www.honolulumuseum.org)

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Honolulu Museum of Art  
First Hawaiian Center  
999 Bishop Street

Honolulu Museum of Art  
School  
1111 Victoria Street

Honolulu Museum of Art  
Doris Duke Theatre  
Entrance on Kinau Street