



EAST-WEST CENTER

COLLABORATION • EXPERTISE • LEADERSHIP

WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

Education Program Presents

DNA-Deep Na'au Awareness

John Prime

808 Urban

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Keoni Auditorium, Imin International Conference Center

Graffiti “writing” has been an integral part of urban society throughout the world for years. Some consider it the new “renaissance”. It is the only art movement in the history of mankind that was created and developed entirely by youth. During the early 80s, hip-hop was the platform for a great majority of the youth in Hawaii. Writing played a major role in that movement. O’ahu was rapidly expanding thanks to the interests of the federal government, international business folks, as well as western land developers. Much of this was at the dismay of our people, the Hawaiians. Youth, like myself, found a way to “Buck the System” at the expense of the urban community. Fast-forward 30 years and the writing movement has flourished in so many countries, but Hawaii. The question that keeps coming up for me is: Have we lost our sense of place in modern Hawaii?

Speaking of identity, nobody knew what I looked like until recently! I was known as PRIME since 1983. Though I have done art all my life, nothing stuck with me as much as writing (commonly known as graffiti). I was part of that first generation of writers that laid down the foundation and put Hawaii on the map pre-internet. In the late 80s I started a family and decided to put my writing legacy behind me. Or so I thought! The underground would bring me out of retirement in 2006 to start another chapter in the history books. My brainchild called 808 Urban.

To help make WES a sustainable gathering, please bring your own cup for a hot beverage and small plate for light refreshments. The public is invited to attend.