

School of Communication Studies / Te Kura Whakapāho
Auckland University of Technology / Te Wānanga Aronui o Tāmaki Makaurau

October 20, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:


I am writing this in support of Kalino Latu's application for arts funding from Creative NZ. I am a senior lecturer in communication studies and am supervising Kalino's postgraduate research into the impacts of censorship on Tongan punake and the songs they create. His Masters thesis is entitled: 'The application of imagery and the role of journalistic censorship in Tongan songs'.

Kalino's project – which will enhance the opportunities of young Tongan musicians to connect with the traditions of punake that are in danger of being lost in Aotearoa NZ – is both socially and culturally important. Kalino is in a unique position to accomplish this, being a poet, musician and composer well versed in the cultural contexts created and strengthened by punake and their treasured songs. His dedication to the maintenance of Tongan culture and values in Aotearoa NZ is exceptional.

Kalino, who is also a committed journalist, has a long history of working for the Tongan communities in Aotearoa NZ and Tonga. His dedication to providing Tongan news and current affairs has resulted in his news site, *Kaniva Tonga*, is celebrated as an outstanding achievement, given the modest resources he has to work with. I believe Kalino would bring the same level of engagement and commitment to the teaching of young musical talent and opening their eyes to the importance and cultural centrality of traditional songwriting.

I wish Kalino all the best with this exciting venture.

Sincerely,



Dr Greg Treadwell
Academic Advisor, Journalism

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TE WĀNANGA ARONUI
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