Acknowledgments

One of my favorite poems is Maya Angelou’s “Our Grandmothers.” In it, the incredible Angelou states, “I go forth/alone and stand as ten thousand.” As Indigenous peoples, we know we take our ancestors with us wherever we go. We know we carry them in our bones and in our blood in the same way that our descendants will carry us. We know we never stand alone, and that our children and grandchildren will never stand alone either. Therefore, while I put the words of this book to the pages that follow, I cannot take full credit for what those words say. I will own the mistakes and shortcomings myself. The moments of inspiration, however, belong to those who inspired them: my ancestors, my fellow aloha ‘āina (all ancestors in becoming), and those who haven’t been born yet, those who feed my every hope and dream. This was created by, and for, all of us.

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