

Waimanalo Litany

Caroline Sinavaiana

for Mahealani Dudoit, in memoriam

The scarred body moves
in green water,
brown arms slicing

a canvas of blue
green ocean sky.
Spirits of *moana*

pasifika, have mercy
on us. Traceries of
frame drawn by white-

tailed tropic birds,
koa'e kea etching
blue space above

our spiky nest of
coconut palm &
lauhala, casuarina

& *naupaka kahakai*.
Spirits of the *Ko'olau*,
have mercy on us.

Jellyfish filaments
of pain tattoo the
sleeping swimmer,

sharp awakening to
see a father with three
children body-surfing

Pacific Studies, Vol. 30, Nos. 1/2—March/June 2007

Reprinted, with permission, from Caroline Sinavaiana, "Waimanalo Litany," *Rattapallax* 10 (2005): 83.

& throwing sticks to
a wooly dog. Spirits
of *Makapu'u*, have

mercy on us. They
ride off on bicycles
& leave McDonald's

wrappers behind on
the shore. The marked
body moves in green

water. Spirits of
Waimanalo, grant
us peace.