



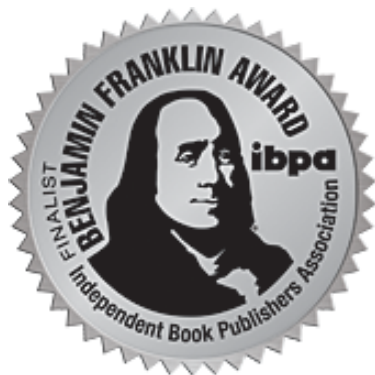
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Review copies available

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Hawai'i Novel Wins National Indie Publishers' Award

Daughters of Fire Illuminates Post-Statehood Hawai'i



The Independent Book Publishers Association (IPBA)—the largest not-for-profit trade group in the U.S. book industry—recognizes excellence and innovation in independent publishing with its annual Benjamin Franklin Awards, named in honor of America's most cherished publisher/printer. On Friday, May 3, IBPA named *Daughters of Fire*, written by Tom Peek of Volcano, Hawai'i and published by Hana-based Koa Books, a 2013 Benjamin Franklin Silver Finalist Award winner for Popular Fiction. IBPA will announce the Gold Award winners in each category at a gala at the Marriott Marquis in New York's Times Square on May 29.

"*Daughters of Fire* was a labor of love for everyone involved—the author, editors, artists, and designer," said Koa Books publisher Arnie Kotler. "That's something independent publishers can still do. We couldn't be more delighted to get news of this Benjamin Franklin Silver Finalist Award."

More than a decade in its research and writing, Peek's mystical and provocative page-turner picks up Hawai'i's story where James Michener left off. *Daughters of Fire* illuminates how the islands' transformation into a tourist mecca and developers' gold mine sparked a Native Hawaiian movement to reclaim their culture, protect sacred land, and step into the future with wisdom and aloha. With stunning cover art by Native Hawaiian cultural treasure Herb Kawainui Kane, and handsome pen-and-ink drawings by renowned nature artist John D. Dawson, the novel harkens back to classic adventures of earlier times.

In the novel, a visiting astronomer falls in love with a Hawaiian anthropologist who guides him into a Polynesian world of volcanoes, gods, and revered ancestors. The lovers get caught up in murder and intrigue as developers and politicians try to conceal that a long-dormant volcano is rumbling back to life above the hotel-laden Kona coast. The anthropologist joins forces with an aging seer and a young activist, and these three Hawaiian women summon their deepest traditions to confront Hawai'i's latest, most extravagant resort as the eruption and murder expose deep rifts in paradise.

Daughters of Fire is the twelfth work from Koa Books, which was founded on Maui in 2005 by Arnie Kotler, who was publisher and editor of Parallax Press in Berkeley, California from 1985-1999. Last year, Koa released *Georgia O'Keeffe's Hawai'i* coauthored by Patricia Jennings, who

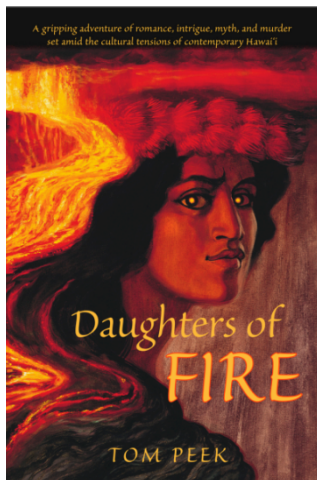
had hosted O’Keeffe in Hana in 1939. Koa’s other Hawai’i titles include *Nation Within: The History of the American Occupation of Hawai’i* by Tom Coffman; *Under Maui Skies and Other Stories* by Wayne Moniz, and *The Superferry Chronicles* by Koohan Paik and Jerry Mander. *Publishers Weekly* describes Kotler as a publisher with “... an unerring instinct for agents of change and [who] has been able to deliver their messages.”

Author Tom Peek, a writer and policy expert at the University of Minnesota in the 1980s, hitchhiked by boat through the South Seas before settling on Hawai’i Island 25 years ago. He’s taught his popular Empowered by the Pen writing workshops through Volcano Art Center and the University of Hawai’i at Hilo. He’s also been a mountain and astronomy guide on Mauna Kea and an eruption ranger, wildland firefighter and exhibit writer on Kilauea, working closely with Hawaiian elders and cultural practitioners on both volcanoes. These experiences provided Peek with much of the material for his book.

The award-winning novel will be featured at the May 18-19 Hawai’i Book and Music Festival in Honolulu, the state’s premier literary event. Peek will read from the book on Saturday from 4:00-5:00 p.m. He has done numerous readings throughout the islands to audience acclaim. His presence is large, his reading dramatic, and the discussions afterward invariably lively.

Daughters of Fire is available at bookstores and gift shops throughout Hawai’i and the U.S., and from all online retailers. For more information, visit <http://daughtersoffire.com>.

***Daughters of Fire* cover**



Arnie Kotler, publisher



Tom Peek, author



[Contact Koa Books for hi-res images](#)

“Tom Peek’s novel offers a window into the complex reality of life in contemporary Hawai’i. His storyline moves between, in, and around native/western worlds with relative ease, creating an intriguing tension and discomfort that makes for great storytelling. Peek’s understanding of place, culture, and current issues is deep and respectful, without being heavy-handed. Daughters of Fire is a terrific read for people who want more than a ‘fun in the sun’ read. Locals and visitors will be swept into the world of Pele and life on Moku o Keawe.”

—Maile Meyer, founder and owner of Native Books / Nā Mea Hawai’i, Honolulu