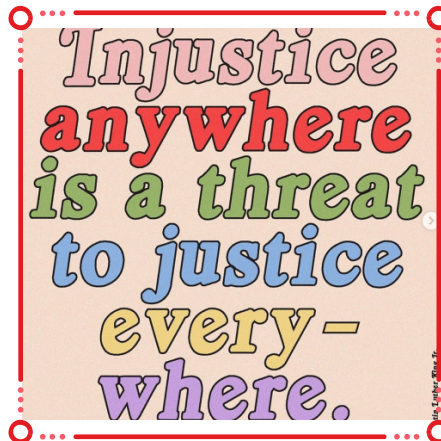


# *Keeping up with Hama'Lu*

YES, YOU CAN!

CULTURE



YES, YOU CAN!

BY SARAH POPPE

The yearly congress You Can! has just come to an end after three successful days. Attendees have learnt a lot from famous activists, political leaders and from each other. A new bunch of people ready to change the world have been let out into the world. We couldn't be happier!

## **The history of You Can!**

The congress hasn't been around for very long. It's quite a new event that began almost three years ago. "The reason why we have created You Can! is because we want to pass on our knowledge. We have friends from other countries and we hear their worries. They want to be at the forefront of change, but don't know how. Since Hama'Lu is quite a free country and most of all progressive, I think it's safe to say that we grew up knowing a lot about politics. We are all quite involved and we want to be as well", says **Makanui**, one of the founders of You Can!

“The goal of You Can! is to pass over our knowledge to them. We go into conversation with each other and learn from each other. Lots of professors, political leaders and so many more join us each year and make You Can! what it is. Without them, it wouldn’t be the same.”

### I am ready

This year a lot of attendees were from other countries, even more than the year before. “I heard about this event from my friend. I was immediately inspired and wanted to be here. My head is about to burst from all the information I’ve picked up here (laughs)”, says **Hana Maoah from Waka, Whenua**. “I think it’s an amazing thing that’s been set up. I will never be more grateful than now. I hope that Hama’Lu know how much they are doing for the rest of the world.”

The event started out with a meet-up, so everyone could get to know each other and make some friends. With everyone better acquainted, the congress kicked off with some lectures from well known activists like **Kalon, Group WMC** (We Make Change) and **Kaia**. They told the attendees about their struggles, their journeys and their goals. **Kealoha Wailani**, head of Climate and Environment also gave an inspiring talk.

After all the lectures, a bunch of workshops were scheduled. “We want our attendees to really experience all of this. We are of the opinion that you can’t learn things without some hands-on experience. So, that’s why we try to create a good mix of theory and practice”, says Makaanui.

### See you next year

“I will definitely come back next year! No doubt about it. I might even bring a whole group of my friends with me, because they simply have to experience this for themselves”, says Hana Maoah.

Will you be there as well?