

Political Transition

By

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EXT. GRASSY BBQ/PICNIC AREA AT ALA MOANA STATE PARK

LANIKAI, a beautiful 28 year old Hawaiian hula dancer, and her best friend since childhood, BIANCA, finish dancing a hula dance at Lanikai's family reunion on a breezy and sunny day. The family is loudly cheering as PRESTON, Lanikai's 32 year old Republican boyfriend, interrupts the commotion.

Preston approaches Lanikai and Bianca, waving his hand in the air commanding attention.

PRESTON

Excuse me, excuse me!

LANIKAI

Babe, what are you doing?

The crowd quiets.

PRESTON

ALOHA! I stand before you today to ask for your support. I am going to make some changes that you can believe in. The road may be long, my fellow family members, but nothing can stand...

Lanikai's 20 year old cousin, AKONI, interrupts Preston and jokingly heckles his speech.

AKONI

Get on with it, bruddah! You ain't running for office here. No Republican would stand a chance here.

Everyone laughs. Preston, embarrassed, clears his throat.

PRESTON

(to Lanikai)

All jokes aside. You have made my dreams come true over the last two years. Nothing can stand between you and me- NOTHING!

Preston reaches in his pocket and gets on one knee. Cousin Akoni whistles loudly. Lanikai's mother, Ailani, 49, and father Akamai, 52, join hands and interlock their fingers under the table and squeeze tightly. Ailani reaches over to wipe tears from Akamai's eyes.

(CONTINUED)

PRESTON  
Will you marry me?

Lanikai's eyes fill with tears. A tear drop spill from her eye and roll down her face. Her bottom lip and chin start to quiver.

LANIKAI  
Yes! Yes!

Preston slides the ring on her finger. Jumping to his feet, he picks her up off the ground and they kiss. The women of the family run up to Lanikai and put leis on her neck while admiring her ring.

Preston's cell phone rings. Preston looks at his phone. SENATOR MOWERS pops up on the screen of his phone.

PRESTON  
(to Lanikai)  
I love you, baby! Together forever.  
Gotta take this. Bathroom issues.

Preston wiggles out of the center of the crowd while people are smiling at him and lightly shaking his shoulders in a gesture of congratulations and approval! Family members slide lei's on Lanikai. Akamai adjusts a lei and hugs Lanikai.

AKAMAI  
ALOHA! I am so proud of you, baby  
girl. Through all the ups and  
downs, your dream is coming true. I  
love you. Now let me see that ring.

Bianca glares over her shoulder at Preston, disapproving of his exit. Preston's eyes lock on Bianca's eyes. Bianca slightly squints her eyes and shakes her head. Preston turns his back to Bianca.

Bianca places a lei over Lanikai's head and they come nose-to-nose to exchange "HA." They stare into each others eyes while exchanging each other's breath. The waves pound the shore aggressively. Bianca quickly and unexpectedly pulls away.

BIANCA  
You deserve it more than anyone,  
but you know I...

Lanikai interrupts Bianca.

LANIKAI

Mahalo, Bianca. You and I will always be best friends. Now look at this ring, girl. How does she look on me?

INT. LANIKAI'S BEDROOM- MORNING

Bianca barges into Lanikai's bedroom. Lanikai is sleeping on her bed.

BIANCA

Oh, my God! Did you see this?

Bianca holds out her iPhone to Lanikai while she is laying in her bed. Lanikai rolls over and pulls the covers over her head.

LANIKAI

Can't you see I am still in bed after a great night!

BIANCA

Look! I cannot believe this shit. North Carolina and Mississippi are passing bills that discriminate against our people!

Lanikai emerges from under the covers quickly puts her finger to her lips, gesturing Bianca to be quiet. She whispers:

LANIKAI

Shh.. Preston's in the bathroom.

Bianca rolls her eyes.

LANIKAI (CONT'D)

Plus, you know I am not political! I have other things to worry about. Like a wedding!

BIANCA

This is serious shit. North Carolina, Mississippi, who's next?

Preston enters the bedroom.

PRESTON

What's all the fuss about, ladies?  
(to Bianca)  
Looks like you've seen a ghost...  
Pele?

(CONTINUED)

Bianca rolls her eyes and points to her iPhone.

BIANCA

Yea! North Carolina, Mississippi.  
Bullshit legislation, huh, Senator?

PRESTON

I believe in equal rights- Gay  
Marriage... but I agree with my  
Republican colleges when it comes  
to dudes using women's restrooms!

Preston gathers his belongings and exits the bedroom.

PRESTON(O.C)

Gotta go, ladies. Meeting up with  
the other Senators to discuss the  
breaking news.

BIANCA

(To Lanikai)

See. Not political? You have turned  
a blind eye for the last two years,  
but come on.

LANIKAI

I love him. I knew he was a  
Republican before I started dating  
him. No one can tell we are "mahu"  
anyway. Let it go.

BIANCA

Let it go? We are Hawaiian. Our  
ancestors respected and honored  
"mahu" prior to the "hoales"  
arrival. I don't mind people  
knowing I'm mahu! You are Hawaiian  
first, Mahu second. Remember that.

Bianca kisses Lanikai on the forehead and exits the room.  
Lanikai takes a deep breath gets out of her bed and walks to  
the bathroom.

EXT. LANIKAI'S BATHROOM- MORNING

Lanikai stands in front of the bathroom mirror and speaks  
out loud:

LANIKAI

(to herself)

I am Hawaiian! I am mahuwahine.

(CONTINUED)

The sun hits her diamond ring and she notices the shine it makes through the mirror. She looks at her ring and then reconnects with her reflection in the mirror and loudly talks to herself.

LANIKAI  
(to herself)  
I am Hawaiian! I am mahuwahine.

INT. RESTAURANT- AFTERNOON

Preston and Lanikai are sitting at a table having lunch at a restaurant.

PRESTON  
What's wrong, babe? You don't have cold feet, do you?

LANIKAI  
No, I am secure with us. It's Bianca and the "bathroom" issue.

PRESTON  
Can't we focus on us and not politics? Our party's on the right path.

LANIKAI  
Right path? You think that Bianca should have to use the men's room?

PRESTON  
Bianca! What? What are you saying?

LANIKAI  
Bianca is mahu! And she is my best friend. I don't like seeing her upset.

PRESTON  
Let's not make this about Bianca! Today is about us- you and me. Cheers to our future together! I love you. I'm marrying you- not Bianca.

The Hawaiian band plays a Hawaiian song.

PRESTON(CONT'D)

Our song! I love you so much. May I?

Lanikai smiles a half smile. Preston takes Lanikai's hand and they walk to the dance floor and dance together.

INT. LANIKAI'S APARTMENT- MORNING

Bianca arrives at Lanikai's apartment. Preston is on his way out to golf with the other Senators.

PRESTON

Hi Bianca! How are you?

Bianca responds flatly.

BIANCA

Fine, you?

PRESTON

Fantastic. On my way to play golf with the boys. Enjoy your afternoon, ladies.

Preston kisses Lanikai goodbye. Bianca watches him go with a glare. Lanikai brings a tray of beauty products and places them on the coffee table. They begin to paint their nails.

BIANCA

Did the "bathroom" issue come up yesterday?

LANIKAI

Yes, it did. Society is changing as a whole, we have to be patient.

BIANCA

Patient? Our sisters around America are suffering. They haven't had the same support we have had.

LANIKAI

I know, but we both know, I knew he was a Republican when I fell in love with him.

BIANCA

You're right, but did he know you were mahu when he fell in love with you?

Lanikai stares at Bianca and lowers her head. She continues to paint her nails in silence.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. That was unfair.

Bianca reaches over and grabs Lanikai's hand, looking at her nail color.

(CONTINUED)

BIANCA  
I love red on you!

Lanikai giggles and smiles at Bianca.

LANIKAI  
I know you do. Sexy, right?

She holds up her hand in the air.

BIANCA  
Look at that ring! Beautiful. Give  
me that three carrot.

Bianca leans over Lanikai reaching for her ring. They begin to laugh and start playfully wrestling with each other. Bianca kisses Lanikai on the lips. Lanikai reciprocates her kiss.

LANIKAI  
Whoa! Bianca. Whoa.

BIANCA  
What?

LANIKAI  
We are not thirteen anymore,  
Bianca! I love Preston, and he  
loves me.

Lanikai hugs Bianca's face with her hands.

LANIKAI (CONT'D)  
I will always love you, but not  
like that. You, too, will find your  
wife! I promise.

Tears begin to fall from Bianca's eyes. She pulls away and begins to wipe her tears away.

While she is raising to her feet, she hits the end table and knocks over Preston's briefcase. The papers spread all over the floor. They both see a document that reads, "SENATE BILL 124: BATHROOM BILL." Bianca grabs the paper and they look at each other.

LANIKAI  
What the hell is this?

BIANCA  
Holy shit! I knew it. It's a  
promise to support a similar bill  
like North Carolina and  
Mississippi. He signed it.

(CONTINUED)

Bianca points to the name: Senator Preston Roberts. Lanikai grabs the paper out of Bianca's hand and runs to the front door.

LANIKAI

I am Hawaiian! I am mahuwahine.

EXT. PICNIC TABLE ON THE LAWN OF A GOLF COURSE - AFTERNOON

Lanikai walks up to a picnic table where Preston, SENATOR MOWERS and SENATOR DINGMAN are sitting after playing a round of golf. They are laughing.

LANIKAI

Good afternoon, gentlemen.

PRESTON

Gentlemen, look at my Hawaiian beauty. Soon to be mine forever!

Lanikai smiles at the men, then looks sharply at Preston.

LANIKAI

I need to have a moment with you privately!

PRESTON

Now? Can't this wait until later?

LANIKAI

Hell no! Now!

Senator Mowers laughs as Lanikai and Preston move off.

SENATOR MOWERS

That's what happens when you put a ring on it!

INT. CROWDED COUNTRY CLUB BAR - AFTERNOON

Preston pulls out a bar stool for Lanikai.

PRESTON

Why that look on your face? You look like you've seen Pele, for God's sake.

LANIKAI

Worse! I am about to *be* Pele! What's this?

Lanikai pulls the signed Petition to support SB 124 out of her purse.

(CONTINUED)

PRESTON

Come on. Really? I've...

Lanikai cuts Preston off and begins to raise her voice:

LANIKAI

Explained it. You never told me you pledged to support something like this. This is bullshit.

She throws the paper at him. Preston grabs the paper and grabs Lanikai's arm. He is embarrassed.

PRESTON

We need to continue this conversation at home. Let's go.

LANIKAI

So be it! The only Republican there will be you.

INT. IN FRONT OF RESTROOMS- AFTERNOON

Lanikai and Preston stop in front of the restrooms. One is marked "female" and the other "male."

LANIKAI

I need to use the restroom.

She walks up to the "woman's" door and puts a hand on it. She hesitates briefly, changing her mind and quickly walking into the men's room.

PRESTON

What are you doing? Lanikai!

LANIKAI

What does it look like I'm doing? I am following the law you are endorsing.

Men passing by Lanikai look at her strangely, but she proceeds into a stall. She locks the door and the sound of urine hitting the water echos throughout the bathroom.

PRESTON

(Pissed off)

Are you fucking kidding right now? You must have lost your mind.

The sound of a flushing toilet can be heard as Lanikai emerges from the bathroom stall. She hands Preston her ring.

(CONTINUED)

LANIKAI

Does it look like I'm fucking  
kidding? People in your circle may  
think I'm out of my mind because  
I'm Mahu! I'm Mahu!

Men pass by. Preston stands in the middle of the bathroom with a perplexed look on his face. He continuously looks down at the ring in his hand and up at Lanikai.

WHITE GUY

(Joking and laughing)  
What's up with her? Must've drank  
too much?

Another guy walks by as he zips up his fly.

HAPA GUY

Mahu? What a beautiful woman! Damn,  
girl.

Lanikai stares into Preston's face. She wipes away her tears.

Lanikai Bolts past Preston and out of the bathroom. Preston stands there for a moment before chasing after her.

A toilet flushes in a stall. Senator Mowers exits the stall and looks at Preston. Senator Mowers shakes his head while exiting.

SENATOR MOWERS

(Disgustingly)  
You put a ring on THAT!?!

Preston leans on the sink and looks at his reflection in the mirror and shouts:

PRESTON

FUCK! FUCK! FUCK!

EXT. PARKING LOT AT LANIKAI'S CAR.

Lanikai is sitting in the driver's seat of her car with the window rolled down. Preston approaches the car.

PRESTON

Lanikai, wait...

LANIKAI

I can't marry you. Your fiancÃ©,  
the woman you have loved for two  
years, was forced to use the wrong  
bathroom! You don't get it.

(CONTINUED)

Preston leans on the car door and is looking down at Lanikai.

PRESTON

That's not fair. You never told me.

LANIKAI

It was never relevant until NOW!

Lanikai hands Preston a sealed envelope and starts the car engine.

LANIKAI (CONT'D)

One day I hope you understand.  
Don't waste your time following  
me. Your flight leaves in an hour.  
Lock my door behind you.

As she drives away, she sees Preston in the rearview mirror with his arms half-raised until she is out of sight.

INT. LANIKAI'S APARTMENT- DAY

Lanikai runs into her apartment, crying. She runs into the arms of Bianca, and Bianca holds her, stroking her hair.

BIANCA

I'm so sorry. When things are too  
good to be true...

LANIKAI

I lost him.

BIANCA

But you found the truth.

INT. LANIKAI'S PARENTS' FAMILY ROOM- AFTERNOON

Lanikai is laying on her parents' couch, wrapped in blankets. Lanikai's father and Bianca are sitting nearby.

LANIKAI'S MOTHER

(to Lanikai)

Here, honey. Here is some Hawaiian  
herbal tea with ginger.

LANIKAI

I can't. I'm in so much pain.

Akamai stands up and begins a powerful oli:

(CONTINUED)

AKAMAI

Haku oli me ka ho'ohana 'ana I na  
loina haku mele pono I ka haku  
oli'ana.

Everyone in the room weeps in pain.

INT. HAWAIIAN AIRLINES PLANE- NIGHT

Preston is sitting on the plane. He reaches inside his sports coat and pulls out the envelope and engagement ring. He opens the envelope and holds a picture of Lanikai and Preston on their very first date. He smiles. He turns it over and reads the message on the back outloud.

PRESTON

To my Hawaiian Princess, Lanikai, I  
will always love you no matter  
what. Love you forever, Preston.

He turns the photo back over and runs his finger over her face. His concentration is interrupted as the plane touches down.

INT. LANIKAI'S PARNETS' FAMILY ROOM- MORNING

Bianca wakes up to her iPhone going off. She looks at the screen and can't believe her eyes. CNN NEWS FLASH: SB 124 has been struck down by one Republican vote.

Bianca rises from the reclining chair and kisses Lanikai on the forehead. She walks across the room and sits at the family computer and pulls up the Hawaiian Airlines site. The screen is very bright.

LANIKAI

Bianca, what are you doing so  
early? That light.

BIANCA

(Whispering)

You need to see this.

Bianca picks up the TV remote and turns on CNN.

BIANCA(CONT'D)

You really need to see this,  
Lanikai.

LANIKAI

What?! What is it, girl?

The girls sit close on the couch watching the television. Lanikai's parents rush out of their room to join them.

(CONTINUED)

AKAMAI

What is going on out here?

LANIKAI

I don't know.

BIANCA

Hush up! Just watch.

Everyone turns their attention to the television.

INT. ON SET AT CNN- MORNING

Preston is being interviewed by CNN's ANDERSON COOPER in the studio.

ANDERSON COOPER

Breaking news, SB 124, the anti-transgender bill has failed to pass because of one Republican vote. Senator Preston Roberts surprisingly breaks from party lines and cast the determining "nay" vote- killing the bill. Senator Roberts is with us now.

ANDERSON COOPER

(to Senator Roberts)

Good morning, Senator. Surprising move this morning.

PRESTON

It is a rare moment in life when someone so special can have such a profound influence over a decision. This vote became very personal to me. That person knows who she is.

ANDERSON COOPER

What about your future in the Republican Party?

PRESTON

The voters will decide that, but for now winning back my fianc  is my priority.

ANDERSON COOPER

Well. There you have it. Any final word?

(CONTINUED)

PRESTON

Yes...

INT. LANIKAI'S PARENTS' FAMILY ROOM- MORNING

Everyone is huddled together on the couch watching the television. Preston is on the television screen.

PRESTON

If the woman of my dreams will  
still have me as her husband, I  
would be so honored.

Lanikai drops to her knees and is crying. Everyone is huddled around her. She shouts at the screen:

LANIKAI

Yes! Yes! I love you, Preston! Am I  
dreaming?

Bianca grabs a piece of paper off the end table and hands it to Lanikai. Lanikai is wiping tears from her eyes.

LANIKAI (CONT'D)

What's this?

BIANCA

Dreams really do come true! Dry  
your eyes. Come on girl, you have a  
plane to catch and a husband to  
reclaim!

Akamai chants a happy Hawaiian oli:

AKAMAI

Whehewehe i ka ho'omakaukau 'ana i  
ka mea'ai ma ka 'olelo Hawai'i.

Everyone is smiling and embrace in a group hug.

INT. AIRPORT- EVENING

Lanikai exits the gateway from her plane. She runs up to Preston and they embrace. News cameras are all over.

PRESTON

I love you so much! Forgive me?

LANIKAI

I love you.

Preston and Lanikai embrace in a long kiss.

(CONTINUED)

PRESTON  
I want a do-over.

Preston gets on one knee. The crowd cheers. He pulls out the ring.

PRESTON  
Will you marry me?

LANIKAI  
YES!

Preston slides on the ring and Lanikai is looking down at him. A tear falls from her eye.

LANIKAI (CONT'D)  
I am mahu!

PRESTON  
And I love you! Nothing will tear  
us apart.

FADE OUT.