



Derek Otsuji

At the Lookout Point at the Lighthouse at Makapu'u

Blithely suicidal, the hang gliders
launch from the wind-buffed ridge,
like little origami airplanes perfectly
creased, bright red and white and

yellow and green, lifted into leisurely
time measured to the wind-chimed
hours when daylight is airy and clean.
Keep it light, they seem to say, forget

not less than everything, no sorrow
like the land-bound grief. A hymn wheezes
from the music box of the sea and above
the frigate birds, in circling tiers

direct a wailing descant—a cat's
cradle's intricate entanglement
that, with a sudden pull, loosens into
formlessness—casual, infinite, free.

Derek Orsuji's work has appeared in *The Alembic*, *Poet Lore*, *Verdad*, *Word Riot*, *Inscape*, *The MacGuffin*, *Hawaii Review*, *The Midwest Quarterly* and elsewhere. He lives in Hawai'i.

Image: "Cat's Cradle," from *Sleeping at Last* (website).