

# POKERE HENARE PAEWAI

*HE/HIM*

APPLYING FOR TANGATA WHENUA  
REPRESENTATIVE & GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

Ko Ruahine te Maunga  
Ko Manawatū te Awa  
Ko Kurahaupō te Waka  
Ko Rangitāne te Iwi  
Ko Ngāti Mutuahi te Hapū  
Ko Makirikiri te Marae  
Ko Te Rangiwhakaewa te Tangata

Kia ora. My name is Pokere Paewai. I was born in Tamaki-Nui-a-Rua (Dannevirke), where I grew up around my Marae and speaking Te Reo at my school, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Tamaki-Nui-a-Rua. After school I attended Massey University graduating with a Bachelor of Arts. Almost two years ago I moved to Aomori in northern Japan and have been working as an English teacher at an Elementary School. I enjoy reading, travelling (pre Covid-19 of course), and just generally exploring.

## **What made you want to join the RY board?**

Honestly, I've never taken up a challenge like this before, but my hope is that I might be able to embrace my queer identity a little more, and have a bit more confidence in myself. I also want to represent Māori in the best way I can.

## **RainbowYOUTH is on a journey to proactively and respectfully uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi. How would you contribute to this journey?**

I would hope that I would be able to contribute to a genuine partnership between Māori and Pākehā within RainbowYOUTH and wider New Zealand society. So Māori are not just seen as a rubber stamp, whose approval is only sought after decisions have been made.

## **What particular skills do you think you have that would make you suitable for the RY board?**

I believe I can bring a tangata whenua perspective to RainbowYOUTH, not as a person who is queer and Māori but as a queer Māori. I don't see those parts of my identity as separate after all they both come together within me. I'm still learning every day and I'm sure this journey will be full of lessons that will help me to become a better person.