

# TAME-COLE (T.C.) SATELE

THEY/THEM

APPLYING FOR GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

Kia ora. Talofa Lava. I open my application in my two mother tongues – two cultures which I find intrinsic to my being and identity as Takatāpui and fa’afine. As a child of a Pasifika diaspora, I’m am descendant of the Laloavea tribe from my father’s side. Born and raised in the small Eastern Bay coastal town of Opotiki, my mother’s whānau trace its lineage back to the Te Whanau A Apanui iwi, of the waka Mataatua. At 17, I’m an acting non-binary honors student at Hamilton Boys High School, chairperson of the Moko foundation national youth board and board member of the Waikato Youth Secondary Tertiary Advisory Group (YSTAG).

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

I believe I offer a unique perspective to the board as a Māori/Samoan QPOC – where I have observed both homophobia, xenophobia and racism at personal and institutional levels. And with a solid academic background in opposition to the racial stereotypes awarded against my identity – I believe I represent a very slanted minority whose voice has been suppressed and forced to mire through a colonial landscape. Sitting as an RY Board Member will not only allow me to actively contribute to the conversation of LGBTQIA+ identity and in the process educate myself (and by extension my community) on the topic in more breadth, but more pertinently, allow a platform to be given to a marginalised communities' member's perspective.

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

As rangatahi Māori, I strive to uphold my identity in every aspect of my life. Having spoken on Maori success within a system historically built against them, Māori activism is something I’m very vocal about. I intend to uphold my hauora within the confines of the RY board by bringing both my own whaikorero to the table and an empty cup ready to be filled with whakawhanaungatanga – in every aspect; strive to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti.

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

Several years of board experience ensures I have a pre-established foothold in the machinations of being an involved member on a national board. My six-month tenure as Youth Member of Parliament shadowing under the Rt. Hon. Minister David Parker has given me both a foundational grasp on formal deliberations, and a strong foothold in government under the minister’s specific portfolios. A brief stint as Future Leaders catalyst Opotiki reiterates my pronounced ability to lead a youth board at a local level, and as acting chairperson of the Moko foundation national youth board, I also hold the ability to engage at a national level. Several opportunities have allowed me to vocalise my experiences to wide audiences, from Māori rights activism in the halls of parliament to national uLearn teacher conferences as a panel speaker - I pride myself on my public speaking and active conversation. Additionally, co-leading the local mental health and queer support initiatives at my school has given me particular insight into how to approach LGBTQIA+ issues and support them within the confines of an oppressive institution.