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I live in Waikaremoana - an inland sea on the East Coast of New Zealand. We are 70 kilometres inland from Wairoa a small seedy town located between Gisborne (Turanga) toward the Nth East and Hawkes Bay (Heretaunga) toward the South East.

Ngati Ruapani is my main Tribe and has influenced tribal life in Waikaremoana over several generations. My tribal roots however drill down to a more specific regional identity so I belong to a collective group of families (whanau) known as Ngati Hinekura & Te Whanaupani, sub-tribes who serve the cultural and traditional aspects of life around their respective villages (Papakainga). Ngati Hinekura sub-tribe live at Te Kuha Papakainga Village and Te Whanaupani sub-tribe live around the Te Waimako Papakainga Village.

Ngati Ruapani has a broader boundary which extends out and borders Kahungunu to the South and Tuhoe to the North. Te Tatau Pounamu which we Ngati Ruapani use for the purpose of this Raupatu Claims Settlement journey includes the age old history of our people who brokered a peace treaty over 150 years ago by marrying two mountains; te maunga Kuha Tarewa was married to the maunga Turiokahu this they believed would provide inter tribal peace to succeeding generations

Having lived in Waikaremoana all my life it is now my role as a grandmother and a tribal leader to serve my community and my people, this I do unconditionally, my voice is the first voice heard at Te Waimako marae and Te Kuha marae - ***te karanga a te kuia ki nga ope whakaeke ki roto o tana wharua o Waikaremoana.*** This is sealed by my whakapapa to Ngati Hinekura and to Te Whanaupani. I have the Authority to lead direct negotiate advise at every level the political cultural traditional and social calendar of affairs within Waikaremoana and or wherever the Ngati Ruapani people Reside. ***Heoi ki te tiaki manaki ia tatau otira ki te whakahaere i nga kaupapa mo tatau mo Waikaremoana. Kia ora mai koutou nga uri whakaheke o Ngati Ruapani ki Waikaremoana.***