

# Pearl Ships

Steaming out of Pearl Harbor,  
Warships barely ruffle waves at work.  
Behemoth battleships defy the waters,  
Afloat in steel enormity.

In a celebrated corner, grim reminders  
Mark old memories.  
Streams of Japanese and Haoles  
Line up for movies, ride the launch,  
Peer down beneath the surface at the hulk.

Should outsiders once again  
Wage hate against this island,  
Besides the undertow and sharks,  
Blue bubbles and the coral's razor edge,  
We face a deadlier foe that will not cross the Koolaus,  
Propellers buzzing early Sunday morning,  
But streak silent cross the sky  
And by telemetry destroy,  
In a zephyr of wind, a shimmering blur.

Like 007, a trumped excuse  
Might trigger devastation on the whim  
Of some cantankerous colonel.  
So I watch the great ships  
Slip through the water, mechanical leviathans,  
Plodding protectors against a phantom enemy.

—Jim Walker