



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
ETHNIC STUDIES

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa™

A Brown (White) Paper

On the 50th Anniversary of the UHM Department of Ethnic Studies, A Kāhea to the University of Hawai'i to Sustain the Hawai'i Student, Community & Legislative Mandate for a Distinct and Integral Department of Ethnic Studies

Department of Ethnic Studies
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
June 2020



na‘auao - *learned, enlightened, intelligent, wise, learning, knowledge, wisdom, science.*

na‘au - *intestines, bowels, guts, mind, heart, affections, of the heart or mind; mood, temper, feelings.*

kāhea - *to call, cry out, invoke, greet, name; recital of the first lines of a stanza by the dancer as a cue to the chanter; to recite the kāhea; to give a military command; to summon; a call, alarm.*

The University of Hawai‘i is a primary center of na‘auao in Hawai‘i.

The Department of Ethnic Studies is the na‘au of the University.

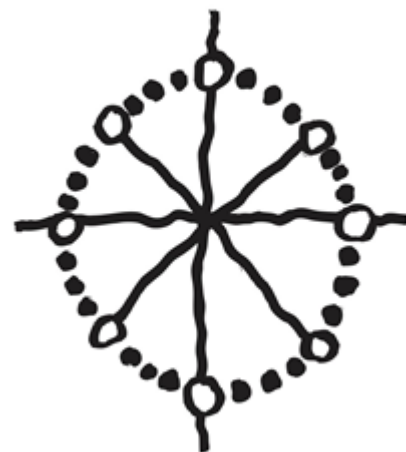
Our History, Our Way; Our Future, Our Way

The Department of Ethnic Studies at UH-Mānoa is the only department which was created in response to demands of Hawai‘i’s students, community, alumni, labor and the legislature. Established as an experimental program in 1970, it developed and expanded with continued student, community and legislative support. Eventually, the UHM faculty and administration accredited the program as a department offering a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1995. Throughout the years, for lack of administrative support, most of the FTE allocated to the Department of Ethnic Studies were directly funded by the legislature. Sustaining Ethnic Studies (ES) as a distinct department has been a clear legislative priority and mandate to the UH administration over the past fifty years.

There have been several attempts to dismantle and/or merge the department into larger departments,

This groundbreaking 2015 UHM ES conference gathered scholars, activists, and artists to articulate an Oceanic vision of ethnic studies centered in Moana Nui (Pacific Ocean) that connects the peoples of Oceania.

OUR FUTURE, OUR WAY



DIRECTIONS IN OCEANIC ETHNIC STUDIES

especially in periods of fiscal crisis and recession. The department has survived these attempts largely because of the support of the Hawai‘i legislature and various ethnic communities. Both have viewed a viable ethnic studies department as fundamental to the university’s mission. In Fall 2020 the department will celebrate its 50th anniversary. This would be an ideal moment for the UH administration to acknowledge, honor and reaffirm the mandate to sustain the Department of Ethnic Studies as a distinct and integral part of UH-Mānoa.

(L & M) Spring 1972, 200 students, community and faculty sat in for three-days at Bachman Hall to stop the dismantling of the department; (R) Spring 1977 march & rally to make the program permanent.



Na‘au and Na‘auao

Guided by the na‘au (heart, mind, seat of emotion) that represents the vital community connections that produce na‘auao (wisdom), Ethnic Studies faculty conduct scholarly and impactful research that engages graduate and undergraduate students in analyzing new developments in an academic context. Our areas of distinction are Hawai‘i’s interethnic (including Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander) relations in the context of the global political economy; land tenure and use change in Hawai‘i; Indigenous identities and cultural practices in a global context; migration in the U.S. and Oceania; Asian American studies; and civic engagement. This department has provided invaluable research for communities working to provide stewardship of their resources, showcasing community knowledge and wisdom (na‘auao). Our faculty have connected university faculty and students to our communities in meaningful ways, and at the same time provided community access to the university. Our research has helped to inform public policy, especially around policies of Native Hawaiian rights, immigrant rights, and social justice. Our distinguished faculty are often called upon by the media to provide historical context and insights on contemporary community issues related to cultural, racial, and ethnic relations. Often our faculty and students provide a critical, timely, and necessary voice of reasoning against discrimination and injustice. The Department of Ethnic Studies holds and provides a critical space for the multi-ethnic Hawai‘i community. Our

multi-ethnic faculty demonstrate UHM's commitment to diversity and serve as role models for the multi-ethnic Hawai'i students.

ENGAGEMENT: Benefiting communities through collaborative, creative, and analytical research, service and learning.



Ethnic Studies students landing on Kaho'olawe, April 2017.

Pioneer and Leader in Civic Engagement and Community Service Learning

Service learning, a pedagogy that gives students direct experience with issues they are studying in the curriculum, has been the hallmark of the Department of Ethnic Studies since its founding. Foregrounding civic engagement, Ethnic Studies research and teaching foster thoughtful and compassionate leaders and stewards of the 'āina (land) and our communities. We train our students to imagine and craft responsible alternative perspectives and solutions to global, national, regional, and island problems. This type of learning has been linked to improvements in students' grades and rates of retention and completion as well as to transformative research and education across disciplines. The Department of Ethnic Studies serves as the core of the College of Social Sciences ACCESS Engagement program, providing both a solid intellectual base and an Engaged Department status. We provide a critical mass of engaged students and established links with a wide range of community partners. Some examples are Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, Mutual Housing Association of Hawai'i, P-12 public and private educational institutions, Local 5 Aieka, Institute of Human Services, and Kānehūnamoku

Voyaging Academy. The service learning option relies upon Ethnic Studies to sustain its student engagement programs and partnerships.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Bringing to the foreground the critical investigation of power and inequality in the pursuit of social change.



(L) Mauna A Wākea summit and (R) ES faculty and students at Pu'uhonua Huluhulu.

Training Beyond Majors and Certificates

The curriculum and training offered by the Ethnic Studies Department goes beyond our majors and certificate students. Ethnic Studies courses fulfill many General Education focus requirements - Writing Intensive, Oral Communication, Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Issues, Contemporary Ethical Issues and Social Sciences diversification. This not only provides a vital service to the UHM campus, it also attracts students majoring in departments from throughout the campus to be exposed to service learning and civic engagement and extend their involvement, mentored by Ethnic Studies faculty. Select students from the classes are trained as undergraduate lab instructors by faculty mentors. Our department offers the Sarah and Francis Sogi Fellowship open to full-time Arts & Sciences majors. The Ethnic Studies Department faculty also mentor graduate students on whose committees they serve. Graduate research and teaching assistants acquired through the College of Social Sciences and extramural grants receive dedicated faculty guidance and support.

Influential Alumni

Graduates of the Ethnic Studies Department have held key positions at the legislature, in labor unions, the media and community agencies and organizations. Our students are trained to provide compassionate, accountable leadership. As evidenced by the list in the addendum,

Ethnic Studies continues to train students who dedicate their careers to public service. Our alumni have built their careers in government, politics, policy making, education (including serving at the University of Hawai‘i), non-profits, law (especially public interest law), policy analysts, small business, creative arts, and communications.

Resilience and Sustainability of ‘Āina and Hawaiian Place

In 1970, the Department of Ethnic Studies became the first academic unit to offer a course on Hawaiians (to present) that foregrounds Native Hawaiian Place and ‘āina (land) as the source for a resilient and sustainable Indigenous culture in the context of a multiethnic state. We continue to center Hawaiian worldviews as it relates to all peoples of Hawai‘i and Oceania, which also involves understanding the cultural and political dimensions of Island ecosystems and stewardship practices. We have played a central role in furthering both a Native Hawaiian Place of Learning and the broader efforts to ensure resilience and sustainability for future generations.

OCEANIC CONNECTIONS: Tracing the large and small currents of Moana Nui (Pacific Ocean) that connect the peoples of Oceania. Migrations: Analyzing global flows of peoples in relation to culture, identity, economics, conflicts and politics.



(L) Son of Master Navigator Papa Mau, Plasito Mau teaches pahu (star compass) to Ka Holo Wa‘a & Australian National University students with Pālolo community. (R) Micronesian canoe, *Ellen Eoreni* (the way to culture), launched in Hawaiian waters

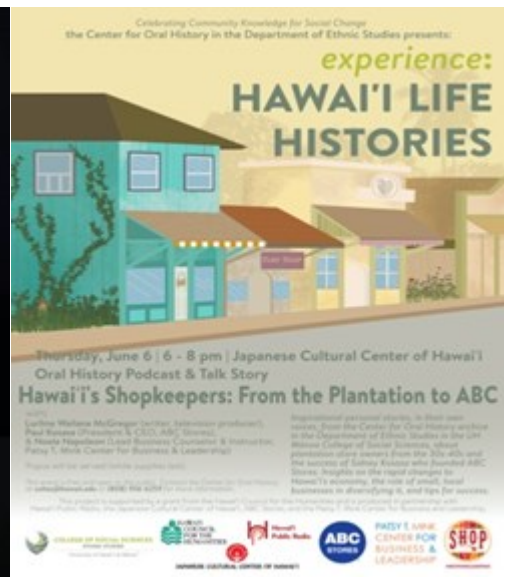
Excellence in Oceanic and Hawai‘i Pedagogy and Research

Our department is evolving into the foremost center for Oceanic Ethnic Studies, an intellectual and activist project that produces new knowledge and social change based on the values, cultures, and ecologies of Native Pacific peoples and places. Rooted first in a commitment to Hawai‘i and its Indigenous and other peoples, our research, teaching, and civic engagements

bridge theory and practice in their application to solving real world problems. Centered in the Pacific Ocean covering one-third of the earth's surface and connecting the Americas and Asia, our department produces global thinkers who are able to navigate the new economic, political, and environmental currents of the twenty-first century. Peaceful development of ethnic relations will be central to economic diversification.

Additional Kuleana to Sustain the Center for Oral History, Fulfilling the Legislative Mandate to UH

In 1976, the legislature transferred the Center for Oral History to the University of Hawai'i, under the Ethnic Studies Program and funded it through legislative grants-in-aid. A few years later, the center was transferred to the Social Sciences Research Institute and the legislature eventually provided fulltime APT positions for the center. In Spring 2018 The Center for Oral History was transferred back to the Department of Ethnic Studies. The re-launch of the center has included public programs and podcasts on Hawai'i Public Radio; service learning projects; and new oral history projects. The Center will seek authorization to plan for a Master's Certificate in Oral History. The Department of Ethnic Studies is now also responsible to fulfill the legislative mandate to sustain the Center for Oral History.



2019-20 Oral Histories

Addendum

This addendum lists faculty achievement in the areas discussed above. It is not exhaustive, but meant to illustrate the breadth, scope and diversity of the unique contribution of the Department of Ethnic Studies to UHM.

Na'au - Research and Service based in Community Connections

- Numerous faculty have established and sustain strong relationships (including student internships and volunteer opportunities) with local unions and worker's organizations including: UNITE HERE Local 5, ACLU, Hawai'i Workers Center, and Laborfest. Profs Monisha Das Gupta and Richard Rath are currently working with Local 5 and the Hawai'i Workers Center to bring workers concerns to state and local government leaders and business interests as part of an SSRI initiative, ICR2S.
- Prof. Davianna McGregor has carried out collaborative community-based research with the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, and the National Park Service, and she provides service to such organizations as the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Kali'uokapa'akai Collective, 'Aha 2016 Native Hawaiian Constitutional Convention, Maunawila Heiau Steering Committee, Kanaloa 2026 Working Group, Hui Mālama o Mo'omomi, Department of Defense, and Moloka'i Land Trust.
- Prof. Ibrahim Aoudé hosts the long-running *Island Connections* show that airs on 'ŌLELO public television and features faculty and students in dialogue over important social issues.
- Prof. Laurel Mei-Singh serves on the board of Hawai'i Peace and Justice that educates the public about social and environmental issues and provides opportunities for faculty, students, and community to work for change. In this capacity, she co-founded an international association addressing environmental concerns related to the upcoming Rim of the Pacific Exercises in Hawai'i. She has also worked closely with educational institutions and community groups in Wai'anae, including Leeward Community College's Wai'anae campus and Mālama Mākua.
- Prof. Davianna McGregor chaired and gave the keynote at the E Ho'olaukanaka 'Āina Summit, a gathering of over 80 community-based groups, non-government organizations, traditional Hawaiian practitioners, private companies and government agencies cosponsored by Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kamehameha Schools, Department of Land and Natural Resources.
- Prof. Laurel Mei-Singh organized a November 2019 roundtable on alternatives to incarceration that brought over 100 attendees and spurred collaboration between Ethnic Studies and various community groups addressing punishment in Hawai'i. She continues to support various initiatives addressing punishment and incarceration in Hawai'i and works on a national level with the American Studies Association Critical Prison Studies Caucus.

- The Center for Oral History provides public access to community histories through podcasts supported by Hawai'i Council for the Humanities and documents legacies of civic engagement in Obama Presidency Oral History Project and ConCon78 Oral History Project.
- Prof. Ethan Caldwell serves as a board member for the Honolulu African American Film Festival, created in response to concerns from Honolulu's Black community around increasing the visibility of local and national African American artists, filmmakers, and cinema. It serves as a platform to showcase, educate, and promote dialogue surrounding Black-centered issues with local communities in Hawai'i and throughout the diaspora.
- Professors Davianna McGregor and Ty Tengan served as expert witnesses for cases which set important precedents for the recognition and exercise of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, including water rights.
- Prof. Monisha Das Gupta has worked with the Washington D.C.-based think tank, Migration Policy Institute, Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center, the ACLU, and local coalitions working directly with immigrants to respond to the needs of first-generation immigrants by proposing policies and organizing and participating in ongoing "know your rights" trainings, naturalization workshops, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) workshops.
- Prof. Ulla Hasager has organized public seminars and service learning pathways geared to assisting citizens of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau, (the Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations) and generally support Pacific immigrant communities in Hawai'i with education, housing, labor, community building, and building positive relationships with ethnic groups in Hawai'i and beyond.
- Ethnic Studies has been in the forefront of organizing community-university forums to rapidly respond to pressing social issues such as the police brutality in Ferguson, MI, and the evolution of the Black Lives Matters platform, movements like Idle No More, Standing Rock and Mauna a Wākea, immigrant rights, local environmental justice issues and climate change, and currently, a rapid digital COVID-19 response to connect students and community members to resources as well a statement against violence against Chinese/ anti-Asian racism that has reared its head in the context of COVID-19.
- Prof. Richard Rath has engaged with local communities to build digital community archives. He has been involved in UNITE HERE! Local 5 and Aieka's efforts to build a better Hawai'i for workers.
- Prof. Roderick Labrador has been fostering connections with the creative arts communities, which works to empower public school and university students.

Civic Engagement and Service Learning

- Dr. Ulla Hasager, faculty member in ES and Director of Civic Engagement in ACCESS (Advising, Civic and Community Engagement in the Social Sciences), with support of other ES faculty members:

- Runs the College's civic engagement programs including: supporting neighboring schools through the Pālolo Pipeline, working with homeless in the No Mo' Haus program stewardship of environmental and cultural sites on O'ahu and other islands through Mālama i Nā Ahupua'a, collaborating with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities in the Ka Holo Wa'a canoe project, and providing opportunities to work with the Center for Oral History.
- Leads the SENCER (Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities) Hawai'i collaboration, including organizing annual transdisciplinary faculty development workshops addressing the grand challenges of our time through engagement; co-director of SENCER Center for Innovation West.
- Is piloting a Civic Participation and Engagement Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Survey.
- Is preparing a nomination for the Elective Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement.
- Roland Kotani Scholarship provides \$1,000 to an ES major or certificate student (Junior or Senior) who will undertake a community research or service learning project aimed at creating positive social change.
- Prof. Davianna McGregor organizes cultural field experiences on the island of Kanaloa/Kaho'olawe.

ES Student Impact Beyond Majors and Certificates

- ES 101 Introduction to Ethnic Studies services numerous programs including:
 - Mānoa Academy
 - Honors College
 - Social Studies Education majors in College of Education
 - First Year Programs ACE learning community
 - GEAR UP Summer Bridge program servicing Filipino, Pacific Islander, and other underrepresented minorities
 - Native Hawaiian Student Services Summer Bridge for Native Hawaiian students
 - Mānoa Access Initiative (MAI) for provisionally admitted students
 - Sociology Cluster
- The Sarah and Francis Sogi Smithsonian Practicum Fellowship supports a student who has taken an ES class to become a Fall intern at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center in Washington D.C.
- North Shore Ethnographic Field School (with Anthropology) in partnership with Kamehameha Schools and the Waiialua Hawaiian Civic Club trains students and community members in collaborative oral history work
- Center for Oral History provide training in oral history across campus for students and faculty of all disciplines, as well as trainings in the community for organizations and families.

- Undergraduate Lab Leaders and Freshman Seminar leaders include students from across the campus. They learn to deliver curriculum under the guidance of ES professors.
- Graduate Assistants in the Department and Center for Oral History receive specialized training in community-based curriculum focused on race and ethnicity.
- Undergraduate students are mentored through Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) and 'Ōiwi Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program.
- Faculty advise student organizations such as the Ethnic Studies Student Association, the Black Student Association, and the Pacific Advocates Peoples Association (PAPA), and La Raza Unida that are comprised of students from across campus. These clubs and their student leaders are part of the core leadership in student engagement in the CSS through active program and event development (as for instance organization of career exploration panel presentations), and leadership roles in the Presidents' Council and as College Ambassadors.
- Professor Ty Tengan leads the Nā Ko'oko'o Hawaiian Leadership program with Indigenous Politics faculty. The program attracts students from various majors.
- Professor Roderick Labrador is helping develop a Academic Subject Certificate in Filipino studies with the UH system-wide Pamantasan Council.
- Professor Brian Chung is working with colleagues to establish Exploratory Committee on Asian American Studies at UHM.
- Professor Noel Kent is co-chair of the UHM Arts and Sciences Senate Executive Committee of interdisciplinary, learning community education at the 100-level
- Student workers in the office come to deepen their understandings of race and ethnicity in Hawai'i.
- ACCESS (Advising, Community and Civic Engagement in the Social Sciences) and depends on student and faculty participation from ES for assessment and development of new community partnership and civic engagement programs. The close collaboration with ACCESS also means that Ethnic Studies classes offering engagement opportunities and variable credits play a central role in working with students from across the campus to complete their degrees in meaningful and forward-looking ways.
- Professor Rich Rath is providing training in the use of digital and sound media in a team-focused environment focused on social justice.
- Prof. Noel Kent is co-chair of the A&SSEC at Manoa and a leading voice on campus for establishing interdisciplinary learning communities for First-Year students to strengthen thinking and writing skills.

Selected Alumni

- Brian Taniguchi (major and lab leader), Hawai'i state senator
- Roy Takumi (lab leader), Hawai'i state representative

- Dwight Takamine (lab leader), former Hawai'i State Senator and former Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
- Guy Fujimura (major and lab leader), Secretary-Treasurer of the ILWU
- Clyde Hayashi (major and lab leader), Hawai'i Iron Workers's Stabilization Fund, chair Labor Education Advisory Council
- Clifford Hayashi, Times' Supermarket Human Resources Director
- Ron Taketa (lab leader), Financial Secretary of the Hawai'i Carpenters Union and former HRT board member
- Kevin Morikone (lab leader), district court judge
- Christine Quemuel (lab leader), Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity, UHM
- Dean Saranillio (major and lab leader), associate professor at NYU
- Marc Malate (major), veterans' affairs
- Lisa Grandinetti (major), Inaugural CSS Outstanding Graduating Senior (2017) and Local 5 Organizer
- Aina Iglesias (major), Local 5 Organizer
- Azra Carrington (certificate), civil rights law school student in Fall 2020
- Patrick Castro (major), committee clerk - Intrastate Commerce Committee
- Kapua Tani (major), Volunteer Services Coordinator, Next Step Shelter
- Paul Samiano (major), Next Step Shelter
- Ashley Galacgac (major), Program Coordinator, UH Mānoa GEAR UP
- Marie Ramos (major), Bookmobile Program Manager, Hawaii Literacy
- Mykie Ozoa JD (lab leader), Junior Advisor, Office of Institutional Equity, UH
- Thomas Tsutsumoto (lab leader), Counselor, Manoa Career Center
- Camille Cabalo (major), Program Analyst, HMSA
- Ty Sanga (major), Emmy Award-winning filmmaker
- Erica Khan (major), Education Cultural Specialist, Alaska Humanities Forum
- Kim-Hee Wong (major), Content Developer, DTL Hawai'i
- Nicole Harbert (major), Operations and Logistics, GrowNYC
- Ku'ulani Keachokalole (major), owner of People Strategies Hawai'i and president of Association for Talent Development Hawai'i
- Dexter Artienda (major), academic advisor/ counselor, Cal State Northridge
- Adriana Quijano (certificate), owner of Ano Swimwear
- Leeyannah Santos (student), Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center under Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
- Dexter Del Rosario (student), state judge in first circuit on O'ahu
- Colette Machado (student), Chairperson, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Lani Teves (Center for Oral History student assistant), Assistant Professor in Women's Studies
- Herb Lee (major and lab leader), ED of Pacific American Foundation
- Shea Charles (major), attending UConn for a PhD^[P]_[SEP] in Geography

- Marcus Kawika Iwane, M.D. (lab leader), physician in internal medicine, Kaiser Permanente
- Jonathan Ching, D.Arch (lab leader), Assistant Design Manager at Webcor, former Land and ProAlumniperty Manager, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Blake LaBenz (student/Kaho'olawe), land specialist, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Christopher Kaliko Baker (student/Kaho'olawe), Assistant Professor in Kawaihu'elani Center for Hawaiian Language
- Josh Kaakua (student/Kaho'olawe), Academic Affairs Program Officer, VP for Community Colleges
- Hi'ilei Kawelo (lab leader), Founder and Executive Director, Paepae O Heeia
- Keiki Kawai'ae'a (lab leader), Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani College of Hawaiian Language Undergraduate Programs, UH, Hilo
- Bernard Carvalho (student), former Mayor of Kaua'i County

Oceanic Pedagogy and Research Excellence

- Prof. Davianna Pōmaika'i McGregor received an honorary doctorate in the Social Sciences from Université Laval in Québec in recognition of her exceptional academic excellence in research that impacts society (particularly Native Hawaiian communities) in 2020.
- Prof. Jonathan Okamura is the preeminent public scholar of race and ethnicity in Hawai'i, cited in two dozen stories in local, national, and international media over the last four years.
- Prof. Laurel Mei-Singh was part of team that received the NSF Coastlines and People Grant developing community-centered policy proposals regarding sea level rise and coastal communities on O'ahu (2020-2021).
- Dr. Leanne Day became the 2019-2020 inaugural Daniel K. Inouye postdoctoral research fellow in the College of Social Sciences, housed in Ethnic Studies.
- Prof. Rod Labrador's *Building Filipino Hawai'i* (University of Illinois Press, 2015) won the 2018 Social Sciences Best Book Award of the Filipino Section of the Association for Asian American Studies.
- Dr. Monisha Das Gupta received a University of California Humanities Research Initiative Fellowship for the "Rethinking Transnational Feminism" research group in Fall 2017.
- Dr. Brian Su-Jen Chung received a University of Washington, Bothell Postdoctoral Fellowship in American Ethnic Studies for the 2017-2018 AY.
- Prof. Ty Tengan's co-edited (with Paul Lyons) "Pacific Currents," a 2015 Special Issue of *American Quarterly*, won the 2016 Council of Editors of Learned Journals (CELJ) Award for Best Special Issue.
- Teaching awards:
 - Prof. Ty Tengan, Board of Regents' Medal for Teaching Excellence, 2018.

- Prof. Roderick Labrador and Prof. Noel Kent, the College of Social Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2018.
- ES has established a BAM program with Educational Administration and Educational Foundations, with first 3 students accepted into MEd in Ed Admin for Fall 2020
- Prof. Ty Tengan has played a leadership role in establishing a strategic partnership between UH and the University of Auckland.
- ES faculty have participated in the establishment and offering of an Oceania IS online BA.
- Professors Ulla Hasager and Ty Tengan have run an Oceanic Connections forum series since 2012.
- Faculty members have produced special webinars on the topics of the Native Pacific and Oceanic Critique.
- Prof. Davianna McGregor participates in the Biocultural Initiative of the Pacific.
- Professors McGregor and Tengan serve as affiliate faculty for the Center for Pacific Islands Studies and serve on editorial boards for journal *The Contemporary Pacific* and the Monograph series Pacific Islands.

Resilience, Sustainability, 'Āina, Hawaiian Place

- Participate in Hui 'Āina Pilipili Native Hawaiian Initiative of CSS. Thirty percent of the faculty members of this initiative are from Ethnic Studies.
- Offer aloha 'āina focused civic engagement and service learning experiences on Kaho'olawe and across O'ahu. Kaho'olawe, across O'ahu and throughout islands.
- Partner with Native Hawaiian Student Services to run the Nā Ko'oko'o Native Hawaiian Leadership Program that alternates between Ethnic Studies and Political Science.
- Receive grants from Hawai'inuiākea for two GRAs, one to work on the Kaho'olawe Aloha 'Āina Oral History project and the other to work on the North Shore Ethnographic Field School.
- Participate in special events and talks at the William Richardson Law School focused on Hawaiian and environmental law, including a Kaho'olawe Aloha 'Āina forum and talks on Native Hawaiian land rights.
- Serve as faculty of the Native Hawaiian Law Training Course for federal agencies and state and county commissions offered by the Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the William Richardson School of Law.
- Fulfill faculty roles in three Strategic Investment Initiative grants:
 - Engaging Sustainability and Resilience of Island Ecosystems, Stewardship and Indigenous Sciences: Enhancing Student, Faculty and Community Capacity.
 - Kū'oko'a: Sustaining Abundant 'Āina & Resilient Leadership.
 - Multilingual Multicultural Strategic Initiative.
- Offer cross-listed courses as part of the Sustainability Curriculum with ISR.

- Work with faculty from Law School, Oceanography, Sea Grant, Hawai‘inuiakea in Ho‘ōla Waiale‘e Steering Committee to establish a Center for Social-Ecological Research and Education on UH lands at the former UH Waiale‘e Agricultural Experiment Station.
- Participate in Biocultural Initiative of the Pacific with faculty from Pacific Islands Studies, Botany, Linguistics and Oceanography.
- Participate in visioning with faculty from across the campus for the Sea Grant Center of Excellence in Integrated Knowledge Systems.
- Collaborate with Hawaiian Language, Hawaiian Studies, NHSS and SOEST in providing a focal point, curriculum and protocol for students to process their connection with Mauna Kea.
- Present in the Aloha ‘Āina Friday series.
- Partner with Hawaiian organizations such as the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, Kamehameha Schools, ‘Aha Kāne, Paepae o He‘eia, Hika‘alani, Nā Kūpuna a me nā Kāko‘o o Hālawā, Mokauea Fisherman’s Association, Mālama Mākua, Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi, Ke Kahua o Kūali‘i, ‘Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi and Kānehūnamoku Voyaging Academy to provide service learning opportunities that support Native Hawaiian sustainability efforts on the ‘āina.
- Long term collaboration with the UH System Office of Sustainability, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and several other units on developing sustainability across curricula and sustainable practices across institutions and communities
- Central involvement in creation of a cluster of sustainability faculty at CSS, one of whom, Dr. Mei-Singh, is housed in our department.
- Participate in development of an interdisciplinary sustainability certificate and provide mentorship of sustainability majors in the Interdisciplinary Studies program.
- Present at World Conservation Congress, the Hawai‘i Conservation Conference, and 7th International Conference on Environmental Future (ICESF7) Humans and Island Environments.
- Partner with faculty from SOEST, SeaGrant, William Richardson School of Law and CTAHR in Ho‘ola Waiale‘e Campus Committee to establish a Center for Research and Education of the Sustainability and Resilience of Biocultural Systems at the UH Waiale‘e Agricultural Experiment Station.