



News Release

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Contact: Cindy Knapman
Phone # (808) 956-7410

New Institute of Hawaiian Language Research and Translation opens its doors to the public

Mahi 'Ike Hawai'i: Cultivate Hawaiian Knowledge is the motto of the new Institute of Hawaiian Language Research and Translation (IHLRT) at the University of Hawai'i. The new institute is led by Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier, a professor of Hawaiian language, and is an invaluable resource for anyone in the state and beyond to find and utilize historical Hawaiian knowledge.

There exists a large repository of Hawaiian language material which documents Hawai'i from ancient times through most of the 20th century. One of the largest sources of information is the cache of newspapers published in Hawaiian for over a century, and a signature project of IHLRT is the research and translation of these historical materials.

Between 1834 and 1948 more than 100 Hawaiian language newspapers were published, equal to over one million letter-sized typescript pages. For over ten years the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program has been collaborating with the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge and Awaiaulu, a local nonprofit organization, to locate and translate information and make it widely accessible. To date only a tiny fraction of the material has been translated, and a treasury of text which illuminates Hawai'i's past remains untapped and inaccessible.

The new institute will also provide professional training and prepare the next generation of translation leaders and scholars in all fields related to Hawai'i, its people, its culture, and its history. Faculty and students from any of the University of Hawai'i campuses can participate in research projects.

“Historical Hawaiian material has long been beyond reach for scholars and speakers alike, a tragedy of knowledge lying dormant” noted Dr. Nogelmeier. “The new institute can change that, generating access and resource people to reconnect historical knowledge for today and the future.”

The institute is supported by the University of Hawai'i President, Mānoa Chancellor, Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research, the College of Education, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, University of Hawai'i West O'ahu, and Awaiaulu. The director is Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier and the administrator is Ms. 'Ano'ilani Aga.

For more information visit: <http://ihlrt.seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu>

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The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program is part of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's prestigious School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology. It supports an innovative program of research, education and extension services directed to the improved understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine resources of the state, region and nation. Science serving Hawai'i and the Pacific since 1968.