



Ke Ke'ena Noi'i A Unuhi 'Ōlelo Hawai'i

Institute of Hawaiian Language Research & Translation



What: The Institute of Hawaiian Language Research and Translation (IHLRT) has been established to provide access and research capacity into the extensive archive of Hawaiian language materials, making more than a century of historical documentation about Hawaiian knowledge and experience available for study.



The IHLRT is a resource for all fields of scholarship in the University, for government agencies, nonprofit institutions, business entities and the community. While facilitating research, this new entity will provide professional training and innovative learning experiences to a new generation of translation leaders and scholars in all fields related to Hawai'i, its people and its history.



Who: Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier, Professor of Hawaiian Language leads the new institute at the University of Hawai'i, working with faculty and graduate students across all University of Hawai'i campuses. With support from President David Lassner, Mānoa Chancellor Robert Bley-Vroman, Dean Maenette Benham of Hawai'inuiākea, the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program, the Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research, and the College of Education, the IHLRT will collaborate across the University system and also with government agencies, institutions, communities and individuals here and abroad. University departments, government agencies, nonprofit institutions, business entities and individuals may propose, initiate and frame research projects, collaborating to provide appropriate funding and personnel.



Where: With an office in the Hawaiian and Pacific Collections of Hamilton Library on the campus of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the IHLRT is a virtual entity and a system-wide operation. Faculty and graduate students from any campus can participate in the research projects of the Institute. Research may utilize web-based resources or various archival collections. The IHLRT's office provides a physical space for meetings, trainings and operations, augmented by cyber networks for meetings and interactive work sessions from multiple sites.



Why: The repository of historical Hawaiian language materials is an invaluable cache of knowledge that documents Hawai‘i from ancient times through much of the 20th century. Long neglected, technology has made the material far more accessible and there is a growing need to make use of this historical knowledge today. The Hawaiian newspapers alone contain over a million letter-sized pages of published material that illuminates many facets of Hawai‘i's past, yet only a tiny fraction has ever been tapped. There remains a historical treasury of local and international events, regional reporting, editorial and political essays, historical accounts, native and foreign literature, cultural descriptions and narratives, as well as advertisements and announcements that clarify business and government practice spanning the 19th and early 20th centuries. The published materials illuminate and frame other archival resources, such as government records, archival manuscripts and audio recordings.

How: Projects are designed to search the Hawaiian repository for particular fields of data. Once initiated, research and translation work is carried out by professors, advanced students and field experts. Research on a given topic might identify scores or even hundreds of articles, which are then evaluated for relevance and translated, providing both Hawaiian and English-language access to the information. Translations and source texts are made public through open web access.

In addition to making historical knowledge available, IHLRT projects provide practical training in Hawaiian-language research and translation for graduate students and faculty alike. This capacity building effort expands the pool of trained experts, working to develop professional capacity and relevance for Hawaiian language and knowledge in all fields. Initially funded by the offices of the President and the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Chancellor, the Institute will rely on funding from project engagements, grants, contracts and donations.

For more information, contact Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier, IHLRT Director, ihlrt@hawaii.edu.