

M Ā N O A H E R I T A G E C E N T E R

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Manoa Heritage Center Awarded Competitive Federal Grant *Connecting Educators through Native Hawaiian Cultural Resources*

Honolulu, HI: **Manoa Heritage Center (MHC)** is honored to be one of 29 grant recipients nationwide awarded funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities' *Creating Humanities Communities* grant program. The \$90,000 NEH challenge award makes it possible for MHC to connect educators with Native Hawaiian cultural resources - creating a strong link between leading organizations and institutions dedicated to enhancing how Hawaiian history and culture is taught in Hawaii's public schools. Efforts to secure a matching \$90,000 grant are underway.

"Supporting the Manoa Heritage Center's efforts to promote the understanding of Hawaii's natural and cultural heritage, this grant will allow for the development of community partnerships to help connect our educators, researchers, and students to Hawaiian history and previously unavailable language resources," said Senator Irene Hirono.

"Language is fundamental to the identity of Native Hawaiians," said Senator Brian Schatz. "This new funding will support the Manoa Heritage Center's mission of preserving the Hawaiian language and all aspects of Native Hawaiian culture."

The three-year project will make previously unavailable source materials accessible to teachers. Under the leadership of Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier, **Awaiulu** (www.awaiulu.org) researchers will examine Hawaiian language newspapers published between 1834-1948 and archives seeking information about Kukao Heiau, the ancient agricultural temple located on MHC's campus, Manoa Valley history and moololo (legends), and the role plants played in ancient Hawaii.

MHC will partner with the **Hawaii State Department of Education** and Dr. Amber Strong Makiiau, Associate Specialist at the **UH College of Education** and Director of Curriculum and Research at the **UH Uehiro Academy for Philosophy and Ethics in Education** (www.p4chawaii.org), to offer professional development workshops for public school teachers who need models that teach Hawaiian history using the newly-adopted College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework. The workshops will give teachers the unique opportunity to develop culturally responsive Hawaiian history unit plans utilizing MHC's resources. Results will then be integrated throughout MHC's programs incorporating a wider worldview perspective based on Native Hawaiian history and knowledge.

Hawaii Council for the Humanities (HCH) was the NEH liaison for the Creating Humanities Communities Grants Program, and looks forward to being a community partner on future collaborative programs for the project.

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The National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 created the National Endowment for the Humanities as an independent federal agency. The law identified the need for a national cultural agency that would preserve America's rich history and cultural heritage, and encourage and support scholarship and innovation in history, archaeology, philosophy, literature, and other humanities disciplines.

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About the Manoa Heritage Center:

A nonprofit organization founded in 1996 by preservationists Sam and Mary Cooke, Manoa Heritage Center is a 3.5-acre living classroom that promotes the understanding of Hawaii's natural and cultural heritage. The Center comprises Kukao Heiau, the last intact heiau (ancient temple) in the greater ahupuaa (land division) of Waikiki, Native Hawaiian gardens and Kualii, the Cooke's 1911 Tudor-style home. Kualii is presently the Cooke family private residence and will open to the public in the future. Both Kukao Heiau and Kualii are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A new 4,125 sf, LEED-certified Visitor Education Hale is scheduled to open fall 2017. Garden and heiau tours are offered Monday through Friday by appointment.