

# Kūlana o Kapolei

## Fall, 2023 Newsletter

He laha 'āina ko kākou e mahi ai  
*Our ancestral land is the source of our strength*



Niunates @ Pokai Bay creating Niu Knowledge!



Dr. Harald Barkhoff is our new VCAA!



Dr. Matt Lau is our new faculty hire in SCFS!

Kūlana is the 'inside' animating principle of kuleana (responsibility). Kūlana is thus the *purpose* of why we do what we do. So, Kūlana o Kapolei here at UH West Oahu is the "inside purpose" that brings cultural coherence to our UH West O'ahu campus, to our Hawai'i communities, and ultimately to the world. We do this in many ways: through talks, keynotes, and panel discussions, by hosting conferences, class visitations, creative pedagogical and research work with faculty and students, and by supporting aloha 'āina work via our uluniu (coconut grove) beside our Student Organic Garden. We also teach workshops on Mō'ike Aloha (Hawaiian epistemology) for our transfer students in the Wailau Ola program. It is truly exciting to envision our higher learning environment where 'ike kupuna (ancestral knowledge) and 'ike 'āina (knowledge from land) is once again infused into our thinking and evaluation practices. Continuity, a synonym for Indigenous knowledge, is first and foremost embodied principles. These principles are found in our Pahuhopu – our UH West O'ahu Institutional Values. Here is how we embody them:

### **Po'okela**

*Excellence is found in all faculty dedicated to thinking about how their evaluation process instructs and inspires their students. We have on-going discussions of this through OPDAS!*

### **Kaiāulu**

*Our beloved Community is everywhere we turn. Our Uluniu Project hosts monthly workdays with a broad range of people coming to kōkua our coconut grove. E komo mai -- all are welcome!*

### **Hana Lawelawe**

*Ho'oponopono offers restorative health to family + community. We are open to all requests.*

### **Mālama 'Āina**

*Our cultural agroforestry movement (the growing of coconut groves) is activated and filled with many interested people. Keep an eye out for our Makahiki Season work @ Kūkaniloko – Nov. 4th.*

### **Waiwai**

*True wealth is found in the most unusual places. We are forever committed to the life of our community and thus help students link in with a wide range of opportunities. If you need help with such ideas, please feel free to contact Dr. Manu Aluli Meyer [manulani@hawaii.edu](mailto:manulani@hawaii.edu)*

# ULUNIU

## *Volunteer Workdays*

### HONORING OUR COCONUT HERITAGE

#### *UH West Oahu, Kapolei*

Come to the Uluniu Project at UH West Oahu every 4th Saturday of each month. 8-1 pm Pot-Luck Lunch please. Bring water.

- September 23
- October 28
- November 25
- December 23

**Fall  
Semester  
2023**

#### *Kukaniloko, Wahiawa*

Please come on Saturday, November 4th and help celebrate the Makahiki Season of Peace, Gratitude and Excellence. We will be working in the uluniu (coconut grove) at Kukaniloko in Wahiawa. 8-12 noon. Gates close by 8:00 am. Pot-Luck Lunch. Mahalo!

#### *Join the Uluniu Club!*

Please add your name and aloha to our growing Uluniu Club here at UH West Oahu. Please contact Kehau (Jahanna) Kahele-Madali - [jmkkehawaii.edu](mailto:jmkkehawaii.edu)

#### **VINAKA VAKANIU!**

Good like coconuts!

- 📍 UH West Oahu Campus
- 📞 Indrajit, Aunty Manu, Kekaula, Jesse or Kehau for more information  
[manulani@hawaii.edu](mailto:manulani@hawaii.edu)
- 🌐 [indrajitehawaii.edu](mailto:indrajitehawaii.edu)





# Kūlana o Kapolei

## Fall, 2023



The Rights of Nature Panel: Manu Aluli Meyer, Keoni Williams, Kapua Sproat, Isaac Moriwake - 9/22/2023

## The Rights of Nature

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuFNmH7IVTA> (52 minute documentary)

Some philosophical ideas from Kūlana o Kapolei shared on the panel

- Capitalism is an epistemology - it is the elephant in the room no-one can address clearly
- Capitalism is how we see, how we think, what we value. How do we centralize aloha 'āina?
- Full Field Dynamics = transversal causality/creative agency affecting human behavior
- Consciousness – shaped as a rational worldview within lingual processes
- Here is the “One-Truth” epistemology the world is now entrenched in
- Truth heals: Capitalism/We/Earth is now ripe for massive + radical change
- Rights-Based Solutions - good but un-enforceable. Think: *Bandaid on a compound fracture*
- An idea that needs policing is not where the mo’o lives (no continuity)
- Pachamama – Nature cannot represent itself (wanna bet?)
- Is this REALLY a “reconciliation with Western + Indigenous thought”? (I don’t think so)
- Reconceptualize WHO WE ARE (*aka: how have we been so dumbed down?*)
- We are now meant to view land as a “Subject” and not “Object” (still abstraction)
- The “rights of nature” (Ecuador contradiction) vs. Mining + Extraction

Indigenous, philosophically, is a synonym for “continuity”. What endures makes sense for its time, context, and the needs of those inhabiting that context. If the Rights of Nature gets described and made into policy then there is a correlation in the decline of extraction/money being made from such natural resources. How do we brace ourselves for this battle? How do we vision our future as a mutual causal reality? How do we normalize aloha 'āina? What can Hawai'i teach the world?

# Kūlana o Kapolei

## Fall, 2023



Senator Henry Aquino @ Schofield Barracks with Army - "Cultural Initiation" work through Kūlana o Kapolei

Every month Kūlana o Kapolei dedicates one full hour to the screening of **kumu niu** – a film summarizing the work we are doing in the UH West Oahu uluniu (coconut grove). A discussion on cultural agroforestry ensues with all new Army soldiers (100+). Questions from soldiers are then answered, and they in turn, send us weekly workers for four different work-sites.

**kumu niu** Film - National Association of State Foresters (Director: Alex Cantatore)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c\\_uT9I5Jbac](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_uT9I5Jbac) (15 minute documentary on uluniu work)

**kumu niu** won "Best Short Film" in the Human Planet category in the Jackson Wild Film Festival in Austria on September 27, 2022. **kumu niu** won "Best Short Film" in the Environmental Short Films category at HIFF - Hawai'i International Film Festival in Honolulu on Sunday, November 13, 2022



August 26, 2023

Kapolei Middle School MATH CLUB came to help us during our monthly Uluniu Project Workday!

Mahalo Kristine Lindstrom for bringing such an enthusiastic and caring group of young adults. It was fun to work on math problems with CRB larvae and with the Niu Nursery numbers. Mahalo, too, for bringing the BEST pot-luck items ever! We look forward to another visit from your incredible group of young aloha 'āina-scholars.





# LOOKING FOR WAIANAE NIU!

Come meet those interested in the health of our coconuts here in the West  
and learn more about the CRB - Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle

**OCT 19  
5-7PM  
WCCHC**

## 'IKE NIU - COCONUT WORKSHOP!!

Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku - Food Access Manager  
[jmkealiinohomoku@wcchc.com](mailto:jmkealiinohomoku@wcchc.com)

Indrajit Gunasekara - Kumu Niu, Niu Now Co-Founder  
[indrajt@hawaii.edu](mailto:indrajt@hawaii.edu)



# Kūlana o Kapolei

## Fall, 2023



Kapolei Middle Math Club students counted 200+ CRB lavae before hosting a beautiful pot-luck lunch @ our ulunui!



## Foreword excerpt

Indigenous Research Design: Transnational Perspectives in Practice  
Elizabeth Sumida Huaman + Nathan Martin (Eds) 2023

Foreword by Dr. Manu Aluli Meyer

We are living in mythic times and thus collective intention for a specific purpose becomes the stuff of legends. And here we are, aching for these tales of connection and continuity shared around open fires, kitchen tables and, yes, during classroom discussions. Stories of radical collaboration reaching across disciplines, political boundaries, and the nihilism of our times are found in each chapter. Finally, instructions for *meaning-making* that heralds our inevitable evolution. Here is *effulgent coherence* sparking consciousness to rise above what we have been told matters. Inspiring courage is indeed a story to amplify.

Ancient narratives hidden in patterns of Indigenous common sense questions, and thus destabilizes the “One-Truth”

epistemology we are all schooled in within academia. These stories in each chapter explores what the Sacred affirms, and honors *what* we are in our deepest knowing. Why not share our stories and link them with an Implicate Order waiting to engage? Why not be rigorous about the truth of a transpatial world operating as mutual causality in thought, action and non-action? Why not re-frame what research is, can be, and will inspire? Why not speak out and detail another story?



## Laha'āina - Land of Prophecy

Inez MacPhee Ashdown & Michelle Anderson (2016). *The Storied Places of West Maui: History, Legends, and Place Names of the Sunset Side of Maui*. Page 29.

“They said we must be careful to pronounce correctly, the old way, and repeated several times: Laha'āina, Land of Prophecy.” (Queen Lili'uokalani and party to Inez Ashdown and her mother upon entering Ke-awa-iki harbor aboard the steamship *SS Mauna Kea* in January, 1908).

Laha means prophecy, or something published, like a law or proclamation. 'Āina means land; Land of Prophecy. Hence the name La-ha-ai-na, more properly spelled and pronounced as Laha'āina and said almost as two words. This pronunciation was important to Queen Lili'uokalani as she had Inez and her mother repeat it several times while she introduced them to Laha'āina in January, 1908.

Inez and her mother travelled to Maui aboard the *SS Mauna Kea* with the Queen and Her Majesty's party, who were disembarking at Laha'āina while the Ashdowns went on to Mākena. As they entered the 'Au'au channel approaching Laha'āina, one elderly aristocratic lady tossed her head and said: “Lahaina Roads indeed! 'Au'au means our entire background since the beginning of creation. How will our children remember the beauty of our island culture when even our melodious Hawai'i names are forgotten?” Whalers had long before renamed the channel Lahaina Roads, or Roadstead.

Queen Lili'uokalani replied: “Some will remember.”





o'o



malo'o



oka'a

## Hawaiian Niu Stages

Let's learn them together!

- 'ō'io unripe nut with jelly-like translucent flesh
- haohao maturing nut with shell still white; flesh soft + white
- 'ili kole *half-ripe nut, not good for extraction of cream, meat eaten raw with salt and poi*
- o'o nut mature but husk not dried; ripe, consistent meat
- malo'o *brown mature nut, husk dry, water still present, best stage for planting*
- ho'oiho spongy pulp in sprouting nuts; choice food
- ōka'a, brown, old nut with no water and meat
- 'āka'a seperated from shell so as to make a rattling sound; oil is extracted at this stage

*Cultural Agroforestry is a real thing. We call it 'āina momona. Come and visit a growing food security movement on our own UH West Oahu campus! We have monthly uluniu (coconut grove). Please check in with Aunty Manu.*



Kūlana o Kapolei  
Fall, 2023



*Upcoming Workshops*  
with Aunty Manu

SEP 21	<b>'ŌLELO NO'EAU - USING 'IKE PĀPĀKOLU</b> Thursday at 9 AM- 10 AM HST  <a href="https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/92883051411">https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/92883051411</a> Meeting ID: 928 8305 1411 Passcode: PWO
OCT 19	<b>HO'OPONO - SPEAKING TRUTH</b> Thursday at 9 AM- 10 AM HST  <a href="https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/98573573001">https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/98573573001</a> Meeting ID: 985 7357 3001 Passcode: PWO
NOV 16	<b>HŌ'AILONA AND HŌ'IKE</b> Thursday at 9 AM- 10 AM HST  <a href="https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/91770939840">https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/91770939840</a> Meeting ID: 917 7093 9840 Passcode: PWO
DEC 21	<b>'IKE ĀKEA - MULTIPLE DEFINITIONS</b> Thursday at 9 AM- 10 AM HST  <a href="https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/95315046372">https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/95315046372</a> Meeting ID: 953 1504 6372 Passcode: PWO

@wailauola

Please come and join any or all of these Mō'ike Aloha (Hawaiian epistemology) workshops aimed to introduce us all to the practice and understanding of different ways to interpret words and ideas so we can bring them into our daily practice and awareness. Come to learn more about yourself and this beautiful 'āina of Hawai'i nei.

# Kūlana o Kapolei

## Fall, 2023



SCFS alumnus Jesse (Piliialoha) with Alicia Higa + Indrajit



Aunty Manu, Dr. Evan Adams + Professor Davianna McGregor

Creative Community Collaborations are heading into UH West Oahu orbit! Get ready for a state-wide “Community Coconut Project” collaboration with Dr. Heather McMillen of DLNR, Jesse Mikasobe Kealiinohomoku and Alicia Higa of the Waianae Community Comprehensive Health Center, and Indrajit Gunasekara. Prepare yourself for Canada’s own Dr. Evan Adams focusing on “Indigenous Leadership in Health”. Kūlana o Kapolei links our campus with these creative and cultural efforts.



### **Dynamic Intelligence Hui** begins! September 9, 2023

A group of UH West Oahu faculty gathered for a rich and memorable discussion of pedagogy and dynamic ways to evaluate our students. Mahalo nui to Dr. Jessica Miranda and Dr. Cathy Ikeda for a deeply personal + creative beginning. Mahalo also to Dr. Camonia Graham-Tutt for her OPDAS affirmation.

Next hui: October 20th.  
10:00 am – 11:30, Naulu Center. All are welcome!

Dr. Cathy Ikeda sharing insights on her evaluation process during our “Dynamic Intelligence” hui



# Kūlana o Kapolei

## Fall, 2023



Our Uluniu Project Tool Shed is cleaned!



Haidagya students came to visit UHWO!



Indigenous Evaluation Panel @ HPEA!



Waiola Church, Laha'āina (Lahaina)

“Lahaina has burned to the ground and people have lost so much: lives, families, businesses, possessions,” he said. “What happens to that *‘āina* – that land – now is tremendously suggestive of what our future is going to be.”

Jon Osorio

At the heart of the world is Spirit, and at the heart of Spirit is love. Not as an irreducible essence, but as an evolving, quality of relationship that requires our assent and our inner determination to actualize. It is not simply given, but must be perfected and developed through human intentionality, through an ascent of the will to the loving, compassionate life. This requires transforming a narrow self-love into a more universalized, shared concern for the well-being and health of others. It does not mean denying self, but transforming self into the radiance of a loving heart whose emanations are truly a spontaneous expression of the inner qualities of Spirit. To reach this spontaneity is the Great Work, one that requires clearing out and unburdening the psychic life of the ego-self in order for the soul to be a medium of loving Spirit, free of the fearful and selfish tendencies that inhabit and bind us to an unenlightened austerity of emotional contraction and sorrow. We are free to choose. (Lee Irwin)