

**For Immediate Release**

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***Native Hawaiian Scholars Awarded Mellon Fellowships***

KAMUELA, Hawaii—August 22, 2008—Five leading Hawaiian scholars have been selected as the first cohort of Mellon-Hawaii Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows. Three postdoctoral fellowships of \$50,000 each and two doctoral fellowships of \$40,000 each were awarded to the winning candidates for the 2008-09 academic year.

Fellows were evaluated on the basis of their leadership potential and their demonstrated commitment to the advancement of scholarship on Hawaiian cultural and natural environments, or Hawaiian history, politics, and society.

The following individuals were awarded doctoral fellowships:

- Noelani Arista, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at Brandeis University; and
- Nanette Nalani Sing, Ph.D. candidate in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in educational leadership/systems from Union Institute & University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The postdoctoral fellowships were awarded to:

- B. Kamanamaikalani Beamer, Ph.D. in geography from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, May 2008, dissertation title: *Na Wai Ka Mana? Native Agency and European Imperialism in the Hawaiian Kingdom*;
- Sydney Lehua Iaukea, completing a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, dissertation title: *E Pa`a `Oukou: Holding and Remembering Hawaiian Understanding of Place and Politics*; and
- Kathleen L. Kawelu, Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley, May 2007, dissertation title: *A Sociopolitical History of Hawaiian Archaeology: Kuleana and Commitment*.

The fellows were selected by a distinguished panel of senior scholars and *kupuna* (elders) comprised of Robert Lindsey, Jr., Kohala Center board of directors; Dr. Shawn Kana`iaupuni, Kamehameha Schools; Dr. Dennis Gonsalves, Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center; Dr. Pualani Kanahale, Edith Kanaka`ole Foundation; and Dr. James Kauahikaua, U.S. Geological Survey Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

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“The Kamehameha Schools is delighted to join with The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and The Kohala Center to support the work of gifted Hawaiian scholars. We expect nothing less from them than to assume top leadership posts in their fields, shaping the world and our island home with knowledge from both. Competing for such scholarships takes excellence in knowledge, experience, and character. These scholars have met these standards and will, upon completion, share their insights with the world,” says Dee Jay Mailer, CEO of the Kamehameha Schools.

The awards will allow the doctoral candidates time to complete their thesis work and the postdoctoral candidates the opportunity to publish their research early in their academic careers.

“As someone born and raised in rural Hawaii, I am so honored to support this effort, in which indigenous knowledge, local knowledge, advances into the global arena through the inspired work of extraordinarily talented Hawaiian intellectuals,” explains Matt Hamabata, Executive Director of The Kohala Center.

The Kohala Center is an independent non-profit academic center that engages the Island of Hawai‘i as the world’s most vibrant research and learning laboratory. Through innovations in research and education, The Kohala Center sustains the natural environment, strengthens the social fabric, and develops the economy of Hawai‘i Island, and at the same time, it advances the work of the academy. The Center will support the progress of the five Mellon-Hawaii Fellows in the coming year and will bring the scholars together on Hawaii Island in September. The Center congratulates the winning candidates and wishes them great success in pursuing their scholarly work.

For more information about the Mellon-Hawaii Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, visit [www.kohalacenter.org](http://www.kohalacenter.org) and select “Current Programs and Events.” The next deadline for prospective applicants is in March 2009.