

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mellon-Hawaii Fellow named to Kamehameha Schools land division post

KAMUELA, Hawaii—[March 24, 2010]—Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer, 2008 Mellon-Hawaii Postdoctoral Fellow, was recently appointed as Land Legacy Education Manager in the Land Assets Division (LAD) of the Endowment Group of Kamehameha Schools, Hawaii’s largest Native trust.

The Mellon-Hawaii Fellowship, established by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Kamehameha Schools, and The Kohala Center, aims to develop intellectual and scholarly leadership from Hawaii—for Hawaii and the world. The fellowship program was established in the academic year 2008-2009, and Beamer’s new appointment is testament to the new fellowship program’s success.

As Land Legacy Education Manager, Beamer provides leadership for the division’s place-based educational initiatives, which manage Hawaii agricultural and conservation lands in an effort to achieve a balance of cultural, economic, educational, environmental, and community benefits. These initiatives include the First Nations Futures Program, a fellowship operated in partnership with Stanford University, Maori tribal organizations and the University of Hawaii involving Hawaiian and Maori post-graduate, early- and mid-career individuals.

“Dr. Beamer is committed to his scholarship, to his community, and to the lands of Hawaii,” says Matthews Hamabata, Ph.D., staff director of the Mellon-Hawaii Fellowship Program and executive director of The Kohala Center. “It is wonderful to see him assume such an important leadership position, in which the lands of Hawaii are respectfully engaged as a source of environmental and cultural knowledge for Hawaii’s communities.”

Beamer was among the first cohort in Mellon-Hawaii Fellowship Program, which supports Native Hawaiian scholars who are early in their academic careers and others who are committed to the advancement of scholarship on Hawaiian cultural and natural environments, Hawaiian history, politics, and society. The program provides Native Hawaiian scholars the opportunity to complete their dissertations or to publish original research. See <http://kohalacenter.org/mellon/about.html>.

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A graduate of Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu, Beamer received bachelor's degrees in Hawaiian studies and philosophy, and his master's and doctorate degrees in geography from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

During the Mellon-Hawaii Fellowship year, Beamer completed a book manuscript, *Na Wai Ka Mana? Native Agency and European Imperialism in the Hawaiian Kingdom*, now under consideration by university presses. His research is published in:

- Journal of Historical Geography;
- Alternative, An International Journal of Indigenous Scholarship; and
- Hawaiian Journal of Law and Politics.

In addition to his scholarly pursuits, Beamer is a taro farmer, and has ten years of experience working in various taro farms and continues to maintain his family taro farm in Waipio Valley on Hawaii Island. He also perpetuates the musical traditions of the Beamer family as a recording artist.

The Kohala Center is an independent, not-for-profit center for research and education. As an institution committed to expanding educational and employment opportunities by caring for and celebrating Hawaii Island's natural and cultural landscape, The Center supports efforts at developing island leadership for Hawaii's research and educational institutions. See www.kohalacenter.org.

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[photo caption]
Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer

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