

## **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Matthews M. Hamabata, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, The Kohala Center  
808-887-6411, [info@kohalacenter.org](mailto:info@kohalacenter.org)

### **The Kohala Center Receives the Support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to Establish Fellowship Program for Native Hawaiian Scholars**

KAMUELA, Hawai'i and NEW YORK CITY—January 29, 2008 —The Kohala Center received \$500,000 in support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to establish a doctoral and postdoctoral fellowship program for Native Hawaiian scholars. The program is designed to support 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. Up to two postdoctoral fellowship awards in the amount of \$50,000 each and up to three doctoral fellowship awards in the amount of \$40,000 each will go to successful candidates in the next academic year, July 2008 through June 2009.

Through the Mellon-Hawai'i Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship program, doctoral fellows will be given the opportunity to complete their dissertations before accepting their first academic posts. Postdoctoral fellows will be given the opportunity to publish original research early in their academic careers. Applications must be postmarked by Friday, March 28, 2008. Award notifications will be made on Friday, April 25, 2008. For information, contact The Kohala Center at [info@kohalacenter.org](mailto:info@kohalacenter.org) or at 808-887-6411.

While Native Hawaiian scholars, who are candidates for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) or who have earned a Ph.D. in any field in the arts and sciences, are eligible, preference will be given to those:

- who demonstrate scholarly and leadership promise;
- whose research involves the Hawaiian natural or cultural environment, Hawaiian history, politics, and society;
- who have had a history of service to the Hawaiian community and to society as a whole; and
- who reside in Hawai'i or whose research requires extended periods of time in Hawai'i.

Native Hawaiian scholars in any residential or external degree program of a fully accredited U.S.-based institution, or institutions abroad, such as the native university system in Aotearoa (New Zealand), are eligible.

The Kohala Center will be assisted in selecting successful candidates for the Hawai'i Fellowship Awards by a distinguished panel of senior scholars and *kupuna* (elders):

- Panel Chair, Mr. Robert Lindsey, Member, Board of Directors, The Kohala Center; and Trustee, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Panel Executive Advisor, Dr. Shawn Kana'iaupuni, Director, Public Education Support Division, the Kamehameha Schools

- Dr. Dennis Gonsalves, Executive Director, Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center; and Professor Emeritus, Cornell University
- Dr. Pualani Kanahela, Distinguished Professor, Hawai'i Community College; *kumu hula* (hula master), Halau O Kekuhi; and Member, Board of Directors, the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation
- Dr. James Kauahikaua, Scientist-in-Charge, U.S. Geological Survey Hawaiian Volcano Observatory,

### **About the Hawai'i Fellowship Awards Program**

“As an organization committed to building research and teaching programs that benefit Hawai'i and the academy as a whole, we are honored to be given the opportunity to advance learning and strengthen leadership in higher education by supporting the work of Native Hawaiian intellectuals,” remarks Roberta Fujimoto Chu, President of The Kohala Center's Board of Directors.

“We are delighted to support the growing presence of indigenous Americans in the academy. Their perspectives, grounded in native cultural and scientific knowledge, will bring great richness and diversity to the arts and sciences. Native Hawaiian scholars have an important role to play in the development of new knowledge,” says Dr. Lydia English, Program Officer for Higher Education, and Director, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

### **About The Kohala Center**

The Kohala Center is an independent 501(c)3 institute for research and education that respectfully engages the Island of Hawai'i as a living laboratory for humanity. Areas of programmatic interest include: Environmental Studies, Ocean Sciences, Alternative Energy, and Global Health. By bringing together and coordinating the work of island-based, regional, national, and international expertise, The Center builds innovative teaching and research programs and generates new knowledge that is of value to the world and that serves island communities and enhances island environments. All new Western teaching and research programs are oriented to Hawai'i Island's cultural and spiritual, as well as natural landscape. In addition to working with the University of Hawai'i and Hawai'i Community College, The Center currently works with Brown University, Cornell University, the Redlands Institute, the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University, the U.S. Office of Naval Research, the U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the University of California at Santa Barbara, among others. In the international arena, The Kohala Center has presented its work to Meritrum, the European Union's subcommittee on intellectual capital development, in Oslo, Madrid, and Luxembourg, at the subcommittee's request. Meritrum's interest focused on The Center's active engagement in the interconvertibility of natural, cultural, intellectual, and financial capital. The Kohala Center has also launched a research project on culture, science, and community with the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (Sokendai) in Japan. For more information about The Kohala Center, visit [www.kohalacenter.org](http://www.kohalacenter.org), contact [info@kohalacenter.org](mailto:info@kohalacenter.org), or call 808-887-6411.

### **About the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation supports grantees within six defined program areas: 1) Higher Education and Scholarship, 2) Scholarly Communications, 3) Research in Information Technology, 4) Museums and Art Conservation, 5) Performing Arts, 6) Conservation and the Environment. As described in the President's essay in the 2004 Annual Report, there are grant making principles that underlie the Foundation's programmatic emphases and grant making practices. Among them is the Foundation's commitment to:

- identifying the best ideas, and the ablest intellectual leaders in its areas of interest;
- making certain that the leaders of the institutions that the Foundation supports are both exceptional and fully behind the proposed work;
- remaining focused on its areas of emphasis while retaining flexibility to respond, within its programs, to unusual situations and emergencies;
- serving as an "institution builder" rather than as a source of narrowly defined "project grants";
- supporting initiatives with long time horizons, where needed;
- encouraging grantees to address the sustainability of their initiatives;
- fostering collaborations among grantees and funders, where useful; and
- listening carefully to the leadership within the fields in which the Foundation works to support emergent and systemic needs.

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