

For Immediate Release

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The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awards \$500,000 to The Kohala Center to continue doctoral and postdoctoral fellowship program

KAMUELA, Hawai‘i—January 7, 2014—The [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#) recently announced it would renew its support of the [Mellon-Hawai‘i Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program](#) for an additional three years.

The Foundation’s award of \$500,000 will enable the fellowship program to support three additional cohorts of doctoral and postdoctoral fellows in the academic years 2014–2015, 2015–2016, and 2016–2017. The program was established at The Kohala Center in 2008 for Native Hawaiian scholars early in their academic careers and others who are committed to the advancement of knowledge about the Hawaiian natural and cultural environment, Hawaiian history, politics, and society.

Since its inception, 25 doctoral and postdoctoral scholars from academic institutions in Hawai‘i, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom have been accepted to the program, with many subsequently receiving academic appointments or offers to have their book manuscripts published. Doctoral fellows receive financial support to complete their dissertations before accepting their first academic posts, while postdoctoral fellows receive financial support to publish original research early in their academic careers. In addition, the program provides fellows with opportunities to prepare presentations of their research; network with community leaders, mentors, and previous fellows; and meet academic publishers.

“Over the past six years, The Mellon-Hawai‘i Fellows have successfully established themselves as intellectual and educational leaders from Hawai‘i—for Hawai‘i and the world,” said Dr. Matthews Hamabata, executive director of The Kohala Center and senior support staff to the Mellon-Hawai‘i Fellowship Program. “We are honored that the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation believes in this program and will continue to support the promotion of indigenous knowledge and leadership.” Kamehameha Schools has also supported the fellowship program each year from 2008-2009 through 2013-2014. The Kahiau Foundation joined the effort in 2010-2011 and 2012-2013.

The fellowship application deadline for the academic year 2014-2015 is Friday, February 28. For more information, visit <http://www.MellonHawaii.org>.

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About The Kohala Center

The Kohala Center (<http://www.kohalacenter.org>) is an independent, community-based center for research, education, and conservation. The Center was established in direct response to the request of island residents to create greater educational and employment opportunities by enhancing—and celebrating—Hawai‘i’s spectacular natural and cultural landscapes.

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