

## For Immediate Release

**Contact:** Janis Wong  
Media Relations, The Kohala Center  
[jwong@kohalacenter.org](mailto:jwong@kohalacenter.org)  
direct: 808-325-1114, office: 808-887-6411

### **Native Hawaiian academic fellowship program accepting applications** *Doctoral and postdoctoral scholars committed to advancement of Hawaiian knowledge encouraged to apply*

KAMUELA, Hawai‘i—January 20, 2015—The Mellon-Hawai‘i Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is now accepting applications for the 2015–16 academic year. More information and application materials are available online at <http://kohalacenter.org/mellon-hawaii>. The application deadline is February 24.

Entering its eighth year, the Mellon-Hawai‘i Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program was established 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. The program is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Kamehameha Schools, and administered by The Kohala Center. The Kahiau Foundation joined in support in the academic years 2010–2011 and 2012–2013.

Applicants accepted to the program as doctoral fellows receive \$45,000 in support to complete their dissertations before accepting their first academic posts. Postdoctoral fellows receive \$55,000 in 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 who may be interested in their work.

“The work of the Mellon-Hawai‘i Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows continues to make me proud to not only be an academic, but to be a *Kanaka* (Native Hawaiian),” said Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer, The Kohala Center’s incoming president and chief executive officer, himself a postdoctoral fellow in the program’s inaugural cohort. “The scholars who are selected for this program receive support in ways they’ve probably never imagined or experienced before, and the networks and people they meet will forever change their trajectories as educators, leaders, and mentors to future generations.”

Since its inception, 29 doctoral and postdoctoral scholars have been accepted to the program. Seven fellows have received tenure and another eight are in tenure-track positions within the University of Hawai‘i system, and one has an appointment as a research fellow at Oxford University in England. Book manuscripts written by the fellows have been published, or in the process of being published, by presses such as Duke University Press, Kamehameha Publishing, Oregon State University Press, Oxford

**Contact:** Janis Wong  
Media Relations, The Kohala Center  
[jwong@kohalacenter.org](mailto:jwong@kohalacenter.org)  
direct: 808-325-1114, office: 808-887-6411

University Press, University of Arizona Press, University of California Press, University of Hawai'i Press, and University of Minnesota Press.

Award notifications will be made by April 17. For more information about the fellowship program or to apply, visit <http://kohalacenter.org/mellon-hawaii> or contact Cortney Okumura at [cokumura@kohalacenter.org](mailto:cokumura@kohalacenter.org) or (808) 887-6411.

### **About The Kohala Center**

Founded in the year 2000, The Kohala Center (<http://www.kohalacenter.org>) is an independent, community-based center for research, conservation, and education. We turn research and traditional knowledge into action, so that communities in Hawai'i and around the world can thrive—ecologically, economically, culturally, and socially.

-30-

-more-

P.O. Box 437462 | Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743 | Tel. 808-887-6411 | Fax 808-885-6707 | [www.kohalacenter.org](http://www.kohalacenter.org)

*The Kohala Center is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*