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## **UH College of Education Center for Disability Studies Receives Award for Leadership in Diversity**

The Center for Disability Studies (CDS) at UH Mānoa College of Education was selected to receive the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) 2007 Multicultural Council Award for Leadership in Diversity. In recognition of their contributions to the Association and the disabilities field, CDS will be presented with an award at a special ceremony during AUCD's annual meeting on November 14 in Washington D.C.

“The award is specifically [honoring] CDS as the sponsor of the Pacific Rim Conference, an event that furthers cultural diversity in a respectable and appropriate manner,” said Robert Stodden, Director of CDS. The Pacific Rim Conference has been organized and sponsored by CDS for the past 23 years. The Asian-Pacific multicultural diversity found in both conference attendees and programs has long been recognized as a unique aspect of this annual event.

Through extensive extramural funding, CDS conducts programs and activities nationally as one of 68 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and as one of 23 Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities (LEND) programs.

Along with the International Forum on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Developing Countries, the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities will be held on April 14-15, 2008 at the Sheraton Waikiki. The conference has a long-standing tradition of assembling researchers, professionals, paraprofessionals, persons with disabilities, family members, students, community leaders, and advocates to present on a variety of topics that directly affect the quality of life of all persons with disabilities and their families.

CDS is currently celebrating its twentieth year of education, research, and service at UH Mānoa. As a part of the CDS@20 celebration, CDS will launch a monthly community television program called Disability Perspectives, which airs on OLELO (Channel 54) every Friday in November at 6:00 pm. One hour episodes include such topics as work and self employment, cultural and special education initiatives, human rights, disability culture, and other important community issues. Go to [www.cds.hawaii.edu](http://www.cds.hawaii.edu) for a listing of future events.

For more information about the UH Mānoa College of Education, visit [www.hawaii.edu/coe/](http://www.hawaii.edu/coe/)