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SCHOOL OF HAWAIIAN, ASIAN AND PACIFIC STUDIES  
CENTER FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI`I AT MANOA

In re: ) VOLUME I  
) (Pages 1 - 190)  
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MICRONESIAN VOICES IN )  
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HAWAI`I )  
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CONFERENCE

April 3, 2008  
Thursday  
8:37 a.m.

EWC Imin Center  
1980 East-West Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Reporter: JOY C. TAHARA, RPR, CSR 408  
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I N D E X

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16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

	PAGE
Opening Prayers	
Hawaiian pule. . . . .	4
Micronesian Prayer . . . . .	4
Welcoming Remarks	
UH Manoa Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw . . . . .	4
UHM CPIS Director David Hanlon . . . . .	7
Micronesians' Contributions and Challenges in Hawai`i	
Introduction	
(Canisius Filibert, PREL) . . . . .	11
Presentation (Dr. Hilda Heine, PREL) . . . . .	13
Topic 1: Strengthening Community	
Introduction	
(Joakim Peter). . . . .	48
Goodwill Industries Imi Loa Program	
(Jocelyn Howard). . . . .	51
Marshallese Education Day	
(Justin Lani) . . . . .	55
Micronesian Cultural Awareness Project	
(Joanna Jacob). . . . .	59
Boys and Girls Club Pilot Programs	
(Dionisialynn Bernard). . . . .	65
Micronesian Community Network	
(Canisius Filibert) . . . . .	71
Topic 2: Increasing Effective Communication	
Introduction	
(Richard Salvador). . . . .	97

	I N D E X (Continued)	
		PAGE
1		
2		
3		
4	Yokwe.net (Aenet Rowa). . . . .	100
5	Community Radio Programs KNDI 1270 AM (Robert Lorin). . . . .	107
6		
7	Small Island Networks (Dr. Hilda Heine) . . . . .	112
8	UH Center for Disability Studies and Pacific Voices (Lillian Segal). . . . .	119
9		
10	Topic 3: Building Programs in Education and Health	
11	Introduction (Jocelyn Howard). . . . .	143
12		
13	DOE School/Home Assistants with ESL (Joanna Jacob). . . . .	145
14	Bilingual Coordinators at Central Middle School (Mary Milne). . . . .	150
15		
16	Ala Moana Health Center (John Ishoda) . . . . .	154
17	Pacific Diabetes Education Program (Nia Aitaoto) . . . . .	159
18		
19	McKinley Community School (Richard Salvador). . . . .	164
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1 BUILDING PROGRAMS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY,  
2 AND INCREASING COMMUNICATION --  
3 CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS

4 PROCEEDINGS

5 OPENING PRAYERS

6 Hawaiian pule

7 EMCEE FILIBERT: Good morning. Aloha. My name is  
8 Canisius Filibert. And I'll be your emcee till today, only for  
9 today. One day. I'd like to call on Reverend Akendo to come  
10 and give the opening prayer.

11 Micronesian prayer

12 BY REVEREND AKENDO:

13 (Speaking in foreign language.) Our Heavenly Father,  
14 we call upon your holy name to grace you and to thank you for  
15 all the blessings you have given each and every one of us. We  
16 thank you for this historic place you have given us to interact  
17 and work together for the betterment of the Micronesian people  
18 here in Hawai`i and all of humanity for that matter.

19 We ask for your guidance and wisdom for these two days  
20 ahead of us. In the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we  
21 ask. Amen.

22 EMCEE FILIBERT: And now I'd like to call Virginia  
23 Hinshaw, chancellor of University of Hawai`i at Manoa to give  
24 her welcoming remarks.

25 WELCOMING REMARKS

BY UH MANOA CHANCELLOR VIRGINIA HINSHAW:

1           Aloha. I am truly delighted to welcome y'all to this  
2 conference and to the University of Hawai`i at Manoa. For some  
3 of y'all, this is a homecoming. (Indiscernible) many of  
4 Micronesia's neighbors, including such professionals as  
5 teachers, social workers, public health officers, and  
6 politicians have been educated here at UH Manoa through our  
7 programs designed and taught by our faculty.

8           We are very proud of y'all here, our alumni. We  
9 really and true are. You are our greatest success.  
10 (Indiscernible) positions of responsibility in your home island  
11 communities. And we'd like to think that your experiences here  
12 at the university are serving you well as you work to improve  
13 opportunities for the citizens of each and every state  
14 represented here -- and our federated states.

15           Let me assure you that we are committed to maintaining  
16 our leadership and expertise in Pacific Island matters. We are  
17 partners. And it does take partnership. It takes all of us  
18 working together. And we're here to help support your  
19 communities, not only in the islands of the Western Pacific, but  
20 also here in Hawai`i.

21           That's the goal of this gathering, as growing numbers  
22 of Micronesian (indiscernible), make their homes in these  
23 islands. This is people from elsewhere in the Asia and the  
24 Pacific during the 19th and 20th centuries. Many of our new  
25 arrivals sometimes struggle with a new reality that they are far

1 from home in the 21st century.

2 This is a great opportunity to talk about those  
3 challenges and also devise solutions to deal with them most  
4 effectively. I'm so pleased the university is hosting this  
5 conference to facilitate that process.

6 (Indiscernible) Pacific Island Studies is a great  
7 resource. Representatives from the mayor's office and from the  
8 legislature plan to attend. And policy leaders from our  
9 governor's office will be here tomorrow to learn about your  
10 findings and recommendations.

11 Your voice is being heard and respected. So y'all  
12 know we are taking these responsibilities seriously and this  
13 opportunity with great goals in sight. This is a good beginning  
14 to an important dialogue about significant issues, not only for  
15 the Micronesians in our community, but for all the people of our  
16 community. We truly are one `ohana.

17 So I say mahalo for your participation and your  
18 passion as we move together to new solutions to the situations.  
19 Mahalo and welcome.

20 \* \* \* \* \*

21 (Applause.)

22 EMCEE FILIBERT: There's a box here. I don't know if  
23 I should stand on it or not. Maybe I'll stand on it.

24 I forgot to let everyone know, I am Micronesian  
25 from Palau, by the way, so. Now I'd like to ask David Hanlon,

1 the director of the Center of Pacific Island Studies, to give  
2 his welcome remarks as well.

3 \* \* \* \* \*

4 BY CPIS DIRECTOR DAVID HANLON:

5 Aloha kakou. (Speaking in foreign language.) Thank  
6 you (indiscernible) for your inspiring chant. Thank you,  
7 Reverend Akendo, for your opening prayer. And thank you,  
8 Chancellor Hinshaw, for your welcoming remarks.

9 The Center for Pacific Island Studies is honored to  
10 sponsor the conference, Micronesia Voices in Hawai`i.

11 As a result of the Compact of Free Association between  
12 the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia, the  
13 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau,  
14 citizens of these freely associated countries are migrating to  
15 Hawai`i and to other parts of the United States in increasing  
16 numbers.

17 The number of Micronesians here in Hawai`i, which  
18 includes Chuukese, Kosraean, Marshallese, Palauans, Pohnpeians,  
19 and Yapese, is currently estimated to be between 12,000 and  
20 20,000, and increasing. Micronesia is no longer a place, a  
21 group of islands out there. Micronesia and Micronesians are  
22 here in Hawai`i with us.

23 Many of these recently arrived peoples confront a host  
24 of challenges in the areas of education, employment, health, and  
25 housing -- challenges that are made all the more difficult in a

1 land where the language is unfamiliar; where cultural  
2 expectations are different; where family organization and  
3 responsibilities are unlike home; and where laws, regulations,  
4 requirements, procedures, and the bureaucracies that administer  
5 them are all so bewildering.

6 This conference does not seek to deny or dismiss these  
7 problems and the way they impact all of us. We choose, however,  
8 to feature the constructive approaches that Micronesians --  
9 professionals, community representatives, and church leaders --  
10 are taking to address these challenges.

11 Over the course of the next two days, you will hear  
12 from Micronesian community leaders about educational and  
13 community-building initiatives that are working and that are  
14 considered as models for further and future ethics. We will  
15 learn from our Micronesian panels and speakers about  
16 (indiscernible) initiatives in the areas of job training,  
17 healthcare, education, housing, parenting, legal representation,  
18 and domestic abuse prevention.

19 We think that this is a rare and precious opportunity  
20 for all of us -- service providers, public officials,  
21 policymakers, academics, concerned citizens, Micronesians and  
22 non-Micronesians -- to learn what Micronesians themselves are  
23 doing to address the issues and challenges of (audience  
24 interruption) appointing them here in Hawai`i.

25 There is a larger history against which our conference

1 is set. Movement and migration have been longstanding and  
2 prominent features of Micronesian history and of Hawaiian,  
3 Pacific, and American history too.

4 There is, too, the centuries-old historical  
5 relationship between the islands called Micronesia and the  
6 United States, a relationship solidified with the Compact of  
7 Free Association and with reciprocal rights and responsibilities  
8 for all parties. Former Compact negotiator Andon Amaraich will  
9 speak to these issues in Friday morning's session, first  
10 session.

11 We should not forget, too, the (indiscernible)  
12 cultural and historical connections between Hawai`i and  
13 Micronesia of which the Hokulea's most recent voyage to the  
14 island is a reminder. And the timing of Dr. Hilda Heine's  
15 keynote address this morning reminds us that we need to be aware  
16 of Micronesian contributions as well as the challenges they  
17 face.

18 The Center for Pacific Island Studies also enjoys a  
19 special relationship with Micronesia. All of the center's  
20 founders and regular directors have had deep personal and  
21 professional ties with the region. We have benefitted, too,  
22 from those Micronesian students who earned their degrees from  
23 the center. Indeed, a number of recent graduates and current  
24 students are here with us this morning.

25 The conference also represents our (indiscernible)

1 efforts to reach out and to be even more responsive and  
2 accountable to the Pacific region and its people, and in ways  
3 that are more immediately relevant and (voice fades off).

4 We at the center realize that this conference is but  
5 part of a larger ongoing effort that involves individuals, local  
6 community groups, and state agencies, organizations, and  
7 institutions staffed by competent and committed and  
8 (indiscernible) people. Your numbers are well represented at  
9 this conference this morning. We are pleased that you are here,  
10 and we hope that you will find this conference supportive of  
11 your considerable local and community efforts.

12 This conference also possesses a strong commitment to  
13 cross-cultural communication, collaboration, and initiative. To  
14 that end, I wish to call your attention to Friday afternoon's  
15 breakout sessions that will afford all of us the opportunity to  
16 make recommendations to our public officials on future policies  
17 affecting Micronesian residents in Hawai`i and (indiscernible)  
18 of Hawai`i.

19 Governor Linda Lingle was originally scheduled to be  
20 with us on Friday afternoon. Governor Lingle's attendance is no  
21 longer possible, however, because of the passing of her mother  
22 earlier this week. We take this opportunity to express our  
23 condolences to the governor and her family, and to welcome as  
24 her representative on Friday, Linda Smith, her senior policy  
25 advisor, and Henry Oliva, the deputy director of the Department

1 of Human Services.

2 This conference has been almost two years in the  
3 making. It owes so much to so many people. And I will be more  
4 specific with my thank-you's at the end of this conference  
5 tomorrow. But for now, I want to thank the UH Manoa School of  
6 Pacific and Asian Studies and the Sidney Stern Memorial Trust  
7 for their generous support.

8 I need to cite as well the invaluable contributions of  
9 our conference steering committee drawn from the different  
10 Micronesian communities on the island. And they are my two  
11 co-convenors: Tisha Hickson, the center's outreach coordinator;  
12 and Julie (indiscernible) a center staff member and cofounder of  
13 the Small Islands Network or SINET. They have worked especially  
14 hard on the planning, organization, and preparations for this  
15 conference.

16 So mahalo nui for all of you for joining us for this  
17 most important gathering on the Gathering Island of O'ahu. On  
18 behalf of all of us at the Center for Pacific Island Studies, I  
19 wish you an enriching, encouraging, inspirational two days.  
20 Thank you very much.

21 \* \* \* \* \*

22 (Applause.)

23 MICRONESIANS' CONTRIBUTIONS

24 AND CHALLENGES IN HAWAI`I

25 Introduction by Canisius Filibert, PREL

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