



## Pacific Island Cultures

### ANTH 350

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Office Hrs: WF 11:30-12:30

TR 7:30-8:45

Classroom: Crawford 115

#### Description

Considered the largest geographical feature on earth, the Pacific Ocean displays an extraordinary human and cultural diversity. The Pacific has represented an object of European interest and fantasies since the European first age of discovery of the Oceanic region. In the popular imagination, the islands of the South Pacific conjure exotic images both serene and savage. 'Islands of love'. Mysterious rituals. Cannibals stories. 'Disappearing' cultures. Threatened or 'collapsed' ecologies. These fantasies continue to reflect Western desires and discourses but have very little to do with how most Pacific Islanders live their lives today.

Our focus is to analyze and discuss the contemporary reality, the entanglement of 'tradition' and 'modernity' in the Pacific. As residents of a Pacific Island, students at the University of Hawai'i will have an extraordinary opportunity to weave together western and Pacific ways of conveying and conceiving knowledge. The islands of Hawai'i represent a critical intersection in cross-boundary Pacific identity formation. Using Hawai'i as a point of departure—or arrival—the students will embark in an extraordinary journey through the social, cultural, ethnic, religious and politico-economic experiences of this complex and changing region and of the Polynesian, Melanesian and Micronesian communities represented.

This body of knowledge, conveyed in reading assignments, lectures and occasional guest speakers' testimonies, shall be approached in class from three different perspectives: contemporary realities, visual representations and panel discussions.

### **Contemporary Realities**

Each class will start with a brief look at the news and headline stories accessible on the *Pacific Islands Report* (<http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport>) provided by the East-West Center's Pacific Islands Development Program. A limitless source of research interests, the activity of reading these current events will help the students developing research goals and the understanding of cultural and sociopolitical regional realities.

### **Visual Representations**

Pacific Island cultures are well renown for a distinctive and powerful visual elaboration in traditional art, ritual performances and aesthetics. Hence, film and videos will be used extensively during the course. The use of images is vital to sharply convey abstract ideas, allowing the students to grasp realities sometime difficult to perceive.

### **Panel Discussions**

On selected Thursdays, students will be called upon to prepare an oral report on topics discussed in class, generating questions or comments. During panel discussions the class will be divided into pro and con for each issue.

Format: Contingently to the number of students enrolled, 2-3 pro speakers present arguments for 3-5 minutes each, 2-3 con speakers present arguments for 3-5 minutes each. The remaining members of the class will be called upon to verbally evaluate the debate, mentioning the important points raised and the quality of the arguments. **Every student must sign up to participate in two debates during the semester. There is no written document required.** Face-to-face communication orally remains an important skill in anthropology. These discussions are designed to allow the students to attain a critical and analytical understanding of broad anthropological concepts, but their effectiveness in this regard depends on students active participation and preparation.

## Course requirements and evaluation

Class attendance and active student participation	(10%)
Panel Discussions	(30%)
4 Quizzes (15% each)	(60%)
	100%

⇒ **Attendance Policy** regular attendance is obligatory. After three unexcused absences, each additional absence will lower your final grade. After 15min of delay, you will not be able to sign the attendance sheet and you will be considered absent.

## Quizzes

The 4 quizzes are not multiple-choice formatted. The questions will be based on the class discussions, readings and viewings, and will include map questions. The Final Exam will be just your last quiz.

⇒ **Make Up Exams:** Make up exams will only be given to students who miss an exam due to extenuating circumstances. Missing an exam due to non medical reasons must be approved for by the Instructor prior to the absence. The Instructor must be contacted regarding makeup exams before the absence in case of non medical reasons or within one week for medical reasons. Documentation of the extenuating circumstances (doctor's excuse, for example) must be provided to the instructor before makeup exam will be given. Exams must be made up within one week of returning to class at a time mutually agreeable to student and Instructor. Failure to comply with these policies will result in a zero for the missed exam.

## Required course reader

All the literature listed in the syllabus as required reading for each session is in the reader. A spiral bound reader is available from Hi-5 Production, 614 South Street, Suite 100, Honolulu (\$19.04 w/ tax). Contact them in advance: 808-548-2220/ joell@hi-fiveproductions.com. A digital version of the reader is also available through Sinclair Library's online e-reserve services.

**Required course map**

Students are required to acquire a map of the Pacific. Map knowledge and work is a requirement of this course. A Pacific map is available online at:  
[www.hawaii.edu/cpis/PacificMaps.htm](http://www.hawaii.edu/cpis/PacificMaps.htm).

**Required films**

The films listed in the syllabus will be often presented in excerpted form to allow for class discussion. Students are strongly encouraged to borrow the 'uncut' versions from Wong Audio-Visual Center (Sinclair Library).

## Schedule

### I. INTRODUCTION

**1**                      **Introduction**  
**Aug 26 – Aug 28**    White and Tengan, “Disappearing Worlds: Anthropology and Cultural Studies in Hawai‘i and the Pacific (381-416).  
Borofsky, “Need the Pacific Always Be So Pacific?” (41-58)  
**Film**    *Then There Were None* (27min)

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**2**                      **Re-Imagining the Pacific**  
**Sep 2 – Sep 4**        Hau‘ofa, “The Ocean in Us” (113-131)  
Hereniko, “Indigenous Knowledge and Academic Imperialism” (78-91)  
**Film**    *Pear ta ma ‘on maf (The Land Has Eyes)* (87min)

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**3**                      **Voyaging and Navigating the Pacific**  
**Sep 9 – Sep 11**     Kiste, “Pre-Colonial Times” (3-28)  
Finney, “The Other One-Third of the Globe” (273-297)  
**Film**    *Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey* (60min)

<p><b>Panel #1 Discussion Pro-Con:</b> <b>How native is a “native” anthropologist?</b> <b>Was Polynesian voyaging and island settlement partially “accidental”?</b></p>
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**4**                      **Europeans in Hawai‘i and the Pacific**  
**Sep 16 – Sep 18**    Hempenstall, “Imperial Manoeuvres” (29-39)  
Strathern, “European Contact” (121-130)

**Sep 18 / QUIZ 1**

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## II. INDIGENOUS COSMOS, WESTERN SPECTERS

- 5  
Sep 23 – Sep 25      **Ancestors, Chiefs and Power**  
Lindstrom, “Anthropology: The Cultural Significance and Social Uses of Kava” (119-174)  
Marcus, “Chieftainship” (175-209)  
**Film**    *Kawelka: Ongka's Big Moka* (52min)  
              *Kava: The Drink of the Gods* (90min)

**Panels #2 Discussion Pro-Con:**  
**Should the chief system be abolished in contemporary Oceania?**

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Sep 30 – Oct 2      **Art and Aesthetics**  
Thomas, “Introduction” (9-36)  
D'Alleva, “Tradition and Power in Contemporary Pacific Art” (149-159)  
**Film**    *Malagan Labadama: A Tribute to Buk-Buk* (58min)

**Panel #3 Discussion Pro-Con:**  
**Should indigenous art remain more “traditional”?**

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- 7  
Oct 7 – Oct 9      **Body and Society**  
Becker, “Disclosure and Exposure: The Body and Its Secrets Revealed” (85-103)  
Herdt, “Fetish and Fantasy in Sambia Initiation” (44-98)  
**Film**    *Guardians of the Flutes* (50min)  
              *Paradise Bent: Boys will be Girls in Samoa* (50min)

Oct 9 / QUIZ 2

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## III. COLONIZATION & RESISTANCE

- 8  
Oct 14 – Oct 16      **Colonial Engagements**  
Thomas, “Colonial Conversions: Difference, Hierarchy and History in Early Twentieth-Century Evangelical Propaganda” (231-246)

Davidson, “ ‘The Pacific Is No Longer a Mission Field?’ Conversion in the South Pacific in the Twentieth Century (133-153)

**Films** *The Transformed Isle Barbarism to Christianity* (30min)  
*The Last Magician* (51min)

**Panel #4 Discussion Pro-Con:**

**Does colonialism (and neo-colonialism) inevitably set up a dependence based relationship between natives and non natives?**

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**War and Cargo**

Oct 21 – Oct 23

Lindstrom and White, “War Stories” (3-40)

Kahn “Placing Tahitian Identities: Rooted Land and Enmeshed Representations” (285-306)

**Films** *John Frum and The Big Death: WWII and the Pacific Islanders* (28min)  
*Radio Bikini* (56min)

**Panel #5 Discussion Pro-Con:**

**Should foreign powers be allowed to conduct testing, research and natural resources exploitation in the Pacific?**

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**IV. DECOLONIZATION & MODERNIZATION**

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**Sorrow and Money**

Oct 28 – Oct 30

Akin and Robbins, “Cash and Shell Money in Kwaio, Solomon Islands” (103-130)

Macintyre and Foale, “Global Imperatives and Local Desires: Competing Economic and Environmental Interests in Melanesian Communities” (149-164)

**Films** *The Coconut Revolution* (50min)

*Mountains of Gold: The People of Pongera* (52min)

Oct 30 / QUIZ 3

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11                    **Law and Regionalism**

Nov 4 (General Election Day) –

Nov 6                    Scaglione, “Legal Pluralism in Pacific Island Societies” (86-101)

Kaplan, “Fiji’s Coups: the Politics of Representation and the Representation of Politics” (72-85)

**Films** *A Race for Rights* (53min)

*Te Maire Nui* (50min)

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**V. TOURISM & COMMODIFICATION**

12                    **Tourism and Native Hawaiians**

Nov. 11 (Veteran’s Day) –

Nov 13                    Linnekin, “Consuming Cultures: Tourism and the Commoditization of Cultural Identity in the Island Pacific” (215-250)

Trask, “Lovely Hula Hands: Corporate Tourism and the Prostitution of Hawaiian Culture” (179-197)

**Film** *Taking Waikiki: From Self-sufficiency to Dependency* (36min)

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13                    **Staged Authenticities**

Nov 18 – Nov 20       Stanley “Ethnographic Theme Parks: The Emergence of a Global Paradigm” (35-84)

Silverman, “Cannibalizing, Commodifying or Creating Culture? Power and Art in Sepik River Tourism” (339-357)

**Films** *Cannibal Tours* (77min)

*Welcome to Polynesia!* (54min)

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**Panel #6 Discussion Pro-Con:**

**Does tourism inevitably set up a hierarchical economically based relationship between guests and hosts?**

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## VI. GLOBAL REALITIES

### 14 Pacific Transnationalism

Nov. 25 –

Nov 27 (Thanksgiving)

Lee, “All Tongans are Connected: Tongan Transnationalism” (133-48)

Macpherson, “Transnationalism and Transformation in Samoan Society” (165-181)

**Films** *The New Americans: Polynesians* (29min)

*Tatau: what one must do* (26min)

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### 15 Urban Dilemmas

Dec 2 – Dec 4

Marshall, “Market Highs: Alcohol, Drugs and the Global Economy in Oceania” (200-221)

Mitchell, “ ‘Killing Time’ in a Postcolonial Town: Young People and Settlements in Port Vila, Vanuatu” (358-376)

**Films** *Cowboy & Maria in Town* (59min)

*Kilim Taem* (25min)

**Panel #7 Discussion Pro-Con:**

**Does urbanization inevitably culturally pollute contemporary Pacific societies?**

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### 16 Indigenous Media

Dec 9 – Dec 11

Christen, “Gone Digital: Aboriginal Remix and the Cultural Commons” (315-345)  
Hennessy, “New Media: Repatriation and Indigenous Response to the Protection of Cultural Heritage in *A Ituvatuva Ni Vakadidike E Sawau*. The Sawau Project” (Pp.8)

**Dec 11 / QUIZ 4**

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## Coursepack Readings References

Akin, David, and Joel Robbins

1999 Cash and Shell Money in Kwaio, Solomon Islands. *In* Money and Modernity: State and Local Currencies in Melanesia. ASAO monograph 17. D. Akin and J. Robbins, eds. Pp. 103-30. Pittsburgh, Pa.: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Becker, Anne E.

1995 Disclosure and Exposure: The Body and Its Secrets Revealed. *In* Body, Self, and Society: The View From Fiji. Pp. 85-103. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Borofsky, Robert

2004 Need the Pacific Always Be So Pacific? *In* Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 41-58. Upper Saddle River, NJ.: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Christen, Kimberly

2005 Gone Digital: Aboriginal Remix and the Cultural Commons. *International Journal of Cultural Property* 12:315-345.

D'Alleva, Anne

1998 Tradition and Power in Contemporary Pacific Art. *In* Arts of the Pacific islands. 149-159, ed. Pp. 2. New York: H.N. Abrams.

Davidson, Allan

2004 "The Pacific Is No Longer a Mission Field?" Conversion in the South Pacific in the Twentieth Century. *In* Christianity Reborn : the global expansion of evangelicalism in the twentieth century. D.M. Lewis, ed. Pp. 133-153. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans Pub.

Finney, Ben

1994 The Other One-Third of the Globe. *Journal of World History* 5(2):273-297.

Hau'ofa, Epeli

2000 The Ocean in Us. *In* Voyaging through the Contemporary Pacific. D. Hanlon and G.M. White, eds. Pp. 113-131. Lanham, Md.: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers.

Hempenstall, Peter

1994 Imperial Manoeuvres. *In* Tides of History : the Pacific Islands in the Twentieth Century. K.R. Howe, R.C. Kiste, and B.V. Lal, eds. Pp. 29-39. St. Leonards, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin.

Hennessy, Kate

Forthcoming New Media: Repatriation and Indigeous Response to the Protection of Cultural Heritage in *A Ituvatuva Ni Vakadidike E Sawau*. The Sawau Project. Visual Anthropology Review:Pp.8.

Herd, Gilbert H.

1982 Fetish and Fantasy in Sambia Initiation. *In* Rituals of Manhood: Male Initiation in Papua New Guinea. G.H. Herdt, ed. Pp. 44-98. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Hereniko, Vilsoni

2000 Indigenous Knowledge and Academic Imperialism. *In* Remembrance of Pacific Pasts: An Invitation to Remake History. R. Borofsky, ed. Pp. 78-91. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Kahn, Miriam

2004 Placing Tahitian Identities: Rooted Land and Enmeshed Representations. *In* Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 285-306. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Kaplan, Martha

2004 Fiji's Coups: the Politics of Representation and the Representation of Politics. *In* Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 72-85. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Kiste, Robert

1994 Pre-Colonial Times. *In* Tides of History: The Pacific Islands in the Twentieth Century. K.R. Howe, R.C. Kiste, and B.V. Lal, eds. Pp. 3-28. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Lee, Helen Morton

2004 All Tongans are Connected: Tongan Transnationalism. *In* Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 133-48. Pearson Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Lindstrom, Lamont

1997 Anthropology: The Cultural Significance and Social Uses of Kava. *In* Kava the Pacific Elixir : the Definitive Guide to its Ethnobotany, History, and Chemistry. V. Lebot, M.D. Merlin, and L. Lindstrom, eds. Pp. 119-174. Rochester, Vt: Healing Arts Press.

Lindstrom, Lamont, and Geoffrey M. White

1989 War Stories. *In* The Pacific Theater: Island Representations of World War II. G.M. White and L. Lindstrom, eds. Pp. 3-40. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Linnekin, Jocelyn

1997 Consuming Cultures: Tourism and the Commoditization of Cultural Identity in the Island Pacific. *In* Tourism, Ethnicity and the State in Asian and Pacific Societies. M. Picard and R. Wood, eds. Pp. 215-50. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Macpherson, Cluny

2004 Transnationalism and Transformation in Samoan Society. *In* Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 165-181. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Marcus, George

1989 Chieftainship. *In* Developments in Polynesian Ethnology. A. Howard and R. Borofsky, eds. Pp. 175-211. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Marshall, Mac

2004 Market Highs: Alcohol, Drugs and the Global Economy in Oceania. *In* Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 200-221. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Mitchell, Jean

2004 'Killing Time' in a Postcolonial Town: Young People and Settlement in Port Vila, Vanuatu. *In* Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 358-76. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Scaglione, Richard

2004 Legal Pluralism in Pacific Island Societies. *In* Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 86-101. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Silverman, Eric Kline

2004 Cannibalizing, Commodifying or Creating Culture? Power and Art in Sepik River Tourism. *In* Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands. V.S. Lockwood, ed. Pp. 339-57. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Stanley, Nick

1998 Ethnographic Theme Parks: The Emergence of a Global Paradigm. *In* Being Ourselves for You: The Global Display of Cultures. Pp. 32-84. London: Middlesex University Press.

Strathern, Andrew

2002 European Contact. *In* Oceania : an Introduction to the Cultures and Identities of Pacific Islanders. A. Strathern, P. Stewart, L. Carucci, L. Poyer, R. Feinberg, and C. Macpherson, eds. Pp. 121-130. Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press.

Thomas, Nicholas

1995 Introduction. *In* Oceanic art. Pp. 9-36. New York, N.Y.: Thames and Hudson.

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2000 Colonial Conversions: Difference, Hierarchy and History in Early Twentieth-Century Evangelical Propaganda. *In* Remembrance of Pacific Pasts: An Invitation to Remake History. R. Borofsky, ed. Pp. 231-46. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Trask, Haunani-Kay

1993 Lovely Hula Hands: Corporate Tourism and the Prostitution of Hawaiian Culture. *In* From a Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawai'i. Pp. 179-197. Monroe, Me.: Common Courage Press.

White, Geoffrey M., and Ty P. Kawika Tengan

2001 Disappearing Worlds: Anthropology and Cultural Studies in Hawai'i and the Pacific. *Contemporary Pacific* (Special Issue) 13(2):381-416.

## Coursepack Filmography

Bain, Carol, Edward G. Coll, and Sabra Kauka

1994 Taking Waikiki: From Self-sufficiency to Dependency. Puhi, Hawaii: Surfing Education Association and Kaua'i Worldwide Communications.

VIDEOTAPE 10538

Cattoni, Jan, Anthony Mullins, and Randall Wood

1998 Kilim Taem. Suva, Fiji: UNICEF, AUSAID, Vanuatu National Cultural Council.

VIDEOTAPE 18783

Croall, Heather, Eva Wunderman, and Alison Elder

1999 Paradise Bent: Boys will be Girls in Samoa. New York: Filmmakers Library.

VIDEOTAPE 17766

Davis, John

1993 Mountains of Gold: the People of Porgera. New York, NY: Davis Film and Video, distributed by Filmmakers Library.

VIDEOTAPE 11823

Evenari, Gail, et al.

1999 Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey. [Charlotte, N.C.]: Maiden Voyage Productions, distributed by PBS Home Video.

VIDEOTAPE 16378

Hereniko, Vilsoni, and Jeannette Paulson Hereniko

2006 Pear ta ma 'on maf (The Land Has Eyes). Honolulu: Te Maka Productions.

DVD 3202

Holloway, Tracey, and Liz Thompson

1994 The Last Magician. Lindfield, N.S.W.: Film Australia.

VIDEOTAPE 19024

Kapu'uwailani-Lindsey, Elizabeth

2006

[1996] Then There Were None. Honolulu, HI: Pacific Islanders in Communication.

DVD 4702

Lipp, Thorolf, Tony Martin, and Seona Smiles

1998 Kava: The Drink of the Gods. Suva, Fiji Islands, Bayreuth, Germany: produced by the Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific, distributed by TMT Film.

VIDEOTAPE 17039

McLaren, Les, and Annie Stiven

1991 Cowboy & Maria in Town. Watertown MA: Documentary Educational Resources, Australian Film Commission, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies.

VIDEOTAPE 8674

Nairn, Charlie, et al.

2003 Kawelka: Ongka's Big Moka. London: Granada Television International : distributed by Shanachie Entertainment.

DVD 1483

Nicholson, R. C., and Australian Religious Film Society.

1988 The Transformed Isle Barbarism to Christianity: a genuine portrayal of yesterday and today, the story of fifteen years among the head hunters of the island of Vella Level. Sydney: Australian Religious Film Society.

VIDEOTAPE 1940

O'Rourke, Dennis

1987 Cannibal Tours. Los Angeles, CA: O'Rourke & Associates, Direct Cinema Ltd.

VIDEOTAPE 1296

Owen, Chris

1982 Malagan Labadama: A Tribute to Buk-Buk. Watertown, MA: Documentary Education Resources, Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies.

VIDEOTAPE 14788

Pigliasco, Guido Carlo, and Susanna Francalanci

1992 Te Maire Nui. Milano: Reti Televisive Italiane, Italiana Produzioni.

VIDEOTAPE 12060

Reddish, Paul

1994 Guardians of the Flutes. New York, N.Y.: Filmmakers Library  
British Broadcasting Corporation. Television Service.  
VIDEOTAPE 12405

Rotheroe, Dom, Darren Bender, and Mike Chamberlain

2000 The Coconut Revolution. London: Stampede Productions, Distributed by Culture Shop.  
VIDEOTAPE 20942

Sillers, Ron, and Peter Benoit

1992 Welcome to Polynesia! Laie, Hawaii: Polynesian Cultural Center, Calcon Video  
Enterprises.  
VIDEOTAPE 9747

Stone, Robert, et al.

2003 Radio Bikini. [United States]: Distributed by IFC Films., Docurama, New Video Group.  
DVD 1856

Thomas, Larry

2001 A Race for Rights. Suva, Fiji: L. Thomas.  
VIDEOTAPE 19892

Tristram, John, I. James Wilson, and Nadine Amadio

1995 John Frum and The Big Death: WWII and the Pacific Islanders.  
Princeton, NJ: Juniper Films, Special Broadcasting Service (Australia), Discovery Channel (Firm),  
Dandelion Distribution, Films for the Humanities.  
VIDEOTAPE 12376

Van der Ryn, Micah

1997 Tatau: What One Must Do. Honolulu, HI: Pacific Islanders in Communications, Flying  
Fox Films.  
DVD 3171

Yanehiro, Jan, et al.

1994 The New Americans: Polynesians. San Mateo, CA: KCSM-TV, National Asian American  
Telecommunications Association.  
VIDEOTAPE 11821