School of Social Work

Mission Statement
The mission of the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Social Work is to contribute to the advancement of social work practice in its many forms for the purpose of preventing or resolving the most critical social problems. Within this general purpose, the school reaffirms social work's historic commitment to increase social justice and availability of opportunity for underrepresented and oppressed groups. The principal responsibility of the school is the generation, transmission, and application of knowledge that will benefit the state of Hawaii. In addition, it is the school's responsibility to contribute to knowledge for use by the profession as a whole. In particular, it is the goal of this school to increase comprehension of the ways in which social policy, social work practice, and research can be improved through understanding of the Pacific/Asian cultures of our state and region.

Degree Programs

Bachelor of Social Work: The BSW program prepares students for beginning level professional social work practice in public welfare agencies, alcohol detoxification centers, corrections, hospitals, day care centers for the elderly, and youth-serving agencies. Graduates have also pursued careers in other professions such as law, school counseling, and urban planning.

Master of Social Work: The MSW program prepares students for advanced professional social work practice with children and families, and in health, mental health, gerontology, justice, and other areas. Career opportunities include practice, policy and program planning, research, and other leadership positions in public or private agencies. Graduates of the school have careers in social work in Hawaii, other states, and other countries.

PhD in Social Work: The PhD program prepares students for leadership roles in social policy, social program management, planning and evaluation, and research to enhance the knowledge base of social work practice.

Research Centers and Institutes

Social Welfare Evaluation and Research Unit: The mission of the Social Welfare Evaluation and Research Unit (SWERU) in the School of Social Work is to meet the evaluation and research needs of programs in the state of Hawaii that address social welfare issues. The primary objective of the unit is to provide evaluation, and research consultation and services to relevant community agencies and programs. Additionally, a long-term objective is to develop research initiatives that will contribute to empirical knowledge bases that are necessary to solve human welfare problems of relevance to Hawaii and the Pacific/Asian region. Funding was first provided for the unit in 1989. Projects have included evaluations of child abuse programs in the Department of Health, the work readiness programs in the Departments of Human Services and Labor and Industrial Relations, and federally funded substance abuse prevention programs. Students assist in some of the evaluation research projects. Agencies wishing to contract with the school for these services may contact the office of the dean or SWERU at 956-9614.

Continuing Education Program: The school provides continuing education in various formats to assist practitioners in acquiring current knowledge and undertaking new professional roles. Opportunities include:

- workshops, seminars, and symposia
- credit courses in the MSW program
- advanced courses intended especially for practitioners
- training for new and continuing practicum instructors
- training designed, under contract, for specific agency needs
School History

The University of Hawaii began offering a social work training program to students on the undergraduate and graduate levels in September 1936. The courses were designed primarily to train employees of local social work agencies who were college graduates but lacked professional preparation. An integrated one-year program of professional graduate-level study, set up in 1940, served as the basis for the establishment of a School of Social Work. In 1942, the school was provisionally accredited by the American Association of Schools of Social Work. The School of Social Work was fully accredited in January 1948 as a one-year school, awarding a Certificate of Social Work.

A two-year graduate program leading to the master of social work (MSW) degree was approved by the Board of Regents in November 1948, and the school was fully accredited as a two-year Graduate School of Social Work by the American Association of Schools of Social Work in January 1950. In 1950, there were approximately 30 students. The school has since grown to an average enrollment of 300 students in the undergraduate and graduate programs.

The undergraduate program, leading to the degree of bachelor of social work (BSW), was approved by the Board of Regents in October 1976. The BSW program was initiated in January 1977.

In February 1991, the Board of Regents approved the PhD Program in Social Welfare. The program began in fall 1991.

The school's BSW and MSW programs were fully reaccredited for eight years by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education in 1994. The council is the national accrediting body for professional schools of social work.

Employment and Career Opportunities: The BSW program prepares students for beginning level professional social work practice in public welfare agencies, alcohol detoxification centers, corrections, hospitals, day care centers for the elderly, and youth-serving agencies. Graduates have also pursued careers in other professions such as law, school counseling, and urban planning.

The MSW program prepares students for advanced professional social work practice with children and families, and in health, mental health, gerontology, justice, and other areas. Career opportunities include practice, policy and program planning, research, and other leadership positions in public or private agencies. Graduates of the school have careers in social work in Hawaii, other states, and other countries.

The PhD program prepares students for leadership roles in social policy, social program management, planning and evaluation, and research to enhance the knowledge base of social work practice.

The school offers notice of position openings for its students and the community. Career employment sessions are held each year for graduating students.

International Dimensions

The geographic location of the University and the East-West Center's close ties with the University afford opportunities for understanding of international social welfare. Cross-cultural aspects of social welfare, particularly those pertaining to Asian countries and the Pacific Basin, are included in courses and symposia in the School of Social Work and in other parts of the University. The school also undertakes partnerships with schools and other organizations in Asia and the Pacific. Special non-degree and short-term programs are occasionally arranged for students from abroad with varying educational backgrounds who wish to contribute to social welfare in their own countries through study in a different cultural setting.
The mission of the Social Welfare Evaluation and Research Unit (SWERU) in the School of Social Work is to meet the evaluation and research needs of programs in the state of Hawaii that address social welfare issues. The primary objective of the unit is to provide evaluation, and research consultation and services to relevant community agencies and programs. Additionally, a long-term objective is to develop research initiatives that will contribute to empirical knowledge bases that are necessary to solve human welfare problems of relevance to Hawaii and the Pacific/Asian region. Funding was first provided for the unit in 1989. Projects have included evaluations of child abuse programs in the Department of Health, the work readiness programs in the Departments of Human Services and Labor and Industrial Relations, and federally funded substance abuse prevention programs. Students assist in some of the evaluation research projects. Objectives include: To meet the evaluation and research needs of programs in the state of Hawaii that address social welfare issues; To provide evaluation, research consultation, and training to relevant community agencies and programs; To solve human welfare problems of relevance to Hawaii and the Pacific/Asian region. SWERTU Projects include evaluations for:

- Department of Human Services
- Labor and Industrial Relations
- Department of Health, Mental Health Division
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- National Institute of Drug Abuse

International partnerships and collaborations
- Thammasat University, Thailand
- Chubu Gakuen University, Japan
- University of Guam

FACTS & FIGURES
242 Students Enrolled, 39 Undergraduates, 203 Graduate Students
Men: 43/242, Women: 199/242
Undergraduate Men: 8/39
Undergraduate Women: 31/39
Graduate Men: 35/208
Graduate Women: 168/203
Percentage Female: 199/242

Gender/Ethnic Breakdowns: (Fall 2001)
Asian/Pacific Islander: 135
  Japanese: 50
  Chinese: 9
  Korean: 2
  Filipino: 20
  Hawaiian/Part Hawaiian: 32
  Pacific Islander: 6
  Other Asian: 7
  Mixed Asian/Pacific Islander: 9
Hispanic: 3
Caucasian: 61
African American: 5
American Indian/Alaska Native: 2
Mixed: 20

Faculty and Students
- 17 FTE faculty – 13 full-time instructional
• 25 lecturers
• 200 field faculty

• 50 BSW students
• 200 MSW students
• 20 PhD students

Faculty Gender/Ethnic Composition
Male 47%
Female 53%
Caucasian 41%
Ethnic Minority 59%

Interesting Facts about the School
• The only accredited graduate social work program in Hawai`i and the Pacific Basin
• 3rd at the University of Hawaii in extramural fund awards (per capita) for non-research units

Areas of National Distinction
• Hawaiian and Asian/Pacific Islander health, mental health, and social work practice
• Community Development
• Gender violence
• Child welfare
• Gerontology
• Social work research methods

Extramural Grants and Awards
Research Awards: 3 Grants, $63,175
Nonresearch Awards: 14 Grants, $1,987,893

Faculty Profile
Estimated number of publications: 40
Estimated number of paper presentations: 50

Faculty Honors and Awards: 2000-2002
• 2002 Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Teaching, Valli Kanuha
• International Who’s Who 2001, Paul Adams
• Social Worker of the Year in Gerontology (2000) Colette Browne
• Social Worker of the Year in Professional Education (2000) Colette Browne
Rowena Fong: 2001 Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Teaching
Noreen Mokuau: 2001 Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Award for Faculty Service to the Community