

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT



REPORT TO THE 2008 LEGISLATURE

Annual Report on the  
Needs of the Pacific Islanders in Hawai‘i

House Concurrent Resolution 129, SD1 (2007)

November 2007



# University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Center for Pacific Islands Studies  
School of Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Studies  
1890 East-West Road • Moore 215 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822  
Telephone: (808) 956-7700 • Facsimile: (808) 956-7053 • Telex (650) 3223611 MCIUW

November 28, 2007

TO: Edward J. Shultz  
Interim Dean, SPAS

FROM: David Hanlon   
Director, Center for Pacific Islands Studies

RE: HCR 129, SD 1

SCHOOL OF HAWAIIAN  
ASIAN & PACIFIC STUDIES  
DEAN'S OFFICE

07 NOV 29 P 1:15

Earlier this year, both houses of the Hawai'i State Legislature passed HCR 129 SD 1, a joint resolution that calls upon the Center for Pacific Islands Studies to help identify and address problems facing Pacific Islander communities in the state. The center intends to address this commission through its spring 2008 conference, *Micronesian Voices in Hawai'i*. A conference steering committee made up of representatives from the different Micronesian communities in the state has been formed. The committee has met on three occasions; approved a draft conference schedule; identified two keynote speakers; and invited the participation of several other key individuals.

The number of people moving to Hawai'i from the freely associated states has grown since the last census in 2000, and an estimated 12,000 to 15,000 people from the islands currently reside in Hawai'i. They have moved here to take advantage of educational and health services, and to seek employment. As noted above, the State Legislature has expressed an interest in identifying and addressing the needs of Micronesians and other Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i; the center plans to use its annual conference for 2008 as a forum for Micronesian community leaders, professionals, and students to respond to this request for guidance. A full transcript of the conference proceedings, along with an executive summary and an agenda for future action and initiatives, will comprise the formal report requested by the legislature in HCR 129, SD 1. This report will be submitted through the UH Manoa Chancellor's Office as soon as possible after the conclusion of the conference.

The conference will be held at the Imin Conference Center on the Manoa campus of the University of Hawai'i from April 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The conference will examine some of the challenges that migrants from the freely associated states of the Federated

States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau face as they move to Hawai`i and other parts of the United States. The conference will pay particular attention to the innovative programs that Micronesians are developing in Hawai`i to help ease the transition and some of the needs that remain. With this conference, the center hopes to build on the very successful Micronesian Cultural Exposition of October 2006, which brought together members of the different Micronesian communities to share their experiences and to talk about opportunities as well as the challenges of relocating.

A number of Micronesian community organizations, such as the Micronesian Community Network, the Micronesian Cultural Awareness Project, Micronesians United, and the public health nurses' initiative, Nations of Micronesia, are engaged in program development and advocacy on behalf of Micronesians locally. Representatives from these and other community groups will be participating in the center's conference as panelists, speakers, discussion moderators, and resource people.