

PELP 2018-2019: UH Land Acknowledgment Proposal

Eunice Leung Brekke (Leeward CC), Gary Holton (UH Mānoa), Lisa Kanae (Kapiʻolani CC), Noa Lincoln (UH Mānoa), Kaiwipuni Lipe (UH Mānoa)

What is a land acknowledgment?

Examples:

https://chancellor.illinois.edu/land_acknowledgement.html

<https://sfpirg.ca/acknowledgement-of-indigenous-territories/>

Other examples:

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i and its Board of Regents, it is with profound reflection that I offer up this Hō'ōia 'Āina, Land Acknowledgement, acknowledging Hawai'i as an indigenous space whose original people are today identified as Native Hawaiians.

The University of Hawai'i is strategically clear in our commitment to fostering the wellbeing of our indigenous communities through our academic processes, a ten-campus, system-wide transformation we call Hawai'i Papa O Ke Ao.

With much aloha, I, Rachel Solemsaas, Chancellor of Hawai'i Community College, offer up this Land Acknowledgement in welcome to all gathered this evening, in this land division we call Waiākea*, in the district of Hilo Hanakahi.

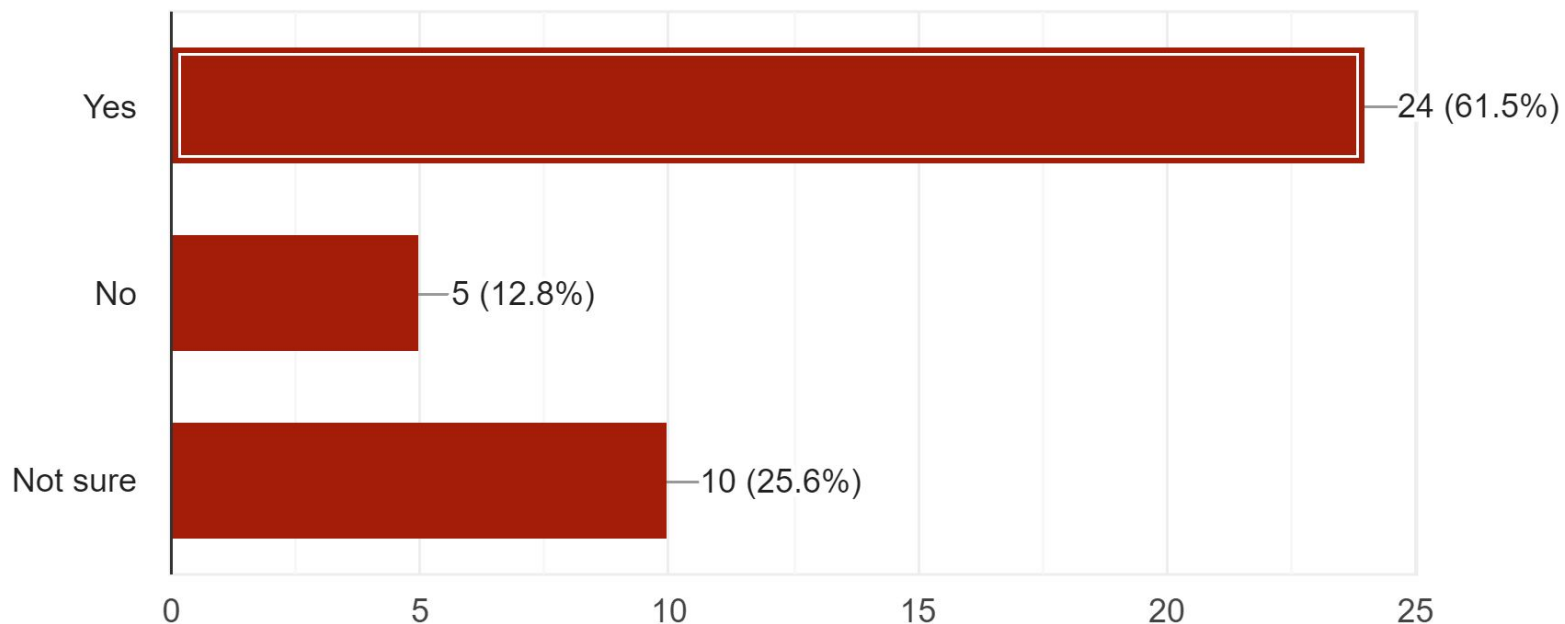
We are in Hawai'i. 'Ano'ai.

Why a land acknowledgment?

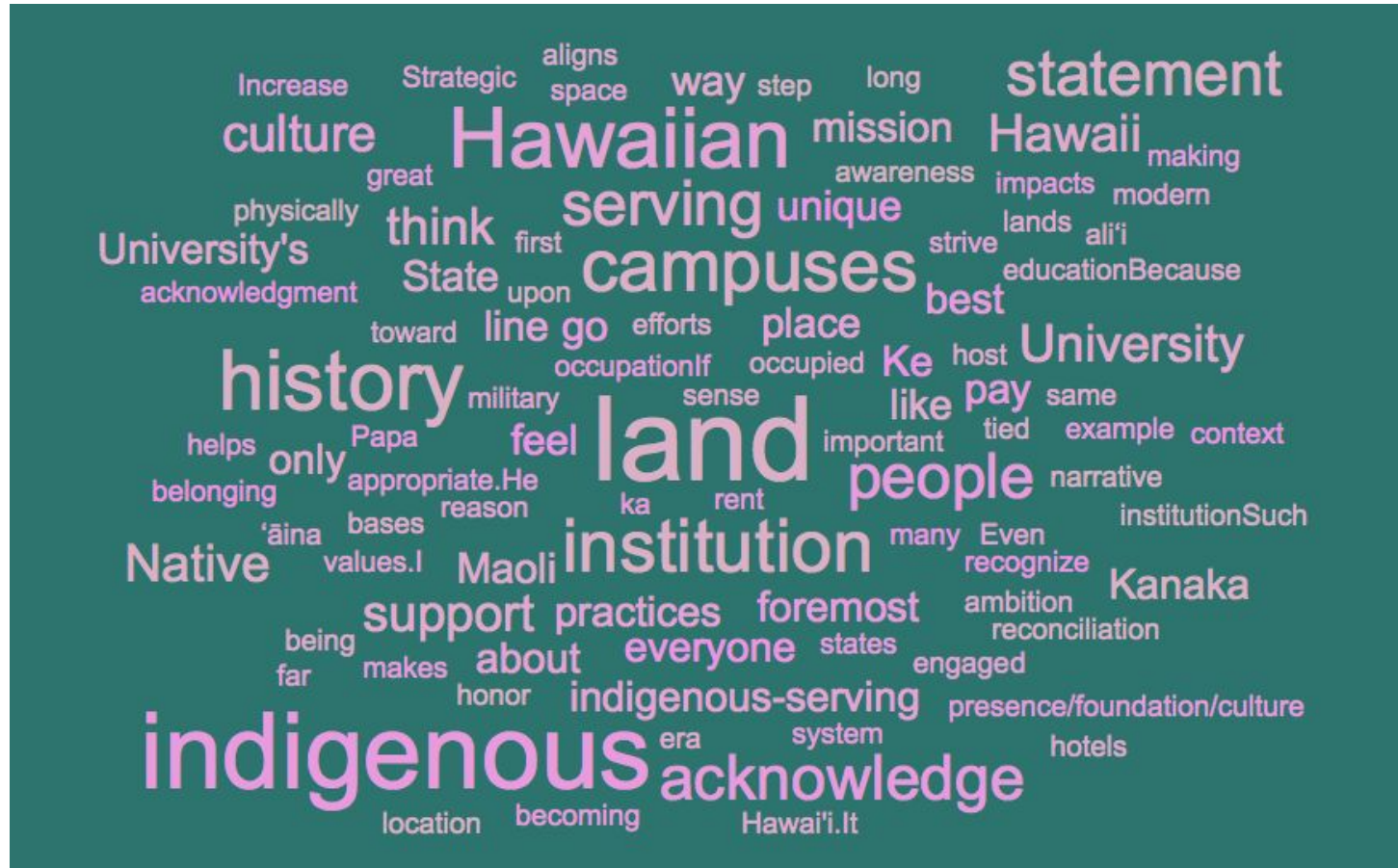
PELP Alumni Survey

Should the University of Hawai'i have a land acknowledgment statement?

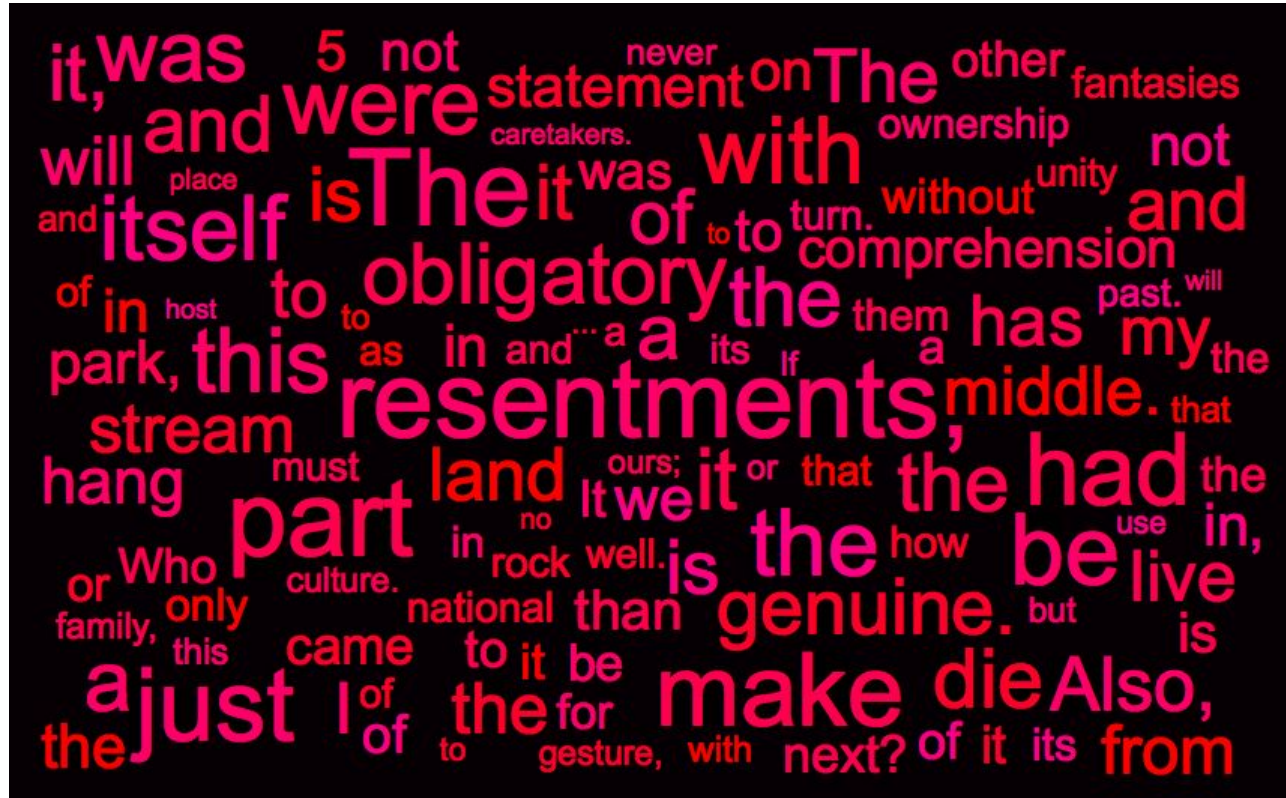
39 responses



Reasons folks said “yes”



Reasons folks said “no”



Reasons folks said “not sure”



Recommendations for implementation

- Check with experts: NHs, NH Councils
- Invite conversation & communication
- Develop place-based models
- Encourage & model rather than mandate
- Provide comprehensive training
- Present potential uses

Final Thought

“Some have expressed concern that a Land Acknowledgement might create or exacerbate divisions. I believe it will do just the opposite. As students, staff, faculty, community members and visitors at UH we come from a diverse range of backgrounds with diverse perspectives. As we work together to seek new knowledge we must be transparent about the underlying assumptions and hypotheses upon which our work is built. Acknowledging our relationship to the land on which we work, study and teach — and to its original owners — is fundamental to this effort. Wherever we ultimately trace our roots, we are all now grounded here at UH. The Land Acknowledgement binds us together and grounds us physically, academically and spiritually.”

— Dr. Gary Holton, Department of Linguistics