
Songs of Labor, Love, and Lust: Japanese Immigrant Gender Relations in Hawai'i's Canefields

with Dr. Franklin Odo

Wednesday, October 30th from 3:00-5:00pm, Crawford 115
This event is free and open to the public

Dr. Franklin Odo discusses the folks songs, *holehole bushi*, that Japanese immigrant workers created and sang in the cane fields of Hawai'i. Using the holehole bushi as historical records, Odo explores how tales of love, lust, and sexual agency among Japanese immigrant women were shaped by the conditions of labor and family life in the exploitative plantation system. In a similar tradition to African American blues singers following the Great Migration, these holehole bushi provide a fresh perspective on Japanese and Asian immigrant gender and sexual relations in Hawai'i and their entanglement within the forces, policies, and everyday practice of U.S. empire. This talk is part of Odo's book, *Voices from the Canefields: Folksongs from Japanese Immigrant Workers in Hawai'i*, out now through Oxford University Press.



Dr. Franklin Odo is the founding director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program. Odo's expertise in ethnic studies, U.S. history, and American Studies has led him to hold teaching positions at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Hunter College, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton and Columbia. His book, *No Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in Hawai'i during World War II* was published by Temple University Press in 2004.

This book tour is made possible by the support from the Japanese Cultural Center of Honolulu, Department of Ethnic Studies, College of Social Sciences, friends and alumni of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, School of Asian and Pacific Studies, Center of Okinawan Studies and the Department of American Studies

For questions regarding the event, please contact Dr. Brian Chung, chungb@hawaii.edu
