

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

ANTHROPOLOGY
anthropology.hawaii.edu

COMMUNICATIONS
communications.hawaii.edu

ECONOMICS
economics.hawaii.edu

ETHNIC STUDIES
ethnicstudies.hawaii.edu

GEOGRAPHY
geography.hawaii.edu

**MATSUNAGA INSTITUTE FOR PEACE
AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**
peaceinstitute.hawaii.edu

POLITICAL SCIENCE
politicalscience.hawaii.edu

PSYCHOLOGY
psychology.hawaii.edu

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
puba.hawaii.edu

PUBLIC POLICY
publicpolicycenter.hawaii.edu

**SOCIAL SCIENCES
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
ssri.hawaii.edu

SOCIOLOGY
sociology.hawaii.edu

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING
durp.hawaii.edu

WOMEN'S STUDIES
womenstudies.hawaii.edu

CONNECTIONS

ADDRESSING FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS ABOUT HUMAN BEHAVIOR
AND POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS



Students



Community



Research



COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

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COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA



Profile

SUSTAINABILITY: WATER, LAND, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT

Faculty at the College of Social Sciences embark on a diverse range of sustainability research projects ranging from energy to the environment to natural resource management such as:

- UHERO's Project Environment studies environmental policy and natural resource management for most of Hawai'i's communities, including coastal permitting along all of the state's coastlines, and watershed management in the Ko'olau Mountain range on Oahu.
- The Economics Department focuses research efforts on energy conservation and the use of smart grid technologies both here on Oahu, as well as Maui.
- The Department of Urban and Regional Planning performs research on energy and greenhouse gas policy, particularly around the economic and greenhouse gas impacts of a variety of renewable energy technologies and greenhouse gas mitigation strategies.
- The Geography Department focuses on statewide research efforts dealing with marine and coastal resource management information to manage beach parks, as well as an ongoing project examining historical rainfall levels in order to provide information on water resources and conservation for Hawai'i's island population.

HEALTH

Research related to health topics range from studies on specific diseases to studies on health information management systems to disaster management issues. A sampling includes:

- The Economics Department is working on a large diabetes study that aims to improve self-care and, ultimately, outcomes in Hawai'i's diabetic population.
- The Sociology Department is looking at various elements of health in terms of health care delivery systems.
- The Anthropology Department's disaster management project provides training for health professionals locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Various members of the faculty also work directly within the local community on projects related to health education and awareness initiatives.

EDUCATION

In the area of Education, the College of Social Sciences touches on a broad scope of topics from studies on preschool aged children to adult learners, and extending from the local community to the international arena. A few programs and activities include:

- The Psychology Department has multiple research projects aimed at literacy, including: an ongoing project examining the relation between home literacy environment and transition to kindergarten among Native Hawaiian children living in Kauai; and a study examining the accidental role that lifelong learning classes play in fostering friendships in later life, and in making the lifelong learning class a "third place" (besides the home and the workplace) where important relationships develop.
- The faculty at the School of Communications conducts research on media literacy in an attempt to identify ways to effectively educate and prepare citizens for the digital media driven environment of the Information Age - a particularly important piece of civic engagement as more government services migrate to the virtual environment.
- Faculty from various departments also conduct education-related research in places like Mexico, Cambodia, Thailand, and Mongolia to name a few.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS, TOURISM

Various research projects conducted by faculty at the College of Social Sciences are relevant to economic development, business, and technology. Such projects include:

- The Economics Department focuses on the patterns of price dispersion and the distribution of price change frequency in local markets, consumer and producer behavior driving these patterns, and the implications of monetary policies. This information can be applied to deepen the understanding of the retail industry in the state.
- The School of Communications is examining communication policy and planning, specifically emerging policy problems related to communication rights in ubiquitous network societies. This includes exploration of the potential for community-initiated broadband projects that will enable indigenous Hawaiians more self-determination in the planning and management of broadband networks and services.
- Other research endeavors include same-sex marriage equality and its impact on Hawai'i's economy, economic effects of population aging, and international trade policies.

AGRICULTURE

Research at the College of Social Sciences cover a broad range of Agriculture-related topics ranging from policy level issues to invasive species research, such as:

- UHERO's Project Environment studies environmental policy and natural resource management including water and invasive species management on the Kona coast of the Big Island and agricultural land use policy on the Island of Kauai.
- The Political Science Department works with various community organizations that are working on community-level food security and cultural revitalization initiatives.
- The Psychology Department is conducting research on the state's honey bee population and the invasive species negatively impacting the local bee population, including the collection of detailed data on infestation rates in order to track seasonal fluctuations.

HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES

College of Social Sciences faculty are involved in multiple research projects aimed at addressing issues within the Human Services arena, such as:

- The Psychology Department conducts research in this area, including studies on children and young adults with developmental disabilities and their families that examine family adaptation and ways in which families can promote positive development for children with intellectual disability. Other research includes: work with the child and adolescent mental health system in Hawai'i that has led to the development and maintenance of a data-based decision making system to facilitate this part of state government; evaluation and practice-based research to examine what works in children's mental health as implemented in the public sector; and involvement in developing culture-sensitive psychological assessment tools.
- The Public Policy Center is involved in foster-care system reform initiatives, which includes the development and implementation of a pilot project called WRAP Hawai'i. The pilot has successfully improved the collaborative functioning of state agencies (DHS, DOH, DOE, OYS and the Family Court). Other efforts include consultation for the Title IV-E Waiver project, which will allow the state to draw down federal funds more flexibly.
- The Ethnic Studies Department has focused research on low-income communities statewide. Combining research with active civic engagement, it has helped improve conditions in the poorer neighborhoods and created collaboration among community partners.

Our vibrant academic climate provides exciting, intense interaction among students and faculty as they address fundamental questions about human behavior.

– Denise Eby Konan

Dean, College of Social Sciences



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Leadership, excellence and innovation are the hallmarks of the College of Social Sciences and of the transformational education experiences our students enjoy. In this day and age, our community is the world, and the College enjoys a reputation as a truly international institution. Here you'll find graduates that are prepared to be citizens of the world - globally oriented, and yet ready and eager to live by the values we impart.

Students majoring in one of the disciplines of the College will have their lives enriched through a vibrant academic climate that provides exciting, intense interaction with faculty as they address fundamental questions about human behavior and the workings of local, national and international political, social, economic and cultural institutions.

THE COLLEGE AT A GLANCE

The College of Social Sciences offers a rich combination of disciplines across the social sciences. While each department represents a significant part of the social sciences, some also play an important role in the humanities and others in the natural sciences. Although distinct and independent, the intellectual boundaries of the departments are not rigid and thus allow various opportunities for cross-disciplinary inquiry.

The college:

- Celebrates a student body that reflects a wide ethnic and cultural diversity;
- Offers disciplines ranging from basic science and social action;
- Nurtures students' intellectual and practical skills, and breadth of knowledge;
- Cultivates personal and social responsibility among students;
- Supports a faculty with national and international reputations; and
- Reaches out to local and Pacific/Asian communities.