Cluster Faculty Hire in Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Health

Native Hawaiians and other Indigenous people experience severe health disparities compared to other ethnic groups. In Hawai‘i, life expectancy in the overall population at birth is over 81 years compared to 74 years in Native Hawaiians. Hawaiians also experience higher rates of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and certain cancers than in the general population. Similar health disparities occur in indigenous populations throughout the world. The cause of these disparities are multifaceted and include loss of land and culture, institutional racism, low socioeconomic status, access to health care, environmental factors, health behaviors, low educational attainment and many other factors. Traditional bio-medical approaches to address health disparities in indigenous populations have had limited success.

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa seeks to eliminate health disparities in Native Hawaiian and Indigenous populations through collaborative cross disciplinary cutting-edge research and training. To achieve this goal, the University is announcing its first cluster hire for tenure track faculty in Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Health.

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa seeks outstanding candidates to fill three open tenure-track faculty positions at the assistant professor level. Positions will be filled as early as Fall Semester 2012.

The new positions are designed to transcend traditional academic boundaries and focus on cross-disciplinary solutions to public health issues facing Native Hawaiian and other Indigenous communities. New faculty members will have their primary appointments in the John A. Burns School of Medicine in either the Department of Native Hawaiian Health or the Department of Public Health Sciences. All positions will have a joint appointment at 25% FTE in a partnering school/college (Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, William S. Richardson School of Law, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resource, and Hawai‘inui‘akea School of Hawaiian Knowledge) to develop multidisciplinary training programs. Selected faculty will be charged with developing the first ever accredited Master’s in Public Health degree in Indigenous Health. In addition, the program faculty will lead the development of an undergraduate summer academy to encourage Native Hawaiian and other Indigenous students to pursue careers in health-related fields.

Candidates with prior teaching experience, grant funding, and research in and with Native Hawaiian or other Indigenous communities are highly desired. Candidates shall provide a letter of support from a Native Hawaiian or another indigenous community or organization documenting their work and reputation in that community. In addition to teaching, successful qualified candidates will be expected to actively pursue creative and scholarly work, demonstrate academic resourcefulness including the ability to obtain extramural funding on a regular basis, lead dynamic mentoring and learning communities comprised of Native Hawaiian and other Indigenous students, and participate in service activities at the school, university and community levels.