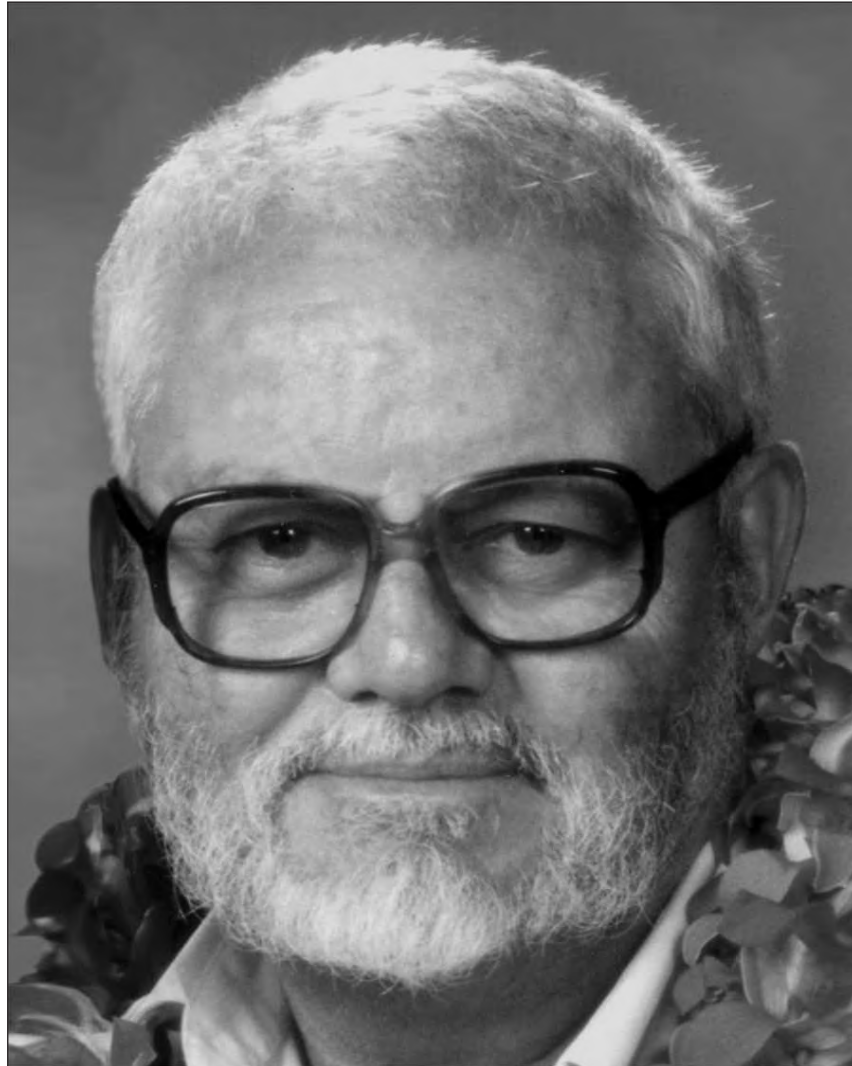




## Frank Brown 1929 – 1998



Frank Brown served as a faculty member in the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa from 1967 to 1992. Frank was born in Boston, Massachusetts on May 29, 1929. After high school he enlisted in the US Marine Corp and saw service in Korea during the Korean War. After a period in the marines, he returned to full time education as a student of American literature and history at Boston University, receiving his BA in 1957.

Frank arrived in Hawai'i in September 1957 with the intention of pursuing a master's degree in English. However, he took on some part time work as a substitute teacher at Waipahu High School and enjoyed the experience so much that he decided to change his major to education and become a teacher. While working at Waipahu as a long terms substitute teacher he met Michi Okinaka, who also taught English, and they married in June 1958. As they were living

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in Kaneohe at the time, Frank and Michi transferred to the Kailua High School English department. In 1963, he obtained his MEd in secondary curriculum and social studies education. Frank and Michi moved to the University of Indiana in Bloomington in 1965 so that he could pursue his doctoral studies in curriculum theory and social studies education. At the same time, Michi completed work for a master's degree in education. He successfully defended his dissertation in 1967. Frank and Michi then returned to Hawai'i so that Frank could take up his duties as an assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education.

Frank brought a strong sense of commitment and dedication to his work with beginning teachers. As a university instructor he became closely associated with teaching one of the college's foundations courses (EDCI 312) to prospective secondary school teachers. He viewed this course as an important introduction to the profession, and he aimed to give it his special attention and effort. As an experienced secondary school teacher, his approach to college teaching was eminently practical. He quickly began to change EDCI 312 from a lecture format to one that enabled students to experiment in small groups with a variety of teaching strategies. In this class they learned to prepare and implement lessons, evaluate lesson plans, and offer constructive critiques of lessons taught by classmates. Frank took every opportunity to involve his students in realistic, practical settings, and he taught EDCI 312 for several years at Kaimuki High School and Farrington High School so that his students could connect college theory with classroom practice. He remained committed to field-based teacher education throughout his career and in his final years in the college eagerly embraced the opportunity to help launch the new Master of Education in Teaching (MET) program with a group of students at Kailua High School—one of the first MET partner schools. This gave Frank the opportunity to do what he loved to do—work closely with student teachers in the field.

Frank served from 1985 until his retirement as the graduate chair in the field of secondary education. His dedication to university and community service is seen in the numerous committees that he served on and frequently chaired. He volunteered regularly to serve on accreditation teams for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Frank is probably best remembered for his work as the college's director of American Samoan projects. He began working in partnership with the American Sāmoa Department of Education (ASDOE) in 1970. In 1978 he was appointed as the director of the American Sāmoa Teacher Corps Project. As the director of the Teacher Corps Project, he coordinated all the necessary paper work for teachers who had completed their two years at American Sāmoa Community College (ASCC) and were ready to complete their third

and fourth years to obtain BEd degrees from the University of Hawai'i. His duties involved reviewing transcripts, getting applications for admission, lining up a schedule of required courses and coordinating the summer session for the cohort at Mānoa. He also had to coordinate courses for teacher corps students at ASCC. From 1981 till 1994 Frank administered the teacher education contracts funded by Territorial Teacher Training Assistance Program (TTTAP). He set up the original program and provided it with its organizational structure. The purpose of TTTAP has been to upgrade the quality of teachers in the ASDOE, and the success of the program is evident in the hundreds of Samoan teachers and administrators who have been assisted by it.

Frank had a great deal of love for the people of American Sāmoa as well as a great love of teaching, and he indulged both in his frequent visits to American Sāmoa in his capacity as director. Always innovative, he set up the very first lab school where teachers could work with and observe children and then discuss their observations in their teacher education classes. He truly loved Sāmoa and had many close friends there. He also supported the Samoan community in Hawai'i. On one occasion he was called by one of the schools in Hawai'i about a 'problem student' who happened to be Samoan. He worked with this student over many years and became an adopted member of his family in Sāmoa.

Frank mentored most of the MEd candidates who earned their degrees in the curriculum and instruction program. He also served as chair for four doctoral students—Salu Hunkin, Seth Galea'i, Trudie Iula Sala, and Faauma Seui. Salu Hunkin, who was his graduate assistant, writes that "In Samoan, when we make friends and those friends become like family, we use the expressions *uō māmāe* and *uō pele* which mean beloved friend—Frank was an *uō māmāe*, *uō pele* to his Samoan students." She felt privileged to have worked with him in setting up the Teacher Corps Project and the first TTTAP cohort. Frank had a high regard for Samoan culture. He encouraged his students to excel in their academic work, but he also looked for ways that Samoan students could share their culture and traditions with others. Moreover, he helped them adapt what they had learned in their college classes so that it could be more effectively translated into the Samoan situation.

After Frank retired, he continued working with children in Hawai'i, by representing the interests of children involved in judicial proceedings, many of them the victims of abuse and neglect, as their guardian ad litem.

The Frank Brown Scholarship Fund has recently been established at the College of Education with a generous donation from Michi Brown. The aim of the scholarship is to support graduate students in education, particularly Samoan students in recognition of Frank's love for the Samoan people and culture and his work to support teacher education in American Sāmoa.