

## Preface

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**P**ublic Policy and Globalization in Hawai'i, volume 40 of *Social Process in Hawai'i (SPIH)* offers a look at public policy from a political economy perspective. Two previous volumes of *SPIH* which I edited were also dedicated to political economy. Volume 35 (1994), *The Political Economy of Hawai'i*, examined important topics relating to foreign investment and the economic development paradigm adopted by the ruling power structure in the Islands. Volume 39 (1999) entitled, *The Ethnic Studies Story: Politics and Social Movements in Hawai'i*, discussed issues that showed the integral connection between the political economy, on the one hand, and the ascendancy of social movements, on the other.

All three volumes separately and collectively demonstrate the wide range in which the political economy framework and methodology can be applied. The Islands' social, political, and economic processes can be best understood through a holistic theoretical framework that pulls together various salient societal dimensions. Volume 40 continues the contribution started in volumes 35 and 39 in developing a rigorous alternative analysis of social reality to mainstream social theories which claim to understand the world in an "objective" manner. The meta-theoretical commitment of this volume understands "objectivity" as an interpretation steeped in the value system to which those analysts subscribe. The articles in all these volumes demonstrate that analysis must be grounded in social reality if the object is to better understand that reality.

Since its inception, *Social Process in Hawai'i* had the same cover design. A departure from that tradition began with volume 38. This editor also changed the cover design for volumes 39 and 40. Diacritical markings are included in the name of the journal, a decision that was made by the editors of volume 38, and maintained by this editor for volumes 39 and 40.

Hawaiian words are italicized (and defined) on first mention only. Diacritical markings are used with Hawaiian words except in cases where the author's reference does not use them.

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