



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa™

HUI 'ĀINA PILIPILI

ACCESS ENGAGEMENT

MĀLAMA I NĀ AHUPUA'Ā

# Developing Pilina: Introducing New Social Sciences Faculty to Kuleana

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## Learning Kuleana Through Action

In August 2024, new CSS faculty were invited by Kauluakalana, two important CSS support programs, and the MINA service-learning program to spend a day at Ulupō in Kailua to learn about history and culture, connect with a Native Hawaiian community, and proactively help address issues of concern to the community with a focus on kuleana - duty, responsibility, privilege - as an imperative of the University of Hawai'i's Strategic Plan and a core value of Hawaiian culture.

The day included protocol, story-telling, working the 'āina, and lunch prepared with food from the 'āina. The day ended with a reflection session modeled after the reflection sessions that students in the MINA program experience at the end of their semester-long program.

## Survey

A post-survey was sent to faculty participants. Part of the survey included a 5-point likert scale on initial expectations, personal knowledge, professional knowledge, introduction to Hawaiian culture, history and language ways in which service learning could be integrated in their curriculum.

With the 5-point being the highest, respondents indicated unanimous satisfaction with all all categories. Faculty not only valued learning about Hawaiian culture and service-learning, but also left with a sense of kuleana to incorporate these lessons into their teaching. The qualitative responses show a deep engagement with issues of colonization, cultural respect, and the integration of Indigenous knowledge into their roles at UHM and in Hawai'i.



## Looking Forward

Reflecting deeply on their roles in Hawai'i, and emphasizing their Kuleana to 'āina and its people, faculty showed strong enthusiasm for continued collaboration with the organizers, and integration of the concepts and practices into their research and pedagogies. They experienced a sense of belonging with place and created lasting bonds across disciplines with each other.

## Reflections



**Kuleana and Role in Hawai'i**

"As a temporary settler teaching and researching colonialism and environmental politics, my responsibility is to learn about politics, histories, and cosmivision, as well as to draw connections between Indigenous struggles for liberation and sovereignty here with similar projects in other places."



**Commitment**

"As a settler on occupied land, I take seriously my commitment to work for the betterment of our 'āina and our communities, both in my professional and personal lives."



**Navigating**

"Political Science and International Relations have been conceived and used as epistemic tools for empire-building and colonial domination. While these disciplines cannot be salvaged, they can be used to teach Indigenous histories, politics, and commands regarding land tenure, ecosystem management, and land rematriation."