

Melanie “Ku‘i” S.K. Keliipuleole

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
Marine Biology Graduate Program (MBGP)
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Education

- University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM), Honolulu, HI
Major: Marine Biology
Degree: Master of Science
Currently Pursuing
- University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM), Honolulu, HI
Major: Global Environmental Science (GES)
Degree: Bachelor of Science
December 2019
- Kapi‘olani Community College (KCC), Honolulu, HI
Major: Natural Science-Life Science
Degree: Associate of Science
December 2014
- University of Hawai‘i-Maui College (UHMC), Kahului, HI
Major: Liberal Arts
August 2011-May 2012

Professional Employment

- Program Manager, SOEST Maile Mentoring Bridge
UHM, Honolulu, HI
August 2019-Present
Collaborate with faculty, staff, and students to monitor and track program progress. Conduct and coordinate outreach and workshop events. Work closely with SOEST and UH community colleges to recruit and retain minority students.
- Program Director, Project Olonā Summer Bridge
KCC, Honolulu, HI
Summer 2019
Plan, coordinate, and assess the Summer Bridge Program and its students. Create lesson plans for and teach biology college track. Work with student peer mentors and other instructors to ensure students’ comprehension of STEM information.
- Program Manager, Project Olonā
KCC, Honolulu, HI
February 2019-August 2019
Design and implement effective recruiting of Native Hawaiian students from high schools and KCC in collaboration with Hawaiian Studies and ‘āina-based STEM interest. Manage student researchers. Work along side land manager of off-campus study site to organize and run fieldwork expeditions.

Co-Instructor, KCC-SOEST summer bridge
KCC/UHM, Honolulu, HI Summer 2017, 2018, 2019
Design and lead experiments to train KCC students in laboratory skills, purchase laboratory supplies, lead discussions on the intersection of Hawaiian culture and Western science, co-lead field trips, and train peer mentors.

Fellow, 'Ike Wai-Hawai'i EPSCoR
Kewalo Marine Laboratory (KML), Honolulu, HI September 2018-May 2019
Research microbiology molecular techniques used to study anchialine pond microbes to include water filtrations, DNA extractions, PCRs, electrophoresis gel imaging, library preparations, and DNA sequence analysis.

Project Land Manager, KCC's Project 'Olonā
Palolo Valley, Honolulu, HI September 2017-December 2018
Collaborate with project 'olonā's program coordinator. Plan, organize, and perform on-site events to include community workdays, preparing the plot for plants, planting and harvesting efforts, and scientific workshops.

Laboratory (Microbiology) Technician, 'Ike Wai-Hawai'i EPSCoR
KML, Honolulu, HI September 2017-August 2018
Manage lab to include conducting inventories, purchasing supplies and equipment, and laboratory set up. Conduct microbiology molecular work to include water filtrations, DNA extractions, PCRs, electrophoresis gel imaging, and library preparations.

Laboratory Technician, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Ford Island, Honolulu, HI September 2015-September 2017
Conduct lab duties for the Autonomous Reef Monitoring System (ARMS) project, including, but not limited to, DNA extractions, PCRs, electrophoresis gel imaging, and other molecular lab processes.

Laboratory Assistant, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB)
Coconut Island, Kaneohe, HI June 2015-October 2015
Perform lab duties for graduate project on the coral species, Acropora hyacinthus, including DNA extractions, PCRs, electrophoresis gel imaging, and other molecular lab processes.

Intern, Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education (C-MORE)
UHM, Honolulu, HI August 2014-May 2015
Research methods of DNA extraction of a sea urchin species, Colobocentrotus atratus, extract DNA, and run PCRs, electrophoresis gels, and other molecular lab processes.

Student Assistant, KCC STEM Center
KCC, Honolulu, HI

October 2012-May 2015

Mentor fellow students, research literary documents about KCC and areas near KCC, create timeline of historical events that happened in KCC's vicinity, and other clerical duties.

Student Researcher, Summer Internship, Native American and Pacific Islander Research Experience (NAPIRE)

Costa Rica

June 2013-August 2013

Attend skill building workshops, and conduct literary research, field research, and laboratory research on stream ecology.

Certifications

First Aid/CPR/AED (2017-present)

Provided by: The American Heart Association (Hawaii Certified)

Radiation Safety Training (2017-present)

Provided by: The University of Hawaii's Environmental Health & Safety Office (EHSO)

Transportation of Biological Substances (2017-present)

Provided by: The University of Hawaii's Office of Research Compliance

Hazardous Waste Generator Training (2017-present)

Provided by: The University of Hawaii's Environmental Health & Safety Office (EHSO)

Bloodborne Pathogens and Safe Sharps Use (2017-present)

Provided by: The University of Hawaii's Office of Research Compliance

Laboratory Safety Training (2017-present)

Provided by: The University of Hawaii's Environmental Health & Safety Office (EHSO)

General Biosafety Principles and Practices (2015-present)

Provided by: The University of Hawaii's Office of Research Compliance

Membership

Geological Society of America

Member since: 2019

American Society for Microbiology

Member since: 2017

Ecology Club at KCC

Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability: Diverse People for a Diverse Science (SEEDS) Liaison

January 2015-May 2019

Member since: 2013

‘Ilima Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science
(SACNAS) Chapter

Chapter Vice President

June 2015-June 2016

Member since: 2014

Publications

Keliipuleole, M. Studying the genetic connectivity of the culturally significant sea urchin, *Colobocentrotus atratus*, in Hawai‘i. *Pueo O Kū/Journal of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*, 1: 33-36. (2016)

Keliipuleole, M. Uncovering the science behind the legend of Ka‘au Crater’s red spring. *‘Upena O Kū/Journal of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*, 1: 13-16. (2014)

Akiu, M., **Keliipuleole, M.**, Madrona, K., Watanabe, L. Ulupō Heiau: it’s all in the water! An exploratory study of water quality. *‘Upena O Kū/Journal of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*, 1: 9-11. (2014)

Presentations

Oral

Bruno, B and **Keliipuleole, K. (Co-Presenter)**. “Master Your Future with Aloha”. Series of Professional Development Workshops offered in partnership with UHM’s SOEST and the KCC Native Hawaiian Academic Advancement Team. KCC, Honolulu, HI. (Fall 2017-Fall 2019).

Bruno, B and **Keliipuleole, M. (Co-Presenter)**. “Master Your Future with Aloha”. Series of Professional Development Workshops offered in partnership with UHM’s SOEST and the KCC Māla Maunuunu Learning Support Center. KCC, Honolulu, HI. (Fall 2016-Spring 2017).

Keliipuleole, M. “Ka pilina o hā‘uke‘uke: The genetic connectivity of shingle urchins in Hawaii.” 52nd Annual Meeting of The Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC), Honolulu, HI. (2015).

Keliipuleole, M. “Ka pilina o hā‘uke‘uke.” The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) regional meeting, Honolulu, HI. (2015)

Keliipuleole, M. “The genetic connectivity of Hā‘uke‘uke.” Kapi‘olani Community College’s STEM Pa‘ina, Honolulu, HI. (2014).

Keliipuleole, M. “Identifying morphological differences among Hawaii’s shingle urchin, *Colobocentrotus atratus*, populations.” The Society for the Advancement of

Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) – Ilima Chapter Symposium, Honolulu, HI. (2014).

Keliipuleole, M. “Macroinvertebrate community composition vs. leaf litter type in a premontane tropical wet forest stream, Costa Rica.” Kapi‘olani Community College STEM Pa‘ina, Honolulu, HI. (2013).

Keliipuleole, M. “Macroinvertebrate community composition vs. leaf litter type in a premontane tropical wet forest stream.” Native American and Pacific Islander Research Experience (NAPIRE) Intern Presentations, Costa Rica. (2013).

Poster

Keliipuleole, M. “Studying the genetic connectivity of the culturally significant sea urchin, *Colobocentrotus atratus*.” Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education (CMORE) Scholars’ Research Symposium, Honolulu, HI. (2015)

Keliipuleole, M. “Studying the genetic connectivity of the culturally significant sea urchin, *Colobocentrotus atratus*, in Hawaii.” Posters on the Hill, Washington, DC. (2015)

Keliipuleole, M. “Studying the genetic connectivity of the culturally significant sea urchin, *Colobocentrotus atratus*, in Hawaii.” Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference in STEM, Washington, DC. (2015)

Keliipuleole, M. “Studying the genetic connectivity of the culturally significant sea urchin, *Colobocentrotus atratus*, in Hawaii.” The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) National Conference, Las Angeles, CA. (2014).

Fowler, R. and **Keliipuleole, M. (Presenter)**. “Ka pilina o nā hā‘uke‘uke: Identifying the differences in morphology of the shingle urchin, *Colobocentrotus atratus*, in Hawaii.” STEM Undergraduate Research Fair (SURF), Honolulu, HI. (2014).

Keliipuleole, M. “Uncovering the science behind the legend of Ka‘au Crater’s red spring. Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Conference, Honolulu, HI. (2013).

Keliipuleole, M. “Simulated ocean acidification effects on the *Calcinus laevimanus* hermit crab’s shell selection in Hawaii.” STEM Undergraduate Research Fair (SURF), Honolulu, HI. (2013).

Keliipuleole, M. “Macroinvertebrate community composition vs. leaf litter type in a premontane tropical wet forest stream.” The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) National Conference, San Antonio, TX. (2013).

Akiu, M., **Keliipuleole, M. (Presenter)**, Madrona, K., Watanabe, L. “Ulupo Heiau: It’s all in the water! An exploratory study of water quality.” Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Conference, Hilo, HI (2013).

Awards and Honors

‘Ōiwi Distinguished Scholars Award, Lāhui Hawai‘i Research Center-Native Hawaiian Student Services, UHM. (2019)

First Place in Genetics, Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference in STEM. (2015).

Best Undergraduate Student Poster in Genetics, The Society of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). (2014).

Outstanding Undergraduate Presentation, The Society of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)-Ilima Chapter Science Symposium, (2014).

Honorable Mention for Overall Best Poster, Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Conference. (2013).

Dean’s List honoree, from Kapi‘olani Community College while pursuing an AS in Life Science. (2013).