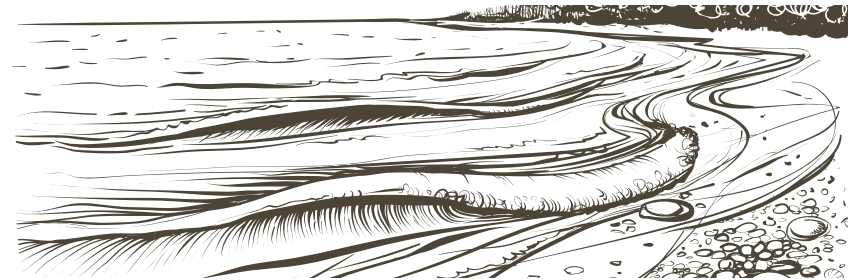




GES SYMPOSIUM FALL 2023



Friday, December 8, 2023

11:00 am - 12:00 pm HST

POST 127

Reception to follow in

POST 121



GES Symposium

GES students presenting at this symposium conducted faculty-mentored research, analyzed their results, and compiled their findings into a thesis format. Many theses are converted into peer-reviewed journal publications; a feat usually accomplished by students once in graduate school. The GES Symposium is a celebration and culmination of undergraduate research efforts and experiences, so join us in supporting, engaging, and applauding our presenters.

About the Program

The Department of Oceanography launched the undergraduate Global Environmental Science (GES) program in 1998 with the generous support of the Pauley Foundation. The vision and brainchild of Oceanography Emeritus Professor Dr. Fred Mackenzie, the GES program is known for its rigorous math and science foundation, integrated study of environmental- and sustainability-related issues, and faculty-mentored research experience requirement. This research experience results in every GES graduate having completed a faculty-mentored research project, written a thesis, and presented their research results in a public forum. As a result of the challenging curriculum and research experience requirement, GES graduates are well-prepared to enter the workforce in environmental science-related fields and industries or continue on to graduate studies in many different subjects in the sciences, social sciences, law, medicine, and engineering.

Contact

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Nicholas Nobuo Pōmaika'i Yos



Growing up as a homeschooler in Kailua, O'ahu, Nick never thought much about environmental science. However, he always loved science and cared deeply about the island he called home. A number of influences gradually led him down the path to GES, including Windward Community College's (WCC) PaCES Program, several inspiring courses taken while dual-enrolled at WCC, and participating in the National Ocean Science Bowl. After enrolling at UH Mānoa as a Chancellor's Scholar in 2019,

and following a brief stint as a biology major, Nick joined the GES program in Spring 2020. Throughout his time at UH Mānoa, he has maintained a consistent place on the Dean's List and has participated in a number of jobs, clubs, and internships, including positions with Kupu, Lyon Arboretum, Mālama Learning Center, the UHM KOKUA Program, GES Peers, SOEST Club, and a research fellowship with the Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center (PI-CASC). Through PI-CASC, Nick met his eventual thesis mentor Dr. Camilo Mora and began to explore the research that would eventually become his thesis. Upon graduating from GES, he hopes to give back to his home by using his degree to pursue a career in conservation on O'ahu.

Agenda

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| 11:00 | Opening Remarks |
| 11:05 | Nadia Einfalt
"Sea Level Rise Impacts and Adaptation on Yap Proper"
Mentors: Chip Fletcher and Juliette Budge ,
Climate Resilience Collaborative at the University
of Hawai'i at Mānoa |
| 11:25 | Keanu Rochette-Yu Tsuen
"Analysis of Environmental Parameters Correlating
with the Presence of <i>Leptospiraceae</i> in He'eia
Fishpond"
Mentor: Rosie Alegado , Oceanography |
| 11:45 | Nicholas Nobuo Pōmaika'i Yos
"Using Mānoa Lettuce (<i>Lactuca sativa</i>) to Study the
Effects of Climate Change on Plant Growth"
Mentor: Camilo Mora , Geography and
Environment |

Nadia Einfalt



Graduating from Nazareth High School in Pennsylvania in 2019, Nadia's journey led her unexpectedly to Hawai'i. Initially attending Northampton Community College, her love for the outdoors and interest in climate change drew her to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) as a GES student. Due to COVID-19, her first semesters as a GES student were atypical, and the transition to living in a new place was not always easy. Fortunately, she found a supportive community at the Climate Resilience

Collaborative. Under the mentorship of Dr. Charles Fletcher and Dr. Juliette Budge, she refined her research focus to sea-level rise, acquired essential professional skills, and learned a tremendous amount from fellow researchers. Completing her geographic information system certification with Dr. Suwan Shen further enriched her academic journey. A highlight during Nadia's time at the UHM was her conservation trip to Molokai, organized by the YMCA Atherton program, where Nadia actively applied her environmental knowledge, fostered deep connections with like-minded peers and mentors, and created lifelong memories. As she prepares to begin her professional career, Nadia aspires to contribute to the fields of environmental consulting or geographic information systems.

Keanu Rochette-Yu Tsuen



Keanu was raised on the island of Tahiti in French Polynesia and started his college journey at Kapi'olani Community College with a strong interest in biology and ecology. Interested in research, he started his own projects under the mentorship of Prof. Mike Ross, Dr. John Berestecky, and Dr. Wendy Kuntz who gave him the confidence to pursue a Bachelor's in Global Environmental Science at UH Mānoa. Keanu's natural curiosity led him to partake in internships with notable institutions

such as the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, the Smithsonian Institute of Conservation Biology and the National Institute of Health through which he gained experience in diverse fields of study. His work has been recognized and awarded at national conferences and led up to a first-authored publication. Keanu was also a recipient of the prestigious Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through which he worked at one of the National Estuarine Research Reserve in Huron, OH. Throughout his time at UH Mānoa, Keanu worked with Dr. Rosie Alegado whose community-focused work has motivated him to address environmental challenges that exist in his own community in Tahiti. Interested in research on marine ecosystems, Keanu will be pursuing a Master's in Oceanography at UH Mānoa under the supervision of Dr. Craig Nelson, focusing on the biogeochemistry of coral reefs of Tahiti and Mo'orea.