Kimberly Burnett, Ph.D. | College of Social Sciences
Kimberly Burnett is a Research Economist with the University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization (UHERO). Her primary research interests include environmental and natural resource economics, invasive species management, and watershed management, particularly for Hawai‘i and the Pacific. Kimberly's publications and extramural grants have focused on management of the invasive Miconia tree in Hawai‘i and Tahiti, optimal prevention and control of the brown tree snake, damage valuation for the noisy coqui frog, ecosystem service valuation, system approaches to terrestrial, water, and marine ecosystems, and zoning policies for the preservation of priority agricultural lands.

David M. Karl, Ph.D. | School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
Dave Karl is the founder of the Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education (CMORE) at SOEST. He has focused his research on the ecological role of microorganisms in the oceans, ranging from the sunlit surface waters to the deep abyss. Dave is known for his groundbreaking efforts to promote collaborations among the previously separate disciplines of oceanography, microbiology, ecology and genomics to better understand the sea, including its potential response to environmental variability and climate change. He was the co-leader of the Hawai‘i Ocean Time-Series, one of the longest running and most successful biogeochemistry time-series studies ever conducted. He is a Moore Fellow and one of the leaders in the application of novel molecular approaches to understanding microbial biodiversity and ecosystem function. Karl has received numerous honors including membership in the National Academy of Science (2006), Fellow of the American Association of Microbiology (2006), a White House Presidential Young Investigator Award (1984), and the G.E. Hutchinson (1998), A.G. Huntsman (2001) and H.B. Bigelow (2004) medals for his scientific contributions. In 2010, Dave was selected as the lead coordinating author of a new chapter on ocean systems for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Assessment Report, which will include emerging science related to ocean energy extraction. He is also leading a science-based examination identifying potential environmental effects of implementing a district-wide sea water air-conditioning (SWAC) system for Waikīkī, with emphasis on microbial oceanography, biogeochemical cycling (e.g., CO₂ exchange), and ecology.

Jonathan Kamakawiwoʻole Osorio, Ph.D. | Hawaiʻinuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge
Jon Osorio has devoted his life to becoming an expert on Hawai‘i’s politics and history, music and identity, and indigenous civil rights and social justice. A full professor at and former Director of the Kamakakokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, Dr. Osorio has developed and taught classes in history, law as culture, music as historical texts, and indigenous research methodologies. He helped design the Master of Arts degree in Hawaiian studies, and assisted in creating a new School of Hawaiian Knowledge. Dr. Osorio is a husband and father enthusiastically involved in family activities. A recipient of the 2010 Robert W. Clopton Award for Distinguished Community Service, his love for mankind and boundless energy for change is evident in his philosophies regarding peace, environmentalism, and the protection of Hawaiian culture. His visionary goal is that the Hawaiian sovereignty movement will ultimately produce a nation and government devoted to peace and disarmament, careful management of our lands and waters, and protective of the cultural diversity that has defined Hawai‘i.

Daniel M. Spencer, Ph.D. | School of Travel Industry Management
Dan Spencer is an Associate Professor in the School of Travel Industry Management at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Previously, he served as an Associate Professor of Tourism and Hospitality Management at Black Hills State University for four years. Prior to holding that position, he worked 17 years in tourism research and outreach--15 years with the Travel, Tourism, and Recreation Resource Center at Michigan State University and two years with the Center for Tourism Research at Black Hills State University. During this period he conducted a wide range of research and outreach projects and worked extensively with the tourism industry as a university-based consultant. Dr. Spencer’s expertise and interests are in the areas of tourism planning, policy, management, research, and outreach. He holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in outdoor recreation and tourism planning and marketing from Michigan State University, with minors in Geography at both levels. In 1995 he received a State Award of Meritorious Service from Epsilon Sigma Phi, the national honorary fraternity of Extension professionals, for “…significantly contributing to the orderly development of Michigan's tourism industry by creating and disseminating information needed for sound investment, planning, and marketing decisions."