

Donald K. Price

Donald K. Price is a Professor in the School of Life Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and an internationally recognized evolutionary biologist whose research examines the mechanisms underlying adaptation, diversification, and the persistence of biodiversity in island systems. His work has focused extensively on Hawaiian and Pacific taxa including endemic Hawaiian *Drosophila* and other native species using integrated behavioral, genetic, microbial, physiological, and environmental approaches to understand evolutionary processes and ecological resilience. His research has been supported continuously by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and other federal and private agencies.

Dr. Price brings more than two decades of academic leadership experience to his candidacy for Director of the Pacific Biosciences Research Center. He previously served as Director of the School of Life Sciences at UNLV, where he led a large interdisciplinary unit encompassing molecular biology, microbiology, ecology and evolution, physiology, and quantitative biology. In this role, he oversaw faculty recruitment, strategic planning, research infrastructure development, and student success initiatives, while managing multi-million-dollar operating and research budgets.

In Hawai‘i, Dr. Price was the Founding Director of the Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science (TCBES) Graduate Program at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, a highly interdisciplinary program linking multiple departments and state and federal agencies. He also served as Co-Project Director of Hawai‘i’s NSF Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), helping integrate research efforts across UH Mānoa, UH Hilo, and the UH Community Colleges and establishing core facilities in genomics, analytical chemistry and geospatial research.

Throughout his career, Dr. Price has emphasized collaborative leadership, inclusive training, and community-engaged science. He has mentored more than 100 students and postdoctoral researchers and has led multiple programs that broaden participation in STEM, particularly among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students. His leadership vision focuses on strengthening interdisciplinary research, supporting faculty and student success, and advancing integrative biosciences that serve Hawai‘i, the Pacific region, and the broader scientific community.