WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

Education Program Presents

*Lalavaology: The Tongan Art and Technology of Lashing*

Sopolemala Filipe Tohi, Tongan-New Zealand Artist in interview with Dr. Vilsoni Hereniko, Director and Professor of Center of Pacific Island Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Wednesday, April 14, 2010
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Keoni Auditorium, Imin International Conference Center

Sopolemala Filipe Tohi was born in Tonga and immigrated to Aotearoa New Zealand in 1978. His work explores the patterns and history of the ancient Pacific Island art form of lalava (lashing) that was used to build houses, canoes, and tools. His experiences as a Tufunga Lalava (a master craftsman of lashing) give him a unique background from which to transform the technology of the past into a modern representation of identity and experience.

Tohi will present images from various aspects of his practice including practice including contemporary abstraction as well as those which reflect traditional Tongan cultural heritage. After 20 minutes of this presentation, he will be interviewed by Dr. Vilsoni Hereniko. During this time, Tohi will discuss, among other things, his life in Tonga and Aotearoa New Zealand, the process of creating art and his views on contemporary issues in the Pacific.

Sopolemala Filipe Tohi is a leading contemporary Pacific Island artist and has exhibited in museums around the Pacific, Asia, US, and Europe. He is currently artist-in-resident at University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, sponsored by Intersections, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, and Pasifika Foundation Hawai‘i. Dr. Vilsoni Hereniko is from Rotuma in the South Pacific. He is the Director of the Center for Pacific Islands Studies as well as a professor, playwright, and filmmaker. He teaches courses on Pacific Islands literature, theater, film, and the arts and cultures of the Pacific.

Refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cup. The community is welcome to attend this lecture.