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## WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

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*Education Program Presents*

### **China's Muslim Mosaic: Challenges of Islamic Diversity**

James D. Frankel, PhD

Assistant Professor; Undergraduate Advisor; Director, Certificate in Islamic Studies  
Department of Religion, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Wednesday, February 23, 2011

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Keoni Auditorium, Imin International Conference Center

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Professor James D. Frankel will discuss the roots of China's diverse Muslim population. Islam probably first arrived in China in the 8th century, not long after birth of the religion in Arabia, brought by merchants and mercenaries. Subsequently, various groups of Muslims entered China in different historical epochs, arriving by different routes and for different reasons. The Muslim population of China today traces its roots to two main historical phenomena: immigration of Muslims to and their subsequent naturalization in China; and the absorption of Central Asian Muslim populations due to imperial expansion and annexation of majority Muslim regions. Immigration and naturalization produced the ethnic Chinese Hui population, whereas territorial expansion and annexation accounts for the inclusion of non-Chinese Muslim nationalities, chief among them the Uyghurs, within the borders of China. Depending on where these Muslims have lived, and when they arrived, different degrees and combinations of both "Muslimness" and "Chineseness", including varying expressions of Islamic religiosity, have resulted in the tremendous diversity we find among the Muslims of China today.

James D. Frankel holds a Bachelor's degree in East Asian Studies and a doctorate in Religion from Columbia University. As a member of the faculty of Religion at UH Mānoa, Dr. Frankel teaches courses in Islam, comparative religion, and mysticism. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Center for Chinese Studies and is director of the Certificate in Islamic Studies. He has lived in China and has traveled extensively in Asia and Europe, where his research has included work with scholars and religious leaders of Muslim minority communities. Dr. Frankel's forthcoming first book, *Rectifying God's Name: Liu Zhi's Confucian Translation of Monotheism and Islamic Law* (UH Press) examines Chinese Islamic scholarship and literature of the early Qing (1644-1911) period.

**The public is invited to attend.**

**Refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cup, plate/bowl and utensil.**

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