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## WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

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*Education Program Presents*

# **It's Our Destiny To Set The Waters Free: Indigenous Education and Settler Colonial Schooling**

Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua  
Associate Professor, Political Science, UH Mānoa

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Wednesday, October 23, 2013

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Keoni Auditorium, Imin International Conference Center

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Under a settler state system made possible through the seizure of Hawaiian national lands and institutions a century earlier, 21<sup>st</sup> century Hawaiian charter school operators articulate pedagogies of survivance and self-determination while limited by contemporary structures of settler colonialism, such as the *No Child Left Behind* law. What struggles emerge when teaching Indigenous cultural knowledges within institutions built to marginalize and displace them? What educational possibilities are produced when teachers and students try to reside in and learn from these tensions rather than ignoring or attempting to transcend them? How do Indigenous people use schooling to maintain and transform a collective sense of purpose and interconnection—of nationhood—in the face of forces of imperialism and settler colonialism? What roles do identity and land play in these processes? This presentation mobilizes both the metaphor and the material reality of diverting water and wealth away from Indigenous systems and toward settler colonial ones. It also offers visions and possibilities for contemporary educators to restore pathways of cultural knowledge transmission against imperialism, emphasizing the need to rebuild the Indigenous structures that channel resources toward more just, sustainable, and 'āina-centric ways of life.

Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua is an associate professor of Indigenous and Hawaiian politics in the Department of Political Science at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Noelani is a Kanaka 'Ōiwi who was born and raised in Hawai'i. The ethics and practices of aloha 'āina guide her academic and community work, as she seeks to document, analyze and proliferate the ways people are transforming imperial and settler colonial relations through Indigenous political values and initiatives. For example, her research has focused on the politics of designing and implementing Indigenous culture- and land-based educational initiatives within and against settler state structures. Her book, *The Seeds We Planted: Portraits of a Native Hawaiian Charter School* (University of Minnesota Press, 2013), discusses some of these tensions and the ways educators and students navigate them. Her second book, *Ea: Hawaiian Movements for Life, Land and Sovereignty* (Duke University Press, forthcoming), is an edited collection that explores late-20th and early 21st century Hawaiian organizing for justice and self-determination.

**To help make WES a sustainable gathering, please bring your own cup for a hot beverage and small plate for light refreshments. The public is invited to attend.**