E Mālama Manaʻe: An Emerging Model for Collaborative Governance with the Aha Kiole o Molokai – Manaʻe Moku for a Watershed Management Project from Mauka to Makai

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6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Keoni Auditorium, Imin International Conference Center

The people of Manaʻe on the island of Molokai are working with large private landowners, the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, and The Nature Conservancy to develop a first-of-its-kind ahupuaʻa-based watershed management partnership. Ultimately the watershed management partnership will integrate community access and the development of a Hawaiian traditional resource management plan mauka a makai (from mountain to sea) along with conventional conservation strategies such as fencing to keep out ungulates, removing invasive species, and reforesting with native plants. Professor Akutagawa and her law students interviewed and documented traditional and customary subsistence practices of key kamaʻāina informants living in Manaʻe who hunt, fish, and gather within their respective ahupuaʻa and solicited their input on what areas are critical for subsistence and access to natural and cultural resources. They also gathered input on traditional management strategies for the watershed and the thirty-seven ahupuaʻa of Manaʻe. They provided a legal analysis of the various constitutional and statutory laws that protect Hawaiian customary rights as they relate directly to traditional subsistence and mālama (care and management) practices of the people of Manaʻe. Their legal analysis and the information collected from cultural informants will be incorporated into the overall ahupuaʻa-based management plan for Manaʻe. Professor Akutagawa will present some of the findings and recommendations that came out of that work.

Malia Akutagawa was born and raised on Molokai. She is an attorney and Assistant Professor of Law with both the William S. Richardson School of Law, Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law and the Hawaiʻinuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa. She is part of Hui ʻĀina Momona, a consortium of scholars throughout the university community charged with addressing compelling issues of indigenous Hawaiian knowledge and practices, including the legal regime and Native Hawaiian rights associated with mālama ʻāina, and with focus on cross-disciplinary solutions to natural and cultural resource management, sustainability, and food security. Malia is a founder and former President of Sust ʻāina ble Molokai, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that focuses on maintaining Molokai’s cultural legacy of ʻāina momona (abundant land) while embracing modern pathways to a sustainable future.

We are firm believers in food-based learning. Excellent refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cup, plate/bowl and utensil. The public is invited to attend.