Maybe we are chasing the wrong goals? It feels as though our biggest economic, environmental, and social problems are lacking viable solutions. Furthermore, the mainstreams of progressivism and conservatism seem not quite right for the times and for the tasks at hand. In this Wednesday Evening Seminar, drawing from the history of Hawaii and present day experiences, we will look at the political economy through different lenses and discuss the resulting institutional and personal barriers to social change. In particular we will look at the societal focus on economic growth, and the individual focus on material wealth. We will then consider the prospects for an Island-based political philosophy to refocus us on goals that might help us get to a future of shared and lasting prosperity.

Andrew Aoki co-founded the public interest research and consulting firm 3Point in 2002 (www.3pointconsulting.com). Andrew returned to 3Point in 2012 after three years serving the Governor of Hawai‘i, Neil Abercrombie, first as Deputy Campaign Manager, where he was one of the chief architects of the successful gubernatorial campaign, and later as Deputy Chief of Staff, where he helped set and implement public policy for the state. Andrew previously served as the first executive director of Kanu Hawai‘i (www.kanuhawaii.org). He has worked in various leadership capacities in the fields of youth development, healthcare, philanthropy, community based economic development, and other areas of the public interest. He has a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from Stanford University, a Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School, and a Master of Public Policy specializing in economic development, social policy, and state government from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He grew up in Moanalua Valley and now lives in Windward O‘ahu with his wife and two children.

Refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cup, plate/bowl and utensil. The public is invited to attend. Check out our WES blog - http://mywes.info/