Bob Agres has worked in the fields of community-based economic development and asset development for the past 20 years to help generate opportunities for Hawai‘i families and communities to increase their social and economic well being and resilience. He previously served as the Executive Director of the Hawai‘i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development for 13 years, Maui County’s Director of Housing & Human Concerns, the City & County of Honolulu's Director of Housing & Community Development, and Coordinator for the State CBED Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism. Agres was a founding board member of the Nonprofit Information Networking Association that publishes The Nonprofit Quarterly; served two terms as a Peace Corps volunteer in Swaziland, Africa, and currently teaches graduate courses at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Department of Urban & Regional Planning.

Community-based economic development (CBED) is a process by which communities can generate their own solutions to their common economic problems and, thereby, build their long term capacity to address social, economic, and environmental concerns. It brings community vision together with the requirements of feasibility. This seminar will be a “talk story session” about CBED in Hawai‘i – its history and context, lessons learned, and potential implications for communities elsewhere.

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