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**Performing Arts and Island Societies: Beyond State, Nation, and Empire**

Panel Overview

Present-day discussions of “cross-cultural” phenomena are usually *de facto* conversations about contemporary nation-states, a prevailing practice at the East-West Center as well. In the Twenty-first Century we should revisit this *de facto* assumption, given recent events in various parts of the world—western China, eastern Ukraine, southern Japan, and eastern Indonesia, to name a few. Appropriate to the location of the 2014 conference and the island orientation of Hawai'i itself, this panel looks at island locations and the performing arts they generate. Further it explores possibilities of identifying shared features in the performing arts that extend beyond present and past political boundaries and suggests that some such features might be directly related to a physical island environment.