Knowledge, Technology, and Transnationality: Re-thinking Hawaii-Okinawa Relations in the Cold War and Post-Cold War Asia-Pacific Contexts

'Helping Others Help Themselves': Okinawa, Hawaii and Cold War International Technical Interchanges
Mire KOIKARI (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

Collaboration of University of Hawaii and Okinawa Prefectural Chubu Hospital: Its History and Development in Past, Present, and Future
Masao MAESHIRO (ハワイ大学卒後臨床研修プログラム)

Okinawan Studies at the University of Hawaii
Bob HUEY (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

Chair: Mire KOIKARI (University of Hawaii at Manoa)
Discussant: Masahide ISHIHARA (University of the Ryukyus)

Okinawa and Hawaii, two island communities situated in the Pacific, share more than a few similarities. Initially independent kingdoms, both have experienced war, colonization, and occupation which have impacted local cultures and populations in negative and often violent manners. At the same time, Okinawa and Hawaii have never been passive recipients of these dynamics. Responding to external forces in diverse, ingenious, and occasionally unpredictable manners, islands populations have sometimes embraced and other times resisted foreign presence, indicating their agency as dynamic historical actors. Similarities between Okinawa and Hawaii become even more heightened as we turn our eyes to the history of diaspora where populations have moved back and forth between the two islands, leading to countless occasions for cultural exchanges and collaborations under the shadow of their colonial masters (Japan and the US). In more ways than one, Okinawa and Hawaii have been bound with each other, sharing common memories and practices and creating a unique historical relation.

The panel, "Knowledge, Technology, and Transnationality: Re-thinking Hawaii-Okinawa Relations in the Cold War and Post-Cold War Asia-Pacific Contexts," sheds light on the long-standing relation between Hawaii and Okinawa by examining transnational dynamics of knowledge and technological exchanges and interchanges that have developed since the end of WWII. Interdisciplinary in its nature (Gender Studies, Japanese Studies, and Medicine), the panel not only provides historical and political analysis of the subject matter; it also offers insights and reflections of those who have directly participated in transnational dynamics involving the two island communities.