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Features

Mellon-Hawaii fellows named

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Two Big Island scholars have been selected as 2010 Mellon-Hawaii Doctoral Fellows in recognition of their commitment to the advancement of scholarship on Hawaiian cultural and natural environments, Hawaiian language, history, politics and society.

Hiapokeikikane Kichie Perreira, assistant professor of Hawaiian at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and Noe Noe Wong-Wilson, Native Hawaiian student success coordinator at Hawaii Community College, are among five Native Hawaiians who will receive financial support and the opportunity to complete doctoral dissertations or publish research.

Perreira is a doctoral candidate in the Hawaiian and Indigenous Language and Culture Revitalization program at UH-Hilo.

Wong-Wilson is earning her doctorate in the School of Maori and Pacific Development at the University of Waikato in New Zealand.

Also receiving fellowships are former UH-Hilo scholar Keao NeSmith, doctoral candidate in applied linguistics at the University of Waikato; Leilani Basham, UH-Manoa, and Noelani Goodyear-Ka'opua, University of California, Santa Cruz.

"Our knowledge of Hawaiian history and culture is shifting radically because of the rigorous work of these talented scholars and because they operate from an indigenous point of view," said Matt Hamabata, executive director of The Kohala Center, which created the program in collaboration with The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Kamehameha Schools.

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