

The work that goes on in our Archives & Reading Room is integral to Hawaiian Mission Houses. We are particularly excited about the new groundbreaking “HEA Project” that is currently under way.

The HEA Project History:

Our library holds and cares for a large amount of Hawaiian language archival material produced by the Hawaiian Evangelical Association (HEA) in the 19th and early 20th century. The records in the collection include births, marriages and attendance lists from parishes throughout Hawai‘i and the greater Pacific, and letters between ministers and members of the HEA that document the general business of the churches in the association. Thanks to grant support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in 2018, the Hawaiian Mission Childrens Society (HMCS) library has digitized large parts of this collection to make it freely accessible via our Digital Collection (click [HERE](#)). A large undertaking has been scanning, organizing and developing a digital repository for the 1140+ folders of letters in the collection which are organized by writer. The writers include prominent historical individuals within the HEA, such as minister and composer, Rev. Lorenzo Lyons and orator and author. Rev. Stephen Desha. By 2019, the majority of the HEA Name Files were scanned, resulting in a 5,000+ page digital resource. Presently the HEA Project team is exploring methods to increase ease of accessibility to the material. To see the current finding aid click [HERE](#), but please check back as we continue to improve navigation in this collection!

Our Recent Progress:

In 2020, Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives received a Native Hawaiian Library Services grant from IMLS to pursue this vision. The purpose of the new phase of the HEA Project is to organize and transcribe the previously digitized manuscripts and make the sources along with the transcriptions accessible to a wider audience.

The current goals require consultation from library field experts, and we are so fortunate to have Kanaka Maoli (Hawaiian) career archivists Kanani Reppun and Carol Silva advising the organization process and development of the new and improved finding aid.

Kanaka Maoli Historian, Dr. Noelani Arista has trained a team of transcribers, and oversees the editorial team on this project which places indigenous knowledge, intellectual and spiritual structures, and epistemologies at the center of its work. The project team which includes graduate and undergraduate students will assist the librarians with compiling biographical information on the writers, as well as useful information for the finding aid. The project respectfully approaches the writers who wrote the documents, and recognizes the place and people who continue to hold these documents in their care. The project team is motivated by the conviction that the work we do at the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives is relational, dependent upon the maintenance of proper conduct and behavior. This ethos includes care for the place we work from, for ourselves, members of the project team, and the ‘ike that is held within the documents that we work with.

Here is the team spearheading this project, and the work they contribute, so you can follow along as it progresses:

Hawaiian Historian and Academic Lead



Dr. Noelani Arista, an Associate Professor of History at the University of Hawai'i, specializing in history of Hawai'i and US, will draw upon a trove of Hawaiian language documents which reconfigures familiar colonial histories of trade, proselytization, and negotiations over law and governance in Hawai'i, but more importantly, discusses how research from Hawaiian language archives disrupts the current narrative. Her new book *The Kingdom and Republic: Sovereign Hawai'i and the Early United States* explores the creation of narrative within the mission

period of 19th century Hawai'i.

Hawaiian Mission Houses members will recognize Dr. Arista as a featured scholar in our 2019 New England tour commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Pioneer Company of missionaries' departure. She shared her research through four Humanities Discussion Panels, sponsored by Mass Humanities and CT Humanities. We are grateful to have her continued research and guidance on the HEA Project.

Project Coordinator



Ami Mulligan, is a fifth year Ph.D. student in the Department of History at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. My research focuses on late 19th and early 20th century Hawaiian history, as well as studying race, gender, and empire in U.S. history as well as public history. I am a mom of two daughters (Keira and Lucy) who are my world.

This current IMLS project interests and excites me particularly at its intersection of Hawaiian history and public history. I am excited to be invited to participate in a project that is shaped, informed, and implemented by a joint effort between Kanaka Maoli and non-Kanaka Maoli collaborators that intends to present source material in a way that is accessible to a broad public. At the same time, this project directly impacts the ways that Hawaiian history can be understood. One important example is that this collection complicates the lines historically drawn between different groups - for example, Kanaka Maoli and missionary.

Mahalo to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for Native Hawaiian Library Resources and IMLS CARES Act grants supporting this work.