



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII*
MAUI COLLEGE

English Department

April 18, 2017

Ms. Joyce Yamada
Faculty and Staff Development Coordinator
University of Hawai'i Maui College
310 W. Ka'ahumanu Ave.,
Kahului, HI 96732

Aloha e Ms. Joyce Yamada:

I hope this correspondence finds you well. I am writing to you and to the Faculty and Staff Development Fund Committee to thank you for your generous support of my business travel. From March 15-18, I participated in the College Conference of Composition and Communication (CCCC) 2017, hosted by the National College Teachers of English (NCTE), in Portland, Oregon. I am excited to share with you what I presented on, some of what I learned, and how my participation in the conference has, and will continue to, benefit the University of Hawai'i Maui College students, faculty, and staff.

This year, the CCCC centered on "Cultivating Capacity, Creating Change," and my presentation, "Indigenous Narratives: Transforming Rhetoric and Resurgence," was part of a larger panel presentation titled, "Indigenous Narratives in Public Spaces: Reorienting Place-Based Composition." My research is focused specifically on how the spaces of composition and rhetoric must be available to Indigenous students and their personal, community, and cultural narratives in order to create positive political and rhetorical action.

At the conference, I was able to network with other scholars interested in decolonial teaching practices and with those interested in innovation within the fields of composition, rhetoric, and first-year writing. I also gleaned more knowledge on strategies for teaching online classes and indigenizing online spaces. So far, I have shared some of what I have learned in an English Departmental meeting where I shared my research and facilitated discussion on how some of the concepts I discussed are already applied, and can be further applied, in our English and first-year composition classes and curricula.

In terms of the way that the UH Maui College students, faculty, and staff can benefit, I have infused some of what I learned in my research and participation in the conference into my classroom activities. The classroom environment I work to cultivate, and that the students help to maintain, is one where their stories and voices are welcome, encouraged, and celebrated. As UH Maui College is an Indigenous-serving institution with a diverse student population, a sensitivity to cultural, place-based, and political issues in composition classes and beyond is vital to the success of our students and the longevity our college.

Mahalo for taking time to read my brief report, and I would be happy to address any further questions you may have.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Iolani Antonio'.

'Iolani Antonio, MA
Lecturer of English
University of Hawai'i Maui College