



## Waves of Change: Climate Change Tok Stori

This series of seminars and films is intended to prompt discussion of issues related to the topic of the Center for Pacific Islands Studies' conference *Waves of Change: Climate Change in the Pacific Islands and Implications for Hawai'i*.

Friday, 25 January, at 2:00pm, John A Burns Hall 3121/3125, EWC

### An Inventory of Climate Change and Its Impacts on Indigenous Communities: Sharing the Initial Stages of Adaptation Strategies Explored in Pacific Island States

**Joshua Cooper** (UH West O'ahu) with response from **Keitapu Maamaatuihutupu\*** (UPF)

**Joshua Cooper** teaches courses in environmental politics, climate justice, and land rights at the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu and organizes in partnership with indigenous peoples and small island states to influence international institutions and instruments to protect the natural resources and promote sustainable practices in world affairs.

Cooper attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Conference of Parties negotiations assisting indigenous peoples and states in the negotiation process. Cooper also participated in the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and is active in elaboration of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals process.

Cooper has recently been selected as a Climate Project Fellow with former Vice President Al Gore committing to provide community presentations around the planet focusing on reaching a global agreement to reduce carbon emissions to secure sustainable politics for future generations.

**Keitapu Maamaatuihutupu** is a lecturer in physical oceanography and meteorology at Université de la Polynésie Française, Punaauia, French Polynesia. He teaches oceanography, meteorology, physics, and mathematics. Keitapu was involved in sea level measurements as director of the geodetic observatory in Tahiti. His research focuses on ocean circulation and modeling related to fisheries. He was minister of Marine resource, agriculture and research from 2004 to 2008 and is currently a special adviser to the President of French Polynesia on fisheries and aquaculture.

\* *Keitapu Maamaatuihutupu will respond via video conference.*

#### *Waves of Change: Climate Change in the Pacific Islands and Implications for Hawai'i* – 4-6 April 2013

Pacific Island societies are vulnerable to climate change and are already experiencing its environmental, economic, social, and political impacts. As Islanders adapt to the changing climate, they encounter challenges to economic security and social welfare, while increased rates of outmigration have implications for culture and identity. Climate-related transformations also raise legal questions about human rights and sovereignty. While much of the discussion to date has focused on the effects of climate change on the Pacific Islands, there are also implications for countries that provide development assistance or receive migrants. Hawai'i, for example, is already home to significant numbers of islanders from other parts of the region. There is a need to understand the issues faced by these potential climate-change migrants and new host communities, and how they are engaging with this global phenomenon.

Photo: Kwajalein Atoll by Katie McGeehan

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