

## **Papahulihonua - Earth Dynamics and Observation a Native Hawaiian perspective**

**KU'ULEI HIGASHI KANAHELE**

Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation

Presenting Author: [tracyk@hawaii.edu](mailto:tracyk@hawaii.edu)

According to the Native Hawaiian creation chant, Kumulipo, line 1792, the study of Papahulihonua includes all aspects of the earth dynamics including ocean movements, surface and subterranean water, volcanism, mountains, valleys etc. Papahulihonua is the analysis of the recorded ancestral texts (chants), and the observation of the natural phenomenon that are described in these texts. This presentation will relate these texts that were recorded centuries ago to present day observations of natural phenomena.

Ku'ulei Kanahale, PhD, raised in the ahupua'a of Waipi'o, O'ahu, is a 1994 graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama. From 1997-2012, Ku'ulei trained as an 'Ā lapa with Hālau o Kekuhi, under the direction of Dr. Pualani Kanahale Kanaka'ole and Nālani Kanaka'ole. Ku'ulei is currently an assistant professor at Hawai'i Community College's Hawai'i Lifestyles program. Ku'ulei's research focus is Papahulihonua, the study of the earth sciences pertaining to the island environment of Hawai'i (geology, hydrology, petrology, oceanography, soil science, and volcanology). She has presented her research to native Hawaiian practitioners, educators, and various organizations, such as Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, the County of Hawai'i, and Google X.

