



Konia Freitas, was born and raised in Hawai'i on O'ahu island. She is a Specialist faculty member and currently serves as the Director of Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. As a Special Projects Coordinator, she works in the area of program planning, curriculum development, and program assessment and evaluation. For several years, she worked in the area of community engagement and engaged scholarship in the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge. Projects funded under the "Community Engagement" initiative linked education, research and practice together in ways that reinforced the fundamental importance of place, Hawaiian culture and philosophy. Her academic areas of interest span indigenous planning, Hawaiian-focused education and indigenous research methodology. She has professional land use planning experience and holds a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning. Her doctoral research examined the link between education to the necessity of land among Hawaiian-focused public charter schools.