

Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program for Vitalizing Brain Circulation
Trip Report, Hawai'i, March 2 to 7, 2012

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Trip dates: March 2 to 7, 2012

Destination: Hawai'i, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Trip report:

I visited the University of Hawai'i Manoa campus, where I met and spoke with the chair of the Linguistics Department, Professor Ken Rehg, about the present project and future academic exchange as well as educational research. Professor Rehg responded very favorably with regard to the possibility of hosting students and educational collaboration in the future.

There I met with Ms. Akari Konya, who was dispatched as part of this project, and discussed her plans to study at Hawai'i University, starting in December. Due to scheduling conflicts, I was unable to arrange a meeting with Dr. Christine Yano in the College of Social Sciences Department of Anthropology, who is schedule to host Ms. Konya.

I visited the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, where I was able to gain some valuable information regarding the Hawaiian history, culture, nature, and society. I instructed Ms. Konya on the geologic creation of the Hawaiian Islands as a result of the movement of hotspots, tectonic plates and volcanic activity in the Pacific. At the museum, I purchased various illustrated botanical encyclopedias, maps, and books on language. I visited Diamondhead State Monument with Ms. Konya and explained its various natural features. There is very poor soil progress on the steep slope of the volcano, which consist of lava and, as a consequence, are covered with grasses interspersed with leguminous shrubs.

I also visited the Polynesian Cultural Center with Ms. Konya. While I learned that each island and ethnic group had unique traditions and cultures, I was even more surprised by the commonality of the various groups. Although the islands of Tahiti, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand, and Hawai'i are quite distant from each other, people moved between these islands starting in ancient times using canoes. The result is that there is substantial similarity in the language, dance, and other cultural features of islands that are widely dispersed across the Pacific Ocean.

	Hawaiian	Tahiti	Maori
bird	manu	manu	manu
canoe	wa 'a	va 'a	waka
child	kamali 'i	tamari 'i	tamaiti
drink	inu	inu	inu
face	maka	mata	mata
fish	i 'a	i 'a	ika
fly	lele	rere	rere
hand	lima	rima	ringa
head	po 'o	ūpo 'o	ūpoko
house	hale	fare	whare
moon	malama	marama	marama
night	pō	pō	pō
person	kanaka	ta'ata	tangata
power	mana	mana	mana
rain	ua	ua	ua
ocean	moana	moana	moana
sickness	ma 'i	ma 'i	maki
skin	'ili	'iri	kiri
sky	lani	ra 'i	rangi
tooth	niho	niho	niho
turtle	honu	honu	honu
what?	aha	aha	aha
woman	wahine	vahine	wahine

Table 1. A comparison of Polynesian words. From *All About Hawaiian* (in Japanese) (Albert J. Schütz, 2011, Island Heritage Publishing, Hawai'i)



Photo 1. The Bishop Museum in Honolulu



Photo 2. The steep slopes of Oahu's Diamondhead Crater



Photo 3. Poor soil has formed on the hardened lava, which is covered with grasses interspersed with leguminous shrubs.



Photo 4. The sapling of an acacia species in the legume family



Photo 5. An example of a sailing vessel used in the past to cross the Pacific Ocean



Photo 6. An example of a large canoe used in the past to cross the Pacific Ocean