Abercrombie to address UH Hilo Fall Commencement

by Ken Hupp

Hawai‘i Congressman Neil Abercrombie delivers the keynote address at UH Hilo’s fall commencement, scheduled for Saturday, December 20, 9 a.m., at the UH Hilo New Gym.

A total of 184 students representing the College of Arts and Sciences (146), College of Business and Economics (21), College of Agriculture, Forestry & Natural Resource Management (14), and Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language (3) are candidates for various degrees or certificates.

The graduating class also features 15 graduate level students, including Katarina Edmonds, a Maori educator from New Zealand, who will become the first student to earn the Ph.D in Hawaiian and Indigenous Language and Culture Revitalization. Fourteen others will receive master’s degrees. “Katarina’s achievement provides powerful inspiration to Native communities worldwide who, like Maoris and Hawaiians, seek to revitalize our languages,” said Dr. Kalena Silva, director, Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language.”

Abercrombie was originally elected to serve out an unexpired term in the U.S. House of Representatives in a 1986 special election. He returned to Congress by winning election to a full term in 1990 and has been re-elected in every election since then. He ranks 41 among 236 House Democrats in seniority.


PRISM connects scientists with K-8 students and teachers

by Megan Lamson, Jackie Gaudioso, Nick DeBoer & Elizabeth Stacy

PRISM, or Partnerships for Reform through Investigative Science and Math, is building a learning community of students, educators, and scientists to provide Hawai‘i’s K-8 students with learning opportunities that exceed the usual classroom fare.

PRISM is a collaborative effort between the Hawai‘i Department of Education and UH Hilo’s Education Department and M.S. program in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science (TCBES). PRISM partners Hawai‘i Island teachers and TCBES graduate students to develop and implement inquiry- and standards-based, hands-on science curricula in K-8 classrooms. PRISM curricula, which to date focus on the life sciences, are developed to suit Hawai‘i’s...
He currently serves as Chairman of the Armed Services Committee’s Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces, which oversees the Air Force and Army. He is also a senior member of the House Natural Resources Committee, which has wide-ranging responsibilities over native people’s issues and our national parks, forests, wilderness areas, oceans, and the energy and mineral resources they contain.

Abercrombie has used his seniority in Congress to establish relationships on both sides of the aisle and secure congressional authorization for more than $3 billion in Hawai‘i military construction projects, millions more for transportation infrastructure, and support for Hawai‘i’s visitor industry. Through his chairmanship of the Air and Land Subcommittee and his membership on the powerful House Armed Services Committee, Abercrombie has secured more federal funding for a variety of military research and testing contracts in Hawai‘i that has helped to grow the local high technology and alternative energy industries and overall State economy.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Abercrombie earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Union College in Schenectady in 1959. He moved to Hawai‘i in 1959 and enrolled at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa where he earned a master’s degree in sociology and doctorate in American Studies.

Abercrombie was an early and key supporter of President-elect Barack Obama. His ties to Obama date back to his college days when he attended classes with and befriended Obama’s parents, Ann Dunham and Barack Obama, Sr. He is the only member of Congress to have met Obama when he was a child.

Tara Anderson, an English major on the writing track, pursuing a minor in marine science and a Marine Option Program certificate, is the student speaker. Born and raised in the small Alaska fishing town of Cordova, Anderson is a three-time member of the Dean’s list, is a prolific writer, and is a member of UH Hilo’s newly formed Freedom Equality Movement club.

Her commencement speech will focus on the capability and necessity for Hawai‘i to become sustainable and the responsibility of the graduating class to contribute to that effort.

For more information on Commencement, contact Judith Fox-Goldstein at X47555 or email commence@hawaii.edu. For special accommodations, contact Susan Shirachi at x30816 (V) or x33334 (TTY). Requests should be made at least 10 business days prior to the event.

(Editor’s note: Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)

PRISM

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unique natural and cultural environments and incorporate math, art, language arts, and technology. Infusion of traditional Hawaiian values, such as malama ka ‘aina, enhance curricula and lead to a greater understanding of scientific principles and their connections to traditional knowledge. Since the program’s inception in 2006, 18 TCBES graduate students have implemented PRISM curricula in 37 Big Island schools, reaching over 1,000 students.

PRISM’s success is made possible in large part to the connections the program is making with scientists from Hawai‘i’s federal, State, and nongovernmental agencies, many of whom are affiliate faculty in TCBES. These scientists are broadening the hands-on opportunities for students and teachers while demonstrating that scientists are real people with a range of backgrounds and interests. For example, PRISM helped to coordinate collaboration between the Waikoloa Middle School 6th grade and Dave Faucette of the Waikoloa Dry Forest Restoration Project. Faucette provided seeds of rare native species for the students to germinate and grow as part of their PRISM curriculum, and these plants were later out-planted in the Waikoloa restoration area. Across the island at Hilo Intermediate, 7th graders are connecting with scientists from UH Hilo’s CAFNRM, Hawai‘i Community College Forest Team, the USDA-Forest Service, Hawai‘i Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and the International Year of the Reef outreach program. These students are learning how to carry out a native plant restoration project at Carvalho Park in Hilo in cooperation with the County Department of Parks and Recreation. The koa seedlings used for restoration will be grown by 2nd graders at Hilo Union Elementary in exchange for native plant field guides created by the 7th graders.

PRISM’s partnerships allow access to extraordinary sites on the island as well as the development of place-based curricula.

PRISM - continued on page 3.
For example, PRISM is working with the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife to help make both Natural Area Reserves and conservation and restoration specialists more accessible to teachers and students. PRISM has worked with the Ka`u branch of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to allow 5th-grade students from Na`alehu Elementary to explore organisms along the nature loop trail within the TNC Ka`u Preserve, Kaiholena. In Hamakua, PRISM is working with Cheyenne Perry, a TCBES graduate student and the Research and Education Manager for the Hawai`i Experimental Tropical Forest (HETF), and Paula Dickey of Laupahoehoe School, to incorporate PRISM curricula into the growing relationship between HETF and the Laupahoehoe community. In a related effort, PRISM is launching a partnership with `Imi Pono no ka `Aina, a member of the Three Mountain Alliance that holds scientist-run workshops for K-12 teachers. PRISM is providing lesson plans and other resources for these workshops.

As PRISM continues to expand its education and outreach network throughout Hawai`i, we ask to help us further our goal of connecting students and scientists. Please send ideas to prism@hawaii.edu. For more information on the PRISM Program, visit: http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/affiliates/prism/. (Editor’s note: Megan Lamson, Jackie Gaudioso, Nick DeBoer and Elizabeth Stacy are PRISM Program participants.)

The Pacific Pre-Pharmacy Program at UH Hilo has the potential to influence the economy of the Pacific region, according to top administrators from the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI). CMI President Wilson Hess and Executive Vice President Margaret (Meg) Malmberg visited Hilo recently to find out more about future involvement with the pre-pharmacy program in the College of Pharmacy. “Sometimes it’s hard for people in the states to recognize the scale we work with in the Marshall Islands,” Hess said. “If this program can help even two or three students, it’s going to be a success as we prepare people to work in nursing and pharmacy and the allied healthcare field. That will have a significant impact on the national workforce.”

The pre-pharmacy program is designed to help students in the Pacific region who plan to apply to the College of Pharmacy. The program, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, expands UH Hilo’s existing pre-pharmacy program to meet the needs of rural areas of the Pacific that might not have access to formal training opportunities. Members from the program recently conducted a tour of the Western Pacific, including Saipan, Guam and Palau. Anthony Wright, co-investigator and chair of pharmaceutical sciences, said that, along with the Marshall Islands, the future participating institutions greeted them with enthusiasm.

“Our priority is in helping these partners produce candidates with a strong educational base that will carry them through their studies in Pharmacy,” said Wright, who is developing the curriculum with program director Susan Jarvi. “We plan to work in concert with their individual educational mission. CMI’s new math, science and nursing building are in perfect harmony with our goal to promote learning in those critical areas.”

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“Some of the transitional problems of our students have been that they haven’t had the exposure to the outside world, and this program takes the element of unknown out of what they’re doing,” Hess said. “UH Hilo is the institution of choice for our students and one of the reasons is the caring, supporting nature of the people here.”

The pre-pharmacy team plans to begin reviewing potential candidates by the first of the year with the hope that students will be entering the system by next summer.
John Pezzuto, Dean, College of Pharmacy, is the editor-in-chief of *Pharmaceutical Biology*, an international journal that focuses on natural products. Dan Brown, Professor, Anthropology, contributed to writing the cover legend for October’s publication, which featured Nina Etkin, UH Manoa.

Kalani Makekau-Whittaker, Associate Director, Kipuka Native Hawaiian Student Center, had his paper, “Uluakoa-A University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Project to Indigenize the Academy,” accepted for presentation at the 39th Annual National Indian Education Association Convention held in Seattle, WA in October. He also served as chair and discussant for the symposium, “The Uluakea Process – Applying a Hawai‘i–Based Perspective to University Education: Perspectives, Methodology, and Content,” held last month on O‘ahu at the Kamehameha Schools 2008 Research Conference on Native Hawaiian Well-Being. Presentations included Kerry Inglis, Assistant Professor, History, “Na Mo‘olelo Kakou (we are the stories we tell): placing Hawai‘i in world history,” Cheryl Ramos, Associate Professor, Psychology, “E Ho‘i i ka Piko (from periphery to center): Repositioning Culture in Community Psychology,” and Misaki Takabayashi, Assistant Professor, Marine Science, “Hawai‘i’s First Marine Scientists.”

Christopher Lu, Professor, Animal Science, presented a keynote address on “Organic Sheep and Goat Production” at the Chinese Sheep and Goat Association Annual Meeting in Shanxi, China. More than 600 members from more than 20 provinces and regions in China attended the meeting, which is sanctioned by the Ministry of Agriculture. Additionally, Lu was invited by Sichuan Agricultural University and presented “Future of Higher Education in Food and Agriculture” to administrators, faculty and students in Ya‘an, Sichuan, China.

Randy Hirokawa, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, recently delivered the keynote address at the 2008 Communication Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the University of Washington. Hirokawa, a 2006 inductee, spoke about the crucial role that alumni play in 21st century universities.

Misaki Takabayashi, Assistant Professor, Marine Science, was awarded a $140,000 NOAA grant via the Hawai‘i Sea Grant for a study on “Skeletal Growth Anomalies in Corals of genus Montipora: Physiological and Ecological Consequences and Correlations with Water Quality.” The study builds on data that she has been collecting with UH Hilo undergraduates in collaboration with Keaholaloa STEM and Islands of Opportunities Alliance – LSAMP internship programs.

Barbara Leonard, Associate Professor, Accounting, recently co-authored with Emmeline de Pillis, Professor, Management, a paper on “Aligning Admissions Standards with Graduation and Retention Goals: A Case Study from the University of Hawai‘i,” which was published in *The International Journal of Learning*, Common Ground Publishing, Vol. 15, No. 6, Sept 2008. The paper investigates the difficulty of meeting the UH System strategic goals while also trying to grow admission at UH Hilo. Leonard also co-authored with
Mark Segal and Bruce Bird a paper on “Tax Consequences of Home Sales and Foreclosures: Making the Best of a Bad Situation,” which was published in The CPA Journal in September. The paper discusses the tax implications of the recent Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007.

Wayne Miyamoto, Professor, Art, served on the jury panel for the 2009 Schaeffer Portrait Challenge sponsored by the Maui Arts and Cultural Center in Kahului. Also, his work was included in the First International Print Exhibition at the Yunnan Museum in Kunming, China in September. An international jury selected 179 pieces from more than 1,800 works by artists representing 45 countries. Miyamoto’s work in the exhibition was supported in part by a UH Hilo-RC Research Relations grant.

William Mautz, Professor, Biology, and colleagues have “A Piece-Wise Review Linear Model of Sound Pressure Level of Male Eleutherodactylus coqui Overnight Chorus,” in press in the journal Herpetological Review. The research paper is written by F.L. Benevides, W.J. Mautz, and M. Warrington, a recent graduate of UH Hilo’s Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science graduate program.


Harald Barkhoff, Associate Professor, Kinesiology and Exercise Sciences, had his paper on “Kinesiology and Exercise Sciences at University of Hawai‘i at Hilo” published in Ze-phir – Going Global: International Opportunities for Young Sport Scientists. He also accepted invitations to serve as reviewer for Athletic Insight and Journal of Applied Sport Psychology.


Hawaiian students aspire and achieve at high levels when education goals, practices and outcomes reflect those of the Hawaiian students, their families and the Hawaiian community. The education model described in the book is demonstrated through UH Hilo’s Na Pua No’eau.

Helen Wong Smith, Librarian, has been selected by the federal agency Institute of Museum and Library Services as a field reviewer for its American Heritage Preservation Grants. Reviewers are selected based on their professional experience in museums, libraries and archives, in addition to their strong understanding of conservation or collection care of objects in these institutions.

Todd Belt, Associate Professor, Political Science, had his paper, “Explaining Homeless Use of Social Services: Beyond Economy and Efficiency,” accepted for presentation at the 2009 Western Political Science Association Conference. The paper was co-authored with UH Hilo student Jason Trimble.

Ellen Kusano, Director, Campus Center and Student Activities, received the 2008 Don and Noel Hinde Distinguished Service award for the Western U.S. and Pacific region. The award recognizes longtime student union and student activities professionals who have made exceptional contributions to their organizations. The award was presented at the Region 15 conference of the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) in Las Vegas, NV last month.

Focus on UH Hilo takes an in-depth look at student activities and the University’s service learning program during the show’s December telecast. The show is hosted by Chancellor Rose Tseng and airs Wednesday evening during the instructional year from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Channel 55.

Campus Center Director Ellen Kusano will appear along with Assistant Director and Service Learning Program Coordinator Talaite Petrowski on the December 3rd program, which will be the final show for the fall semester. Kusano and Petrowski will discuss various programs and services which help students develop life skills, including leadership, team work, organization, communication and time management.

Focus on UH Hilo highlights UH Hilo programs, up and coming developments and the University’s partnerships with various community organizations. Anyone interested in participating in the program should contact UH Hilo’s marketing and alumni office at x47501 or x47643.

Chancellor Rose Tseng cordially invites you and your family to the

Annual

Holiday Celebration

Thursday, December 11, 2008
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Campus Center Dining Room

Please help us give back to the community by bringing a canned good donation for the Hawai’i Island Food Bank

For information call 974-7444
North Hawai‘i residents examine historic photos at the North Hawai‘i Education & Research Center at last month’s Fall Family Festival in Honoka‘a. Over 450 people attended the event that raised over $4,000 for spring 2009 scholarships, which will assist UH Hilo students who live in North Hawai‘i and attend classes at NHERC.

Sodexo held its Annual October Food Festival on the Campus Center Plaza for faculty, staff, and students to introduce new products, offer free samples, and solicit feedback on what people like and dislike. The event was co-sponsored by SAC and also offered a poke contest, chili pepper contest, brain freeze contest, and doughnut eating contest, pictured above. “All in all it’s a time when we get together and give back to our UH Hilo community and enjoy ourselves,” noted Sodexo General Manager Bridget Awong.

**Carolighting!**

The UH Hilo Performing Arts Department presents the UH Hilo Orchestra and combined choruses in the 2008 Holiday Concert, *Carolighting!,* conducted by Maestro Ken Staton on Saturday, December 13 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 14, at 2:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

This annual holiday tradition begins with *Karolju* by Christopher Rouse, featuring the University Showcase Singers and the UH Hilo Orchestra. The second half of the concert features the UH Hilo Orchestra playing Robert Wendel’s *Little Bolero Boy,* a hybrid of Ravel’s *Bolero* with the familiar song by Henry Onorati, as well as a medley of Hanukkah songs. The University Chorus, the Showcase Singers and the Hilo Community Chorus will also sing favorites from John Rutter’s popular collection, *Joy to the World,* as well as arrangements by Hilo’s Rodney Wong and a joyous holiday sing-along.

Tickets are reserved seating and are $12 general, $10 discount and $7 UH students/children. Box Office hours are Monday – Friday, 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on school days. Call 974-7310 or order online at [http://artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu](http://artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu).

*Ka Lono Hanakahiai* is published by the Office of University Relations on the first of the month during the academic year for faculty and staff of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. News and submissions are welcome. Deadlines are on the fifteenth of each month for the following first of the month publication. Contact Alyson Kakugawa-Leong, Director of Media Relations, Beaumont Cottage, (808) 974-7642 or email alyson@hawaii.edu.
Campus Events

December

1  Graduate thesis to Library and Office of the Registrar deadline
   Last day to apply for spring 2009 classified admission

3  Focus on UH Hilo, 8 p.m., Channel 55

10, 11  Great Leaps Dance Concert, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission

11  Last day of instruction
   Chancellor’s Annual Holiday Celebration, 3 p.m., CC Dining Room
   Last day to completely withdraw from all classes with a “W”

13  Caroling!, 8 p.m., PAC, Admission

14  Caroling!, 2 p.m., PAC, Admission

15-19  Final examinations

19  Last day to submit Change of Major form to the Office of the Registrar
   Fall semester ends

20  Commencement, 9 a.m., New Gym

22  Final grades due in MyUH portal, Noon