INTRODUCTION

The University of Hawaii at Hilo (UH Hilo) enrolls high percentages of Pacific Islanders (not including Hawaiian/part-Hawaiian) in the entire ten-campus University of Hawaii state system. In the Fall of 2012, 214 Pacific Islander students enrolled at UH Hilo, comprising about 6% of the total student body (Fall 2013 = 226). Pacific Islanders include a diverse number of ethnic groups that share ancestral origins to common geographic locations such as Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia. The majority of Pacific Islander students at UH Hilo are Samoan (from American Samoa) or Micronesian.

The Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) Grant is a five year federally funded award to develop and implement a comprehensive and culturally informed student support program. Focused grant activities are designed to enhance learning, engagement, retention and success of Pacific Islander students at UH Hilo. More specifically, the grant is aimed at facilitating the success of Pacific Islander students by providing opportunities to engage in “high impact” activities that support retention and graduation. In addition, grant objectives include conducting and disseminating research into best practices that facilitates the success of Pacific Islanders in higher education. Pacific Islander students as a sole unit of study within the higher education context allows for the extrication of specific information.

Recognizing that under-represented students are often marginalized on college campuses, the AANAPISI research objectives include an investigation into Pacific Islander students’ perceptions of their higher education experiences.

Figure 1. UH Hilo Pacific Islander Student Ethnicity (Fall 2012)

Figure 2. Reasons why Pacific Islanders Chose UH Hilo
The Pacific Islander Student Center (PISC) is the “home away from home” for Pacific island students at UH Hilo. Recognizing that underrepresented students are sometimes marginalized on college campuses, the Pacific Islander Student Center at UH Hilo encourages and supports the achievements and contributions of Pacific Islanders on campus and in the surrounding community.

The goals of the Center include:

- provide a welcoming, supportive and safe environment
- facilitate the retention and graduation of Pacific Islanders
- increase interaction and dialogue among students from different cultures
- support intercultural understanding and social justice in the pursuit of a more just society
- enable students, faculty and staff from all cultural backgrounds to learn about Pacific peoples, histories, languages, cultures and contemporary issues
- combat stereotypes and ethnocentrism

These aims are to be realized in part through educational programming, which promotes changes and growth in knowledge, attitudes and behaviors throughout the campus community.

### Programs

**Community Outreach**
- Navigating Success Bridge (NSB)
  - Summer Bridge Program
  - Yearlong Bridge Program

**Pacific Speaker Series**

**Workshop Series**
- HELP Projects
- Island Time
- University 101 Course
- Student Employment
- Learning Communities
- Peer Mentoring
- Major Study Nights
- Tutors on Demand

### What School Supports are Students Accessing?

![Pie chart showing school supports accessed by students]

- **PIPS = Pacific Internship for Exploring Science** (1st year students)
- **PALS = Peer Assistance and Linkages and Support** (1st generation and low income students)
- **SSSP = Student Support Services Program**

### SELECT FINDINGS

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<th>P-value</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
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