



December 23, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Information: 2nd ICLDC PR Committee

icldc@hawaii.edu

808-956-9424

HAWAII—Linguists estimate that there are between 6,000 and 7,000 languages spoken in the world today. But at least half of these languages are endangered and will be extinct before 2100. In other words, one language dies every two weeks, each death constituting a loss of cultural history, knowledge, and identity. Language documentation and conservation efforts aim to slow the rate of language extinction. In February 2011, the 2nd International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC) will bring together active researchers to share strategies for supporting endangered languages.

Keren D. Rice of University of Toronto, Wayan Arka of Australian National University, and Larry Kimura of University of Hawai‘i at Hilo will each give a plenary talk at the 2nd International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC): Strategies for Moving Forward, to be held February 11–13, 2011, at the Hawai‘i Imin International Conference Center on the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa campus.

Kimura, co-founder of Hawai‘i's ‘Aha Pūnana Leo, the state’s first indigenous Hawaiian language immersion program, says, “The journey for the viability of an endangered language starts with very little but indeed it is key to unlocking a people unto themselves and empowers them to reenter a dominion for dynamic reform.” In their talks, Rice, Arka, and Kimura will address, respectively, language documentation as a joint enterprise by academic and community researchers as a crucial part of community strengthening, strategic issues in language management with special regard to minority languages in Indonesia, and when and how to best begin a language documentation effort.

Additional ICLDC highlights include two days of optional technical training workshops preceding the conference (Feb. 9–10) and an optional Hilo Field Study (on the Big Island of Hawai‘i) to visit Hawaiian language revitalization programs in action immediately following the conference (Feb. 14–15). One of three featured colloquia (Dictionaries and Endangered Languages: Technology, Revitalization, and Collaboration organized by Sarah Ogilvie, The Use of Film in Language Documentation organized by Rozenn Milin and Melissa Bisagni, and



Grammaticography organized by Sebastian Nordhoff) will be offered daily. Social events complete with hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and entertainment will take place Friday and Saturday evening after the day's sessions.

The 1st ICLDC, with over 300 people in attendance and over 150 presentations offered, underscored the need for communities, linguists, and other academics to work in close collaboration. The goal of the 2nd ICLDC: Strategies for Moving Forward, which will feature over 160 presentations, is to build on the strong momentum created at the previous conference and discuss research and revitalization approaches yielding rich, accessible records which can benefit both the field of language documentation and speech communities. Registration begins Friday, Feb. 11 at 7:30am. For more details, including the complete conference workshop and presentation schedule and information on pre-registration, please visit <http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/ICLDC/2011/index.html> and follow us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/icldc>) and Twitter (http://twitter.com/ICLDC_HI). A press kit is available at <http://sites.google.com/site/icldcpressroom/Home>.