



# 3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION & CONSERVATION

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

FEBRUARY 28—MARCH 3

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

HONOLULU, HAWAI'I—Linguists estimate that there are between 6,000 and 7,000 languages spoken in the world today. At least half of these languages, however, are endangered and will be extinct before 2100. In effect, every two weeks, one language ceases to be spoken, and each 'death' constitutes a loss of cultural history, knowledge, and identity. Language documentation and conservation efforts aim to slow the rate of this loss. From February 28 to March 3, 2013, the 3rd International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC 3) will bring together active researchers from diverse backgrounds in the spirit of "Sharing Worlds of Knowledge", the theme of the ICLDC 3.

As the third iteration of the biennial flagship conference, the ICLDC 3 continues the successful synergy between scholarship and community activism shown at the ICLDC 1 (held in 2009, focusing on "Supporting Small Languages Together") and the ICLDC 2 (held in 2011, focusing on "Strategies for Moving Forward"). This year's conference features over 400 international guests: academic researchers, community members, and language activists come together in an interdisciplinary forum. The previous two conferences were so well-attended that this year's ICLDC has been extended by a full day.

The conference theme "Sharing Worlds of Knowledge" highlights the fact that language encodes knowledge in many subfields of science, art, and the humanities. Researchers need to know how to tap into these topics to fully document the unique worldview held by each language community. Otherwise, "opportunities to explore such topics may be lost or the records produced may not be as useful to others as they could be," writes Nicholas Thieberger, a member of the ICLDC Organizing Committee, in his 2012 introduction to *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Fieldwork*. "What would a musicologist like to see included in the recording of a performance? What would a botanist like to know about a plant's use and how it has been identified? Which constellation of stars is it that features in a particular traditional story?"

The ICLDC 3 will feature approximately 200 paper and poster presentations on this interdisciplinary theme. Plenarists include Dr. Nicholas Evans from Australian National University and Kālepa Baybayan of the Polynesian Voyaging Society. A special addition to this year's program is a series of Master Classes sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The Master Classes—taught by experts in ethnobotany, ethnogeography, folk taxonomy, oral history, ethnomusicology, and kinship systems—are designed to give

conference participants practical information to guide their language documentation efforts. Instructors are from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and other institutions from the US and Australia. Additional highlights include pre-conference film screenings, a post-conference working session with the Smithsonian's *Recovering Voices* program, and a field study to visit Hawaiian language immersion programs in Hilo. Two evening receptions will feature hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and local entertainment.

The 3rd International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation: Sharing Worlds of Knowledge, will be held February 28–March 3, 2013, at the Hawai'i International Conference Center on the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa campus. Registration begins Thursday, February 28 at 7:30 am. For more details, please visit our website (<http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/icldc/2013/>), Facebook page, and Twitter.