



Global Awareness Lecture Fall 2008

Integrating Traditional Knowledge with 21st Century Education Strategies: Relevance, Rigor, and Relationships

Herb Lee, Jr.

Executive director, Pacific American Foundation

Wednesday, 17 September

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Herb Lee, Jr., has been the executive director of the Pacific American Foundation (PAF) since January 2005. PAF's mission is to help improve the lives of Hawaiians and all Pacific Americans through mentorship/leadership, career planning, development and employment, research, and community partnerships. Lee, a professional musician, songwriter, and recording artist, is president of Aloha First International, which focuses on the perpetuation of Hawaiian music, culture, and the arts. In 1995, he founded the Waikalua Loko Fishpond Preservation Society, a nonprofit organization to manage and implement a preservation plan. President of Lee Communications, Inc. since 1987, they specialize in community involvement and public participation strategies. Lee was a former chief of staff to Honolulu City Council Chair, Patsy T. Mink (1983–87). He has been the project director of Kahea Loko, Aloha Aina, and Malama Kahoolawe, culture-based curriculum development projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs focused on ancient fishponds, the ahupua'a (land division), and the Island of Kahoolawe. (Kahea Loko was selected as a new model and first culture-based curriculum project to be placed on the Hawaii Digital Library "Ulukau" web site.) Born, raised, and educated in Hawaii, Lee graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with an undergraduate degree in psychology and political science (1977) and a graduate degree in political science (1980).