

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 2024**

**Celebrating Generosity and Unity: Educators Across the Pacific Embrace Ethnomathematics**



**Caption: The 2024 Ethnomath Symposium Opening Ceremony at the Ka'iwakīloumoku Cultural Center was a vibrant celebration, featuring heartfelt song offerings from the Kamehameha School middle school choir and ukulele groups, alongside powerful Tlingit and Haida songs.**

**Honolulu, HI** — This year's symposium, the fourth iteration of this groundbreaking gathering, united over 50 educators from across the Pacific, including Tlingit Culture and Language Learning (TCLL) teachers of Juneau School District, Angoon High School, Sitka High School, Klukwan School, Gustavus High School, and Hawaiian educators from Kamehameha Schools. Co-hosted by the Ka'iwakīloumoku Cultural Center at Kamehameha Schools and Chatham School District, the event embodied the spirit of generosity, learning, and collaboration.



This unique symposium alternates years between student-focused journeys and educator gatherings. The learning will continue this summer as Hawaiian cohorts travel to Juneau and Angoon, Alaska, to deepen cultural exchanges and explore land- and sea-based knowledge systems.

Three students attended this year's symposium through a partnership with [See Stories](#), an organization that empowers youth through storytelling and filmmaking. These students documented lessons in action, ensuring the innovative teaching strategies and mathematical exchanges are preserved as powerful educational resources.

Anchored by the Ethnomathematics program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, as led by Dr. Linda Furuto, and inspired by the Polynesian Voyaging Society's ongoing Moananuiākea journey, the symposium celebrated ancient and new kinships across the Pacific. Participants reflected aboard the voyaging canoe *Hawai'iloa* and received an invitation from Captain Mark Ellis of the Polynesian Cultural Center to meet Iosepa, honoring relationships built across the Pacific.

Presenters included Kilinahe Coleman, Lilymarleen Utai, Makana Dudoit, Dr. Linda Furuto, Janel Marr, Antonina Monkoski-Takamure, Dr. Sanjay Pyare, Dr. Wendy Todd, Nikki Lineham, Makahiapo Cashman, Captain Mark Ellis, Kaiwi Hamakua-Makue, Kai Hoshijo, Pōhai Nomura, Cherish Hendrickson, Kalauihilani Robins, Marnita Coenraad, Sanya Talmi, Samantha Ramey, Tlingit elder Marsha Hotch, music and choir students of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama campus, and students of Hālau Kū Māna Public Charter School. Together, they shared inspiring lessons, innovative pedagogy, and stories that explored the intricate relationships between mathematics, language, culture, and community stewardship.



**Caption:** Experiencing the six pillars of the UH Mānoa Ethnomath program, including service learning, as seen here at Papahāna Kūākea: Kamehameha School science and math educators collaborate across the Pacific, bridging knowledge and culture through hands-on learning.

## Symposium Highlights

- **Moananuiākea Inspirations:** Drawing inspiration from the Polynesian Voyaging Society's Moananuiākea journey, participants celebrated kinships through teachings aboard the *Hawai'iloa* canoe. Captain Mark Ellis of the Polynesian Cultural Center shared insights and extended an invitation to meet Losepa, furthering connections across Moananuiākea.
- **Ethnomathematics Lessons:** Designed and led by educators—many of whom are graduates of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Ethnomathematics Program spearheaded by Dr. Linda Furuto—these sessions emphasized land, water, and ocean-based learning through culturally grounded mathematical applications.
- **Community and Service Learning:** Attendees engaged in hands-on activities at Ka Papa Lo'i 'o Kānewai, Papahana Kuaola, and the Marine Education Training Center. These experiences reflected the Hawaiian values of *mālama* (care) and *laulima* (working together), central to the UH Ethnomathematics Program.

The symposium underscored a dedication to fostering connections among educators and students across the Pacific through ethnomathematics, an approach that promotes a vibrant network engaged in rigorous and contextually meaningful mathematical learning.



**Caption:** Visiting the Hawai'iloa canoe and Polynesian Voyaging Society, a visionary watercraft made possible by the kinship between Alaska and Hawai'i—symbolizing the heartbeat of the Ethnomath Symposium. This canoe embodies the spirit of our gathering and uniting across the Pacific.

## About the Co-Hosts

The Ka'iwakīloumoku Cultural Center, part of Kamehameha Schools, serves as a hub for cultural exchange and perpetuation of Native Hawaiian traditions. Its collaboration with the symposium highlights its dedication to fostering connections across Moananuiākea.



For more information, visit the [Ka'iwakīloumoku Cultural Center](#) and the [University of Hawai'i Ethnomathematics Program](#).



**Caption:** A visiting educator from Klukwan, Alaska, enjoying learning about Iosepa with Captain Mark Ellis at the Polynesian Voyaging Society, just a day before Hōkūle'a's much-anticipated arrival in La'ie.

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[2023 Ethnomath Symposium Video](#)