

**Lana Sue I. Ka'opua, PhD, DCSW, LSW** is Professor Emeritus of the University of Hawai'i, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Welfare and Public Health. Dr. Ka'opua grew up in a large extended family and thus, had the opportunity to care for aging and sick family members. Drawing near to suffering and death were fearful at first but overtime, she came to see such caring as opportunities for healing, expressing gratitude, and affirming relational strengths. Such personal experiences continue to motivate her efforts in developing knowledge and practice of **cultural grief and death literacy**---the focus of today's webinar and conversation on *Cultural Grief & Death Literacy. Navigating the Breath of Life & the Breadth of Death*.

**Dr. Ka'opua's research and practice remain powerfully influenced by learning gleaned through a post-doctoral opportunity at the Moffitt Cancer Center's Cancer, Culture, and Literacy Program.** This remarkable opportunity provided examples of 'how' researchers avoided "helicopter research", became part of communities and together, produced culturally-relevant health knowledge and products --interventions that actually were used. Dr. Ka'opua's research praxis and scholarship continues to reflect that which she learned from her generous mentors and colleagues---Drs. Linda Burhansstipanov, Deborah Erwin, Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, and Cathy Meade. These colleagues inspire her to continue contributing to 'what' we know about the social determinants of health, health disparities, Indigenous Peoples, and culturally relevant interventions.

Currently, Dr. Ka'opua convenes the Social Work Inequalities Network (SWHIN), a global organization, serves on the board of directors for the National Association of Social Workers-Hawai'i Chapter and for the Wisdom of Kalaupapa Project. She is active with Sierra Club-Hawai'i---particularly, its efforts to rectify fuel-contaminated water in Honolulu county and ensure the health/mental health of those who have suffered from illnesses related to exposure/ingestion of contaminated water.

Have you questions, thoughts, or suggestions? Feel free to email me at: [lskaopua@hawaii.edu](mailto:lskaopua@hawaii.edu) and/or [kaleimanaolana@gmail.com](mailto:kaleimanaolana@gmail.com)