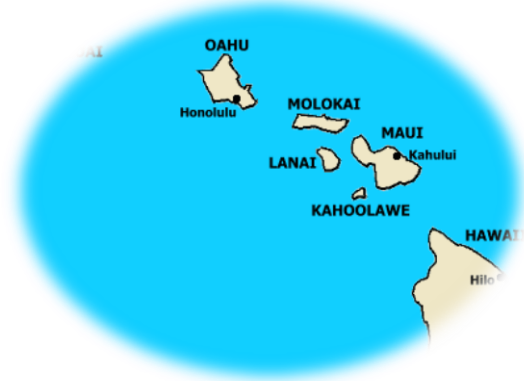


## 2021 SWCOLT EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD



Alohilani Okamura  
Excellence in Teaching  
Post-Secondary  
HAWAII

Dr. 'Alohilani Okamura is an adjunct professor at the Institute for Teacher Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She holds a bachelor's in Education and a Master's in Education from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She completed her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California. She has 30 years of experience teaching Hawaiian language and helping run and develop programs at various public and charter schools throughout the state of Hawai'i. Dr. Okamura has a deep love for the Hawaiian language, culture and 'aina (land), thus she is a passionate proponent of place-based learning. Words in Hawaiian can have many meanings; the word kumu, which means teacher, can also mean the foundation or source. 'Alohilani truly embodies all of the nuanced meaning of the word kumu as she is a great source of cultural knowledge, inspiration, and guidance for her students