

Seiji Naya Memorial Lecture

# From First Canoe To Statehood

Eight Hundred Years of Economic  
And Political Change in Hawai'i

Building on new archaeological and historical research, Sumner La Croix discusses the economic and political history of Hawai'i from the first Polynesian settlements in the thirteen century through U.S. colonization and the formation of statehood to the present day. He shows how the political and economic institutions that emerged and evolved in Hawai'i during its three centuries of global isolation allowed an economically and culturally rich society to emerge, flourish, and ultimately survive annexation and colonization by the United States. The lecture discusses why Hawaii has been able to successfully overcome some of the legacies of colonialism yet faces still considerable challenges from other unresolved legacies of lost Hawaiian sovereignty and lands.

**Sumner La Croix** is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Economics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a UHERO research fellow. His