

The Philosophy Department
Series for Indigenous Philosophy
Presents:

KA HULIKANAKA A ME KA
HO'OKŪ'ONO'ONO:
DAVIDA MALO AND RICHARD ARMSTRONG
ON BEING HUMAN AND LIVING WELL

COLLOQUIUM
PRESENTATION BY
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April 22, 2022
2:30pm (HST)
UH Mānoa
Room POST 126

This presentation thinks through the work of Kanaka philosopher Davida Malo (1795–1853) and puts it in dialogue with the work of his contemporary, Richard Armstrong (1805–1860). The questions I bring to these thinkers are questions at the core of the humanities, namely, what does it mean to be human and what does it mean to live well? Malo explores aspects of these questions in *Ka Mo'olelo Hawai'i*. Likewise, Armstrong explores aspects of these questions in *Ka Hulikanaka*—a Hawaiian text based on *The Elements of Moral Science*, a book first published in 1835 by the philosopher Francis Wayland. This presentation will bring these two texts into conversation by first providing background on Malo and Armstrong, then describing how *Ka Hulikanaka* and *Mo'olelo Hawai'i* address aspects of these questions, and finally comparing Malo and Armstrong's different understandings of the term "pono" ("good," "right," or "well-arranged").

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