Deconstructing Indigenous Rights: From Aotearoa to Hawai‘i and Beyond

Two preeminent scholars from the Māori and Indigenous Governance Centre at the University of Waikato’s Te Piringa Faculty of Law will discuss the power and potential of indigenous rights in Aotearoa, Hawai‘i and beyond. Please join us to learn more about these important issues!

Dr. Valmaine Toki is an Associate Professor of Law, Faculty Chair and Director of the Māori and Indigenous Governance Centre at Te Piringa. Valmaine is of Ngapuhi Ngati Wai Ngati Whatua descent, and the first Māori and first New Zealander appointed as an Expert Member on the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. As a He Ture Pumau scholar, she worked on Māori fisheries, aquaculture and asset allocation issues and has also completed an MBA from the Australian Maritime College at the University of Tasmania. Her book “Indigenous Courts, Self-Determination and Criminal Justice,” which will be released in 2018, showcases her recent research on the recognition and implementation of indigenous rights.

Dr. Keakaokawai Varner Hemi is Associate Dean Undergraduate and Faculty Pacific Island Advisor at Te Piringa. She is Kanaka Maoli and part of Na ‘Ohana o Kalama from Lā‘ie, Hawai‘i through her mother, as well as Cherokee/Tsalagi from Bohannon Mountain in Northwest Arkansas through her father. Her 2016 Ph.D. thesis analyzed the 2006 Doe v. Kamehameha Schools case in the broader context of political theory, international human rights, indigenous rights, as well as U.S. and New Zealand constitutional law. She is currently lecturing, researching and writing in the areas of human rights, the Treaty of Waitangi, criminal justice and constitutional law.

Moderated by Mahina Tuteur, Post-JD Research & Teaching Fellow, Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law

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