

RESEARCH &
EVALUATION

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KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

2010 Research Conference on Native Hawaiian Well-Being

Evaluation Summary

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Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of highlights and evaluation results from the 2010 Research Conference on Native Hawaiian Well-Being that took place on October 21st and 22nd. After a year's rest, the conference returned to Ko'olaupoko at the Ko'olau Ballrooms in Kaneohe, O'ahu. The most notable highlight of this conference was the collaborative efforts of several Native Hawaiian serving institutions that participated in the planning and execution of the conference. Other highlights included the two amazing keynote speakers and very powerful panels that touched many. This year's conference also featured scholarships for students and kupuna to attend, further enriching the experience for all.

The evaluation survey included 22 questions, grouped into four categories: overall conference experience, registration and communication, banquet facilities and presenters' experiences. Conference participants were asked to rate each item on a five-point scale, ranging from *Strongly disagree* (1) to *Strongly agree* (5). Participants were also given the opportunity to comment on their experiences at the conference and provide suggestions for future conferences. All of the responses within each category were then compiled and a mean score calculated for each group. One hundred seventy-four evaluation forms (87 percent) were collected among approximately 200 attendees over both days of the conference.

General Participants' Perspectives

Participants had a positive conference experience with 97 percent having agreed with the statement, "Overall, I enjoyed the conference." With respect to the registration process and communication before the conference, over 80 percent of responses were in agreement that they "received adequate communication during the registration process" and that "conference staff were responsive" to their needs. Nearly 98 percent of participants agreed that the meeting facilities met their expectations.

When participants were asked what they considered their single best experience of the conference, 47 participants reported keynote speakers, 46 mentioned breakout sessions, and 37 listed networking and socializing. Other responses included the mana'o shared, the focus on Native Hawaiian research, and the banquet facility.

When asked to provide recommendations for future conferences, 22 of the 71 conference participants reported "time" as an area for improvement. Comments included "sessions being too short" and "not enough time for questions and discussions." Additionally, there were suggestions that there should be fewer speakers per session or that sessions should be repeated throughout the conference. Participants also reported having difficulty choosing which session to attend and that a brief synopsis of each session should be included in the program.

Presenter and Speakers' Perspectives

Thirty-nine out of 64 presenters submitted completed surveys. At least 95 percent agreed that they received adequate communication prior to the conference and felt that there was appropriate amount of time for the call for papers submission. The on-site support and overall process of being a presenter received 97 percent of presenters agreeing that they received adequate support at the conference.

| | Percent agree and strongly agree | Average score |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Section 1: Conference Experience | | |
| The conference increased my holistic understanding of Native Hawaiian well-being. | 93.5 | 4.42 |
| I will integrate things learned at the conference in my work. | 94.8 | 4.46 |
| The conference appropriately incorporated Hawaiian culture. | 91.6 | 4.47 |
| I enjoyed the variety of presentations. | 96.4 | 4.43 |
| The quality of presentations was excellent. | 94.4 | 4.44 |
| There was adequate time during presentations to discuss ideas and ask questions. | 76.5 | 4.00 |
| The conference provided sufficient resources and networking opportunities. | 87.9 | 4.27 |
| The conference met my expectations. | 90.1 | 4.34 |
| Overall, I enjoyed the conference. | 97.4 | 4.61 |
| I would attend the Native Hawaiian Research Conference in the future. | 96.5 | 4.63 |
| Section 2: Registration and Communication | | |
| Information about the conference was easily accessible. | 79.8 | 4.08 |
| I received adequate communication during the registration process. | 83.0 | 4.11 |
| I received adequate communication during the registration process prior to the conference. | 79.0 | 4.02 |
| I was kept up-to-date after registering for the conference. | 79.3 | 4.03 |
| Conference staff were responsive to my needs. | 87 | 4.3 |
| Section 3: Banquet Facilities | | |
| Meeting facilities met my expectations. | 97.5 | 4.67 |
| Food quality met my expectations. | 91.5 | 4.54 |
| Section 4: Presenters/Posters Only | | |
| As a presenter, I received adequate communication prior to the conference. | 94.6 | 4.41 |
| As a presenter, I felt the amount of time for the Call for Papers submission was appropriate. | 94.6 | 4.41 |
| As a presenter, I received sufficient confirmation of my presentation date, time, location and check-in. | 94.7 | 4.54 |
| As a presenter, I received adequate on-site support. | 97.4 | 4.74 |
| As a presenter, I was treated respectfully throughout the process. | 97.4 | 4.77 |

Lessons Learned

The 2010 Research Conference on Native Hawaiian Well-Being Conference is an excellent venue for multi-disciplinary discussions, which encourages an environment of diverse opinions, expectations, and many unique preferences. These unique preferences are reflected in the evaluations of the conference. For example, some preferred more time to network and socialize, where the 30-minute breaks were not sufficient. A future opportunity to be considered could include a social hour to allow for more time to network, which is a highlight of this conference for many. Others would have liked a limited number of sessions repeated so they may attend them all. It is a delicate balance between making participants' experiences enjoyable and staying true to the holistic nature of this conference, so one suggestion to consider is publishing proceedings so participants may benefit from sessions without pressure to attend. Publishing conference proceedings will also help to build awareness and whet people's appetites for more. Overall, participants and presenters expressed very positive feedback, which is perhaps a reflection of lessons learned from previous conferences.