Myron B. Thompson
School of Social Work

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Dean: Noreen Mokuau

Faculty
*N. Mokuau, MSW, DSW—Dean, Asian/Pacific Islander health issues
K. Bean, MSW, PhD
K. Bennett, MSW, JD—child welfare policy and law
*K. Braun, MPH, DrPH—social behavioral health sciences, gerontology
*C. Browne, MSW, DrPH—Chair of Gerontology concentration, women’s issues, health care, gerontology, qualitative research
N. Chang, MSW—Assistant to the Dean, information technology and diversity programs
*B. Coyne, PhD—criminology, sex offender programs
M. DeMattos, MSW—Chair of BSW program, youth and families, substance abuse, training
A. Duldulao, MSW, PhD—immigration, mental health disparities, Asian and Pacific Islanders, Filipino health, quantitative research methods, critical theory
K. Duponte, MSW—Practicum Assistant, cultural awareness, racial disproportionality
*M. Godinet, MSW, PhD—Chair of Child and Family concentration, delinquency prevention, social and adjustment issues of Pacific Islander youth, multi and cross-cultural issues
*J. Guo, MSW, PhD—social welfare policy, child and family issues, international and comparative social welfare
*S. Hong, PhD—neighborhood contexts, immigration, mental health, community-based practice and research methodology
*L. Ka’opua, MSW, PhD—Chair of MSW program, Chair of Health concentration, mental health, and health disparities
M. Kaulukukui, MSW—mental health

* Graduate Faculty

Myron “Pinky” Thompson earned his MSW from UH in 1953. A noted leader in the struggle for the preservation of the Hawaiian culture, he was at the vanguard of the Hawaiian Renaissance movement in the 1970s. While at the Queen Lili‘uokalani Children’s Center, he helped revitalize traditional healing practices such as ho‘oponopono and dream work. Along with Kumu Mary Kawena Puku‘i and others, he helped create Nana I Ke Kumu, a two-volume reference manual on indigenous healing practices. He helped start Alu Like and Papa Ola Lokahi, was a Bishop Estate Trustee, and served as president of the Polynesian Voyaging Society. The UH Board of Regents approved the naming of the School after him in 2008.

* B.J. Kim, MSW, PhD—gerontology, mental health and quality of life among older Asian immigrants
J.K. Kim, MSW—indigenous evaluation and research, Native Hawaiian culturally based intervention and practice methods, Native Hawaiian holistic health and well-being
J. Kishida, MEd—PhD and MSW program specialist
T. Kreif, MSW—community development, social and economic development, international social work
C. Langworthy, MSW—Practicum Coordinator, gerontology, mental health
*P. Mataira, MSW, PhD—strategies for economic and community development, multicultural indigenous issues, working with men, qualitative research
R. Matayoshi, MSW—Practicum Coordinator, volunteerism, volunteer management, peace, leadership, interdisciplinary education
*P. Morelli, MSW, PhD—Chair of Doctoral Program, Chair of Mental Health concentration, social work practice, cross-cultural/ minority mental health, social development, qualitative research
S. Nishimura, MSW, PhD—adolescent substance abuse, behavioral health, youth violence prevention, program evaluation

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* Graduate Faculty
M. Ono, MSW—Coordinator of Student Services, mental health, substance abuse, cross-cultural practice
L. Paglinawan, MSW—indigenous issues
P. Paul, MSW—child and adolescent mental health
*C. Plummer, MSW, PhD—child welfare, child abuse and neglect, program evaluation, prevention, international practice
G. Pugh, MSW, PhD—hospital and medical social work practice, health and mental health, social work ethics, philosophy, and epistemology, privilege and oppression, social work education
*R. Stotzer, MSW, PhD—Director of Distance Education, prejudice, stereotypes and hate crimes
J. Sur, MSW—child welfare, disability studies, substance abuse, social work in educational settings
C. Tarutani, MSW—children and families, substance abuse, forensic social work

Emeritus Faculty
H. Gochros, MS, DSW
H. Jambor, MA, DSW
L. Lister, MSW, DSW

General Information

Social work, one of the fastest growing occupations in the nation, is a profession concerned with the prevention and resolution of problems for individuals, families, groups, and communities. Those who are committed to social justice and improving the quality of life for society’s most vulnerable citizens would find this curriculum stimulating. Students graduate with the knowledge, skills, and values that facilitate the prevention or resolution of such problems as mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness, crime and delinquency, and poverty.

The school has been providing quality social work education in Hawai‘i for over 74 years. It has a bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral program. The BSW and MSW programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and our PhD program is approved by UH Mānoa Graduate Division. Our school is recognized nationally and internationally for its award-winning faculty, research and publications, and specialty areas that focus on the expressed needs of the community (health, mental health, child and family, and gerontology).

Mission

The mission of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work (MBT SSW) is to provide educational excellence that advances social work with its focus on social justice. The principal responsibility is the generation, transmission, and application of knowledge for the global enterprise with special attention to Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander, and Asian populations in our state and region.

Advising

Freshmen and sophomores who are interested in learning more about the social work profession and/or our BSW program have several ways to do this: (1) The Pre-Health/Pre-Law Advising Center is a walk-in resource center staffed with advisors trained to help students clarify career goals, select a major, plan coursework, research professional programs, gain relevant experience, and apply to schools. See: manoa.hawaii.edu/un-
dergrad/pac/. (2) Social Work faculty advisors are available by appointment to assist with pre-admissions academic advising. Contact the School of Social Work Admissions Office for more information: ssadmit@hawaii.edu or (808) 956-7182. (3) Online resources for BSW, MSW, and PhD programs, admissions, and degree requirements: Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work website (www.hawaii.edu/sswork/programs.html); MBT SSW Bulletin (www.hawaii.edu/sswork/bulletin.html).

Financial Aid

It is important that students seek out information on financial aid, including scholarships, stipends, student employment, etc., as early as possible. Deadline dates can vary and may require additional documentation and/or interviews.

The UH Mānoa Financial Aid Services is dedicated to making it possible for degree-seeking admitted students to attend UH Mānoa regardless of their economic circumstances. See www.hawaii.edu/fas/. Please review this website thoroughly as it contains many links to additional and outside sources for financial aid.

The MBT School of Social Work also has a limited number of scholarships available to social work students. This information can be located: (1) under each program’s “Financial Aid” and “Forms” sections on the SSW website: www.hawaii.edu/sswork/ (2) in the MBT SSW Bulletin: www.hawaii.edu/sswork/bulletin.html. Hardcopy versions of the bulletin can also be requested through the SSW Admissions Office.

Undergraduate Program

Bachelor of Social Work

The primary goal of the BSW program is to prepare students to be competent, beginning level professionals and generalist practitioners capable of integrating the knowledge, skills, and values of social work, based on a liberal arts foundation. The program’s secondary goal is to prepare students for advanced social work education. The program combines both academic course work and field practicum in a two-year course of study beginning in the junior year. The curriculum is predicated on and extends the liberal arts perspective.

Admission Requirements

The applicant must: (a) have been admitted to UH Mānoa; (b) have completed UH’s General Education Core requirements (special consideration is given to second semester sophomores for early admission); (c) have completed the knowledge-base courses identified by the school; (d) have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5; and (e) provide evidence of motivation for and commitment to social work education (e.g., personal, volunteer, and/or social-work-related experience).

Application Deadlines

Students are admitted to the BSW program in the fall and spring semesters.

February 1 for the fall semester; October 1 for spring.
Degree Requirements

The student must (a) fulfill all UH Core requirements; (b) complete the required undergraduate social work curriculum listed below; (c) earn an aggregate of no less than 120 credit hours; and (d) have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.

BSW Curriculum

Candidates must complete the following curriculum requirements:

1. The following social work knowledge-based courses must be included in the General Education Core or as lower division electives: any introductory political science course, PHIL 110 or 111, any psychology course, SW 200, and a biology course that emphasizes human biology.
2. Social work major courses (38 credit hours) including SW 302, 303, 325, 326, 360, 361, 391, 402, 403, 440, 490, and 491.
3. Electives required in upper division liberal arts courses (21 credit hours) including one course in each of the following areas: (a) small group, community, or organizational theory; (b) analysis of a social institution, problem, or issue; (c) ethnic or cultural factors; (d) American values; (e) women’s issues; (f) research design and methodology; and (g) other related topics.
4. Other electives (2-4 credit hours).

For information on a Bachelor Degree Program Sheet, go to www.manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcaa/programsheets/.

Graduate Programs

Master of Social Work

The MSW curriculum prepares students for professional advanced practice and requires 57 credit hours. The course work must be completed within a 4-year period, of which 4 semesters of practicum and completion of the research requirement are mandatory. Students may waive some foundation level courses by examination and thereby, reduce the number of credits necessary to receive their degree.

The foundation curriculum includes courses in social welfare policy, human behavior in the social environment, research, social work practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities, and practicum. The advanced curriculum is organized around four concentrations: behavioral mental health, child and family, gerontology, and health. Elective courses augment the foundation and concentration curricula; electives may include courses in marriage and family therapy, substance abuse, criminal justice, Native Hawaiian cultural practices, and other offerings relevant to the student’s chosen concentration.

Admission requirements are: a bachelor’s degree from an accredited U.S. college or university or its equivalent from a recognized foreign institution of higher learning, a 3.0 GPA, a liberal arts background, the motivation for a career in social work, and evidence of ability to manage the rigors of graduate school.

Application Deadline

February 1 (MSW admission occurs in the fall only).

For further information, write to the school at Henke Hall #230, 1800 East West Road, Honolulu, HI 96822, call (808) 956-7182, email sswadmin@hawaii.edu, or check the website at www.hawaii.edu/sswork.

Neighbor Island Distance Education MSW Delivery Option

Application Deadline

December 15 for fall admission.

The MSW degree is now available to neighbor island residents via distance education technology. Classes include instruction via interactive television, computer-based delivery, face-to-face onsite, and hybrid or blended approaches. It is a 3-year program.

For more information, call (808) 956-9470 or visit the website at www.hawaii.edu/sswork/de/.

PhD in Social Welfare

The PhD program prepares students for leadership in the advancement of social welfare education, practice, policy development, and research. The program promotes social justice and global understanding through scholarly inquiry using indigenous and mixed method approaches. Emphasis is placed on knowledge development that enhances the well-being of Native Hawaiians and the diverse people and communities of Hawai‘i and the Asian-Pacific Region. The curriculum and program of study place highest priority on independent inquiry and the enhancement of intellectual, creative, and analytical abilities. Each student will develop the ability to conduct independent research on a critical social problem.

The program is designed to provide sufficient structure to guide students as well as the flexibility and rigor that are the hallmarks of doctoral education. The curriculum is divided into required courses ensuring that all students are equipped with comparable basic knowledge; specialization work, in which students largely design their own curriculum; teaching and research practica; electives; a dissertation design and proposal requirement; and the dissertation. The PhD in social welfare requires 46 hours of course credit excluding dissertation credits.

Application Deadline

January 15 (PhD admission occurs in the fall only).

For more information, call (808) 956-3831, email sswadmin@hawaii.edu, or check the website at www.hawaii.edu/sswork/phd.html.