

# The Mānoa Graduate

April 2015 - Newsletter



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### Wendan Li

As a junior researcher in doctoral student professional development at graduate school, I deeply know how important and necessary it is for graduate students to attend conferences, initiate conversations with other scholars outside the campus, and learn to introduce self and the research. In short words, professional conferences are magic places where emerging scholars can claim a space and form possible future collaborations. It is extremely important particularly for those who aspire academic positions. I am very thankful for the people who support GSO funding, which makes the award that granted me to attend this conference possible. I highly encourage graduate students to write good papers and present them at prestigious conferences while at graduate school.

## Featuring G&A awardees

### Van Wishingrad

Thanks to a generous GSO travel grant I was able to attend the UCLA/La Kretz Workshop in Conservation Genomics. This workshop provides training and access to the most current issues and techniques in population genomics, and how these tools can be applied to pressing conservation problems. By attending this workshop I gained hands-on experience in the efficient collection, troubleshooting, and analysis of large data sets for conservation-relevant problems. One of the highlights was the active participation from members of US government agencies who are at the forefront of endangered species protection and management.

Attendance to this conference was invaluable to me and my studies, as it not only familiarized me with cutting-edge methods and techniques, but also introduced me to the impressive conservation insights that can be gained by studying genomics. Conservation genomics is an incredibly hot topic in biology and I am excited about being a resource for my peers on these cutting-edge techniques.

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## Kazufumi Taira

Thanks to the GSO Grants & Awards program, I was able to attend and present at the annual meeting of the American Education Research Association (AERA) in Chicago. I presented my research titled “Study Abroad as a Bridge Between the Worlds of Okinawa and Hawai’i and Its Influence on Okinawan Identity Development and Social Justice,” Before the annual meeting, my research interest was Okinawan identity development, but I did not think about social justice and its relationship with identity. Through the research for this presentation, I expanded and deepened my knowledge about the connection between identity development and social justice.

The completion of this presentation was beneficial for my professional development as a researcher in terms of experience of presenting in public, and professional networking. In order to present at the annual meeting, I went through the procedures of finding an appropriate session, writing a proposal, collaborating with my advisor, and writing a full paper with feedback from the reviewers. Also, the experience of presenting in front of audience gave me confidence and made me realize the importance of making my research public. This experience is helpful for me to prepare for other presentations in the future. Also, I had chance to talk to some researchers who shared similar interests. We exchanged name cards, and I contacted some of them for further interactions. I believe that without the GSO Grants and Awards program, I would not have been able to have this precious experience of developing my research, studies, and professionalism as a researcher. I really appreciate this financial support from the GSO.

## G&A awardees: Congratulations to the awardees!

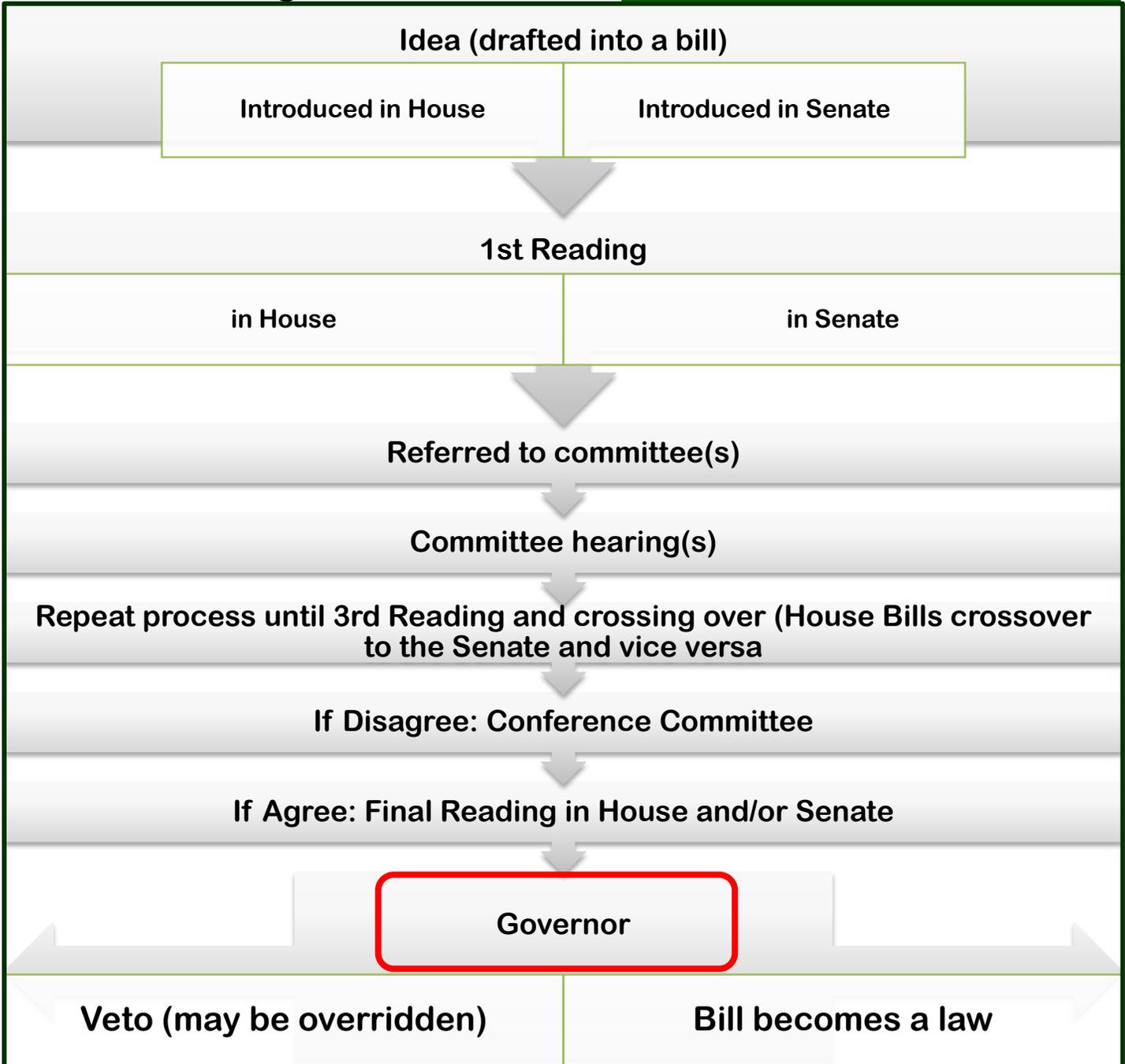
<b>Name</b>	<b>Major</b>
Stout, Jay	Communicology
Belew, Anna Kathryn	Linguistics
Forte, Sean	EALL
Beatty, Dylan	Geography
Stender, Yuko	Geography
York, Robert	History
Ruthig, Victor	Anatomy biochemistry and physiology
Bogner, Kari	Botany
Lee, Thomas	Epideminology
Li, Wendan	EDEF
Taira, Kazufumi	Educational Psychology
Nonaka, Chisato	EDEF

Are you looking for funding to your next trip? Is your PI running low on research funds? Apply to [GSO funding](#) and share your story with us!



Our student unionization bill HB 553 made it all the way through the legislature. Now it is time to e-mail, call and visit Governor Ige's office to ask that he sign the bill into law.

**Legislative GSO  
work: Last final  
effort!**



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GSO needs YOU to make calls, submit online testimony, and/or testify in person. A strong showing of support from a broad swath of graduate students will demonstrate to the legislature that we care and want to see progress.



**Photo:** At the State Capitol the graduate assistant unionization bill (HB 553) has officially made it through the legislature!



**Source:** [UHM Legislative Fellows](#)

To get involve contact the GSO Advocacy Chair:

Nick Chagnon ([nsurfecoast@gmail.com](mailto:nsurfecoast@gmail.com))

For more information on Legislative matters join:

[Facebook: UHM Legislative fellows](#)

### NSF fellows: Congratulations to the awardees!

Name	Area of study
Morishige, Kim Mi Hae Kanoelalani	Life Sciences - Ecology
Koko, Jerry Hooheno	Life Sciences - Ecology
Dudoit, Chelsea Alealani	Life Sciences - Ecology