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ARCHIVES AND INQUIRY VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES TO CONTINUE WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 19, 2022 12 PM - 1 PM VIA ZOOM

(Honolulu, HI) Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

The Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives is continuing its virtual speaker series to highlight the discoveries and work of diverse history and humanities scholars that work with Hawaiian Mission Houses' extensive archives that inform our contemporary world. *The Hawaiian Mission Houses' speaker series: Archives and Inquiry*, an hour long discussion, will begin with the guest speaker and end with a Q& A from the audience.

The presentation to be held on January 19, 2022 from 12pm HST to 1pm HST is entitled “Cooperative Efficiency and Hawaiians Phenomenal Rise to Literacy” and will feature John Laimana, Jr.

This will be a discussion by Mr. Laimana, about the intersection of governance and how it affected the Native Hawaiian population by influencing people to embrace the written word. Hawaiians achieved a 91 percent literacy rate in just twelve years, which at the time was the highest literacy rate in the world. This phenomenal rise to literacy in just twelve years has never been duplicated anywhere in the world in recorded history. With missionaries sent out all over the world, why only in Hawai‘i did literacy achieve such amazing success? Perhaps the answer lies in the concept and practice of “cooperative efficiency” that was achieved between the ali‘i, the maka‘āinana and the missionaries. This presentation will cover the historical record of the period and what we can learn from this amazing achievement.

Mr. Laimana earned his BA and MA in Hawaiian Studies, and currently teaches Hawaiian Studies at Leeward Community College. He was in business for twenty-three years before entering academia.

The talk will be livestreamed and be available afterwards via the Hawaiian Mission House website www.missionhouses.org. The Hawaiian Mission Houses Archives are open to the public, including free digital access to over 100,000 pages of historical documents and pictures at <https://hmha.missionhouses.org/>

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Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives (HMH), an active site for Hawaii's history since 1820, is a National Historic Landmark (listed in 1965) and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (last re-accredited in 2010). HMH graces a one-acre site in the Historic Capital district in downtown Honolulu. HMH preserves Hawai'i's oldest Western-style house, the 1821 Mission House, as well as the 1831 Chamberlain House, the 1841 Bedroom Annex, a cemetery, a collections storage vault, a gift shop, and multi-purpose space. The library, which holds both English and Hawaiian archival material, welcomes researchers on site as well as from around the globe through the digital collection. A coral-and-grass performance arena was added in 2011, hosting theater and mele (music) performances throughout the year, and a reconstructed hale pili, built using cultural practitioner leadership and designed with sources from journals in the HMH archives, was added in 2021. HMH offers school field trips, tours, historical theater performances and has been awarded over 15 Po'okela Awards for Excellence in theatrical performance, writing, and direction. The HMH historical archive holds over 80,000 digital pieces and is home to one of the largest collections of Hawaiian language books in the world.