

RC Progress Report #1

To: Prof. Jito Vanualailai

From: Dr. Lea Lani Kauvaka

CC: PVC John Bythell, Dr. Mohit Prasad, Dr. Frank Thomas, Prof. David Gegeo, Dean FALE Dr.

Akanisi Kedrayate

Subject: **Progress Report #1 for Research Cluster Project “Pacific Worlds Online”**

Date: 3/2/14



PROGRESS REPORT #1: “PACIFIC WORLDS ONLINE: AN ACTION/RESEARCH/TRAINING HERITAGE PROJECT” (RESEARCH CLUSTER PROJECT)

Introduction

The research cluster project “Pacific Worlds Online: An Action/Research/Training Heritage Project” (hereafter “the Project”) commenced on Nov. 8th, 2013 with the participation of Dr. Regina Rudrud (University of Hawaii) under the leadership of Dr. Lea Lani Kauvaka.

Narrative of Events

Ethnographic research commenced with cultural protocols and gift giving to the Korova Settlement. Participant observation interviews, exploratory talanoa, and ICT assessment continued full time until Nov. 24th, at which time Dr. Rudrud returned to Honolulu. The research focused around gendered practices around *masi* making, marketing, *camakau* construction, and the history of the settlement, including land rights issues. Rapport with the leaders of the village was established and discussions around a trip to Moce Island in the Lau group was discussed. After initial discussions, it was decided that a trip to Lau would be better scheduled for another time (it was initially proposed during this period), and therefore the remaining two weeks were spent in Suva at the Korova settlement, and in identifying primary community youth, Catherine Ledua, who had requisite skills in ICT and language translation to be invited to apply for the Research Assistant position which was advertised in November.

Initial Assessment & Review of Research Schedule

Briefly, we had an intensive Research period in November for 3 weeks, including field work with Korova village. It became clear at that time that this project – which is designed to gather data as well as represent that data through training select community youth to build webpages - would benefit from a longer-term approach in tandem with the academic school year, in order for the capacity building and training aspects to be fully successful amongst community trainees, and to ensure a more sustainable project outcome.

New Proposed Dates and Activities/Timeline for 2014

As a result, an extended End Date of Dec. 15, 2014 is sought for approval. The following timeline briefly outlines what will occur during the extended period of time. [Note: This extension does not change the budgetary needs or associated costs of the Project, at this point, and if it does further funding will be sought. At this early stage, additional funding may be needed for additional RA hours, but this is yet to be determined.]

Nov – 3 weeks intensive exploratory fieldwork at Korova Settlement in Suva

Dec/Jan – BREAK

Feb – Resume research with the following outcomes achieved:

- Hire 2 RA positions immediately (applications already received in call in November).
- Procure through USP process the equipment outlined in the approved budget (computer, camera, voice recorder/microphone).
- Conduct research visits on a weekly basis (Friday afternoons)
- Training and Capacity Building sessions with RAs, including transcription and translation tasks, photography, etc.

March-May – Continue Weekly research & training sessions, reassess and submit Progress Report and Plan of Action for Semester 2, 2014 to bring the Project to completion.

June/July – Research Trip to Moce, Lau islands by team.

Aug-Nov – Continue Training/Capacity Building sessions and complete webpages for Korova Settlement.

Dec.15th – Project completion

Submitted respectfully,

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