Aloha mai kākou,

Welcome (back) to UHM! I am honored to serve as the Graduate Student Organization President once again. While most of GSO services are still virtual for the time being, we will continue to provide you with high-quality opportunities and events! I hope you will use this monthly newsletter as a resource to find out more about GSO activities and initiatives. Here are some things GSO is doing this semester:

1) Holding monthly General Assembly and Grants & Awards meetings – As always, our (Zoom) meetings are open to everyone! Join us to find out more about what the GSO Executive Council has been working on each month and to share any of your ideas, concerns, or events with other attendees. GSO constituents can apply to our Grants & Awards Program to receive up to $2000 in funding for virtual conferences, professional development events, and research activities.

2) Hosting monthly social and professional development events – Get a professional headshot for your website, polish up your CV, and meet fellow grad students from across campus! Details on these events and more coming soon!

3) Finalizing a grad worker sick leave policy with admin – It is high-time that graduate student employees have an official sick leave policy, rather than the piecemeal and informal ‘policies’ currently in place in some units.

4) Representing grad student concerns at campus/System meetings – We are a bridge between University Administration and UHM graduate students. If you have questions or concerns about university plans, policies, and procedures that impact you and your fellow graduate students, please share them with us at gso@hawaii.edu. You can also reach me specifically at gsopres@hawaii.edu.

I am honored to serve the Mānoa graduate student community. I wish you all good health, safety, and success this semester.

With gratitude,
Maura Stephens-Chu
**Fall Semester Important Dates**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Deadline to File an Application for Graduation (Fall Grads)</td>
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<td>September 14</td>
<td>Deadline to drop a course without a &quot;W&quot; grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Fall 2021 Commencement Online Registration Opens</td>
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<td>November 5</td>
<td>Fall 2021 Graduates' Theses/Dissertations due to the Grad Division</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>Last day of Instruction</td>
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<td>December 13 - 17</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
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<td>December 17</td>
<td>Semester Ends</td>
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<td>December 18</td>
<td>Tentative Commencement Date</td>
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**Fall Semester GSO General Assembly Meetings**

- September 23
- October 21
- November 18
- December 9

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Secretary Elections will look a little different this year. You will write in your candidate of choice for the Secretary chair position. Stay tuned for further information on where to cast your vote.

- **9/16 - 9/22** - Voting Period*
- **9/24** - Election results are posted on the official GSO website and sent out to GSO constituents

*As a reminder, candidates and voters must be GSO constituents.
Grants & Awards

Apply Now!

- Up to $2,000 to fund research materials, professional development opportunities, attending/presenting at conferences (online due to COVID-19 restrictions) and more!
- Money is awarded on a monthly basis (next deadline is October 7th)
- For more info & to apply, check out our website!

General Assembly
SEPTEMBER 23RD • ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

- Keep your microphone muted if you are not speaking
- Check-in via Google Form (found in Zoom chat & Agenda)
- To ask a question, "raise your hand" by clicking "Participants" then selecting the hand button. When the meeting facilitator calls on you, please state your name and department before speaking.

Due to the Zoom update, our voting protocols have changed:
Executive Council Members and Department Representatives may vote by responding to the Zoom poll ("aye," "nay," or "abstain") or verbally (state "aye") as prompted by the meeting facilitator.
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
21st Annual International Graduate Student Conference
February 17–20, 2022 (Fully Virtual Format)
Conference Fee: $40

Abstract Deadline:
September 30, 2021, 23:59 HST

The East–West Center International Graduate Student Conference (IGSC) has an open Call for Abstracts for its 21st annual conference with the theme REIMAGINING OUR SHARED FUTURE.

IGSC welcomes abstracts from current graduate students, as well as from young professionals and scholars, who have completed a graduate degree within the past three years.

We are looking for submissions from various fields of study that:

(1) aim to contribute to the sharing and advancement of the multiple knowledges, epistemologies, and ontologies of the Asia-Pacific region; and

(2) reimagine theory, practice, and policy for a more just and sustainable shared future.

We also invite artistic expressions that utilize alternative methods for reimagining the world we live in.

For more information and to submit your abstract, visit igsc2022.com. For any questions, email igsc@eastwestcenter.org.
Aloha!

As a graduate student, have you ever wished you had someone besides your advisor who could give you feedback on your academic writing? Then you might be interested in this new opportunity to join a graduate student writing group. Graduate writing groups provide a small, informal and encouraging atmosphere for you to focus on your writing goals with the support of a graduate student facilitator.

I am a graduate student in the Department of Second Language Studies doing a research project with professor Betsy Gilliland. You are invited to participate in my project. The purpose of our project is to understand how writing groups can be effectively organized as an informal, alternate space to meet the ongoing and diverse needs of the graduate students.

If you agree to participate in this project, you will meet weekly on Zoom with a small group of fellow graduate students for two hours per week throughout the semester. In these meetings you will share your own writings to receive feedback from your group mates and give feedback to others. As part of my research, I will record the writing group meetings and ask you to complete a needs analysis survey about your expectations at the beginning of the semester and participate in an interview at the end of the semester.

If this sounds like something you would like to do, please email the undersigned at rqayyum@hawaii.edu for more information about the research project as well as consent form.

Mahalo!
Rabail Qayyum