

# Sara Kahanamoku-Meyer, Ph.D

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Hawaii Sea Grant College Program – Ulana Ike Center of Excellence  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
2525 Correa Road, HIG 238, Honolulu, HI 96822  
email: [sskahana@hawaii.edu](mailto:sskahana@hawaii.edu) | cell: (808) 225-7858 | website: [skahanamoku.com](http://skahanamoku.com)  
alias: Sara Kahanamoku

## Education

- 2022        **Ph.D.** Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley  
2016        **B.S.** with distinction, Geology & Geophysics, Yale University, 2016

## Professional History

- 2023 – :    **Postdoctoral Fellow (Junior Researcher)**  
Ulana ‘Ike Center of Excellence, Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program  
NSF CoPe: Rising Voices, Changing Coasts National Indigenous and  
Earth Sciences Convergence Hub  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI
- 2021–2022: **Graduate Fellow**  
Ulana ‘Ike Center of Excellence, Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI
- 2020–2025: **Early Career Fellow,**  
Center for Diverse Leadership in Science  
University of California, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019–2022: **UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Fellow,**  
Department of Integrative Biology  
University of California, Berkeley, CA
- 2017–2022: **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow,**  
Department of Integrative Biology  
University of California, Berkeley, CA
- 2016–2017: **Laboratory Technician**  
Department of Integrative Biology  
Finnegan Lab, University of California, Berkeley, CA
- 2013–2016: **Undergraduate Research Assistant**  
Department of Geology & Geophysics  
Yale University, CT

## Publications

### Refereed Publications

7. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Samuels–Fair, M., Kamel, S.M., Stewart, D., Wu, B. Kahn, L., Titcomb, M., Mei, Y.A., Bridge, R.C., Li, Y.S., Sinco, C., Epino, J.T., Gonzalez–Marin, G., Latt, C., Fergus, H., and Finnegan, S. High resolution images and 2D morphometrics of twenty–two thousand recent benthic foraminifera from the Santa Barbara Basin. *Earth System Science Data* (in review).
6. Finnegan, S., Harnik, P.G., Lockwood, R., Lotze, H.K., McClenachan, L., and **Kahanamoku, S.S.** Using the fossil record to understand extinction risk and inform climate–adapted conservation in a changing ocean. *Annual Review of Marine Sciences* (accepted 4/23).
5. Chen, C. Y., **Kahanamoku, S. S.**, Tripathi, A., Alegado, R. A., Morris, V. R., Andrade, K., & Hosbey, J. Meta–Research: Systemic racial disparities in funding rates at the National Science Foundation. *eLife* 11:e83071 (2022).\*
4. Nguyen, K.H., Akiona, A.K., Chang, C.C., Chaudhary, V.B., Cheng, S.J. Johnson, S.M., **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Lee, A., deLeon Sanchez, E.E., Segui, L.M., and Tanner, R.L. Who are we? Highlighting nuances in Asian American experiences in ecology and evolutionary biology. *Bull. Ecol. Soc. America* 103: 1–8 (2022).
3. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Hull, P.M., Lindberg, D.R., Hsiang, A.Y., Clites, E.C., and Finnegan, S. Twelve thousand recent patellogastropods from a northeastern Pacific latitudinal gradient. *Scientific Data* 5: 170197 (2018).
2. Hsiang, A.Y., Nelson, K., Elder, L.E., Sibert, E.C., **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Berke, J.E., Kelly, A., Liu, Y., and Hull, P.M. AutoMorph: Accelerating morphometrics with automated 2D and 3D image processing and shape extraction. *Methods Ecol. Evol.* 9: 605–612 (2018).
1. Elder, L.E., Hsiang, A.Y., Nelson, K., Strotz, L.C., **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, and Hull, P.M. Sixty–one thousand planktonic foraminifera from the Atlantic Ocean. *Scientific Data* 5: 180109 (2018). *Data at doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.165514*

\*Reported on by multiple media sources, including [Science](#) and the [New York Times](#)

### Manuscripts in preparation

Dagger (†) denotes shared first authorship

**Kahanamoku, S.S.**†, Samuels–Fair, M.†, Richards, J.C., Norris, D., and Finnegan, S. A 2–kyr record of life history strategies from the Santa Barbara Basin. In prep for *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*.

Deustch, C., **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, and Finnegan, S. Observed changes in body size in California Current foraminifera driven by climate. In prep for *PNAS*.

**Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Glover, K.C., Oster, J.L., and Kearns, F.R., *et al.* Collaborative paleo science for the era of climate crisis. In prep for *AGU Advances*.

**Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Johnson, Steven M., Akiona, A., Cacapit, A., and Luke, H. Highlighting nuances in Pacific Islander experiences in ecology.

### White Papers and Policy Briefs

**Ulana ‘Ike Sea Grant Center of Excellence.** [Aha Ike Papalua: 2020 Report](#). Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program (2022).

**Kūlana Noi‘i Working Group.** [Kūlana Noi‘i v. 2](#). Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program (2021).

**Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Alegado, R.A., Kagawa–Viviani, A., Kamelamela, K.L., Kamai, B., Walkowicz, L.M., Prescod–Weinstein, C., de los Reyes, M.A., and Neilson, H. [A Native Hawaiian-led summary of the impact of constructing the Thirty Meter Telescope on Maunakea](#) (*Prepared for the Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics Panel on the State of the Profession and Societal Impacts*).

*\*Reported on by multiple media sources, including [Nature](#) and [Science](#)*

### Poetry and Public Writing

**Kahanamoku, S.S.** “oceanus nullius” (Poem). *Asian American Pacific Islander Poetry Anthology*, edited by Terisa Siagatonu, No‘u Revilla, Franny Choi, and Bao Phi, Haymarket Books (forthcoming 2024).

**Kahanamoku, S.S.** Grant decisions at the National Science Foundation reflect systemic racism. *UC Berkeley Integrative Biology Diversity Equity and Inclusion Newsletter* (2023).

**Kahanamoku, S.S.** [The fight for Mauna Kea and the Future of Science](#). *Massive Science* (2019).

### Academic Presentations

#### Conference Presentations

Asterisk (\*) denotes presenter other than S. Kahanamoku

2023: *National Organization of Research Development Professionals Annual Conference*. Chen, C.\*, **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Tripathi, A., Alegado, R.A., Morris, V.R., Andrade, K., and Hosbey, J. Systemic racial disparities in funding rates at the National Science Foundation. (Invited Talk).

- 2023: *American Physical Society March Meeting*. Chen, C., **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Tripathi, A., Alegado, R.A., Morris, V.R.\*, Andrade, K., and Hosbey, J. Systemic racial disparities in funding rates at the National Science Foundation. (Invited Talk).
- 2022: *American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting*. Chen, C., **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Tripathi, A., Alegado, R.A., Morris, V.R.\*, Andrade, K., and Hosbey, J. Systemic racial disparities in funding rates at the National Science Foundation. (Invited Talk).
- 2022: *National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Ward, S., Asuncion, B., Hintzen, K., and Alegado, R.A. Community-led Loko I'a Adaptation for Climate Resilience (Talk).
- 2022: *Ocean Sciences Meeting*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Samuels-Fair, M., and Finnegan, S. 2,000 years of reproductive dynamics in benthic foraminifera from the Santa Barbara Basin (Talk).
- 2021: *American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting*. Chen, C\*, Enrique Ibarra, D., Lau, K.V., Rhim, Jeemin H., and **S.S. Kahanamoku**. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Geoscience (Town Hall).
- 2021: *American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Kamel, S.M., Bridge, R.C., Li, Y., Sinco, C., and Finnegan, S. Ecological and evolutionary responses of benthic ecosystems to 19th & 20th-century environmental changes: a high-resolution record from the Santa Barbara Basin, CA (Talk).
- 2020: *American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.** and Finnegan, S. Benthic foraminifer diversity in the Santa Barbara Basin from 1834-2008 (Poster).
- 2019: *American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting*. Kagawa-Viviani, A., Puniwai, N., **Kahanamoku, S.S.\***, Kawamata-Ryan, T., Kamelamela, K., Tong, E.I., and Alegado, R. Native Scientists in Action: Networks to reduce Indigenous STEM grad student isolation, facilitate peer-to-peer exchange, and advance visions of "pono science" (Talk, \*presenting author).
- 2019: *American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Cliff, J.R., and Finnegan, S. 2,000 years of life history variation in a benthic foraminifer from the Santa Barbara Basin (Poster).
- 2018: *Geological Society of America Annual Meeting*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Meyer, G.D., and Finnegan, S. Assembling California's marine biodiversity: A new microfossil data resource for the Cretaceous-Pleistocene of California (Poster).
- 2017: *Geological Society of America Annual Meeting*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Henehan, M.J., Elder, L.E., and Hull, P.M. Calibrating the foraminifer fragmentation proxy for seawater saturation state (Poster).

- 2016: *Geological Society of America Annual Meeting*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Hull, P.M., Lindberg, D.R., and Finnegan, S. A weak and inconsistent Bergmann's rule in northeastern Pacific patellogastropods (Poster).
- 2016: *American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting*. Elder, L.E., Hsiang, A.Y., Hull, P.M., and **Kahanamoku, S.S.** An ecometric study of Recent fossils using high-throughput imaging (Poster).
- 2015: *Geological Society of America Annual Meeting*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Hull, P.M., Lindberg, D.R., and Finnegan, S. High-throughput semi-3D imaging of macroinvertebrates: a test case using northeastern Pacific patellogastropods (Poster).

### Invited Seminars

- 2023: *University of California, Santa Cruz Whole Earth Seminar*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.** Resource allocation across scales: Life history and demography from benthic ecosystems to academic research (Talk).
- 2022: *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Oceanography Seminar*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.** Resource allocation across scales: Life history and demography from benthic ecosystems to academic research (Talk).
- 2021: *University of Maine: Women and Climate Change Speaker Series*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.** Indigenous Science is Activism: Lessons from Mauna Kea for the climate crisis (Talk).
- 2019: *North American Paleontological Congress*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Hsiang, A.Y., Elder, L.E. and Hull, P.M. Building big data with AutoMorph: A high-throughput imaging and morphometrics pipeline accelerates paleontological research (Talk).
- 2020: *Yale University: Freshman Outdoor Orientation Trips Speaker Series*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.** Maunakea, Sovereignty, and Indigenous Land Rights (Talk).

### Campus and Departmental Seminars

- 2017: *University of California Museum of Paleontology Seminar*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Hull, P.M., and Finnegan, S. High-throughput imaging for rapid data digitization (Talk).
- 2016: *Geology and Geophysics seminar*. **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Hull, P.M., and Finnegan, S. Sizing up community structure: Exploring latitudinal gradients in northeastern Pacific Patellogastropoda body size with high-throughput imaging (Talk).

## Webinars and Meetings

Asterisk (\*) denotes co-organizers

2023: *US Geological Survey. Webinar Series: Incorporating Indigenous Knowledges into Federal Research and Management.* Talk: **Kahanamoku, S.S.**, Hintzen, K., and Alegado, R.A. Best Practices for Engaging Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples Surrounding Indigenous Knowledges ([webinar link](#)).

2023: *Sea Grant Traditional and Local Knowledge Community of Practice. Webinar Series: Indigenous Research Partnerships.* Panel: *Who Bears the Burden of Broader Impacts?* **Kahanamoku, S.S.\***, Tachera, D.\*, David-Chavez, D., Puniwai, N., Farrant, N.K., and Hintzen, K\*. ([webinar link](#)).

2022: *Hawai'i Sea Grant 'Ulana Ike Center of Excellence. Webinar Series: Sciences and the Sacred: Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Knowledge Stewardship.* Alegado, R.A.\*, Hintzen, K.\*, and **Kahanamoku, S.S.\*** ([webinar series link](#)).

2019: Meeting: *Northern California Paleontology Conference (NorCal Paleo).* Palmer, H.\* and **Kahanamoku, S.S.\*** ([conference link](#)).

## Fellowships and honors

2022–2024: Provost Strategic Investment Fund: \$300,000  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

2020–2025: Early Career Fellowship: \$10,000 (Conferred 2022)  
Center for Diverse Leadership in Science  
University of California, Los Angeles

2021–2022: Berkeley Connect Fellowship: \$23,000  
University of California, Berkeley

2021–2022: Mid-American Paleontology Society Outstanding Student Research Award: \$1,200  
Geological Society of America

2018: Finalist, Ada Lovelace Fellowship  
Microsoft Research

2017–2022: National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship: \$138,000  
*Administered via:* University of California, Berkeley

2017–2021: Chancellor's Fellowship: \$90,000 (deferred to 2019–2021)  
University of California, Berkeley

2015: Geobiology and Geomicrobiology Student Poster Award  
Geological Society of America

## Research Support

- 2020: Microsoft AI for Earth: \$10,000  
*Funding Institution:* Microsoft Research
- 2015: Karen L. von Damm 77 Undergraduate Research Fellowship: \$1,500  
Yale University
- 2014–2016: STARS II Undergraduate Research Fellowship: \$1,500  
Yale University
- 2020: International Summer Award: \$8,000  
*Funding Institution:* Yale University

## Extension Support

- 2022–2024: Provost Strategic Investment Fund: \$311,786  
*Funding Institution:* University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

## Service

- 2023: Contributor, Listening Session on the National STEM Ecosystem  
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
- 2021–2022: Ad Hoc Panelist, Ethics of Geologic Fieldwork  
Geological Society of America
- 2019–2021: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee  
University of California Museum of Paleontology
- 2019–2021: Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty  
Department of Integrative Biology  
University of California, Berkeley
- 2019: Expert Reviewer, Working Group I, Sixth Assessment Report  
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

## Teaching and mentorship

### Graduate

- 2022: Mentor, Peter Rappa Fellowship, Hawai‘i Sea Grant
- 2021 – : Facilitator, Kūlana Noi‘i Training, Hawai‘i Sea Grant
- Spring 2018: Co-Instructor, Graduate Student R Short Course, UC Berkeley

### Undergraduate

- Fall 2017: Laboratory Instructor, General Biology; 40 students
- Fall 2021: Mentor, Berkeley Connect; 40 students
- Fall 2021: Mentor, Berkeley Connect; 40 students
- Spring 2022: Mentor, Berkeley Connect; 40 students
- Fall 2022: Mentor, Berkeley Connect; 50 students

## Research Mentorship

Asterisk (\*) denotes graduate mentee

1. **C. Bridge**, Identifying foraminifera from the Santa Barbara Basin
2. **B. Wu**, Machine learning for taxonomic identification
3. **S. Chupongstimun**, Machine learning for taxonomic identification
4. **J.R. Cliff**, NSF REU Project: Reproductive life history in the Santa Barbara Basin foraminifer *B. Argentea*
5. **N. Jager**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin
6. **L. Kahn**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin
7. **S. Kamel**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin; Identifying Santa Barbara Basin benthic foraminifera; Reproductive mode of *Bolivina*; Life history and growth rates of *Bolivina*
8. **K. Kennedy**, mid-Pliocene Benthic foraminifer diversity
9. **S. Li**, Identifying foraminifera from the Santa Barbara Basin
10. **J. Marsden**, mid-Pliocene Warm Period  $\Delta 47$
11. **H. McCandless\***, mid-Pliocene Warm Period  $\Delta 47$ ; Honors Thesis: California Current Benthic foraminifer assemblage diversity from 5.33 Ma to Recent (IODP site 1014); Graduate Project: Benthic foraminifer assemblage turnover during the mid-Pliocene warm period (IODP site 1014)
12. **H. Ramsey**, mid-Pliocene Benthic foraminifer diversity
13. **L. Ruiz**, mid-Pliocene Benthic foraminifer diversity
14. **M. Samuels-Fair\***, Graduate Project: Reproductive life history in Santa Barbara Basin biserial foraminifera (Genus *Bolivina*)
15. **C. Sinco**, Identifying foraminifera from the Santa Barbara Basin
16. **M. Yan**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin
17. **J.T. Epino**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin
18. **G. Gonzalez**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin
19. **D. Stewart**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin
20. **J. Moreno**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin
21. **S. Ertac**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin
22. **K. Seekamp**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin
23. **A.Y. Mei**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin
24. **A. Ahmad**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin
25. **H. Fergus**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin
26. **M. Titcomb**, Recent foraminifer assemblages from the Santa Barbara Basin



## Select professional development

2021–2023: Papakū Makawalu Workshop (Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation), Hilo, HI

2022: Indigenous Environmental Studies (Spring 2022 Course), UC Berkeley, CA

2019: Climate Change Law (Fall 2019 Course), Berkeley Law, Berkeley, CA

2019: Agouron Institute Advanced Geobiology Course, Umbria, Italy

2019: Paleoclimate to Policy (NSF-sponsored workshop), Bodega Marine Lab, CA

2017: Invertebrate Zoology, Friday Harbor Marine Lab, WA