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WEST O'AHU

NEWS RELEASE

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**UH West O'ahu to host prominent local writers in
"Local Voices, Local Literature" speaker series**

KAPOLEI --- This March, UH West O'ahu will host two prominent local writers in the "Local Voices, Local Literature" speaker series sponsored by the UH West O'ahu Humanities Division and English concentration, University of Hawai'i Diversity and Equity Initiative Grant, and Bamboo Ridge Press. All events are free and open to the public.

Author Lois-Ann Yamanaka

Wednesday, March 5, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., UH West O'ahu Campus Center Room C225

Nationally acclaimed author and performing artist Lois-Ann Yamanaka will discuss her literary works at UH West O'ahu. Born on Moloka'i and raised in Pahala, Yamanaka confronts issues ranging from local ethnic tensions to sexuality to autism through literary works written mostly in Hawai'i Creole English or Pidgin. She is the recipient of the Hawai'i Award for Literature, the American Book Award, the Children's Choice Award for Literature, a Carnegie Foundation Grant, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Yamanaka's works include *Saturday Night at the Pahala Theatre*; *Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers*; *Blu's Hanging*; *Heads by Harry*; *Name Me Nobody*; *Father of the Four Passages*; *Snow Angel*, *Sand Angel*; and *Behold the Many*. Her work was reviewed in *The New York Times Review of Books*, *The Nation*, *Library Journal*, *Booklist*, and included in high school and university reading lists across the nation.

Author "Da Pidgin Guerilla" Lee Tonouchi

Wednesday, March 19, 12:30-1:30 p.m., UH West O'ahu Campus Center Room C225

Hawaii-born author and editor "Da Pidgin Guerilla" Lee Tonouchi will perform his works at UH West O'ahu. A strong advocate of Hawai'i Creole English or Pidgin, his works often address issues of interethnic relations in local culture, family relationships, and local humor. Tonouchi's play, *Significant Moments in da Life of Oriental Faddah and Son*, won the 2013 Book Award for Poetry from the National Association for Asian American Studies. In 2012, The East West Players of Los Angeles staged *Three Year Swim Club*, one of his many plays. Tonouchi's other works include *Da Word* and *Living Pidgin: Contemplations on Pidgin Culture*. He is the editor of the Hawai'i Pidgin dictionary *Da Kine Dictionary: Da Hawai'i Community Pidgin Dictionary Project*.

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UH West O'ahu became a four-year, regional comprehensive university when it served its first class of freshmen in fall 2007. The University offers quality education, small classes and personalized attention at convenient locations. UH West O'ahu serves approximately 2,400 students at its brand new, state-of-the-art campus that opened in the City of Kapolei in 2012. For more information, visit uhwo.hawaii.edu, twitter.com/uhwestoahu, facebook.com/uhwestoahu or call (808) 689-2800 or toll-free (866) 299-8656.