



PACIFIC ALTERNATIVES

Cultural Heritage and Political Innovation in Oceania

*Hawaii Imin International Conference Center
East-West Center, Honolulu
24-27 March 2009*

This international conference explores innovative social, cultural, and political responses to global processes in Oceania. Speakers will discuss viable local alternatives to the institutions and practices commonly advocated in development discourse but difficult to implement in Pacific settings. There will be a particular focus on expanding perceptions of cultural heritage in Pacific societies, and how this awareness intersects with local political forms emerging in response to the challenges of global political economy. *Pacific Alternatives* features situations from many parts of Oceania, with some emphasis on Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The *Pacific Alternatives* conference is a milestone event in an ongoing research and educational project of the same name coordinated by the Bergen Pacific Studies group at the University of Bergen, Norway, in collaboration with institutional partners at the University of Hawai'i, East-West Center, Solomon Islands National Museum, Vanuatu Cultural Center, British Museum, University College London, James Cook University, New York University, and University of Tulsa. The conference is cosponsored by the Center for Pacific Islands Studies and Department of Anthropology, University of Hawai'i at Manoa; East-West Center's Pacific Islands Development Program; and the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen.

For further information about the conference contact Terence Wesley-Smith (twsmith@hawaii.edu), Tisha Hickson (ctisha@hawaii.edu), or Edvard Hviding (Edvard.Hviding@sosantr.uib.no). For conference updates visit the website of the Center for Pacific Islands Studies (www.hawaii.edu/cpis/). For more information about the *Pacific Alternatives* project see http://www.pacific.uib.no/pacific_alternatives.htm.