Harada and Suthers receive NSF Grant (10/04/1999)

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UH-M professors partner with DOE specialists on project to improve Hawaii schools.

Yovel Harada, associate professor of library and information science, and Daniel Suthers, assistant professor of information and computer sciences, will collaborate with specialists from the Hawaii Department of Education to develop a needs assessment of schools in economically and educationally disadvantaged rural areas as well as an implementation plan to make significant improvements in standards-based education.

The National Science Foundation awarded the DOE a $191,764 one-year development grant for the reform initiative in K-12 science, math and technology education.

The team hopes to implement its "Hawaii's Networked Learning Communities" project in these schools, which Harada says promotes learning outside of the classroom. The project encourages teachers and students to "engage in global environmental investigations and learn about Hawaiian methods of resource management," Harada says. It includes distance learning with other schools within the state and is conducive to the development of relationships between school teams and their mentors as well as working scientists and technologists.

Suthers says the project will give Hawaii students and teachers the opportunity to "leverage the rich land, sea, space and cultural resources situated in this state, regardless of their location."

After this initial year of development, the team will create an implementation plan that could total more than $10 million over five years if funded, says Harada.

Stephen Hoag, chairman of the UH Manoa ICS department, says the project is also important because it forges a partnership between UH and the DOE. "We are collaborating on critical educational issues that are relevant to all of us," Hoag said. "The relationship is a synergistic one."

Further information will be posted at http://www2.hawaii.edu/~vharada/News-ICS-NSF-1999.htm