

# UTOPIA PDX

## (United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance Portland)

CAPAA Board Meeting Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Presented by: Manumalo “Malo” S. Ala’ilima

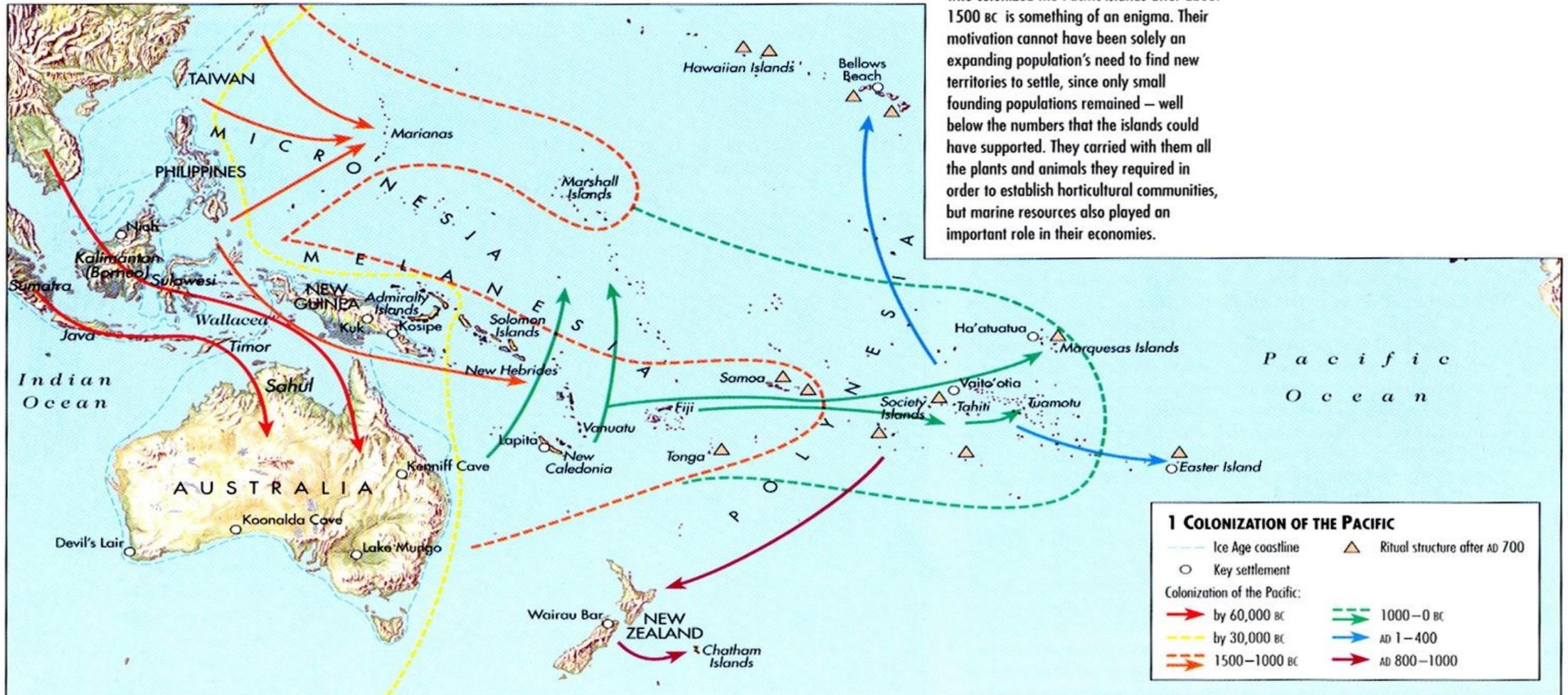
Pronouns: All

Gender expression: Fa’atane (Samoan for “in the manner of a male”),  
Masculine of Center presenting, Butch

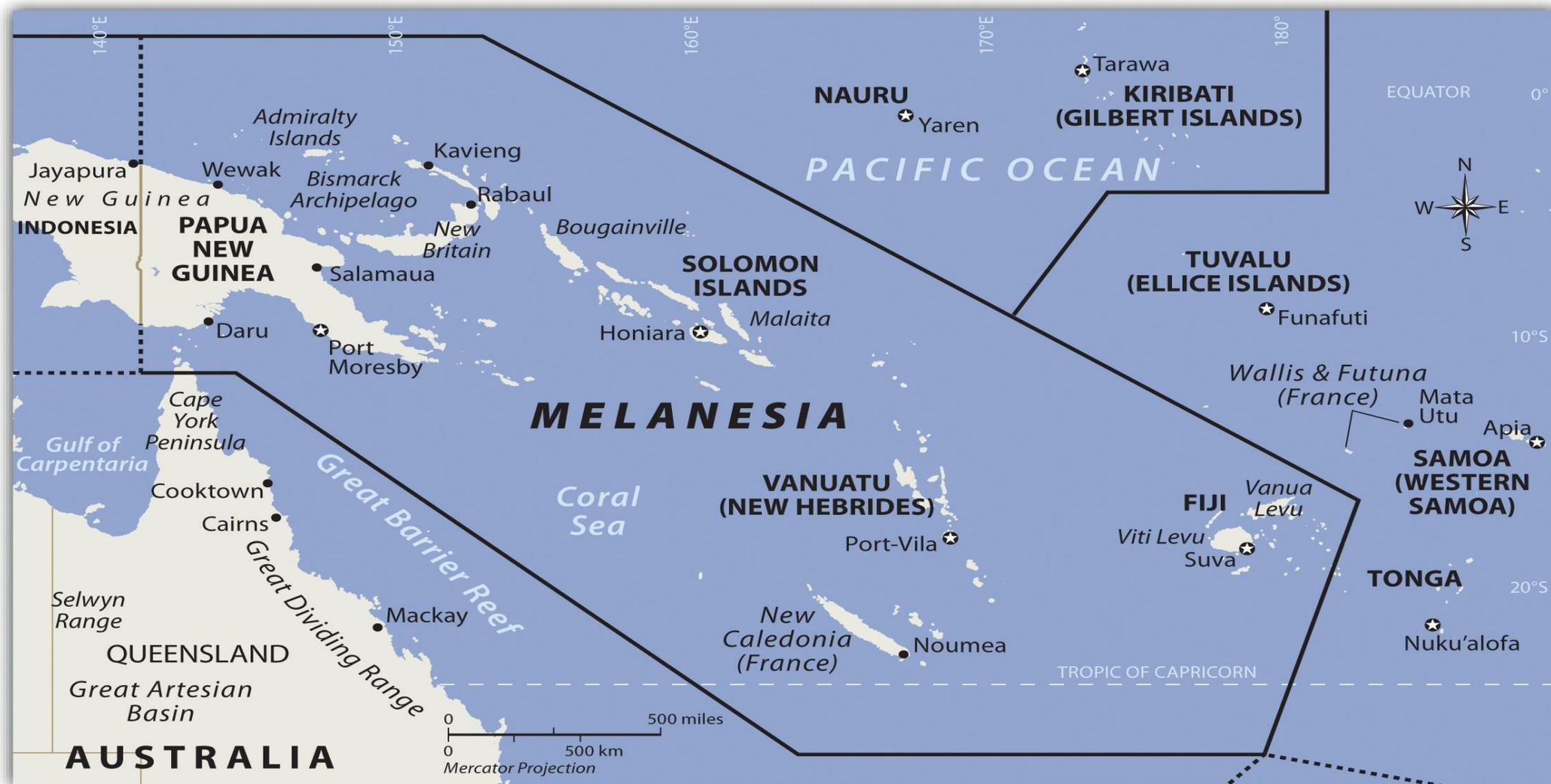
Sexual Orientation: Lesbian and Queer

What does it mean to be from the Pacific (means *peaceful* in Latin) Islands? Divided into three groupings: Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

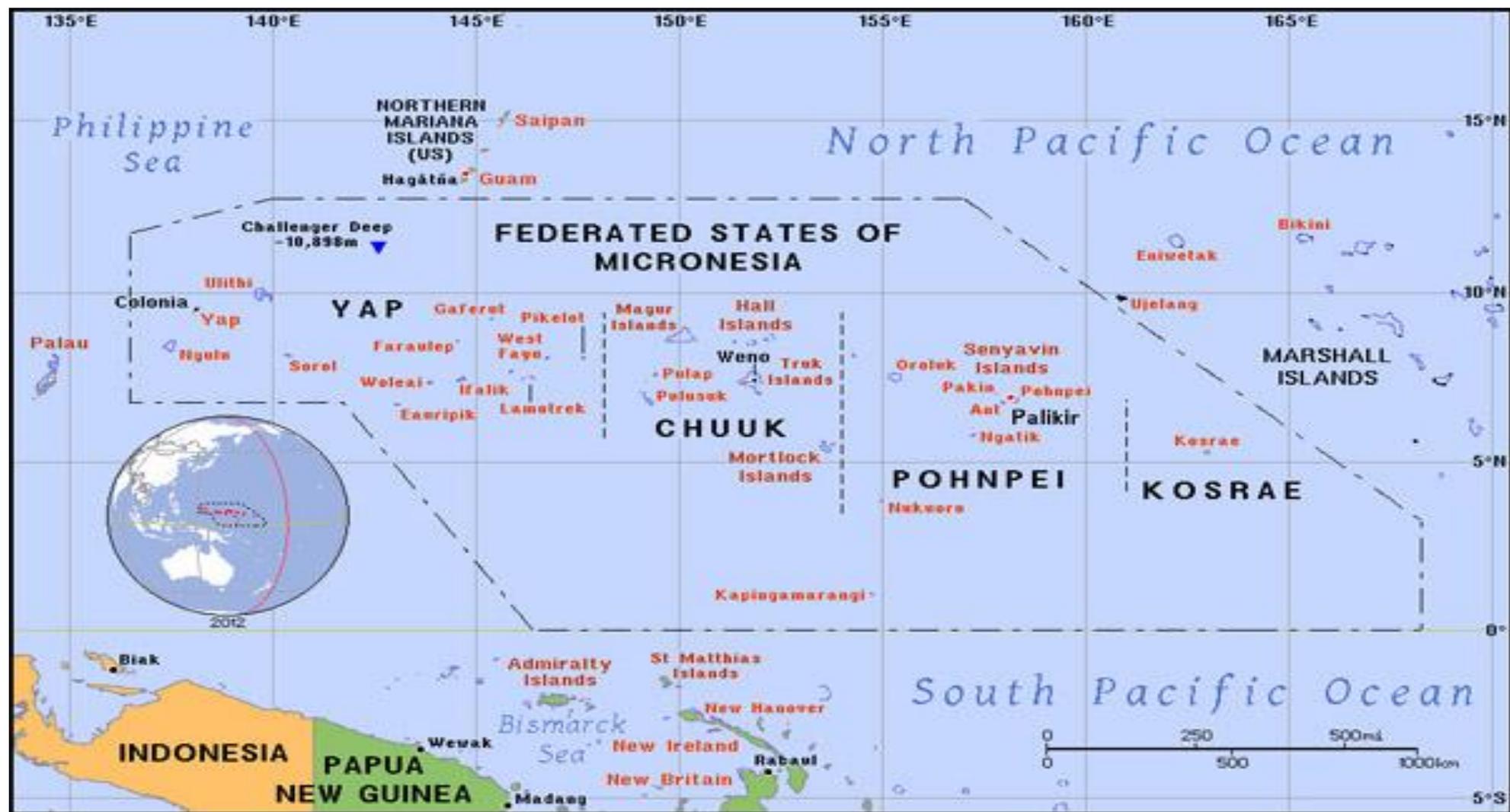
Map Copyright © Philip's, a division of Octopus Publishing Group Ltd  
Source: Philip's Atlas of World History



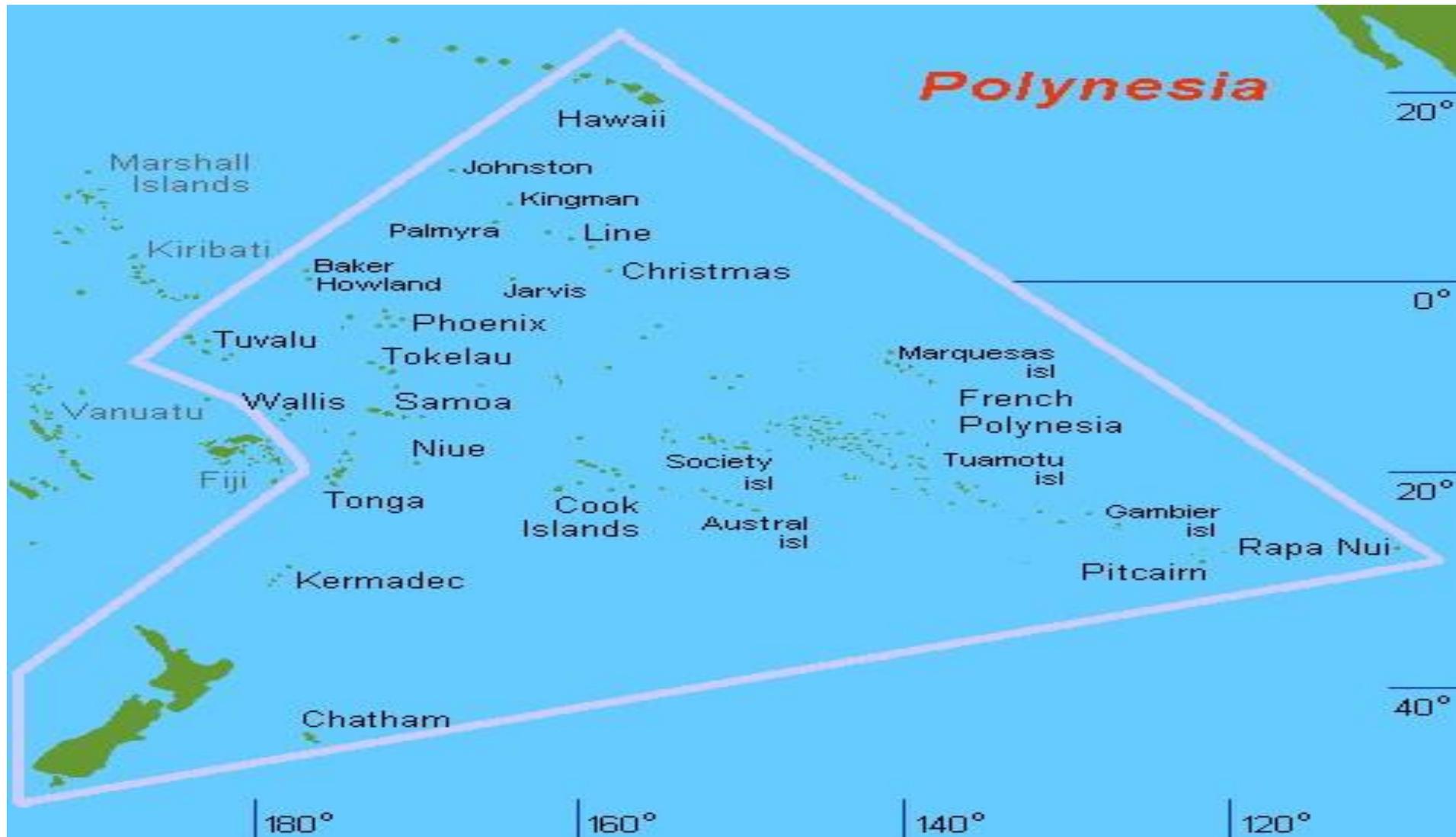
*Melanesia* means “Dark islands” in Greek.



*Micronesia* means “Small islands” in Greek.



*Polynesia* means “Many islands” in Greek.



# Oceania Diaspora

- **Oceania** was originally conceived as the lands of the Pacific Ocean, stretching from the Strait of Malacca to the coast of the Americas. It comprised four regions: Polynesia, Micronesia, Malaysia (now called the Malay Archipelago), and Melanesia.
- **Diaspora** is a group of people who live outside the area in which they had lived for a long time or in which their ancestors lived.
- We all as Pacific Islanders living in the United States are part of the *Oceania Diaspora* here in the Pacific Northwest.

# Gender identities

- **Gender identity** – One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.
- **Gender expression** – External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, haircut or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.
- **Transgender** – An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.
- **Gender transition** – The process by which some people strive to more closely align their internal knowledge of gender with its outward appearance. Some people socially transition, whereby they might begin dressing, using names and pronouns and/or be socially recognized as another gender. Others undergo physical transitions in which they modify their bodies through medical interventions. .
- **Gender dysphoria** – Clinically significant distress caused when a person's assigned birth gender is not the same as the one with which they identify. According to the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the term – which replaces Gender Identity Disorder – "is intended to better characterize the experiences of affected children, adolescents, and adults."
- **Gender queer** – denoting or relating to a person who does not subscribe to conventional gender distinctions but identifies with neither, both, or a combination of male and female genders.
- **Gender fluid** – denoting or relating to a person who does not identify themselves as having a fixed gender.
- **Two Spirit** – Two Spirit was coined in 1990 In Winnipeg, Canada as a means of unifying various gender identities and expressions of Native American/First Nations/Indigenous individuals, the term is not a specific definition of gender, sexual orientation or other self-determining catch-all phrase, but rather an umbrella term.

# Gender pronouns

	Subject	Object	Pronoun	Pronunciation
Gender Binary	<b>she</b>	<b>her</b>	<b>hers</b>	<b>as it looks</b>
	<b>he</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>his</b>	<b>as it looks</b>
Gender Neutral	<b>they*</b>	<b>them*</b>	<b>their*</b>	<b>as it looks</b>
	<b>ze</b>	<b>hir</b>	<b>hirs</b>	<b>zhee, here, heres</b>
	<b>ze</b>	<b>zir</b>	<b>zirs</b>	<b>zhee, zhere, zheres</b>
	<b>xe</b>	<b>xem</b>	<b>xyr</b>	<b>zhee, zhem, zhere</b>

*\*used as singular*

# Sexual Orientations of Sexual Minorities

- ***Sexual Orientation*** – a person's sexual identity in relation to the gender to which they are attracted.
- ***Pansexual*** – not limited in sexual choice with regard to biological sex, gender, or gender identity.
- ***Lesbian*** – a homosexual woman.
- ***Gay*** – a homosexual man.
- ***Bisexual*** – a person who is sexually attracted to both men and women.
- ***Intersexual*** – relating to or having the condition of being intermediate between male and female.
- ***Asexual*** – a person who has no sexual feelings or desires.

# Being Pacific Islander and LGBTQ2SPIA+

## **Pacific Islander**

- Inhabitant or descendant of Oceania that were divided into three groupings: Melanesia (Greek for “Black or dark islands” ), Micronesia (Greek for “Small islands”), and Polynesia (Greek for “Many islands”).
- Traversed, explored, and populated the islands of the Pacific (Latin for “peace”) Ocean by navigation of stars, assessing trade winds, and utilization of seafaring skills of boats and canoes.

## **LGBTQPIA2S+/QTPI**

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Pansexual, Intersexual, Asexual, Two Spirit and Plus (to include any other sexual minority term not captured).
- QTPI – Queer and Transgender Pacific Islander (self-determined term until we create and build consensus for indigenous terms that are agreeable to our understanding and for our empowerment.)

# Indigenous terms used to describe colonized Western influence regarding sexual minorities and gender or non-binary identities

## Melanesia

*Vaka sa lewa lewa* (Fiji) – men who present themselves or live as women.

*Pinapinaaine / Binabinaaine* (Tuvalu and Kiribati) – a man who may regard himself as or be regarded as other as a woman.

## Micronesia

*Wininmvan* (Chuuk) – a word for homosexual

*Mamflorita* (Guam) – a word for homosexual

*Mengol a otaor/Mondil* (Palau) – a phrase for homosexual

# Polynesia

*Akava'ine* (Cook Islands) – refers to a male who “behaves” like a woman.

*Aikane* (Hawai'i) – An intimate same-sex friend of a chief. This person often, though not always, had a sexual relationship with the chief as well.

*Mahu* (Hawai'i) – refers to an individual who may be considered third-gendered with characteristics of both sexes, usually a male to female. In contemporary Hawai'i the word is also used to describe people who are transgender, transvestites, or gay.

*Māhūkāne* (Hawai'i) – a wahine who lives the life of a kāne, mentally and/or physically.

*Māhūwahine* (Hawai'i) – A newly coined term (2003). A gender identity encompassing transvestitism, transgenderism, and transsexualism.

*Moe aikane* (Hawai'i) – an individual who slept with another individual of the same sex or gender.

*Takatapui* (Maori) – a devoted partner of the same sex, in contemporary Aotearoa it has become an umbrella term of Maori LGBTI people.

*Whakawahine* (Maori) – a term used to describe men who live as women either through sex reassignment surgery, hormone therapy, or even men who are born effeminate.

*Fafafine* (Niue) – a third-gendered individual. May be born biologically male and embody both male and female gender traits.

# Polynesia

- *Fa'afafine* (Samoa) – a third-gendered individual with the literal translation of “in the manner of a woman”. A recognized and integral part of traditional Samoan culture, fa'afafine, born biologically male, embody both male and female traits.
- *Fa'afatama/ Fa'atama / Fa'atamaloa / Fa'atane* (Samoa) – a woman who is masculine of center presenting that usually seeks an intimate relationship with feminine women.
- *Fakaleiti/ Fakaleti / Fakafefine* (Tonga) – a male who behaves in the manner of a woman. May also be considered third gender.

# Did you know?

- That it is illegal for men to have same-sex relations in 7 Pacific Island nations, where a man can be imprisoned for up to as many as 14 years and in Tonga can experience whippings too.
- Those countries are the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu, of which the Cook Islands, Samoa and Tonga do not enforce that particular law.
- The Solomon Islands is the only Pacific Island nation to make it illegal for both men and women to have same-sex relations and serve up to a 14 year prison sentence.

# Decolonizing derogatory cultural terminology

- “O se mala” – a hateful and demeaning phrase in Samoan often referred to a fa’afafine, fa’atane and/or a grouping of either one meaning “you are an abomination”.
- “Palu le kaleve” – a hateful and demeaning phrase in Samoan often used to describe a lesbian or a lesbian couple, which the literal translation is to “stir the gravy” as if to metaphorically depict an intimate act between two women to a mere cooking task.
- “Sepuni” – another hateful and demeaning phrase in Samoan used to describe a lesbian or a lesbian couple, which the literal translation for “spoon” as the object to “stir the gravy”.
- Self-determine and create our own cultural terminology for our empowerment and existence.

The late Shalimar Seiuli, a Samoan fa'afafine, found dead exactly a year later in 1998 after her arrest and incident with Eddie Murphy.



The late Jeanine Tuivaiki, a Samoan fa'afafine,  
found dead in church hall in Samoa in June 2016



# History of UTOPIA

Founded in San Francisco, California in March of 1998



# UTOPIA San Francisco

The United Territories Of Pacific Islanders Alliance (U.T.O.P.I.A.) originated in San Francisco, California in March 1998. The organization was formed to provide support to the Polynesian Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community.

Originally, the group identified themselves as GPAC (Gay Polynesians Alliance/California). In February 1999, the name was changed to UTOPIA.

The new name was better suited to represent the diversity of the club. UTOPIA has been a support organization for GLBT Polynesians and friends consisting of members from Samoa, Tonga, Hawaii, Tahiti and Fiji. UTOPIA hopes to strengthen its alliance by recruiting members from all of Polynesia and South Pacific.

# UTOPIA San Francisco



# UTOPIA New York



# UTOPIA San Diego



# UTOPIA Seattle



March meeting in 2017 to determine what we want to become



# UTOPIA PDX

Established on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Our logo symbolizes the strength and perseverance of our ocean nations through ocean imagery. We display the three types of paddles representing each island grouping: Micronesia, Polynesia, and Melanesia; and star constellation patterns that led navigation throughout the ocean.



# Mission

To provide sacred spaces to strengthen the minds and bodies of QTPIs – Queer and Trans Pacific Islanders – in the Portland and Vancouver areas through community organizing, political engagement, and cultural stewardship.

# Vision

To restore and reimagine the vital roles of QTPIs within our communities and ensure a world that values, nurtures, respects and celebrates QTPIs in our navigation of self-determination and empowerment. We envision a future where all QTPIs can fulfill our dreams without fear or repercussions for living our truths; thrive in enhancing our quality of life and that of others; build communities with a compassionate, equitable, and just lens; develop multigenerational and multi-socio-economic leaders and culturally informed institutions within our community; hold positive, visible, and appreciative spaces within our greater communities.

# Commitments

- To document and address disparities in the areas of health, employment, and education particular to QTPIs.
- To promote culturally informed education about QTPIs.
- To organize with allied organizations and collectives that conduct and support anti-oppression visions that work for, with, and from QTPI communities.
- To provide support and guidance to our youth regarding sexual orientation, gender, and/or non-binary identities.
- To build awareness within QTPI and greater community on issues regarding the prejudices and difficulties we face and participate in developing solutions.

# Data Collection and Analysis

- QTPIs living and working in Portland and Vancouver areas and in Multnomah and Clark counties.
- Healthcare services for QTPIs in Portland and Vancouver areas and in Multnomah and Clark counties.
- Homelessness disruptions and displacements for QTPIs in Portland and Vancouver areas and in Multnomah and Clark counties.
- Educational and employment opportunities for QTPIs in Portland and Vancouver areas and in Multnomah and Clark counties.
- Incarceration rate of QTPIs.
- Violence against QTPIs.
- Tell and record our narratives and stories for the above to bring visibility to our issues.

UTOPIA PDX participated in the panel discussion for Trans HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 sponsored by Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) and Pride Foundation at the Q Center



The first UTOPIA PDX event was May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017  
karaoke session with Greg Cendana, former APALA  
Executive Director



# UTOPIA PDX tabled at May Day at Clark College



# UTOPIA PDX hosted a Queer and Trans Asian and Pacific Islander panel and reception event for Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month at the Q Center



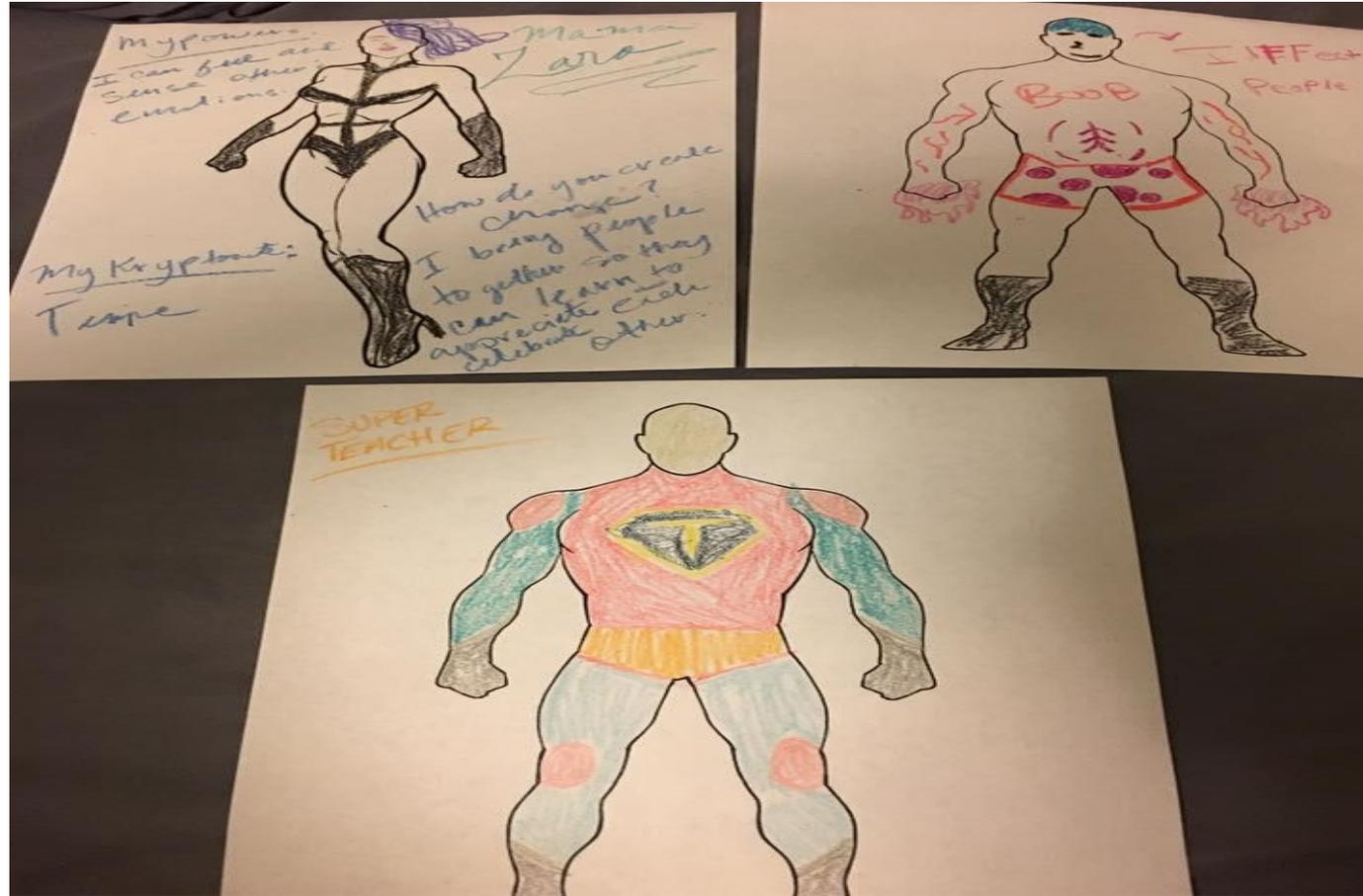
# UTOPIA PDX attended Scholarship Recipient Award Reception for Pride Foundation



# UTOPIA PDX celebrated Pride Day at Clark College



UTOPIA PDX facilitated a cartoon drawing activity for LGBTQ2SPIA+ youth at the 2nd Annual MacLaren Youth Correctional facility



# UTOPIA PDX tabled at SITPP (Saturday In the Park Pride aka Vancouver Pride)

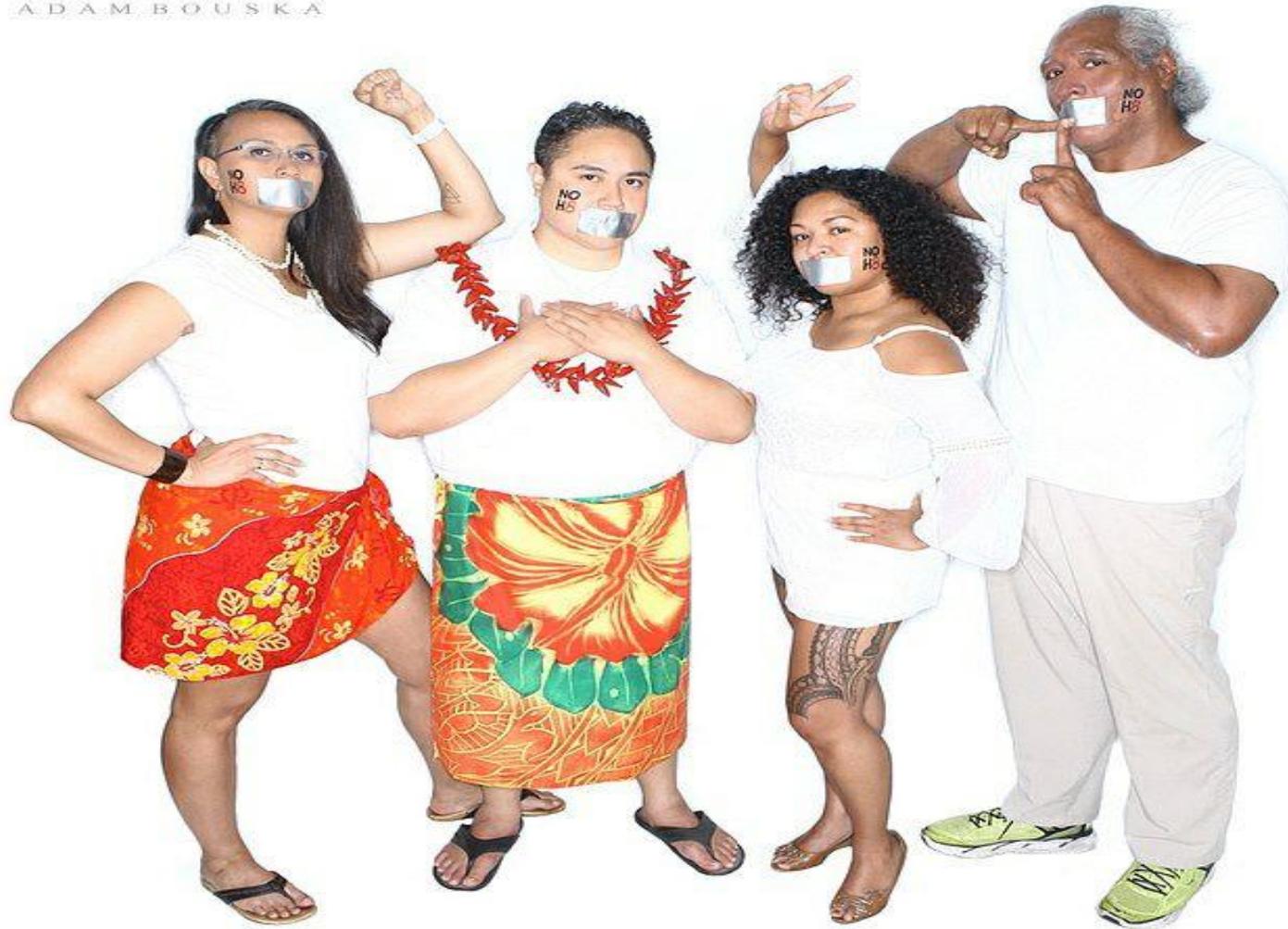


# UTOPIA PDX participated in the Melanin Edition of Proud Queer (PQ) Monthly



# UTOPIA PDX participated in the NOH8 campaign

ADAM BOUSKA



UTOPIA PDX facilitated Queer, Trans and Questioning Pacific Islander Youth and their allies workshop for APANO's ONYCS (Oregon Nesian Youth for Change in Society) at the Q Center



# UTOPIA San Francisco, UTOPIA Seattle, and UTOPIA Portland at UTOPIA Convening in Fresno, California August 2017



# UTOPIA PDX supporting #HaveYourSei and Miss UTOPIA Seattle's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Pageant October 2017



# UTOPIA PDX presented North Star Award at Q Center Shine Gala



UTOPIA PDX presented a few workshops at UPRISE Conference in Seattle, Washington. Pictured here with APANO's ONYCS #HaveYourSei Campaign.



# UTOPIA PDX in community with Samoa Pacific Development Corporation (SPDC)



# UTOPIA PDX outing for an art performance



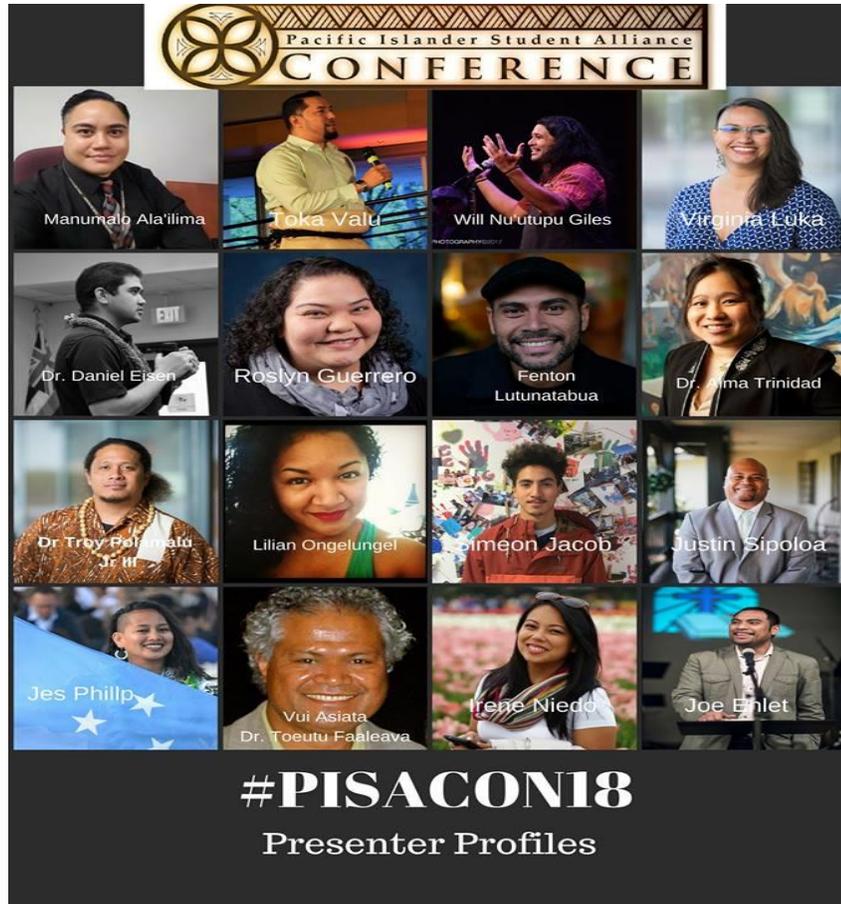
# UTOPIA PDX Retreat



# UTOPIA PDX volunteered at Mochitsuki at Portland State University



# UTOPIA PDX presented workshops and volunteered at the Pacific Islander Student Alliance (PISA) Conference at Portland State University



# Upcoming events

- UTOPIA PDX “Meet and Eat” in collaboration with Islanesia for Pacific Perspectives: The Only Islander in the Room discussion. Also a 100% of donation proceeds fundraiser for the Queer Student of Color Conference at Portland State University.
- UTOPIA PDX cultural display and Pasifika Night, panel discussion and reception at Q Center in May for Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- UTOPIA PDX participation in Portland Pride: Performing, Tabling and Marching in June.
- UTOPIA PDX participation in SITPP (Vancouver Pride): Tabling and Performing in July.
- UTOPIA PDX participation in 3 Days of Aloha: Tabling and Performing in July.
- UTOPIA PDX Healing Retreat for QTPIs in August
- UTOPIA PDX to present workshops at Pasifika Pride in Seattle, Washington with our sibling organization UTOPIA Seattle in August.

Questions?

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