Preface

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This is the evolution of a book that describes the evolution of a society.

People and Cultures of Hawai'i: A Psychocultural Profile was published by the University of Hawai'i Press in 1980, and since then it has enjoyed modest but steady sales with serial reprinting. The readership grew well beyond the target audience of health professionals for whom it was written. In addition to a broad general bookstore purchase, the book was used in college social science courses both in Hawai'i and on the U.S. mainland. As *People and Cultures* became a standard reference in university and public libraries, the need for an updated revision was evident. The ethnic groups it described had matured, and new groups had appeared.

This new edition, *People and Cultures of Hawai'i: The Evolution of Culture and Ethnicity*, is built on the earlier 1980 volume but goes much further. It tells the story of what happened next. The book details not just the history of each of Hawai'i's different ethnic groups, but it goes on to examine the makeup of the unique ethnocultural identity of each and tells the story of how they live together to form America's most diverse multicultural society. The nature of that society is explored—a *group* identity that helped shape the *individual* identity of the forty-fourth president of the United States. Barack Obama grew up in Hawai'i.

Once again, the chapters are arranged in chronological order of the groups' arrivals in Hawai'i, with the insertion of three new ones into the continuum—the black American, Hispanic American, and Micronesian American chapters.

The editors begin and end the book with an introduction and conclusion that attempt to frame the chapter content into a common perspective, teasing out the threads that have allowed them all to come together to form our country's most diverse state.

The chapter authors and coauthors are a mix of old and new. Most of them, as in the first edition, share the ethnic background they describe. As a group, they span the generations and cultures, from the indigenous Hawaiians through the series of American and Asian immigrations to more recent Pacific Islanders. Moreover, they represent a variety of professional disciplinary backgrounds, most being affiliated with the John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry at the University of Hawai'i.

By the same token, the book's coeditors are a mix of old and new. Both are professors and present or past chairs of that same University of Hawai'i department. One is of indigenous Hawaiian and Portuguese descent from Hawai'i's Big Island and has lived there or on the island of O'ahu all her life. The other is a "naturalized haole" who settled in Hawai'i some forty years ago, coming from the University of Michigan to help build the new University of Hawai'i Medical School.

Finally, your editors express our gratitude to William Hamilton, director of the University of Hawai'i Press, who has served as editor for the publication of this volume. And once again, we offer a *mahalo nui loa* to our administrative assistant Gail Mastronardi for her seemingly effortless style in putting it all together with us.

Only you, the reader, can decide whether or not we have been successful.

The Editors