

Introduction I:

Bringing bodies and minds together

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It was with great pleasure and satisfaction that I witnessed the initiation of the idea (by Seongwon Park and Aubrey Yee), development (by John Sweeney, Aubrey Yee, Aaron Rosa and Rex Troumbley), and then realization of the Mānoa Futures Symposium by all of the people who participated in the events of the two sunny days and balmy nights in Kaka'ako, Hawai'i, in December 2012. The Symposium was the latest (and arguably, greatest), in a long tradition of student-based events that have always characterized futures in the islands since the original Governor's Conference on *Hawai'i 2000* in 1970, through student-developed and presented (truly) multimedia events (combining film and multiple slide projectors, accompanied by fully-produced narration, sound effects and music, often along with live dance and performance) at numerous local, national, international workshops, often also then presented at conferences of the World Future Society and the World Futures Studies Federation in the 70s, 80s, and 90s, and (especially recently) intensively experiential and interactive simulations of the four generic Alternative Futures which is the hallmark of the Manoa School.

However, this was the first time that students not only conceived and achieved the activity, but also raised the money necessary to bring in several academic counterparts from some of the other major futures centers around the world. This was a fantastic achievement, especially given the current economic climate, which the extraordinarily high quality of the many diverse presentations by visitors and locals fully justified. The success of the event attests to the increasing vitality of academic and professional Futures Studies worldwide and bodes well for the futures of the futures as well as for the futures of Futures Studies itself.

While much can and is achieved remotely in cyberspace, the live interactions that the symposium made possible also fully validated the necessity of bringing young bodies and minds physically together in biospace as well—not to put too fine a point on it.

Keep the flame alive! Where and when will the next symposium be held?

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