

## Pacific Language leaders and innovators to gather for inaugural fono



Hosted!by!the!Centre!for!Pacific!Languages,!KOLOA!is!open!to!300!delegates!to!come!to!hear,!share!and!dream!about!the!future!of!Pacific!languages!in!Aotearoa.

Koloa!boasts!a!great!lineup!of!keynote!speakers!who!are!pioneers!and!advocates!of!language!revitalisation!and!pillars!of!Pacific!Island!communities.

Keynote!speakers!for!2023!include!Tagaloatele!Professor!Peggy!Fairbairn-!Dunlop!and!Dr!Salainaoloa!Wilson-Uili,!Te!Taura!Whiri!!te!Reo!Māori!(Maori!Language!Commission)!CEO!Ngahiwi!Apanui!and!Sefita!Hauoli!among!other!high!calibre!presenters.

The!fono!will!bring!language!champions,!innovators!and!speakers!together!to!encourage!and!shape!the!future!of!Pacific!Language!revitalisation,!and!honour!tangata!whenua!for!their!leadership!with!Te!Reo!Māori!revitalisation!in!Aotearoa.

The!Centre!for!Pacific!Languages!interim!CEO!Ron!Viviani!says!the!event!will!showcase!the!environments!where!Pacific!Languages!can!thrive!in!interesting!and!unexpected!ways.!He!says!it!builds!on!the!launch!of!the!first!Pacific!Languages!Strategy!2022-2032.

“This!provides!the!framework!to!effectively!coordinate!the!efforts!and!actions!of!Pacific!communities!and!government!so!that,!together,!we!can!create!the!right!conditions!for!communities!to!drive!solutions!that!protect!and!maintain!our!heritage!and!indigenous!languages,”!he!says.

While!there’s!the!chance!to!hear,!there!is!also!the!chance!to!share.!There!will!be!space!to!talanoa!and!share!their!thoughts!on!recognising!the!value!of!language!and!strengthening!pathways!and!opportunities!for!indigenous!language!speakers.

The!Koloa!Pacific!Languages!Fono!invites!all!Pacific!people!with!an!interest!and!expertise!in!Pacific!Languages,!across!communities,!government,!and!key!stakeholders.

“Success!will!be!determined!by!how!well!we!work!together,!to!realise!the!vision!that!thriving!Pacific!languages!build!a!prosperous!Aotearoa,”!Ron!says.

This!year’s!fono!coincides!with!the!UNESCO!Decade!of!Indigenous!Languages,!making!it!even!more!special!as!Aotearoa!joins!the!worldwide!movement!to!revitalise!indigenous!languages.

Koloa!Pacific!Languages!Fono!is!taking!place!at!the!Due!Drop!Events!Centre,!Manukau!on!  
Tuesday!13!June!from!9am!to!5.30pm.!Registration!is!free,!numbers!are!limited.

**For more information contact:** Ron!Viviani,!Centre!for!Pacific!Languages,!0212604042!To!  
register,!go!to:

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2023/koloa-pacific-language-fono-2023/auckland/manukau-city>