

Maenette K. P. Ah Nee-Benham



Maenette K. P. Ah Nee-Benham began serving as University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu chancellor on January 1, 2017. A k naka maoli (Native Hawaiian) scholar and teacher, Benham previously served as the inaugural dean of the Hawai‘inui keka School of Hawaiian Knowledge at UH M noa (2008-2016).

A Kamehameha Schools graduate, Benham began her teaching career in 1978 teaching grades K–12 in California, Texas and Hawai‘i (Kaiser High School and Kamehameha Schools). She earned her doctoral degree from UH M noa in 1992 and joined the College of Education faculty at Michigan State University in 1993. Among her notable accomplishments, Benham was the lead author of the White House Paper on the Tribal Colleges and Universities: A Trust Responsibility (2004) submitted to the U.S. President’s Advisory Board on Tribal Colleges and Universities. She is the author, co-author, editor of 5 books and numerous published articles, book chapters and technical reports.

Benham’s work on alternative frames of leadership and issues of education is nationally and internationally respected. She has been an invited speaker and presenter in Europe and Southeast Asia and the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education. She covers a range of topics from program planning and assessment/evaluation, school change, leadership development, building school-community partnerships and professional ethics.