

## Kēhaulani Natsuko Vaughn Biography

Kēhaulani Natsuko Vaughn is a visiting professor in Asian American Studies at Pitzer College. She is a current Doctoral Candidate in Ethnic Studies at the University of California at Riverside. Her educational background includes graduate degrees from UCLA in Education, Asian American and Indigenous Studies. Her current research explores Pacific Island Studies, Indigenous education, and decolonial practices and pedagogies.

Before returning for her doctorate, Kēhaulani worked professionally at UCLA as an Academic Advisor for undergraduate and graduate students and also coordinated a federally-funded Student Support Services Trio program. She has been involved with educational access, outreach, and retention over the past several years both professionally and voluntarily amongst underrepresented students and families. She is a nationally recognized speaker on higher education and Pacific Islander education issues and consults for numerous organizations including OCA and the Gates Millennium Scholarship Fund. She is also a co-founder and current board member of Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC) based in Southern California. EPIC is a nationally recognized advocacy organization for Pacific Islanders and works to empower the community through research, advocacy and education.