



NEWS ADVISORY
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Japanese Language PhD Candidate Awarded National Grant



Nana Suzumura recently received a Graduate Students Research Support Award from the National Federation of Modern Language Teachers Association (NFMLTA) and the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL). She is a PhD candidate in Japanese language in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (EALL).

The \$2,500 award supports research in the fields of applied linguistics and language education and provides resources at any stage of dissertation writing. Suzumura was one of only eight recipients who received awards at the April 21 Annual NCOLCTL Conference in Virginia.

“I am very honored to receive the NFMLTA-NCOLCTL Graduate Students Research Support Award,” Suzumura remarked. “My dissertation examines the usefulness of the computer-based speaking tasks for the AP [Advanced Placement] Japanese language and culture exam. This is the first study to scrutinize its free response questions. The results of my study will benefit six other language communities which use the conversation tasks in their exams, as well as the Japanese language community.

“I would like to thank my advisor, professor and Associate Dean Kimi Kondo-Brown, for her guidance and encouragement, and the Department of EALL and the College of LLL for their continuous support. Finally, thank you, NFMLTA and MCOLCTL, for making my research financially possible.”

The College of Languages, Linguistics & Literature (one of the four Arts & Sciences colleges) of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa offers a broad curriculum in English, foreign and heritage languages and literatures, second language studies, and linguistics. Its Asia and Pacific focused curricula is unique in the nation and its faculty regularly teaches more than 25 languages.

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