



July 17, 2002

Dr. Jeffrey Clark, Director
Archaeology Technologies Laboratory (ATL)
North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND USA 58105

Dear Dr. Clark:

I am pleased to offer enthusiastic support for the Digital Archive Network for Anthropology (DANA), Immersive Virtual Environments (IVE) for education, and Virtual Museum Exhibits (VME) projects underway at the North Dakota State University (NDSU), Archaeology Technologies Laboratory (ATL).

Development of databases and multimedia archives for access through the DANA application, virtual worlds for IVEs and VMEs will enhance our public-spirited scholarly research and educational programs and make available to larger audiences a broader range and number of material culture objects in our collections. Bishop Museum collections contain thousands of artifacts from throughout Oceania, including assemblages from the majority of cultures and island groups in Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia.

We would like to initiate collaboration through coordinated preparation of joint grant proposals for submission to public and private funding agencies to garner substantial financial support necessary to underwrite thematic projects utilizing DANA, IVEs and VMEs emphasizing the comparative study of traditional Oceanian material culture, technology, subsistence strategies, and lifeways, for use in our exhibits, web sites, and scholarly research and educational programs.

It has been proposed in preliminary discussions that we begin collaboration on development of two digitization projects aimed at creating databases and multimedia archives focusing on Polynesian stone artifacts, and ethnobotanical specimens in Bishop Museum collections. Dr. John Dockall, archaeologist, and Dr. Heidi Lennstrom, palaeoethnobotanist, will coordinate with me, you, and other administrators, faculty, and staff at our respective institutions.

Another proposed project will be to develop an IVE illustrative of traditional Hawaiian lifeways for use in our Kamehameha Schools Education program.

Digitized information in the databases, and 2D images and 3D models in the multimedia archives may then be used to develop VMEs for display at our main campus in Kalihi, our new museum at Waikiki, via the Internet, and elsewhere as appropriate.

We look forward to further discussions regarding coordination and implementation of these projects.

Sincerely,

William Y. Brown

President and Chief Executive Officer

CENTERS FOR INNOVATIVE EDUCATION

HAWAII MARITIME CENTER

Pier 7 • Honolulu Harbor
Honolulu, Hawaii • 96813
(808) 523-6151 • Fax: (808) 536-4579

BERNICE P. BISHOP MUSEUM

The State Museum of Natural and Cultural History
1525 Bernice Street • Honolulu, Hawaii • 96817-2704
(808) 847-3511 • Fax: (808) 841-8968
www.bishopmuseum.org

AMY B.H. GREENWELL GARDEN

Post Office Box 1053
Captain Cook, Hawaii • 96704
(808) 323-3318 • Fax: (808) 323-2394
www.bishopmuseum.org/greenwell