



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **SSFM International gives \$260K in UHM scholarships and fellowships**

**HONOLULU** - SSFM International, Inc. has contributed \$261,263 to support UH Mānoa College of Engineering and College of Social Sciences students.

**This gift will fund:**

- 4 full undergraduate scholarships for Civil and Environmental Engineering for 4 years
- 1 Fellowship for an Urban and Regional Planning Graduate student for 4 years

Interim Dean Ronald Riggs said, "These are the most comprehensive scholarships we have in the College of Engineering. Providing full tuition scholarships significantly removes a major "worry" for many of our students and frees them to be able to focus on academics. In addition, the opportunity to intern with SSFM provides our students valuable work experience related to their major while also allowing them to earn money for living expenses. The College values this long-term, continuing partnership with SSFM in preparing the next generation of civil engineers."

SSFM International Inc. is a Hawai'i-based business with a long history of supporting the University of Hawai'i. The company's lifetime giving, including this new gift, totals over \$800,000.

"We are grateful to Michael Matsumoto and SSFM for their generosity and commitment to our students. This support will allow us to provide a rich learning opportunity for students interested in pursuing a professional planning career. The benefits of this gift will have a lasting impact on our students, our College, and the field of urban and regional planning," said Denise Eby Konan, dean of the College of Social Sciences.

Karen Umemoto, Urban and Regional Planning chair in the College of Social Sciences, added, "We are very grateful to receive this generous gift from SSFM for students in our Master's degree program. It not only offers students an educational opportunity, but the added internship is a valuable training opportunity in the specific skills and knowledge needed for a professional planning career in the private sector. SSFM's willingness and ability to mentor our students is priceless."

Michael P. Matsumoto, President, SSFM International, Inc. concluded, “We are honored to support the UH Mānoa College of Engineering and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning with these scholarships. This continues to be one of the ways that SSFM is able to honor our commitment to our profession and our community. SSFM understands that scholarships play a key role in making education accessible for many promising future engineers and planners. By partnering with UH we can participate in the education of the next generation of engineers for our state.”

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**The University of Hawai‘i Foundation**, a nonprofit organization, raises private funds to support the University of Hawai‘i System. The mission of the University of Hawai‘i Foundation is to unite donors’ passions with the University of Hawai‘i’s aspirations by raising philanthropic support and managing private investments to benefit UH, the people of Hawai‘i and our future generations. [www.uhfoundation.org](http://www.uhfoundation.org)

***MORE ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES***

*Marked by leadership, excellence and innovation, the [College of Social Sciences](#) (CSS) at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa provides students with a culturally diverse experience that transforms them into bold, engaged global citizens who affect change, break down barriers, touch lives and succeed in a multi-cultural context. Its student-centered environment is dedicated to providing students with a vibrant academic climate that affords exciting, intense interaction among students and faculty as they address fundamental questions about human behavior. Featuring outstanding scholarship through internships, active and service learning approaches to teaching, and an international focus particularly in the Asia Pacific region, it prepares students to become leaders in public and private enterprises throughout Hawai‘i and Asia.*

***MORE ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING***

The [Department of Urban and Regional Planning](#) (DURP) in the UH Mānoa College of Social Sciences brings together a diverse faculty and student body from across the world for innovative research and a unique learning environment in the Asia Pacific Region that fosters practical solutions for critical global and local issues through planning, public policy and social collaboration. Responding to the global need for cooperative responses to environmental crises, resource scarcities, and socio-political conflicts, DURP takes a visionary “whole society” approach to planning and works with various partners to deepen social and human understanding with the aim of increasing resilience, sustainability and quality of life for all.