

Dr. Kathryn H Au



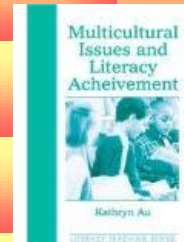
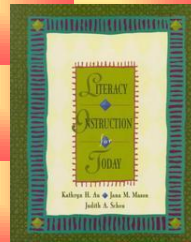
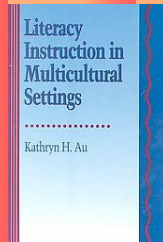
“I became interested in culturally responsive instruction because I wanted to identify classroom literacy experiences that would lead students of diverse backgrounds to high levels of literacy.”

Dr. Kathryn H. Au has had an impact locally and internationally. In her Hawaiian community, she is a professor of education at the University of Hawaii. As a teacher and researcher at the lab of Kamehameha Elementary Education Program in Honolulu, she performed research and developed a literacy curriculum that was implemented in 10 Native Hawaiian public schools. She felt this research was more beneficial than her Ph. D from the University of Illinois. As one of the founders of INPEACE, she implemented a free early quality education program for Native Hawaiian children and their families



“I love the fact that the parents are allowed to join the Keiki Step sections. It's also educating for us.”
-Parent testimonial

Dr. Au's research and publications have targeted effective instruction for students of diverse backgrounds: African Americans, Latino Americans, families in the low socioeconomic status and those who do not speak English at home. She has been awarded for her outstanding contributions publishing over 80 articles, authoring and co-authoring a list of books including *Literacy Instruction in Multicultural Settings*, *Literacy Instruction Today*, and her latest book *Multicultural Issues and Literacy Achievement*.



The purpose of her publications are to combat the literacy achievement gap by guiding educators in how to produce higher level thinkers that are able to synthesize information using multiple resources, who can critically evaluate and are able to apply this information in relevant contexts without giving up their cultural identities.

Her culturally responsive approach builds on their cultural strengths. By bringing in aspects of a student's culture the students are comfortable, familiar and successful in their classroom. In the classroom this translates to different forms of student groupings, social dimensions, culturally responsive texts and a

variety of participation options. For Hawaiian children, reading lessons include talk story, which is part of a community speech event.



Au's international influence is evident with her involvement on the board of directors for the International Reading Association for multiple years and her current role as the president for the 2009-2010 term. She believes teachers, not the programs make the largest impact on students' literacy. Her goal at the IRA will be to continue to advance teacher expertise and to increase literacy for students of diverse linguistic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

References:

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