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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maui's Archaeology To Be Topic of May 29 Talk

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- The archaeology of Maui will be the focus of a presentation by UC Berkeley professor and author Patrick Kirch May 29 at Cal Poly. Kirch will speak from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Business Building Rotunda (Room 213) on "From Chieftdom to Archaic State: Recent Archaeological Research in Kahikinui, Maui."

In his presentation, he will review recent evidence for the late prehistoric transformation of Hawaiian society from a complex chieftdom to an "archaic state."

Kirch will show how Hawaii stands out from the rest of the Polynesian chieftdoms, and "will also look at recent archaeological finds to focus on some of the major trends (in intensification of production systems, monumentality, demography and household production) that help reveal how this transformation occurred over time." He will also discuss "the thorny issue of causality."

Kirch is a professor of anthropology at UC Berkeley and curator of oceanic archaeology at the university's Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology. He is the author of "On the Road of the Winds," "The Lapita Peoples: Ancestors of the Oceanic World," "Anahulu: The Anthropology of History in the Kingdom of Hawaii," and other scholarly books on Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.

The talk is part of a series presented by Cal Poly's Social Sciences Department and Social Sciences Student Club. Admission is free. For more information, call Nora Buffett in Social Sciences at 756-2752.

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