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Diane Barrett* (diane.barrett@hawaii.edu), Education Department, University of Hawaii at Hilo, 200 W. Kawili St., Hilo, HI 96720. *Using manipulatives to promote meaningful mathematics instruction.*

This pilot study examined the contents of and feedback for a professional development workshop designed to help in-service teachers use manipulatives to develop and deepen their students' understanding of mathematical concepts taught in the classroom. Teachers from the West Hawai'i complex area (Kohala, Honoka'a, Kealokehe, and Konawaena) on the Big Island of Hawai'i focused on select algebra, geometry, and numbers and operations standards and how to address them by actively engaging learners with mathematics manipulatives, such as pattern blocks and patty paper, at multiple grade levels. Guidelines for the educationally sound use of mathematics manipulatives and how to assess for student understanding were also addressed. Reflections on the strengths and weaknesses of the workshop were explored. (Received November 25, 2011)