

## **Slow Burns: Film Screening & Discussion**

- **Speaker: Pollie Bith-Melander, Medical Anthropologist and Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work at California State University, Stanislaus**
- **Date/Time: Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 3:00 PM**
- **Place: Crawford Hall 115, UH Mānoa**

**Slow Burns (2024)** explores the lives of five military veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The documentary delves into their experiences during combat tours and the significant challenges they faced upon returning home, mainly focusing on their diagnoses of cancer and chronic illnesses.

**Dr. Bith-Melander** is a medical anthropologist, clinical social worker, and an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work at California State University, Stanislaus. She received her MA and PhD in Anthropology from UH Mānoa in 2004 and a master's degree in social work from California State University at East Bay in 2016. Her research focus is on ethnomedicine, HIV/AIDS, trauma, refugees, and community mental health in Southeast Asia and the US.