Starting in August 2003, the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Physics & Astronomy at The University of Hawai‘i at Manoa open the new interdisciplinary graduate program ‘Reaction Dynamics, Laboratory Astrophysics, and Planetary Sciences’ leading to a Ph.D. degree in chemistry and physics, respectively. The prime directive of this endeavor is to unravel the underlying mechanisms on how complex, (astrobiologically) important molecules and nanostructures are synthesized from the bottom up via single atoms, radicals, and small molecules in the interstellar medium, in atmospheres of planets and their satellites, cometary comae, as well as in combustion flames and chemical vapor deposition processes (http://www.chem.hawaii.edu/Bil301/program.htm).

In collaboration with research groups from the Hawaiian Institute of Geophysics and Planetology (HIGP), the Institute for Astronomy (IfA), and The Open University (UK), cutting edge laboratory experiments, electronic structure calculations, and astronomical observations will be linked to lecture courses outlining fundamental principles in physical chemistry, physics, reaction dynamics, astrochemistry, astrobiology, planetary chemistry, combustion sciences, and nanomaterial research. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, three letters of recommendation, transcripts or equivalent documentation, and a curriculum vitae to Prof. Ralf I. Kaiser, Department of Chemistry, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, 2545 The Mall, Honolulu, HI 96822, USA (email: kaiser@gold.chem.hawaii.edu) or to Prof. Klaus Sattler, Department of Physics, University of Hawai‘i, Honolulu, HI 96822, USA (email: sattler@hawaii.edu). Exceptionally well qualified candidates are offered teaching assistantships and full tuition fee waivers.