

# Ka Waihona Puke 'Ō'iwi

## NATIVE HAWAIIAN LIBRARY

### From the Director's Chair



Aloha Kākou,

Welcome to our inaugural monthly newsletter! Ka Waihona Puke 'Ō'iwi is our connection to you, your 'ohana and community.

To foster reading and promote lifelong learning, our focus has been and will continue to be on literacy. In the words of Kamehameha III, "Mine is a nation based on literacy."

A literate people. A strong nation.

Me ka ha'aha'a,  
 Keikilani Meyer

## KA 'ŌPIO KIAKAHI

### Mana'olana — Hope for our keiki

Hope. Anticipation. Purpose.

These words describe Ka 'Ōpio Kiakahi (The Purposeful Youth), which launched its after-school culturally based literacy program for Native Hawaiians, the first of its kind, at Pauoa Elementary on January 14.

*Ma Ka Hana  
 Ka 'Ike  
 It is in the work  
 that knowledge is  
 transmitted and  
 passed on*

The program was conceived in hope—the hope that Native Hawaiian youth will appreciate their kuleana and embrace their destiny as Hawaiians in their school, 'ohana, and community. The goal of Ka 'Ōpio Kiakahi is to instill in our youth the belief that they are capable to effect positive and purposeful change in their lives.

Hope gives way to anticipation.

This year-long program services students transitioning between elementary, middle school and high school, preparing them for the next level of success while instilling within them a desire to reconnect with



Students begin each session with stretching followed by an 'oli, or chant (see below)

their culture and selves through history, music, literature and science.

"It's almost like regular school, but it's fun work," Pauoa Elementary fifth-grade student Nikki Chun said. Through hands-on activities, lessons, excursions and a culminating camp, students learn to make connections and understand their purpose.

Pauoa Elementary Principal Roberta Richards notices that the Ka 'Ōpio Kiakahi program benefits parents, as well as children. "Parents are satisfied that their children are learning science with a cultural integration," Principal Richards said. "The children are willing to stay and learn each day after school and enjoy it very much. I hope the program continues next year."

Pauoa Elementary fifth-grade teacher David Adachi likes the way Ka 'Ōpio Kiakahi relates science back to the culture. He says the students are learning more about themselves, something they're not always able to achieve in the classroom.

Purpose defined. "Our piko is our connection to our ohana. It is the core of our very existence that connects us to our ancestors, our present, as well as our future. Knowing and understanding this grounds us in the knowledge of who we are, where we come from, and where we are going," explains Kawai Aona-Ueoka, Ka 'Ōpio Kiakahi Program Specialist.

Ka 'Ōpio Kiakahi is looking to expand to the Leeward communities. If you are a principal or teacher and would like more information, please contact us at 535-6700.



Students learn traditional net-making



### EO MAI

By: Kawai Aona-Ueoka

*Eo Mai is an "Ōli Aloha," or Aloha Chant. It evokes calm and Aloha to the kupuna, makua, keiki and 'aina. It calls the people to ho'olohe (listen) and nana (observe) the land and the people. It invites the working hands of the people to bring our knowledge and wisdom to work together for the people of Hawai'i.*

'Olu 'olu ka makani I ka lā e  
 Ke kai malie o ka papa lā  
 Aloha mai, Aloha mai  
 Aloha e na Kupuna, Aloha e na Makua,  
 Aloha e na Keiki o keia 'Āina la e  
 Ho'olohe I nā leo o na pua  
 Nana I ka pono o ka 'āina e  
 Eo mai, Eo māi  
 Eo e na kupuna, Eo e na makua,  
 Eo e na keiki o keia 'Āina la e  
 Ha'awi mai ko makou lima hana  
 Ha'awi ko makou 'ike na'auao  
 E hui mai, E hui mai  
 E hui mai, E hana mai, no na pua o  
 Hawaii e  
 Aloha e, Aloha mai, Na Pua o Hawaii nei



First row, from left: Teachers Kalehua Mueller and Kawai Aona-Ueoka; Second row: Sunnie Saffery, Autumn Akiu, Nikki Chun, Reanne Masaki; Third row: Teacher Kanani Kamai, Kapiina King, Kealohi Corpos, Kaohi Kapiko, Tehani Taylor, Teacher Hirwalani Brown

Missing: Kaimana Gomes, Kaela Kaulia-Verece

KA WAIHONA PUKE 'Ō'IWI

LAYOUT / DESIGN .....RONNIE HEE

Our purpose is to kōkua Native Hawaiians with access to information and to provide materials and services that foster reading and lifelong learning.

Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 4:30pm • Central Office: 458 Keawe St., Honolulu, HI 96813 • (808) 535-6700