

KE KULA 'O PI'ILANI: ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



KE KULA 'O PI'ILANI

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Program Description, Mission, Vision & Leadership

Ke Kula 'o Pi'ilani is an independent, Hawaiian culture and language immersion elementary school in Māniana, 'Īao Valley, Wailuku, Maui. Through school design, strategic planning, and our specialized curriculum, called Ke Ao Mālamalama, we serve our community by providing education that empowers and elevates traditional Hawaiian values and builds a strong foundation to support native Hawaiian lifestyles. Our mission is to nurture lifelong learners and passionate community leaders by cultivating an enriching environment of academic excellence grounded in Hawaiian culture and values. Our vision is to provide an enriched modern education with engaged communities and nurtured families fluent in Hawaiian wisdom, knowledge, and language.

We have grown continuously since opening in 2016. In our first year, we taught six students in grades K-1 out of the rummage sale tent at Po'okela Church in Makawao. Our modest rent was covered by a private donation. In our second year we moved to the grounds of the Hawaii Nature Center with 12 students in grades K-2 and rent funded by a grant from Kamehameha Schools. We served 43 students in grades K-5 this past school year along with their families and community members with our lease finally secured through longterm lease with Maui County. We are slated to serve 65 students (90% native Hawaiian) this coming school year in grades K-5, 12 students in Pre-K (95% native Hawaiian), and 120 students (82% native Hawaiian) through our adult community culture and language programs. Native Hawaiian percentages in our leadership include 70% of our board of directors, 100% of our staff, and 95% of our practitioners.

Our board members provide a range of expertise in an array of fields, including property management, finance, education (preschool through university), conservation, planning, community building, Hawaiian culture, and fundraising.

Administratively, we are led by Kahu Kekai Robinson, Po'okula, or Head of School, since 2018. She has been a Hawaiian language instructor on Maui since 1992. She is well connected to a range of educators on Maui and has established a supportive network for our organization. She is the Hawaiian cultural advisor for a number of community initiatives and a kahuna pule with Hālau Nā Hanona Kūlike 'o Pi'ilani. An award-winning chanter, she is also a Hawaiian music composer and recording artist, having performed as Ahumanu and with Keali'i Reichel. Our Po'okula, or lead supervising teacher, is Kumu Leimana Pu'u. She is a recent graduate of the UH Mānoa STEMS2 Masters' Program integrating traditional Hawaiian wisdom with contemporary STEMS academics.



The Team



Hui Ho'okahua 'o Pi'ilani | Board Members

Bryce Thayer, President
Dr. Katrina-Ann Kapā'anaokalā Oliveira, Vice-President
Keōmailani Eaton, Secretary
Kimberly Thayer, Treasurer
Dr. Anna Eckart-Dodd, Board Member
Kumu Danielle Kuliaikau'i Pahia, Board Member
Kumu Joy Aulani Takatsuka, Board Member
Kumu Hula Luana Kawa'a, Board Member
Ashley Awakea Lindsey, Board Member
Chellsie Akau-Elaban, Hui Mākua Parent Representative
Kahu Kekai Robinson, Non-Voting, Admin/Executive Director
Kumu Hula Kaponō'ai Molitau, Non-Voting, Cultural Advisor
Leah Santos, Non-Voting, Ex-Executive Director Tech Advisor



Nā Kumu Me Nā Limahana 'o Pi'ilani | Educators & Loea

Kahu Kekai Robinson, Po'okula, Head of School (Hulu/Oli/Haku Mele)
Kumu Leimana Pu'u, Po'okumu, Lead Instructor & Papa 4/5 (Lei)
Leah Santos, Po'o 'Enehana, Administrative Technical Advisor
Melanie Santiago, Limahana Ke'ena, Administrative Assistant
Kaliko Ka'auamo, Limahana Mōhala Mo'oha'awina, Curriculum
Kumu Lahela Mata-Goldman, Papa 3 (Lā'au Lapa'au/Kapa/Lei)
Kumu Kalani Librando-Souza, Papa 2 (Lomilomi)
Kumu Nalu Robinson, Papa 1 (Kālai/Kaula)
Kumu Leopold Pu'unoni Waia'u, Papa Mālaa'o (Kālai/Haku Mele)
Kumu Kahiwa Vendiola, Kumu Kāko'o Papa Mālaa'o (Hula/Oli)
Kumu Lani Eckart-Dodd, Ola Mau Farms (Mālama 'Āina/Ku'i 'Ai)
Kumu Nāpua Barrows, Waihe'e Limu Restoration Foundation
Aunty Sanoë Takushi, Kupu Kūkū Kapa Ha'ikū (Kapa/Native Dyes)
Aunty Abigail Lopez Llewellyn, ASL Instructor/HSL Translator
Aunty Linda Lambrecht, HSL Instructor
Uncle Hoaka Delos Reyes, Kālai Pōhaku Traditional Carver
Kumu Hula Ku'ualohanui Kaulia, Papahana Kuaola (Hula/Mele/Oli)



Our Commitment



In 'ōlelo Hawai'i, *pili* means to be connected and closely related. Here, we use **PILI** as a guide to successfully achieve our organizational visions, to focus and prioritize our work, to fortify our purpose, and to strengthen our identity. Pi'ilani Indigenous Lifestyles Initiative is our effort to create access to Hawaiian culture, language, traditions, skills, arts, perspectives, spirituality, and wisdom to our largely underserved native Hawaiian community in hopes that this supports the normalization of traditional Hawaiian lifestyles for students and families at school, in public, and especially at home.

KE KULA 'O PI'ILANI is our effort to reclaim indigenous education as an independent, non-profit, Hawaiian culture and language immersion school. We feel strongly that we have the right and privilege to envision and enact, as a collective, an integrated, comprehensive curriculum and school design that empowers our learners. By doing something 'old' and standing on the foundation of wisdom from our Hawaiian ancestors, we have created an academic program grounded in Hawaiian cultural values and wisdom. We currently serve grades K-5 with plans to include preschool by 2030, and eventually middle and high school. Our four quarterly unit themes are the natural elements of WAI, LANI, 'ĀINA, and KAI and are appropriately scaffolded for each grade level. Mo'olelo, oli, mele, mo'okū'auhau, and mō'aukala provide native context to classical contemporary academics with traditional skills, values, and wisdom given equal attention daily.

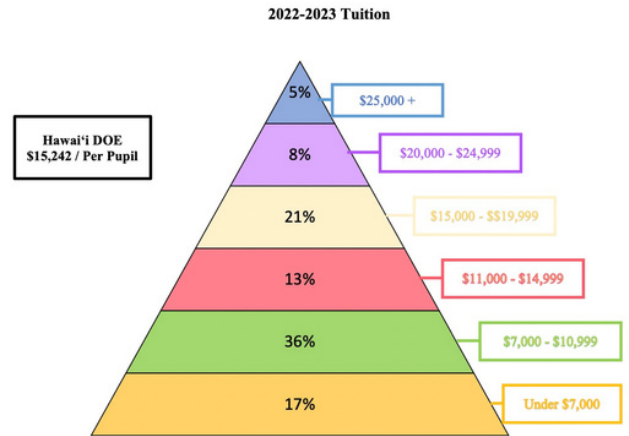
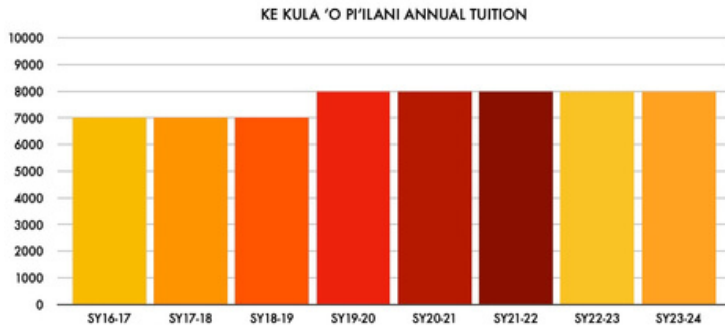
KA PIKO KAIAO provides access to traditional Hawaiian workshops, programs, and educational activities, especially Hawaiian language classes, with preference to Pi'ilani 'ohana and offered to the general community. There is a need to address access to traditional Hawaiian education for native Hawaiian families that are not a part of the kaiā'ōlelo community.

PĀ'INA PI'ILANI provides HCBE and 'āina-based education to non-Pi'ilani students for field trips, after school programs, interim, holiday, school intersessions, and winter/summer break.

KAHUA IMUA is our prenatal/infant/toddler program and strives to build strong Hawaiian culture and language lifestyles within the 'ohana through playdate-training gatherings on our school campus. Parents are provided resources to elevate Hawaiian language use for everyday home activities and Hawaiian values to support indigenous character building at a very young age.

MĒ'E means 'hero' or 'mentor' in 'ōlelo Hawai'i and is our acronym for Multigenerational Enrichment and Empowerment. Kūpuna and Loea (master practitioners) mentor our instructors and learners. Learners are nurtured through meaningful cultural activities, preserving district nuances in traditional art forms and lifestyles. This initiative provides strength-based learning and access to Hawaiian cultural experiences under the influence, advice, and guidance of a native Hawaiian elder, empowering our kūpuna and providing them a platform to express and address cultural historical trauma and oppression.

Our Needs



DIRECT SUPPORT FOR 'OHANA - FINANCIAL AID: These charts illustrate that since inception our tuition per student has increased only once from \$7k to \$8k and has remained flat despite the average cost of education in Hawai'i of \$15k-\$20k. Over the past five years, we have provided over \$500,000 in financial aid support through grants and scholarships. The number of students we serve has significantly increased over the last four years as more students enroll in our school without change in funding levels. Thus the available direct financial support to each student has decreased, which is especially hard for our native Hawaiian families as they are the demographic hardest hit by the current economic downturn.

PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR PILI INITIATIVE: The Pi'ilani Indigenous Lifestyles Initiative is an overarching visualization of the ways in which we hope to contribute to the betterment of our community. Our lifestyles initiative empowers native Hawaiian values, wisdom, and identity by encouraging a *living heritage* and a *living culture* that connects us to our past, is relevant in our contemporary world, and guides our community into a sustainable and resilient future.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT MĀNANIA: From 2017 to 2022, Ke Kula 'o Pi'ilani leased our campus space at Mānania, 'Īao from another non-profit organization based out of O'ahu. In November, 2022, the County of Maui purchased our campus through an arts and culture grant and has provided us a 50-year lease at a very nominal annual amount to Ke Kula 'o Pi'ilani. We are extremely grateful to have a home; however, this campus is an aging space in need of improvements and upgrades with buildings in major disrepair. We are currently maximizing all usable spaces. There are a number of plumbing, electrical, fencing, security, waterline, exterior and interior upgrades and repairs necessary to maintain and grow operations. These upgrades and improvements would allow us to increase our service to the community, effectively doubling the amount of students we are able to serve in elementary school on a daily basis from 65 to 130, and to achieve the diversity in services that we envision through our PILI program, providing additional, safe, and secure space for infant-toddler, preschool, after-school, interim, general community, and senior programs. *See *Capital Improvement Project Cost Estimate*

KE KULA ‘ O PI ‘ ILANI – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT COST ESTIMATE



PROJECT BREAKDOWN

Description	Estimated Cost
Remodeling Building 1 (5,155 sqft)	\$1,288,750
Remodeling Building 2 (3,484 sqft)	\$871,000
Remodeling Building 3 (3,040 sqft)	\$760,000
Interior Remodeling	\$724,320
Fire Suppression	\$250,000
Wastewater Processing	\$150,000
Waterline Repair	\$95,000
Retaining Walls (Access Road/ ‘ Auwai)	\$85,000
Tree Removal and Tree Trimming	\$80,000
Fencing and Security	\$45,000
Plumbing Upgrades	\$35,000
Electrical Upgrades	\$25,000
Pest Control and Tenting	\$12,000
Total	\$4,421,070

NOTES - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BREAKDOWN

1. Remodeling Building 1, 2, and 3 estimate based on \$250.00 per square foot.
2. Interior Remodeling estimate is provided for Building 1, 2, and 3 interior remodeling.
3. Fire Suppression to retrofit all buildings with fire suppression system installation.
4. Waterline Repair to address and repair waterline issues caused by the 2016 flood.
5. Tree Removal and Tree Trimming could possibly be funded in partnership with the County of Maui and includes the removal of eight extremely large pine trees and several java plum trees on the border between Ke Kula ‘ o Pi ‘ ilani and Kepaniwai Park.
6. All cost estimates based on moderate average current construction costs in 2022 and 2023. Construction costs in Hawai ‘ i have increased significantly on an annual basis and may affect the cost estimates provided above.