

Defining Student Success in a Hawaiian Language Immersion Charter School

Preliminary Progress Report of a Consultancy Project

Immersion 2012: Bridging Context
for a Multilingual World

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October 2012



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Presentation Overview

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Context & Background
- ❖ Methodology & Questions
- ❖ Data
- ❖ Preliminary Findings
- ❖ Next Steps



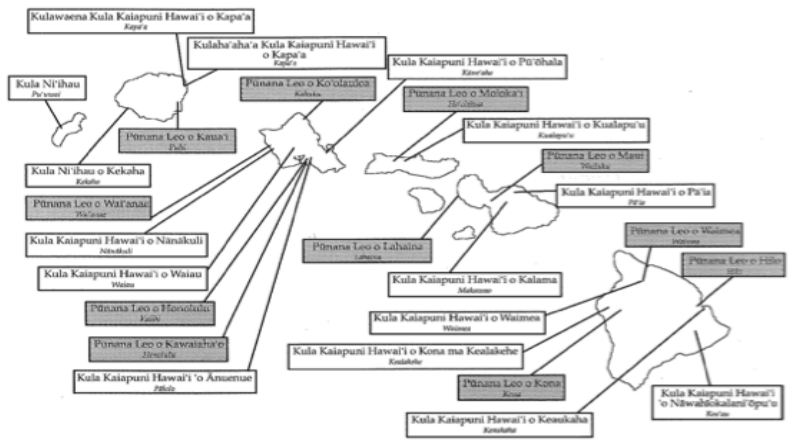
Hawaiian Language Immersion/Medium Schools

'Aha Pūnana Leo (Infant-toddler & preschools)

Kula Kaiapuni Hawai'i (K-12 Hawaiian Immersion schools)

Kula Ho'okōlohua (P-12 Laboratory schools-Ka Haka 'Ula, UH Hilo)

Kula Hō'amana (K-12 Hawaiian Culture-Based Public Charter schools)



Ke Kula 'o Kamakau 2000-2012



Ke Kula 'o Kamakau Vision/Guiding Principles



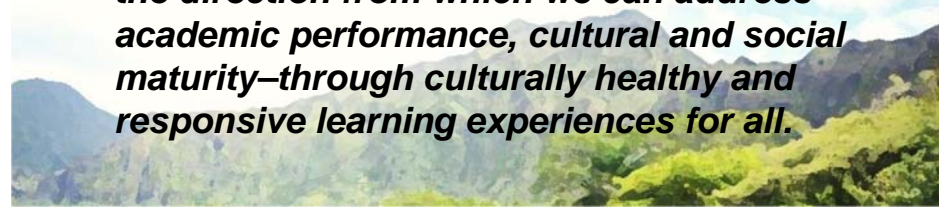
- ✧ Our spirit of being is nurtured from one generation to the next.
- ✧ The Hawaiian language is our foundation that enables us to honor our ancestors and perpetuate our traditions.
- ✧ Ke Kumu Honua Mauli Ola Hawaiian educational philosophy forms the support structure of our school.
 - ✧ Language
 - ✧ Spirituality
 - ✧ Traditional knowledge
 - ✧ Behaviors
- ✧ All learning styles will be supported so that our children will attain equitable success.
- ✧ The family, school and community are all equal partners of our success.



Ke Kumu Honua Mauli Ola Foundations of Cultural Identity



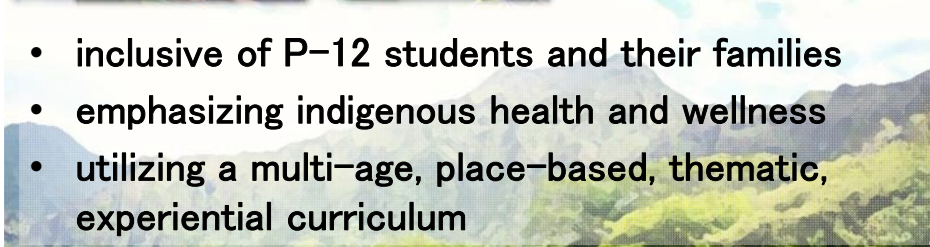
A native Hawaiian philosophy that provides the direction from which we can address academic performance, cultural and social maturity—through culturally healthy and responsive learning experiences for all.



An early, total Hawaiian language immersion learning environment



- inclusive of P-12 students and their families
- emphasizing indigenous health and wellness
- utilizing a multi-age, place-based, thematic, experiential curriculum



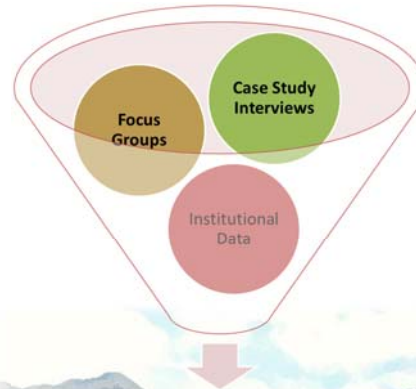
Research Questions

- How has a Kamakau education influenced post-secondary choices?
- What essential learning experiences resonated with graduates?
- Recommendations for improvement?



Methodology

- Culturally appropriate
- Qualitative approach
- Elicit descriptive narratives
- Collective experiences



What is Success?

Information Sources

- Alumni
- Teachers/Staff
- Institutional data



Kamehameha Schools Data

- Data collection for 32 charter schools of which 17 have a Hawaiian cultural focus
- Administers three surveys
 - Family
 - Alumni
 - Youth

Focus Groups Data

- Two student focus groups
 - 2003–2005 graduates
 - n=3
 - 2008 graduates
 - n=4
- One faculty & staff focus group
 - 2012–2013 school year
 - n=17

Focus Group Questions

- Activities since graduating
- Beneficial & meaningful experiences
- Unique features or practices
- What Ke Kula 'o Kamakau could have done better to prepare their students
- Extent of Hawaiian language & cultural practices



Case Studies Data

- Four themes
 - Learning Opportunities
 - Relationships
 - Language & Culture
 - Aspirations
- 5 Participants (graduates from classes of 2003, 2008, 2009 & 2012)



Preliminary Findings: Learning Opportunities

- Multi-age grouping
- Hands-on learning
- Community & Place-based focused
- Internship programs
- Special programs



Preliminary Findings: Relationships

- Teachers
- Family
- Students
- Interpersonal and Spiritual



Preliminary Findings: Language & Culture

- Benefits of a Hawaiian Language immersion education
 - Knowledge of your language
 - Cultural values attained
 - Responsibilities learned
 - Stronger sense of Hawaiian identity



Preliminary Findings: Aspirations & Successes

- Following your passions
 - Vocational training & Military
 - College
 - Employment
- Perpetuate language and culture through the next generation



Preliminary Recommendations

- Comprehensive alumni tracking system
- Success be viewed with long-term lens
- Maintain or revisit high-impact learning experiences
- Explore issues around transition from Immersion to post-secondary Hawaiian language study.



Questions & Comments

