LONONUIĀKEA

2017

ANNUAL REPORT

A KUPU Ė, A MUʻO Ė
From Exploring to Emerging Gateway

Committed to advancing academic success for Native Hawaiians by piloting, implementing and supporting science, technology, engineering, arts and math programs and systems that are grounded in past and present Native Hawaiian knowledge.
He lelo mahalo...

Much like a young ‘ōhi’a breaking through layers of volcanic rock, Lononuiākea: The Collective is setting firm roots in the community whilst sprouting forth its first collaborative initiatives to improve education for kānaka maoli students in East Hawai‘i.

In 2016, the backbone organization, Kama‘aha Education Initiative, set a goal to transition Lononuiākea from the Exploring Gateway to the Emerging Gateway in the StriveTogether National Network Theory of Action. To do this, we convened a Leadership Table of professionals in education, civic, philanthropy, and business to make strategic decisions, remove financial and political barriers, and advocate for policy change. Together, we activated the Kindergarten Readiness and Post-Secondary Readiness Collaborative Action Networks to develop resources, implement strategies, and change practice on the ground. Finally, we began the formation of a backbone organization to manage internal and external communication, offer support, and manage development and fundraising efforts. Along the way, all the individuals of these groups engaged in innovative initiatives to improve education for kānaka maoli students.

In 2017, Lononuiākea is now recognized as a vibrant cross-sector partnership and has become an official member of the StriveTogether national network, and was selected to host a workshop at the StriveTogether 2017 Cradle to Career Network Convening in Phoenix, Arizona.

The collaborative work accomplished over this past year would not have been possible without all of those who believed in our collective vision and mission: the members of the Leadership Table, members of the Collaborative Action Networks, member organizations, and the investors. Thank you for your continued commitment to Lononuiākea: The Collective.

A ʻulu ʻē, a kupu ʻē, a muʻo ʻē, a liko ʻē, a lau ʻē, a lālā ʻē, a kumu ʻē, a paʻa ʻē.

ʻĀlika Guerrero
Lononuiākea Project Director
Founded in 2003, Kama‘aha Education Initiative began its mission to advance academic success of Native Hawaiian students by piloting, implementing, and supporting 21st century educational programs and systems grounded in past and present Hawaiian knowledge. In 2010, the leaders of Kama‘aha Education Initiative discussed the needs of the organization and those of the larger Hawaiian community. Through these discussions, the organization refocused its efforts, broadening local and global impact through the implementation of Lono‘ui‘akea both as a campus and a collective impact initiative.

In January of 2015 Lono‘ui‘akea brought together young Native Hawaiian STEAM professionals to share their life’s journey and identify significant milestones and/or influences that allowed them to be successful in their professions. From that discussion a roadmap was created and has informed the programmatic thinking around how we assist Native Hawaiian children, youth, families and communities achieve success in STEAM.

The guiding framework of Lono‘ui‘akea is called StriveTogether. The StriveTogether approach believes that every student deserves and needs support beyond their formal education in a classroom to be successful in their career. It is an adaptive framework that can be adjusted and molded to a unique community and best utilize and maximize the community's existing assets. StriveTogether is based on data to continually adapt and focus on areas of needed improvement, as well as highlight what the collective is doing well. This framework places the responsibility of this change in the community and requires the collective effort of individuals from all levels of education.

This roadmap includes exposure to Hawaiian environmental practices during childhood, and long-term commitment to that practice in adulthood. To do that, our Collaborative Action Networks are planning different ways to identify these practices within families and connect students to community practitioners. These experiences will enable students to draw connections between their cultural practices and the academics they learning in school. The intersection of education and culture will ultimately lead these Native Hawaiian students to pursue careers in STEAM fields.
Collective Impact

Our vision is to promote Native Hawaiians to be aware of their ancestral knowledge systems and actively develop new knowledge in STEAM fields. Currently, schools, the university, non-profit organizations, government, and businesses are serving young people with different missions and outcomes, and thus achieving varying degrees of isolated impact.

With mutually reinforcing understandings and activities organizations, programs, businesses, and schools can better understand how data-based cross-sector alignment and actively coordinating actions can inform where they as an individual organization add the most value, and how they can collectively solve complex issues and have a broad impact. Collaboration at the scale described above has not occurred amongst the multitude of STEAM support programs in Hawai‘i. All Lononui‘alea activities is data driven, focused on continuous improvement, developed on the premise of connecting and improving existing programs, and funded creatively to encourage collaboration between partners with similar goals rather than compete with one another to ensure cradle to career support.

By partnering with other educators and practitioners, we can nurture a new generation of professionals that support and value partnerships that are based and driven by community. In the long term, these new professionals will have been nurtured by a system that advocates and expects a high level of community engagement and improved future governance and management, which will ensure a healthier, resilient, and sustainable Hawai‘i. Existing educational professionals will expand cultural perspectives, increase knowledge of site based management, and engage in collaborative research and actions.
“To me, Lono‘ui‘akea is a space in which representatives from various sectors come together to leverage their skills, knowledge, and resources with a shared goal of improving the accessibility and availability of quality educational programs so that our children are school, college, career and community ready and are life-long learners.”

Kim H. Guieb-Kang
P-3 Operations Specialist
Hawai‘i P-20

Collective impact partnerships are imperative to move the needle on social change. Ensuring that our keiki are college ready and career focused is not just the responsibilities of educational institutions. It takes a community to help address this challenge. Having a collective agreement on standards is a first step in the right direction. If we’re all striving for the same goal, and can measure that goal in the same way, that will help to guide all of our organizations in moving in the same direction..."

Grace Funai
Counselor – Special Projects
Hawai‘i Community College

Kilohana Hirano
Regional Director, East Hawai‘i
Kamehameha Schools

Ryan Emmons
Co-Founder/President
Wai‘akea Hawaiian Volcanic Water

Keahi Makaimoku
Program Officer
Hau‘oli Mau Loa Foundation
Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative Action Network

By July of 2020, 75% of Native Hawaiians who are enrolled in preschool in East Hawai‘i at a Lononuiākea partner program will be ready for Kindergarten.

Participants in the 2016-2017 academic year:
- Hawai‘i P-20
- Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission
- Head Start
- Hilo Child Development Center
- Kamehameha Preschool
- Kamehameha Schools - Kealapono CER
- Ka ‘Umeke Kāʻeo: Ke Kula o Kaikoholā
- Keaukaha Pre-K
- Kula Kamali‘i o Hi‘ikeakaikaamālama
- Nā Wai Ola PCS
- YWCA

Successes of the 2016-2017 academic year:
- Early-Childhood Shared Substitute Pool
- Donated 200 books in English and Hawaiian at the Hawai‘i Island Early Childhood Conference
- Develop a Preschool Directory for East Hawai‘i
- Participated in the development of Keiki Central, a statewide early-childhood resource directory

Enrollment for the Lononuiākea Early-Childhood Substitute Pool has now closed and our members look forward to piloting this new system in the upcoming school year with 2 shared substitutes. The Kindergarten Readiness CAN also plans to play a continued role in state-wide initiatives to better early-childhood education. The Kindergarten Readiness CAN members are planning to have their students participate together in Makahiki in Keaukaha through protocols, hula, and activities in November 2017. The goal is to host more events throughout the year to expose students to Hawaiian cultural practices.

The percentage of Native Hawaiian three- and four-year-olds enrolled in preschool programs increased from 47.5% in 2000 to 53.8% in 2010.

Unfortunately, Native Hawaiian children ages 0–4 in Hilo–Puna–Ka‘ū were underrepresented in the population of Native Hawaiian preschoolers (Kamehameha Schools 2014).
81% of Hawai‘i students who earned dual credits enrolled in college compared to 53% of students who did not earn dual credits according to University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges.

Characteristics of student who participated in early college:

- Higher college enrollment rates.
- More likely to enroll in college in the fall term immediately following high school graduation.
- More likely to enroll at a 4-year institution.
- Higher persistence rate into second year of college.

Post-Secondary Readiness Collaborative Action Network

By July of 2020, 75% of Native Hawaiian seniors in Lononui‘akea partner programs will be prepared for college by 2020.

Participants in the 2016-2017 academic year:

- Connections-New Century Public Charter School
- Hawai‘i Academy of Arts and Sciences Public Charter School
- Hawaii Community College
- Hilo High School (AVID)
- Ka ‘Umeke Kāʻeo Public Charter School
- Kamehameha Schools West Hawai‘i
- Kanu o ka ‘Āina Public Charter School
- Kipuka Native Hawaiian Student Center
- Kua o ka Lā Public Charter School
- University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

Successes of the 2016-2017 academic year:

- Hosted an Early-College summit in partnership with Hawai‘i Community College with 9 organizations in attendance.
- Papaiākea, a subgroup within Lononui‘akea comprised of: Ka ‘Umeke Kāʻeo Public Charter School (PCS), Kua o ka Lā PCS, and Kanu o ka ‘Āina PCS. will be offering innovative shared college courses through Hawai‘i Community College with 9 students enrolled.

The Post-Secondary CAN has continued to progress on its initiative of providing early-college opportunities to all high school students in East Hawai‘i, and ensuring every student will graduate with 6 college credits. Members of Papaiākea plan to host 5 classes for their students over the next 3 years: HWST 100: Piko Hawai‘i, IS 101: Bridging Self to Community, MATH 131: Introduction to College Algebra, ENG 100: Composition, and HAW 102: Elementary Hawaiian Language II.

The members of Papaiākea will be hosting a collaborative event called Huaka‘i Kilualoe, a high school bridge program where students will be learning traditional chants and stories in August 2017. This is the first of 4 collaborative events that will be planned and hosted throughout the new academic year.
He leo kono...

With new membership in the StriveTogether network, Lononui‘akea: The Collective was selected to present at the StriveTogether National Convening from October 3-5, 2017 in Phoenix, Arizona. Lononui‘akea’s presentation will focus on the importance of culture within academics as an avenue to improve readiness and academic success. Lononui‘akea: The Collective has now set its sights on transitioning from the Emerging Gateway to the Sustaining Gateway to ensure that the collective work continues and can begin to make systemic change to the education system in East Hawai‘i.

Often, educational institutions see themselves in competition with one another; however, collective impact places the shared responsibility of the community on Lononui‘akea instead of any individual school. Many may see Lononui‘akea as another well-intentioned community initiative that fails to make improvements, but it unites institutions that have a great influence and impact on the community to work towards the same goals while also allowing for their continued individuality. We invite you to join us in our work of creating a positive future for Hawai‘i.

For more information, interested visit [http://www.kamaaha.org/](http://www.kamaaha.org/) or contact us at 961-0470.

Also feel free to contact us through email at alika@kamaaha.org, or visit us at Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo Public Charter School (Pā Hoaka), 1500 Kalanianaole Ave, Hilo, HI 96720.