



E 'ONIPA 'A KAKOU, A KAU I KA NU'U

*Let us move together as one to reach the summit*

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## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release

December 1, 2023

### **KANU O KA 'ĀINA LEARNING 'ŌHANA AWARDED \$2,709,614 FROM OHA TO SUPPORT OHA's Strategic Direction of Educational Pathways Strategy 2, Outcome 2.1**

WAIMEA, HAWAII'I ISLAND, HAWAII'I - The Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana today announced a grant award totaling \$2,709,614 that will support the Native Hawaiian community through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Hawaiian-Focused Public Charter School Grants. The grant promotes OHA's work in supporting education by adequately resourcing Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools and Hawaiian medium schools.

Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana will administer charter school funding, facilitate reporting, conduct site visits, and administer funds for the annual charter school conference in furtherance of OHA's Ho'ona'auao (Education) Strategic Result.

“Support from OHA enables our Hawaiian-focused charter schools to continue delivering instruction through culturally relevant methods, strengthening 'ohana and fostering a deeper connection to 'āina. By enriching students' lives and bolstering the lāhui, our collaborative efforts create a unified and culturally fortified community.”

— Katie Benioni, Chief Financial Officer, KALO.

#### About Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana

Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana, dba KALO, was incorporated in 2000. A unique community based federally recognized Native Hawaiian Organization, KALO is committed to the perpetuation of Hawaiian language, culture, and traditions, while simultaneously strengthening the community. KALO's uniqueness lies in its outreach to 17 communities in the form of advocacy, research, and grantsmanship. KALO's main programs include Mālamapōki'i, a family-based preschool program; Kaho'iwai – Center for Adult Teaching and Learning, which offers teacher licensing, and other adult education programs; Ho'okauhale which provides a variety of after-school, evening and intersession programs to hundreds of children, youth and adults on three islands; and Native Hawaiian-focused charter schools serving students on Moloka'i, Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Hawai'i Island.

KALO's mission is to serve and perpetuate sustainable Hawaiian communities through Education with Aloha. Our vision is to work with partners to establish an autonomous, holistic, educational environment for the children of Hawai'i: grounding every child and

adult in the values that have shaped and empowered Hawaiians for generations; involving every member of the Hawaiian community in determining his/her educational path and preparing every child of Hawai‘i to thrive in the modern world, free from oppression and with pride for our heritage.”

CONTACT: Nancy Levenson  
Chief Information Officer  
(808) 887-1117 [nancy@kalo.org](mailto:nancy@kalo.org)

#### About the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Established by the state Constitutional Convention in 1978, OHA is a semi-autonomous state agency mandated to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. Guided by a board of nine publicly elected trustees, OHA fulfills its mandate through advocacy, research, community engagement, land management and the funding of community programs. Learn more at [www.oha.org](http://www.oha.org).

#### About OHA's Grants Program

OHA's Grants Program supports non-profit organizations whose projects and programs serve the Native Hawaiian community and align with OHA's Strategic Results. For more information about the Community Grants Program, please visit <https://www.oha.org/grants>.

64-1043 Hi‘iaka Street Waimea, Hawaii  
PH: 887-1117



PO Box 6511, Kamuela, Hawaii 96743  
FAX: 887-0030

[www.kalo.org](http://www.kalo.org)

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