

# *E Ola Ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i*



## **Pūnana Leo** *Language Nest*

The Pūnana Leo language nest provides a cultural educational environment that emulates Maui Ola Hawai'i (Hawaiian Language and Culture). Currently, the program consists of 11 Pūnana Leo preschools, one Hi'i Pēpē infant-toddler program, and a family learning enrichment program.

Balanced with a developmentally appropriate curriculum, our program builds the foundation for children to be kindergarten ready and culturally grounded, successful global citizens, and for parents to have an active involvement in the educational process of their keiki (children).

Pūnana Leo has become the model for early learning in an endangered and indigenous language revitalization movement and serves as the foundation for an integrated preschool through doctoral program (P-20 system) of education through the medium of Hawaiian language.

The Pūnana Leo is a member of a ku'ikahi (consortium) of an internationally recognized association of schools, organizations and university programs in Hawai'i dedicated to re-establishing Hawaiian as the first and main language of the home.

## **Nā Keiki** *Children*

Pūnana Leo keiki are at the heart of our program. Students are immersed in the language and learn quickly with the help of highly fluent kumu (teachers) and fluent classmates. Many, if not all, Pūnana Leo preschoolers are fully fluent in Hawaiian within 3-4 months.

- **Academic Excellence** – Students who enroll in Hawaiian medium education consistently perform as well or better than their English-only peers here in Hawai'i.
- **Early Literacy Development** – The traditional Hawaiian syllabic reading structure used in Pūnana Leo accesses early child cognitive development, leading to rapid reading fluency, often as early as age 4.
- **Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike** – Children are taught through a process of learning that encourages analysis and testing theories through practice; strengthening problem solving skills and preparing them to understand their relationship to the broader world.

## **Nā 'Ohana** *Families*

'Ohana (family) is the core of all Pūnana Leo programs and are supported through various community engagement activities provided by the program that enrich both the immediate families and benefit the local community. Parents are empowered through the papahana 'ohana (family component), which includes:

- **Ho'ihoni Honua** (in-service program) – Pūnana Leo families complete over 19,520 in-kind service hours, per year, which support our schools and organizations in the larger Hawai'i community.
- **Hui Kipaepae** (Family Education Program) – Families attend weekly classes that follow along the curriculum of our students including hula (dance), mele (song), and 'ike na'auao (knowledge), so parents can learn beside their children while also strengthening their use of the Hawaiian language.
- **Hālāwai 'Ohana** (Family Network Meetings) – Pūnana Leo's parents, teachers, and staff members gather every other month to discuss program activities, plan and organize events such as Lā 'Ohana (family day) and help plan yearly fundraisers that not only benefit our students, but also provide a larger system of support for the entire family.

## **Ke Kaiaulu** *The Larger Community*

Pūnana Leo has continued to provide the community with cultural enrichment experiences since it was first established. Continuing this trend of indigenous language revitalization through education, Pūnana Leo created the Niulohiki Distance Learning Program, which is widely used across the globe to support Hawaiian language learning in many different environments, for example:

- **'Ohana Support** – Modules are available through video and audio recordings, interactive practice exercises, quizzes, and access to chat rooms and discussion forums moderated by native Hawaiian speakers.
- **Staff Development** – College-level coursework provided on the site maintains Pūnana Leo's high educational standards and serves as a foundation of support to our teachers and staff.
- **Global Learning** – Niulohiki serves as a hub for Hawaiian language learning for high school students, local business people, hālau hula, Hawaiian language supporters as far as Germany and Japan and hopefully you.

We welcome you to take a look at the enrichment opportunities available on our site. Registration is year round and can be found at: [www.ahapunaleo.org](http://www.ahapunaleo.org)





**The ‘Aha Pūnana Leo** is a non-profit, family-based educational organization dedicated to the revitalization of the Hawaiian language. We are committed to providing the community with high quality programs that align with our vision and mission.

We rely on the generosity of the communities we impact to ensure that our programs continue.

Partner with us by donating today at [www.ahapunanaleo.org](http://www.ahapunanaleo.org) and inquire about legacy giving.

### *Ka Nu’ukia*

#### **Pūnana Leo Vision**

*E Ola Ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai’i  
The Hawaiian language shall live*

### *Ke Ala Nu’ukia*

#### **Pūnana Leo Mission**

*Ua ulu mai ke aukahi Pūnana Leo mai loko mai o ka ‘i’ini e ho’okumu pa’a ‘ia a puni ‘o Hawai’i nei ke kūlana mana o ka ‘ōlelo Hawai’i ola mai o Kikilo mai. ‘O ka hana a ka ‘ohana Pūnana Leo, ‘o ia ka ho’okumu, ho’olako, a mālama i nā kaiapuni ‘ōlelo Hawai’i like ‘ole. ‘O nā ‘ohana ke ola o ia mau kaiapuni, a ma ke aloha akua, aloha ‘ōlelo, aloha lāhui, aloha ‘āina, a me ke aloha na’auao e pono ai kākou.*

The Pūnana Leo movement grew out of a dream that there be reestablished throughout Hawai’i the mana of a living Hawaiian language from the depths of our origins. The Pūnana Leo family initiates, provides for, and nurtures various Hawaiian language environments. Our families are the living essence of these environments, and we find our strength in our spirituality, love of our language, love of our people, love of our land, and love of knowledge.

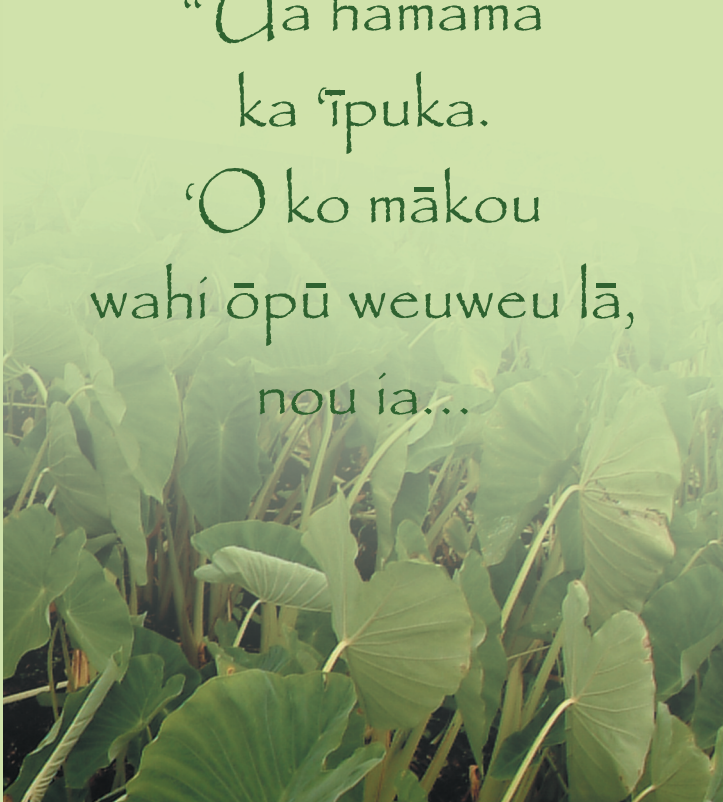


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**E Ola Ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai’i**  
*The Hawaiian Language Shall Live*

“Ua hāmama  
ka ‘īpuka.  
‘O ko mākou  
wahī ōpū weuweu lā,  
nou ia...”



**Fifty to ninety percent,** of the 6,000 endangered native languages are estimated to die by the year 2100. With the extinction of each of these languages die the cultural history, distinct identity, and the perspective on life of its people. In 1983, with less than 50 native speakers of Hawaiian language under the age of 18, a small group of parents and educators conceived and initiated the Pūnana Leo language nest immersion program. Since then, thousands have attended Pūnana Leo preschools and matriculated into Hawaiian-language medium elementary and high schools.