

Intended for Grades: 4-6 **Estimated Time:** 30-45 min.

Lesson Title: CONTRIBUTIONS

Lesson Purpose: Students will:

- * Learn about the importance of contributions from community members
- * Participate in an activity highlighting the importance of everyone contributing

Materials & Preparation:

- * Recording devices - one per group (*Phones or IPads are easy and can be erased afterward*)

Background Information:

Traditional Hawaiian communities were centered around subsistence, which meant that everyone needed to contribute and be responsible for something so the community as a whole could flourish.

Today, our style of living is very different, and helping care for the community is not always an expectation. Finding ways to contribute to the whole may also take some effort.

Communities are at their best when all are active contributors. Participating and giving back to community also feels good!

Steps:

1. Ask students to share what they think was important for people in the past to do to sustain traditional Hawaiian communities and help them thrive.
2. Briefly share about the word *kuleana* (responsibility *and* privilege) and how it was very important for the *lōkahi* (balance and harmony) of the community. Most of the time people considered their *kuleana* a privilege, as it was an important role to help provide for ones `ohana, friends, or community. In old Hawai`i, individuals needed to do their part.
3. Discuss how participation is today in local and school community events. Discuss who participates, and whether everyone has the ability or chance to participate. Transition into the lesson activity by sharing that groups are going to become a community to create something together.
4. Do the "Contributions" activity:
 - Break the class into groups of 10-15; if possible, have groups sit in a tight circle. Provide each with a recording device (Phone, I Pad, tape recorder).
 - Tell the students that they will create a story, going around the circle with each student contributing one word that adds to the previous word.
 - Have someone in each group record the story; remind students to speak loud and clear.
 - Share the stories with the rest of the class, and discuss what they heard and how it felt to participate as a group.

NOTE: The teacher can provide groups with a theme or topic. Set a time limit of about 2-3 minutes, to be timed by the teacher. Stories will probably end up being funny.

Remember to emphasize the lesson goal - having students understand that they need and should be allowed to contribute.

5. Debrief activity using the following questions.

Reflection Questions:

What did you learn?

What was valued in old Hawai`i that should be today?

Did this activity affect your perspective on participating or including others?

What can you do to make sure everyone is involved?