

PROJECT HO'OKU'I IV: OHANA LŌKAHI

NEWSLETTER



Festival of Lights

By Staff Writer

On a Friday night of December 2022, Kanu o ka 'Āina's gym was filled with excitement as school staff, families and community came together to support students of project classes in preschool through twelfth grade. Project classes at Kanu o ka 'Āina, are separate from the core classes and are rooted in the teaching and learning of Native Hawaiian cultural practices and/or malama 'āina concepts. As a supplement to the project classes, *huaka'i* (trips) to a *wahi pana* (legendary place) relevant to the project class are designed in the curriculum. To help financially support these endeavors, Kanu o ka 'Āina hosts a school-wide fundraiser event called "Festival of Lights" where there are dozens of art and food booths.

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Farrington High School Faculty, Administration and Students Engage in Service Learning at Waikalua Loko I'a

by Lisa Uyehara

CEO of Pacific American Foundation and Kumu, Herb Lee, Jr. hosted Project Ho'oku'i IV and V na haumana at Waikalua Loko I'a, on March 11, 2023. Kahuna and Kumu, Frank Kawaikapuokalani Hewitt treated us to mo'olelo and his mana'o of this special place. He shared the history, significance, and importance of the i'a and the ahupua'a with the students. We all came away from the experience learning something new.

The students also engaged in learning by building their own "ahupua'a" as teams, and learning more about the hazards of pollution and invasive species. Simultaneously, everything was captured on film as the principal investigator continues to work on a documentary to be aired sometime in the future.

Principal investigator Lisa Uyehara observed and stated: "I love Farrington High School! There is Vice Principal Hartwell Lee Loy engaging with the students by actively participating. And there's career counselor Regan Honda giving up a Saturday to make sure that he gives his students this opportunity." It was a new experience for the Farrington na haumana, and they said it was a Saturday well spent.



Principal Investigator, Lisa Uyehara, discussing kuleana and protocol for the day.



Kumu Herb Lee explaining the significance and restoration conducted in the area.



Farrington students, Kamaile Aiu-Lee Loy and Greg Harrell listening and observing as Kumu Herb Lee explained the history and next activity. Cinematographer Ruben Carrillo capturing the moment.

Ho'oku'i IV Presents at the 38th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity

On March 7th, 2023, Principal Investigator Lisa Uyehara and Project Coordinator Marie Guillermo, presented at the 38th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity at the Hawai'i Convention Center in Honolulu, Hawai'i. The conference's theme was "Coming Together and Moving Forward" and Ho'oku'i took the opportunity to share how family engagement has a positive and powerful impact on na haumana and their 'ohana in transitioning from high school to college. Their presentation was titled, "Engaging the Entire 'Ohana to Foster Native Hawaiian Students' Successful Transition to College." Throughout the session, the audience learned how teachers and parents work together to support students to gain the attitudes, skills and knowledge needed to make the cross over from high school to college. Following a brief overview of the project's evolution since its establishment in 2009 by Dr. Kelly Roberts, Lisa and Marie highlighted Native Hawaiian Culture and Nutrition lesson plans that were taught to na 'ohana and their haumana of last school year. Several Ho'oku'i superstars were also acknowledged and celebrated for their academic progress and achievements.

Lesson Plan Highlight: Native Hawaiian Culture Focus

KO'U MO'OKŪ'AUHAU

by Desiree Evans

"Your Genealogy"

Who doesn't love a good story? We all love a good story. In our Focus 15 lesson, we learned about the puke 'ohana, or the family album. We learned that in the puke 'ohana, family memories are preserved with photos. In these photos we learn names, places, dates and facts. Furthermore, there is an emotional connection that is formed with our ancestors and these stories become treasures to the heart and mind.

Traditionally, mo'olelo was passed verbally throughout the generations. Gratefully, we have modern tools to help keep those memories for much longer. For this activity we used Canva, a free-to-use online graphic design tool, to create our own puke 'ohana. We invited Ho'oku'i families to create three to four generations of their family history using Canva. Each family was encouraged to be creative, keep it simple (if they choose to) and not to be limited to a pedigree chart. They had the option to share a photo and a short story. The main idea was to digitally record their memories in a digital book for a family keepsake.

'Ōlelo No'ea #2814: Ua lehulehu a manomano ka 'ikena a ka Hawai'i
Great and numerous is the knowledge of Hawaiians



Kanu o ka 'Āina
Waimea, Hawai'i Island

Continued from page 01. High school and Ho'oku'i student, Jerneen Kauahi, was part of the project class titled "Papa Wa'a," which focused on wa'a-related (canoe-related) topics such as voyaging, knot-tying, food preservation and more. As she reflected on her experience, she stated, "I've been learning about these topics since I was a Freshman but didn't truly immerse myself until my Sophomore year due to the limitations of learning online." She served as a student leader and co-coordinator of their booth. In collaboration with Ho'oku'i, Jerneen and the Papa Wa'a project class hosted a booth that sold warm Portuguese bean soup, crunchy kimchi cucumber, decadent banana lumpia and much more! These yummy treats were a hit and made their fundraiser successful.

In February of this year, Jerneen and the rest of the Papa Wa'a project class were able to take a multi-day huaka'i to O'ahu where they learned about local wa'a and how to sail. Through thoughtful planning and precise execution of a rewarding fundraiser, *na haumana* (students) learned how to be thoughtful, creative and forward-thinking citizens on event coordination and community building.



Ho'oku'i Student Highlight: Jerneen Kauahi

by Staff Writer

In the midst of her high school career, Ho'oku'i student Jerneen Kauahi of Hawai'i Island reflects on her journey and acknowledges the people, opportunities and experiences that paved the current path she walks on.

At Kanu 'O ka 'Āina, a new century public charter school on Hawai'i Island, Jerneen excels in and out of the classroom. As a freshman, she took a courageous plunge into dual credit college courses through *Hawai'iloa* (distant Hawai'i), a Hawaiian studies online program at Windward Community College that immerses na haumāna in 'ike (knowledge) and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language) leading to an Associate in Arts (AA) in Hawaiian Studies degree. In the Fall semester of her junior year, Jerneen completed the program and earned four additional college credentials including an AA in Liberal Arts and three Hawaiian Studies Academic Subject Certificates ('Ōlelo Hawai'i, Mo'olelo and Ahupa'a). Others have received their degrees and/or certificates in the Spring of their senior year! Jerneen shared, "I will say that it indeed was a challenge to work through two courses simultaneously over the past year and a half, but I managed with the love and support of my kumu, friends, and family who truly motivated me to keep on going."

Jerneen has been a Ho'oku'i student since her freshman year. When asked how the project has helped her with her high school and college journey, Jerneen shared,

Project Ho'oku'i is an amazing organization that has motivated me to indulge myself in the academic world. I had always planned on taking college classes during my high school years, but never knew how I would cover the financial cost."



PHOTO TAKEN BY LANI WALTERS

With a healthy curiosity to learn more about herself and a driving passion to explore and express her creativity, Jerneen has taken up a number of opportunities that provide her the space and place to do so. Outside of academics, Jerneen is a passionate singer, an active member of Hālau Nā Kipu'upu'u and an intern for a non-profit organization Purple Mai'a.

Singing has been one of Jerneen's greatest passions and she has considered theater a second home where she can let her creative juices flow and find different ways to present her beautiful voice on stage. She hopes to get back into the world of Broadway and attend singing classes again.

Through her membership in the adult class or Papa Mauna Kea of Hālau Nā Kipu'upu'u, Jerneen had the grand opportunity to join Kumu hula and cultural enthusiast, Micah Kamohoali'i in Paris, Milan, and London for a cultural and historical visit. She shared that her biggest takeaways from this experience was learning about the shared, rich history of her ancestors and ali'i of Hawai'i and this foreign place. Last, but not least, as an intern for Purple Mai'a, Jerneen was instrumental in their mission of "educating and empowering the next generation of culturally grounded, community serving technology makers and problem solvers" in different capacities. While taking courses, she also assisted in some of them where 'ike Hawai'i was demonstrated in relation to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields.

These pursuits along with her academic experiences have intrigued Jerneen and she is now looking into computer science, broadcasting journalism, film directing and film editing as possible majors to pursue in college. As she moves through her high school career, Jerneen is planning to attend University of California-Los Angeles, Stanford University or Evergreen State College. Ho'oku'i is looking forward to learning what institution Jerneen and the Kauahi 'ohana commits to!



Jerneen Kauahi
atop Mauna Kea on
Hawai'i Island.



Kauahi 'Ohana

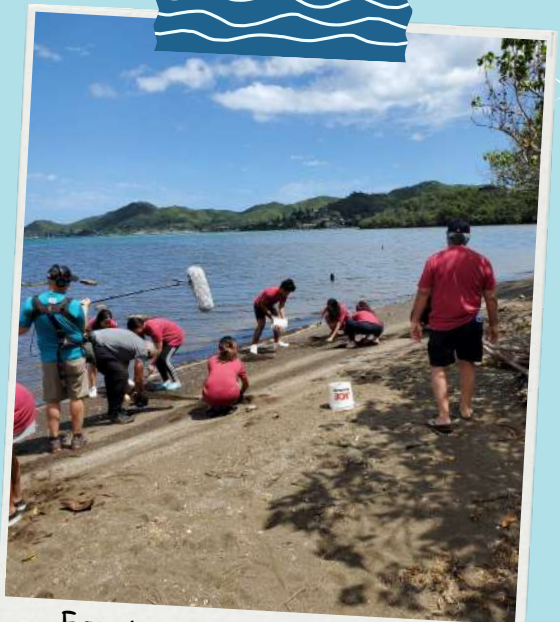
More from the Waikalua Loko I'a Huaka'i



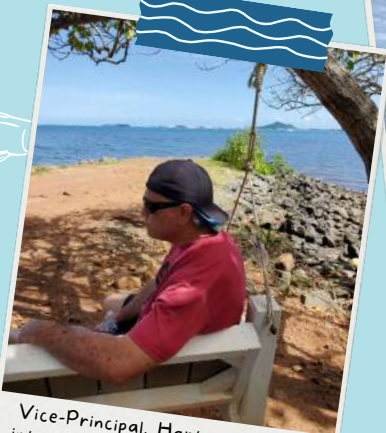
Manu Island within the restored Waikalua Loko I'a; a resting spot for birds.



Farrington Governor Kamaile Aiu-Lee Loy placing lei around the Ku stone.



Farrington students having loads of fun building their "Ahupua'a" while the film crew captures the event.



Vice-Principal, Hartwell Lee Loy intensely listening to Kahuna and Kumu Frank Kawaikapuokalani Hewitt.



Farrington Govs doing service learning by helping clean up.

Lesson Plan Highlight: Native Hawaiian Culture Focus

E ULANA KĀKOU

The first monthly focus (Focus 13) of Spring 2023 was titled "E Ulana Kākou," which translates to "let's weave." In each monthly module, there is a lesson developed for each focus: College Preparation, Family Engagement, Nutrition, Native Hawaiian Culture and Well-being. In this Native Hawaiian Culture segment, Desiree Evans teaches na haumana and their 'ohana how to weave a lauhala coaster. Weaving lauhala can be a daunting task no matter what we are weaving, but doing so reminds us to take things slowly and one step at a time. Weaving lauhala teaches us patience.



Kalei Moniz



Keahi Kaheiki



Randyn Cabreros



Arleen and Jerneen Kauahi



Dylon Fernandez