Kūkala Nūhou
Title III Grants at Kaua'i Community College

Hā-Breath Highlight
Strengthened Sense of Aloha

Me ke aloha au e hana ai i ‘ili nā hopena maika’i ma luna o’u, o ka ‘ohana, ke kaiaulu, ko’u ‘āina a me ka honua mei.

A sense of Aloha is demonstrated through empathy and appreciation for the symbiotic relationship between all.

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You can also learn more about our grant, services and opportunities on our website by scanning the QR code or using the link below!
kauai.hawaii.edu/titleiii

Humber College features a number of “indigenous cultural markers.” The photos above depict the Migration of the Anishinaabe Nations and highlights several key stopping points along that journey from the east coast to Manido Maniss.

Kaua’i Community College welcomed students from Kula Kawaikini and Kanu I Ka Pono for our Mad Skillz event held on February 3, 2023. Students grade 9-12 spent the day touring the campus with our Kīpaipai and Wai‘ale‘ale Project ‘ohana. They also had the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities with one of four vocational career programs (Electronical Installation and Maintenance Technology, Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts and Carpentry). “My favorite part was scooping the cookies and placing it on the sheet, and seeing all the ingredients come together like our lāhui,” said Kawaikini junior, La’akea.

A post activity survey showed that 83% of students are interested in pursuing the trade they experienced as a future career. Also, 79% are considering Kaua’i CC as a post-high school option. Special mahalo to Kumu Duke, Jim, Daryl, Wes, Chef Steve, and his culinary students for taking the time to share their ‘ike and provide a memorable experience for these students!

Cultural Connections
Humber College, Canada Visit

Kaua’i CC’s Pua Rossi (Hawaiian Studies Instructor), Kyoko Ikeda-Chun (International Coordinator), and Dirk Soma (Business Coordinator) will be traveling to Humber College in Toronto, Canada from March 11-17, 2023. The purpose of the trip is to form collegial relationships with staff and faculty while sharing engagement practices on institutionalizing the host culture within the campus. Topics of their visit will include indigenous entrepreneurship, area employer interactions, sustainability, and place-based projects. A summer studies program at Kaua’i CC will be planned for June, as well as advancement of a formal Memorandum of Understanding between the two colleges.

Humber College is located in Adoobiigok, known as “Place of the Alders” in Anishinaabemowin, the Ojibwe language. It is uniquely situated along GabeKanang Ziibi, the Humber River providing an integral connection for indigenous peoples between the northern shore of Lake Ontario and the Lake Simcoe Georgian Bay region. Humber’s Indigenous Cultural Markers at its North and Lakeshore campuses are designed to place the college in the context of the long history of Indigenous peoples in what is now called the Greater Toronto Area.

Distance Education Classroom Update

Construction of the Distance Education Classroom (upstairs in the Library) will resume in April when the glass wall is expected to arrive. In the meantime, we are interested in moving forward with a process to conceptualize, design, and fund a very special mural focused on a mo’olelo for the outside wall of the classroom. Stay tuned for more information!
Ke Ahu a Hōkūlei

Ke Ahu a Hōkūlei was constructed on April 10, 2015 in less than 24 hours under the guidance and direction of Kūpuna. The ahu was assembled by Kaua‘i CC faculty and Hawaiian Studies students, community cultural practitioners, and individuals from Kawaihē, Kanu I Ka Pono, and Pūnana Leo o Kaua‘i. This was no small feat considering that the ahu is made up of rocks representing every moku (traditional district) on this island. It also requires the gathering of specific cultural and natural sources for proper construction. Ke Ahu a Hōkūlei can be found in front of the Kaua‘i CC Hawaiian Studies building.

The purpose of Ke Ahu a Hōkūlei is to: 1) honor and protect the sacred mountains (mauna) that sustain our island home, specifically, Hā‘upu, Wai‘ale‘ale, and Kawaihē and 2) create an indigenous space on our campus for our students, faculty, and the community to offer oli (chant), mele (song), pule (prayer), and ho‘okupu (lei, wai, etc.).

Prior to its construction, no such space existed on the Kaua‘i CC campus for our students, faculty, and community to actively honor these sacred spaces. The timing and placement of the construction of Ke Ahu a Hōkūlei coincided with ahu that were being constructed on the same day and time on other UH campuses (UH Hilo, UH Mānoa and UH Maui) in honor of the sacred mountains of each major island.

Wala'au with No'eau

We got the opportunity to wala'au with No'eau Keopuhiwa, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, about past and present Kaua‘i CC Title III Grants as well as Title III projects he was involved in during his time at Kapi‘olani CC.

"In the past 5 years there has been a lot of shift towards Native Hawaiian values [at Kapi‘olani CC]," said No'eau. Shifts such as scheduling meetings based on certain moon phases and renaming campus buildings/sidewalks have brought a modern take to traditional ‘ike or knowledge.

Kapi‘olani CC renamed their buildings to represent different Native Hawaiian plants and sidewalks to reflect different aspects such as the winds that blow in that direction. They incorporated the learning of these names during their new employee orientation walkthrough of the campus. This parallels with efforts to try and rename major buildings here at Kaua‘i CC. Our Title III Grants team has been working with Hawaiian Studies and Makaloa Council to workshop possible names.

"Kapi‘olani has gotten more effective in terms of getting the campus to participate," said No'eau. Their campus organized a gathering to rename their ‘Great Lawn’ area to Makahiapo. “Title III worked with the campus to get a list of everyone who wanted to get involved and figured out where they were from, what route they took to work, and used that information so water could be gathered from everyone’s ahupua’a." The campus then gathered together for pule and a ceremonial watering of the lawn.

Another Title III Grant project at Kapi‘olani that stands out was a "professional development series where we would invite speakers from the community, business owners, to talk about how being Native Hawaiian influences their identity and business," said No'eau. This gave students the opportunity to ask questions and connect with kānaka who have found success by embracing their culture.

On behalf of the Title III team, mahalo No'eau. We look forward to collaborating with you!