

NĀ HONUA MAULI OLA

Hawai'i Guidelines for Culturally Healthy and Responsive Learning Environments

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC) is developing a set of Hawaiian cultural standards in collaboration with Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language (KH'UOK). The documents entitled *Nā Honua Mauli Ola –Hawai'i Guidelines for Culturally Healthy and Responsive Learning Environments* (HMO I), and *Supporting Culturally Healthy and Responsive Learning Environments* (HMO II) will contain guidelines/standards, strategies and recommendations for improving the quality of educational outcomes for learners, educators, families, communities and schools/institutions.

Ke Kumu Honua Mauli Ola, a Hawaiian educational philosophy, is the cultural base from which the HMO guidelines have been developed. This philosophy speaks of the *mauli* as the cultural heart and spirit of a people, and the fostering of one's *mauli* through three *piko* connections within the *honua* or environment.

- *Piko 'Ī*: Spiritual connection found at the crown of the head.
- *Piko 'Ō*: Inherited connection found at the navel.
- *Piko 'Ā*: Creative connection found below the navel.

The *honua ola* is a vibrant learning environment, which fosters the growth of one's *mauli* through enriching experiences between the people and it's surrounding. The *honua* is crucial in the development of one's *mauli*.

The *mauli ola* or living life force is fostered through a sense of spirituality, behavior and actions, language and tradition-based knowledge. Maintaining our *mauli ola Hawai'i* enables us to understand the importance of honoring the Hawaiian knowledge of the past as a foundation for the present to continue our legacy for future generations.

These HMO guidelines offer a framework from which to view the learning environment and ensure the participation and preparation of the learning community: educators, parents, students, administrators, community members, and resource and support

personnel. Each guideline entails thoughtful consideration for the process, content and outcomes to be achieved by all the members of the learning community. The committee utilized a series of questions to guide the breadth and depth of the outcomes to be achieved:

- Who are the members of the learning community?
- What should the members of the learning community know and understand?
- What should the members of the learning community be able to do?
- What should the members of the learning community value and care about?
- What should the members of the learning community have experienced?
- How will these changes improve the quality of education and educational opportunities?
- What are the desired outcomes to be achieved and how will this benefit the learning community—the people and the place?
- What legacy should the learning community prepare for generations not yet born?

The education cycle is a lifelong learning process, and a personal, family and community endeavor. A healthy and responsive learning community is the ultimate goal. Therefore, the guidelines provide support for the entire learning community with inclusive and holistic considerations. These documents contain the philosophy, goals, outcomes, strategies, roles, and accountability measures necessary to embrace, share and support the learning community in totality. The standards also aim to clarify the elements of Hawaiian education. These culture-based guidelines have been designed to enhance and improve the quality of education and educational opportunities for Hawaiians and their communities throughout the world.

The process to achieve such a plan entails statewide collaboration and consensus among all stakeholders as a *'ohana* of community learners. We invite you to review the guidelines and to contribute your suggestions in the spirit of educational collaboration for the improvement and enhancement of our island communities.