



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Imagine ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i everywhere: Ko‘olau community gathers at Windward Mall on Feb. 1 to celebrate Hawaiian Language Month

Ola Ka ‘Ī Ko‘olau will be the first in a series of statewide Hawaiian language fairs in February that promote a future where ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i is commonly spoken in community spaces

HE‘EIA, HAWAII‘I (January 28, 2025) — A hui of Hawaiian organizations led by Kūlaniākea, Ke Kula ‘o Samuel M. Kamakau, Kanaeokana, and Kamehameha Schools Kaiāulu will celebrate the start of Mahina ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i by hosting the fourth annual Ola Ka ‘Ī Ko‘olau event at Windward Mall’s center court on Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event marks the beginning of a statewide series of Hawaiian language fairs throughout February and March.

The celebration will bring together more than 100 students from Hawaiian language immersion schools in the Ko‘olau region, teachers, ‘ohana, and over 35 community organizations. The Ko‘olau event will showcase ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i through music, hula, storytelling, games, student performances, and a Hawaiian language speech competition hosted by ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. Interactive booths will offer aloha ‘āina activities for both keiki and mākuā, providing a meaningful, hands-on experience rooted in Hawaiian language and culture.

“The more our keiki and ‘ohana hear ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i around them, the more confident they will be in using and perpetuating the Hawaiian language now and into the future,” said Kaula Robins Tauotaha, co-founder and lead teacher at Kūlaniākea. “We dreamed up Ola Ka ‘Ī to provide our keiki and ‘ohana an opportunity to be surrounded by ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i in a really big way, in a really big community space. Windward Mall is the perfect place to realize this dream, and each year it just keeps getting better and better.”

“As part of this hui of Native Hawaiian organizations, Kamehameha Schools is honored to host the fourth annual Ola Ka ‘Ī gathering on ‘Āina Pauahi at Windward Mall,” said Manuwai Peters, senior project manager at Kamehameha Schools. “These events aim to normalize the Hawaiian language in everyday spaces, transforming places like Windward Mall into more than just a center of commerce but a vibrant community hub. Our vision is a future where a walk through a shopping center means hearing our native language spoken by store employees, friends or even strangers. When people respond to one another in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, we know we’ve built the future our lāhui deserves.”



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With the support and participation of Kūlaniākea, Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau and Kanaeokana, the first Ola Ka 'Ī was held in 2020. Since then, similar events have been held in 'Ewa, Maui and Kaua'i.

This year's Ola Ka 'Ī Ko'olau will highlight community organizations, including Kūlaniākea, Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, Pūnana Leo 'o Ko'olau Poko, Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Pū'ōhala, Windward Community College, Office of the Mayor, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, DLNR Forestry and Wildlife Division, Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy and Kamehameha Schools Kaiāulu.

In addition to Ola Ka 'Ī Ko'olau at Windward Mall, other events include:

Ola Ka 'Ī Hilo

Saturday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Prince Kūhiō Plaza (Hawai'i Island)

Ola Ka 'Ī Honolulu

Saturday, Feb. 8, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Kāhala Mall (O'ahu)

Ola Ka 'Ī Maui Nui

Saturday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Queen Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center (Maui)

Ola Ka 'Ī 'Ewa

Saturday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Ka Makana Ali'i (O'ahu)

Ola Ka 'Ī Kaua'i-Ni'ihau

Saturday, March 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Kukui Grove (Kaua'i)

Ola Ka 'Ī Kona

Saturday, March 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Keauhou Shopping Center (Hawai'i Island)

All Ola Ka 'Ī events across the pae 'āina will feature interactive booths with activities for keiki and adults to use and learn 'ōlelo Hawai'i in a friendly, inviting immersive experience.

The ho'okūkū 'ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language speech competition) for students in grades K-12 will be a centerpiece of each event.



“At Kamehameha Schools, we believe that ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i is foundational to a thriving lāhui,” said Manuwai Peters. “‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i powers our Hawaiian education system, and community events like Ola Ka ‘Ī Ko‘olau serve as a touchstone that celebrates the success of this system and the vibrancy of our many community partners.”

For further information about Mahina ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and upcoming events, please visit mahinaolelohawaii.org.

Support provided by Hawai‘i Tourism Authority through the Kūkulu Ola Program.

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[Photos and video](#) courtesy of Kūlaniākea

About Kūlaniākea

Kūlaniākea’s Hawaiian immersion preschool in Kāne‘ohe centers Hawaiian language, culture, and values in efforts to enrich and uplift the Hawaiian identity. Kūlaniākea provides students with regular access to outdoor classrooms at Papahana Kuaola, and on board Ka‘ihekauila, a 30ft double-hulled sailing canoe named after the founder’s father. This 501(c)3 nonprofit organization also creates curriculum and educational materials to help facilitate the learning of ‘ike kupuna by the youngest members of the lāhui.

About Ke Kula ‘o Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory Public Charter School

Ke Kula ‘o Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory Public Charter School is a family-based, Hawaiian language medium school offering a comprehensive multi-level (PK through Secondary) educational program. Ke Kula ‘o Kamakau was initially established in January 2000 in response to the expressed needs of Native Hawaiian families to increase student achievement through culture-based education while addressing the educational needs of multi-generations of learners. As an indigenous language laboratory school program, Ke Kula ‘o Kamakau is committed to the ongoing development of Hawaiian language education through research, teacher training, and resource development.

About KS Kaiāulu

KS Kaiāulu continues Kamehameha Schools’ half-century commitment to providing educational opportunities to students beyond Kamehameha Schools campuses and preschools. Today, KS Kaiāulu brings together Kamehameha Schools’ and community partners’ rich Hawaiian culture, ‘ōlelo, and ‘āina-focused opportunities to grow ‘ōiwi leaders – people who use their knowledge, skill, and passion to strengthen Hawai‘i, its people, and our global community. For more information, visit www.ksbe.edu/kaiaulu and connect via Instagram (@kskaiaulu).

About Kanaeokana

Kanaeokana is a network of over 100 Hawaiian language, culture, and ‘āina-based organizations that seeks to strengthen the lāhui and nurture the next generations of aloha ‘āina leaders by



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collaboratively developing and growing a Native Hawaiian education system built on a strong ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and ‘ike Hawai‘i foundation. Visit kanaeokana.net.