



# *Native Hawaiian Education Council Annual Report*

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Native Hawaiian Education Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY 2004-2005

The FY 2004-2005 marked a time of transition for the NHEC with the departure of Executive Director Peter Hanohano and the hiring of his replacement, Colin Kippen mid year. Erika Rosa was hired to replace the previous bookkeeper and account specialist who had resigned at the end of FY 2003-2004. The agency now has three full time employees, with Heather Kina and Erika Rosa supporting the Executive Director in the performance of the mission of the agency.

FY 2004-2005 also marked the beginning of a new chapter in the manner in which the activities of the NHEC were conducted- -and what it means for the NHEC to accomplish its objectives of 'assessing, evaluating, reporting, and making reports and recommendations' on the state of Native Hawaiian education, the impact and efficacy of programs selected for funding by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOEd), and the making of reports and recommendations to federal, state, and local decision makers designed to enable the accomplishment of the purposes of the Native Hawaiian Education Act of providing education opportunities for Native Hawaiians in a manner aligned with the culture and language of Native Hawaiians.

The 2004 fiscal year began with a strategic planning conference which made clear that the activities of the NHEC needed to be substantially recast in order to accomplish the mission of the Council. A lengthy list of activities were proposed which assumed the Council had both the fiscal means and organizational capacity to accomplish all of them in the short run. It also assumed that a critical mass of NHEC decision makers would be able to muster the political will to support a change from the completely decentralized structure and emphasis on the provision of direct services from individual Island Councils which had characterized the NHEC over the last several years- - to the new centralized structure and a focus on funding only mission driven activities envisioned in the strategic planning process. Both assumptions were incorrect and considerable energy and effort was needed to assess the present situation and begin the process of changing expectations and existing procedures. These efforts continue beyond FY 2006-2007. A copy of this strategic planning document is attached.

The NHEC moved offices from the Kamehameha Schools to a one bedroom residential apartment in the back of Kalihi Valley when the Kamehameha Schools reclaimed the space it had previously donated to the use of the NHEC. Although inexpensive, this one bedroom apartment eventually proved inadequate for the purposes necessary to run a program like the NHEC due to its small size, remote location, and existence in a residential apartment building. The NHEC would eventually move to a more appropriate centralized business location in downtown Honolulu in FY 2005-2006.

Francisco Ramirez of the USDOEd conducted a site visit to Hawai'i in March of 2005 with the aid and assistance of the NHEC to meet with grantees and to

increase the exposure of potential grantees to the Native Hawaiian Education Act grants program. As a result of this program, several grants were received and approved by the US Dept of Education from sectors of Hawai'i that had not been funded previously. The NHEA grantees had considerable need for additional meetings and consultations with Mr. Ramirez which were met in FY 2005-2006, and FY 2006- 2007.

For the remainder of the year, the NHEC Executive Director met with stakeholders, strategic partners, community members, and grantees to build bridges in the community and to assess the state of the NHEC and the kinds of changes necessary to better align it with its mission under the Native Hawaiian Education Act.