



Native Hawaiian Education Council Annual Report

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Native Hawaiian Education Council

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY 2006-2007

Launching of Ka Hā Naupaka Initiative. (October 2006)

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC) launched a plan to change the way the Island Councils, the State Council, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOEd), the Native Hawaiian Education Act (NHEA) grantees, and the strategic partners providing education and other services to native Hawaiians relate to one another through an initiative called 'Ka Hā Naupaka'- - meaning 'the breath of resilience'- - an initiative named after the Naupaka plant- - a hardy plant which grows upland and at the shoreline throughout Hawai'i. The name selected is a metaphor for the hardy nature of the native Hawaiian people and is intended to be a means to increase our ability as Native Hawaiians to persevere, continue, and succeed in accomplishing our goals of eliminating educational disparities and increasing the well being of the Native Hawaiian people through the culture and language based programs of the NHEA.

The goal of this initiative is to have the NHEC more collectively focused, strategic and accountable than ever before and to be able to capture our grantees stories of hope, strength, and resilience. This initiative is designed to realign our efforts with the purpose of the NHEA to improve education outcomes for native Hawaiians in a manner aligned with the culture and language of native Hawaiians. It is also intended to position the NHEC to be able to accomplish its mission of 'assessing, evaluating, reporting, and making recommendations' on the impact of present efforts undertaken under the NHEA, as well as to report on the most pressing needs which should be addressed in the native Hawaiian community through the NHEA grant process.

A three day conference October 3-5, 2006 was planned and implemented to coincide with the availability of our USDOEd Program Officer, Francisco Ramirez. The first day of the conference was technical training provided by Mr. Ramirez to NHEA grantees on how to better comply with the USDOEd requirements. The second two days was a planning process which included strategic partners, grantees, State, and Island Council members where the Ka Hā Naupaka initiative was rolled out, followed by a State Council meeting to adopt the recommendations of the plans discussed during Ka Hā Naupaka. Mr. Ramirez was in attendance at all of these meetings as a representative for the USDOEd. An executive summary of this two day event is provided in the 'Event Details' section of this report.

NIEA Conference. (October 2006)

The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) convention was attended by a representative from the NHEC, Ms. VerlieAnn Malina-Wright. Ms. VerlieAnn Malina-Wright, past president of the NHEC, was elected president of the NIEA. The NIEA is slated to have its national convention in Hawai'i in October of 2007, and

Ms. VerlieAnn Malina-Wright will be presiding over that meeting and convention in Hawai'i. It is anticipated that Native Hawaiian educators, strategic partners, and community members will be able to access and learn from indigenous education speakers and educators from throughout the United States who are experienced in shaping and implementing education improvements for their tribal members and who will be attending this conference. Over 3,000 members are expected to be attending this indigenous education conference in Hawai'i. Many of our grantees and native Hawaiian educators will be participating in this conference as guests and as presenters and this event will be an opportunity for Native Hawaiian educators to share information about education initiatives in the community. (*This event came to fruition at the beginning of the next fiscal year.*)

Kamehameha Schools' Policy Analysis and System Evaluation (PASE) Conference.
(November 2006)

The Kamehameha Schools is a strategic partner of the NHEC. We attended this Native Hawaiian Education Conference sponsored by the Kamehameha Schools to keep informed of the improvements, research, and developments occurring in the Native Hawaiian education community. Presentations and workshops were planned, presented and attended regarding the Nā Lau Lama initiative designed to harvest best practices of reaching and teaching Native Hawaiian students in the State of Hawai'i Department of Education and to educate other teachers and administrators on strategies that are more effective in reaching and teaching native Hawaiian students. The NHEC is one of the originators of the Nā Lau Lama partnership and planning process with the Kamehameha Schools, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the State of Hawai'i Department of Education. (*A draft final report on Nā La Lama was substantially worked on through this fiscal year but will not be completed until 2008.*)

WESPAC Conference. (November 2006)

The NHEC is a strategic partner of all traditional and cultural practitioners in the native Hawaiian community because it is their knowledge and understanding of traditional Hawaiian cultural practices that is viewed as a means of better reaching and teaching our Hawaiian children. The Executive Director helped plan and deliver a meeting and keynote address for over 100 cultural practitioners and educators from throughout the State of Hawai'i at a conference sponsored by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council at the Pacific Beach Hotel in Waikīkī, Hawai'i.

The title of the conference was Ho'ohanohano I Na Kupuna ('to honor our ancestors'). Its purpose is to establish councils of native Hawaiian practitioners who can assist in managing aquatic natural and cultural resources throughout the Hawaiian archipelago. The work of Ho'ohanohano I Na Kupuna is divided into three phases.

-Phase I gathered Native Hawaiian cultural and resource stewards from throughout the islands and captured their knowledge about managing aquatic ecosystems.

-Phase II convened education and cultural practitioners to discuss incorporating native Hawaiian cultural practices into existing public, private, and charter school curriculums so that the community is better educated and so that these traditions and practices live on.

-Phase III convened practitioners, educators, and policy makers to establish a process for Native Hawaiians to begin to share their traditional knowledge with existing governmental systems of resource and cultural management.

This conference related to the accomplishment of phase II- -incorporating the knowledge of Native Hawaiian stewards into curriculum developed to educate future generations of Native Hawaiians.

The Executive Director shared information with all of those in attendance about the need for cultural based curriculum to help future generations of Hawai'i citizens understand the importance of Native Hawaiian traditional knowledge and practices in managing the resources of Hawai'i. The Executive Director also assisted in building bridges between traditional native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and educators potentially interested in using traditional and cultural knowledge to educate future generations of native Hawaiians. The conference led to recommendations to change the way the State of Hawai'i manages its natural resources. As a result of this conference, a native Hawaiian advisory committee to Hawai'i State government was created through legislation passed by the 2007 Hawai'i State legislature to incorporate Hawaiian practices and Hawaiian culture and traditions into the way the state of Hawai'i manages its lands and natural resources- -especially ocean resources.

Ka Hā Naupaka- - Kaua'i Island Council Meeting. (December 2006)

The NHEC planned and met on Kaua'i with volunteers from the Kaua'i Island Council about the Ka Hā Naupaka plan to 'assess, evaluate, report, and make recommendations' in a more effective and strategic manner. See 'Event Details' section for this and the following Islands' event reports.

Ka Hā Naupaka- - Maui and Hawai'i Island Council Meetings. (January 2007)

The NHEC planned and met with volunteers from both the Maui and Hawai'i Island Councils about the Ka Hā Naupaka plan for the NHEC.

State NHEC Meeting. (January, 2007)

NHEC State Council met and approved a request to ask U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye to seek answers to several questions from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) as regards policy issues regarding the administration of the Native Hawaiian Education Act grant program. The NHEC State Council also approved a request to hire a consultant to conduct a management and feasibility study on the Council's need to create a better and more effective system for the NHEC to obtain the results of assessments and evaluations of grants funded under the NHEA. The NHEC State Council also approved a research project to analyze and critique indicators developed by the NHEC to measure and assess programs funded under the Native Hawaiian Education Act. The NHEC State Council received training on their roles, responsibilities, and duties and from a well known guest speaker specializing in providing this kind of information to non profit entities in Hawai'i. The information conveyed in this training lead to the creation of statement of expectations and a conflicts of interest policy for the grantees later in the year.

Ka Hā Naupaka- -Moloka'i, O'ahu and Lana'i Island Council Meetings. (February 2007 & March 2007)

NHEC State Council representatives met with the Island Councils of Moloka'i, O'ahu and Lana'i to discuss and inform them of the Ka Hā Naupaka plan for the NHEC.

NHEC Grant Application Prepared; Senator Inouye Requests Government Accounting Office (GAO) Research on the Native Hawaiian Education Act; NHEC Hires Consultant to Address Issue of NHEC's Need for Data Regarding the Results of Assessments and Evaluations of Grants Funded Under The Native Hawaiian Education Act; NHEC Council Member Expectations and Conflicts of Interest Pledge Are Executed by the Full Board; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Meetings for the National Science Foundation Board Meeting With Programs Involved in Educating Native Hawaiians Are Set Up and NHEC Council Travel Guidelines are Amended. (April 2007 & May 2007)

NHEC grant application was prepared and approved by the NHEC and submitted to the USDOEd for approval. The grant application contains the plans of the agency for the next three years and implements the Ka Hā Naupaka initiative designed to improve the ability of the NHEC to accomplish its responsibilities under the terms of the Native Hawaiian Education Act.

A letter requesting the assistance of the GAO to conduct policy research on the Native Hawaiian Education Act was submitted by Hawai'i's two senators, U.S. Senator Inouye and U.S. Senator Akaka, to the Government Accounting Office

(GAO). The initial request for this policy review by the GAO grew out of conversations between the NHEC, the USDOEd, and the Congressional delegation.

A request for proposals and procurement process was completed by the NHEC and a vendor was hired to address the need of the Council for data regarding the assessment and evaluation of the impact, performance, successes, and lessons learned from grants funded under the terms of the Native Hawaiian Education Act. Expectations are that this report will be used as a means to suggest improvements to the manner in which grants are evaluated and assessed by the USDOEd, and the manner in which information about these grants flow from the USDOEd to the NHEC and to the Native Hawaiian community. A copy of this step of Due Diligence to create a Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) can be found in the 'Event Details' section of this report.

Meetings between the National Science Foundation Board and Native Hawaiian programs involved in educating Native Hawaiians in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Education, and Math) are arranged and held in Honolulu as a result of NHEC efforts. NSF executive committee indicates it is a challenge to measure and document the success of culturally aligned STEM programs designed to increase the participation of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in STEM fields. Future STEM collaborations should be planned between the NSF and the NHEC as regards this issue. *(The NHEC is planning a research project to increase the knowledge and understanding of culturally based indicators and measures as part of its work with the USDOEd.)*

A set of NHEC Council Member expectations and a conflicts of interest pledge were drafted, prepared, approved, and executed by the members of the NHEC. Both of these documents were deemed necessary as a preliminary step to the accomplishment of the Ka Hā Naupaka planning process by a Council which understands its roles and responsibilities and is not impaired by being in a conflict of interest in making policy recommendations required under the Native Hawaiian Education Act.

The existing NHEC Council travel guidelines were amended and approved by the Executive Council. These guidelines improve the accountability and transparency of the agency and require that all travel yield a deliverable product that accomplishes the objectives of the NHEC as a condition for approval.

NHEC Meets With the USDOEd, Meets with the Congressional Staff of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, Attends the Model Schools Conference in Washington D.C., Plans and Participates in the Ha'i Mo'olelo ('to tell our story of success') Conference for the Hawai'i Island Council, NHEA Grantees, and NHEA Potential Strategic Partners at the Imiloa Space Center on Hawai'i Island. (June 2007 & July 2007)

A meeting was held between NHEC representatives and staff of the USDOEd at the agency headquarters in Washington D.C. involved in administering and implementing the grant program of the NHEA. A new program officer was introduced to the NHEC. NHEC policy issues were discussed, including an update on the reorganization of the NHEC under the Ka Hā Naupaka initiative begun in October of 2007 with the assistance and participation of the USDOEd.

A meeting was held between NHEC representatives and with representatives from each of Hawai'i's congressional delegation staff to discuss Native Hawaiian Education policy issues and to update them on the Ka Hā Naupaka initiative and other reforms being implemented by the NHEC.

NHEC representatives attended the Model Schools Conference in Washington D.C. The superintendent of schools for the State of Hawai'i and a substantial contingent of teachers and administrators from the State of Hawai'i Department of Education were present at the conference. The intent of the Model Schools Conference is to identify, capture and share best practices being implemented across the nation which are improving student performance and outcomes in various schools. Plans were established to involve State of Hawai'i Dept. of Education schools in this work. A special session was facilitated by the directors of the Model Schools Conference for Hawai'i State teachers, administrators, and strategic partners such as the NHEC. The State of Hawai'i Department of Education is a unified school district, has committed itself to reforming and improving the education of its students, and are already engaged in the preliminary stages of selecting, harvesting, and sharing best practices through the Nā Lau Lama initiative in selected parts of the Hawai'i DOE. It appears that there is an excellent fit between the design of this program and the Hawai'i DOE's present efforts and future collaborations along these lines may prove to be extremely productive at improving educational outcomes for students.

NHEC Staff Facilitates and Arranges Meetings Between NHEA Grantees, Strategic Partners, Researchers, Evaluators, NHEC Island Council Members, and NHEC State Council Members and Representatives from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on the Islands of Oahu, Moloka'i, Hawai'i, and Kaua'i. (August 2007 & September 2007)

NHEC staff facilitates meetings between grantees, strategic partners, researchers, NHEC Island Council members, NHEC State Council members and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) representatives on the islands of O'ahu, Moloka'i, Hawai'i, and Kaua'i. NHEC staff and State Council members facilitated the meetings between the witnesses and the GAO representatives. Once these meetings between the GAO and these third parties began, the NHEC representatives removed themselves from these meetings to preserve the ability of these third parties to candidly discuss issues with the GAO. The only exception to this process was when the NHEC members themselves were being interviewed. (It

is anticipated that a report of the GAO's findings and recommendations will be available to the general public in February or March of 2008.)

NHEC Establishes a Work Plan and Selects a Vendor to Accomplish Indicator Research and Data Base Design Consistent with Previously Adopted NHEC Strategic Plan. (September 2007)

The NHEC drafts a Request for Proposal (RFP) consistent with its plan and proposed budget approved by the USDOEd and selects the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) as its vendor to accomplish this necessary indicator research and to design a data base to house data consistent with the terms of the RFP. The NHEC will conduct three meetings in the Native Hawaiian Education Community to vet the preliminary results of each of the three stages of this research, with the first meeting being scheduled for January 29th of 2008 in Honolulu, Hawai'i. The USDOEd Program Officer for the Native Hawaiian Education Act has been invited and will be attending. A copy of the RFP is included in the 'Event Details' section of this report. *(This 'indicator' research and other work under the RFP will continue through the 2008 and is slated for completion at the end of this fiscal year or the beginning of the next fiscal year.)*