EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Executive Summary

NO NÄ KÜPUNA A ME NÄ ‘AUMĀKUA

For the küpuna and ‘aumākua
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Design by Stacey Leong Design
Native Hawaiians traditionally view the world by looking at the past to inform the present and future. As Lilikalā Kame‘eleihiwa reminds us,

In Hawaiian, the past is referred to as Ka wā mamua, or “the time in front or before.” Whereas the future, when thought of at all, is Ka wā mahope, or “the time which comes after or behind.” It is as if the Hawaiian stands firmly in the present, with his back to the future and his eyes fixed on the past, seeking historical answers for present-day dilemmas. Such an orientation is to the Hawaiian an eminently practical one, for the future is always unknown, whereas the past is rich in glory and knowledge.¹

Ka Huaka‘i 2014 draws on research of the past three decades to inform our understanding of how Native Hawaiians are faring today. Building on the pivotal research initiated by the Native Hawaiian Educational Assessment in 1983, Ka Huaka‘i 2014 provides a succinct, multidisciplinary point of reference for Native Hawaiian well-being.

This executive summary offers a high-level synopsis of the main findings of Ka Huaka‘i 2014. Key findings are organized as follows:

- Native Hawaiian population
- Material and economic well-being
- Social, emotional, and cultural well-being
- Physical well-being
- Cognitive well-being

In recent years, there has been increasing recognition of the need for strengths-based research and inclusion of the native voice, especially with regard to indigenous and minority research. Maenette Ah Nee-Benham has asked,

Where is the native voice? We have a charge, a calling, to voice the native perspective that will define the future progress of native people.²

Ka Huaka‘i 2014 and its predecessor in 2005 are a partial response to this challenge. Ka huaka‘i translates literally as “the journey,” and the metaphor suggests the ongoing journey of Native Hawaiians toward defining a balanced, strengths-based understanding of Hawaiian needs and successes.

Defining and measuring Native Hawaiian success is of particular interest to Kamehameha Schools, whose mission is to improve the well-being and capability of Native Hawaiians through education. It is hoped that other nonprofit organizations and community efforts will use findings from Ka Huaka‘i 2014 to learn from the past and to leverage Hawaiian strengths to build a strong future.

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NATIVE HAWAIIAN POPULATION

The number of Native Hawaiians is increasing at a rapid rate and now exceeds half a million nationally (see Table 1). During the thirty-year period from 1980 to 2010, the Native Hawaiian population in the United States increased by more than 200 percent. In 2010, the nationwide population of Native Hawaiians reached 527,077, representing a 31.4 percent increase over the population in 2000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US census year</th>
<th>Hawai‘i total</th>
<th>United States total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>115,500</td>
<td>166,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>138,742</td>
<td>211,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>239,655</td>
<td>401,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>289,970</td>
<td>527,077</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Gibson and Jung 2002; US Census Bureau 2010, Summary File 2.
Note: The apparent surge in the Native Hawaiian population in 2000 is attributable in part to the US Census Bureau’s adoption of multiracial/multiethnic reporting. Prior censuses allowed respondents to report only one race/ethnicity.

If recent trends continue, the Native Hawaiian population in the United States is projected to exceed 1.2 million by the year 2060. In Hawai‘i, the Native Hawaiian population is projected to grow to 677,356 by 2060 (see Figure 1).

There are some important distinctions in the Native Hawaiian population compared with the general population in the United States and Hawai‘i. For example, Native Hawaiians are very likely to be multiracial. Nearly three in four Native Hawaiians (72.3 percent) identified with at least one other racial or ethnic group, compared with the statewide rate of 23.6 percent and the nationwide rate of 2.9 percent (US Census Bureau 2010).

In addition to multiracial diversity, the age structure is another defining feature in the Native Hawaiian population. Understanding a population’s age structure is important for assessing specific needs—such as housing and schools—and for predicting the size of the labor force. Compared with other ethnicities, Native Hawaiians tend to have a young population base. Based on 2010 data, in Hawai‘i, 10.6 percent of Native Hawaiians were preschool age (0–4), compared with 6.4 percent of the total population. Furthermore, 25.0 percent of Native Hawaiians were school age (5–17), compared with 6.4 percent in the state. The relatively larger proportion of preschool- and school-age Native Hawaiians, in addition to the growing Native Hawaiian population, indicates an increasing need for educational programs and services.
Today, the percentage of Native Hawaiians who reside outside Hawai‘i nearly matches that of Native Hawaiians living in Hawai‘i. Based on 2010 data, 45.0 percent of Native Hawaiians lived on the continental United States or in Alaska. On the continent, the two states with the most Native Hawaiians were California and Washington. Many Native Hawaiians who live outside the islands maintain strong ties to Hawai‘i. Access to homelands, traditional practices, and community is central to Native Hawaiian well-being, regardless of place of residence. These realities are important to consider when planning programs and services for Native Hawaiians.

**KEY IMPLICATIONS**

The Native Hawaiian population is growing at a fast rate, is increasingly diverse, and is distributed throughout various regions in the Hawaiian Islands and on the continent. Of particular note is the relatively large growth occurring in the population of preschool- and school-age Native Hawaiian children.

As organizations seek ways to better serve Native Hawaiians, several persistent questions arise: Which age groups are the highest priorities? What balance should planning efforts strike between regions that have the greatest numbers of Native Hawaiians versus regions that have fewer numbers but a higher proportion of Native Hawaiians?

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MATERIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Relative strengths/progress over time

HOUSING AND HOMEOWNERSHIP
Homeownership among Native Hawaiians has increased. The rate of owner-occupied residences among Native Hawaiians increased from 55.7 percent to 57.8 percent between 2003 and 2009. This growth was slightly higher than the statewide increase in owner-occupied residences over the same period.

EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION
Native Hawaiians are now more likely to be employed in professional or managerial occupations than in the past. Comparing Native Hawaiians with the state population, the employment gap for professional and managerial occupations decreased from 9.4 percentage points in 2000 to 8.1 percentage points in 2010.

Native Hawaiian single mothers have continued to be actively engaged in the workforce. Among Native Hawaiian children ages 5–17 in single-mother family households, data from 2006–10 showed that 71.4 percent had a working mother, compared with 67.6 percent statewide.

INCOME
Income gaps have narrowed in certain parts of the population. Among family households with children ages 0–4, the income disparity between Native Hawaiians and the statewide average decreased by $3,246 between 1999 and 2010.

Among adults with an associate’s degree, the annual earnings of Native Hawaiians ($37,642) between 2006 and 2010 were slightly higher than the statewide average ($36,266).

Among family households where an associate’s degree was the highest degree obtained, the livable income rate for Native Hawaiians in 2009 (64.7 percent) was 2.5 percentage points higher than that of non-Hawaiians (62.2 percent).

POVERTY AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
The poverty rate among Native Hawaiians decreased from 14.6 percent in 2003 to 13.6 percent in 2009. The difference between the poverty rate among Native Hawaiian family households and all family households statewide decreased from 3.5 percentage points in 2003 to 2.7 percentage points in 2009.

Public assistance usage among Native Hawaiian households decreased by 2.8 percentage points between 2003 and 2009, compared with the statewide decrease of 1.3 percentage points.

1. Livable income refers to the annual income required to provide the basic necessities for a comfortable life. Livable income is calculated based on: Economic Policy Institute, “Family Budget Calculator,” Economic Policy Institute: Research and Ideas for Shared Prosperity (2013).
Areas of concern

HOUSING
Homelessness has remained a challenge in the Native Hawaiian population. The number of Native Hawaiians using homeless shelters increased by 55.8 percent, from 1,569 in 2006 to 2,444 in 2013. The number of Native Hawaiians using outreach services, such as assistance with housing and benefits, increased by 18.0 percent during the same period.

EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION
Native Hawaiians had the highest unemployment rate among the major ethnic groups in Hawai‘i. Nearly one in ten Native Hawaiians in the civilian labor force (9.0 percent) was unemployed, compared with approximately one in seventeen (5.7 percent) statewide.

Native Hawaiians were overrepresented in the typically lower paying agriculture, labor, and production jobs and underrepresented in the typically higher paying professional and managerial positions.

INCOME
Native Hawaiian family households with children had the lowest mean income among the major ethnic groups in the state.

- Among family households with children ages 0–4, the mean income of Native Hawaiians ($76,925) was $4,429 less than the statewide average. The difference was more pronounced among family households with children ages 5–17, where the mean income of Native Hawaiians ($79,468) was $8,244 less than the statewide average.

- Among adults with a bachelor’s degree or higher, the mean earnings of Native Hawaiians was 8.0 percent less than the statewide average ($47,644 versus $51,809, respectively).

Compared with the other major ethnic groups in Hawai‘i, Native Hawaiian households were the least likely to have a livable income. Native Hawaiian family households with children ages 0–4 had lower livable income rates than did Native Hawaiian family households with children ages 5–17.

POVERTY AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Native Hawaiian households had the highest rate of public assistance usage, and Native Hawaiian family households had the highest rate of poverty among the state’s major ethnic groups. Poverty rates were elevated in areas with high concentrations of Native Hawaiians: Moloka‘i, Wai‘anae, and Hilo–Puna–Ka‘ū.

Single-parent households face a greater risk of poverty than do those headed by a married couple. Native Hawaiian children in single-parent households were more than twice as likely to live in poverty as were Native Hawaiian children in married-couple family households.

KEY IMPLICATIONS
Native Hawaiian material and economic well-being has improved slightly over the last decade. However, significant challenges remain within some of the most vulnerable segments of the Native Hawaiian population: family households with young children and single-parent family households. Education can serve as a vehicle of economic mobility and security, with higher levels of educational attainment in Native Hawaiians linked to increased earnings and livable income rates. Continued investments in education and postsecondary options for Native Hawaiians will be a key driver in future improvements in material and economic well-being.
SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING

CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS
Native Hawaiians tend to live with family members.
- More than nine out of ten Native Hawaiians (91.9 percent) lived in family households, compared with the statewide average of 86.4 percent.
- Native Hawaiians were the most likely of the state’s major ethnic groups to have households where grandparents live with and care for their grandchildren.
Native Hawaiian households with children ages 5–17 had the highest rate of nonparental caregiving among the state’s major ethnic groups, which is consistent with the traditional cultural practice of hänai parenting or child fostering.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
The rate of confirmed child abuse and neglect among Native Hawaiians decreased from 29.5 per 10,000 in 2006 to 23.8 per 10,000 in 2009.

CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR
Native Hawaiian arrest rates for violent crimes, robbery, and drug manufacturing or sales decreased between 2003 and 2009.
- Arrests for violent crimes decreased from 61.3 to 56.8 per 10,000.
- Arrests for robbery decreased from 5.5 to 4.4 per 10,000.
- Arrests for drug manufacturing or sales decreased from 7.4 to 4.1 per 10,000.

SOCIAL SUPPORT
Social support from an adult, with whom a student could talk, was more common among Native Hawaiian high school students than among their non-Hawaiian peers.
Reliance on family support during difficult times was more prevalent among Native Hawaiians than among non-Hawaiians (90.6 percent compared with 86.9 percent, respectively).

SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGION
When encountering challenges, Native Hawaiians more frequently turned to a higher power than did non-Hawaiians (76.4 percent compared with 63.2 percent, respectively).
High levels of spiritual fulfillment were more common among Native Hawaiians than among non-Hawaiians (51.6 percent compared with 42.5 percent, respectively).
Native Hawaiians were more likely to describe their spirituality, or relationship with God, as perfect or really good than were non-Hawaiians (63.6 percent compared with 56.4 percent, respectively).
Membership in a religious organization was more common among Native Hawaiians than among non-Hawaiians (59.2 percent compared with 46.3 percent, respectively).

QUALITY OF LIFE
Compared with non-Hawaiians, Native Hawaiians were more likely to report that life had gotten better over the past five years (43.2 percent versus 36.0 percent) and to expect that life will get better over the next five years (60.8 percent versus 47.8 percent).

STRESS AND SUICIDE
The suicide rate among Native Hawaiians decreased from 57.2 per 100,000 in the 2001–06 reporting period to 46.2 per 100,000 in the 2007–11 reporting period.
Areas of concern

CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS
Native Hawaiian children were more likely to live in single-parent households than were the children of other major ethnic groups in the state.

Native Hawaiians had the largest proportion of single-mother family households among the major ethnic groups in the state.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
Abuse and neglect have continued to afflict a disproportionate number of Native Hawaiian children. The rate of confirmed child abuse and neglect among Native Hawaiians (23.8 per 10,000 children) was significantly higher than the statewide average (13.4 per 10,000).

ANTISOCIAL AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR
Physical fights—both on and off school property—were more common among Native Hawaiian high school students than among their non-Hawaiian peers.

The rates of arrest for violent crime, aggravated assault, robbery, and drug manufacturing or sales among Native Hawaiians continued to exceed statewide averages.

Compared with juveniles across the state, Native Hawaiian youth had the highest rate of arrest for all serious offenses (commonly referred to as index offenses) combined and for less serious (part II) offenses combined.

INCARCERATION
Native Hawaiian adults constituted 17.7 percent of the total adult population in Hawai‘i in 2010. However, in 2012, Native Hawaiians accounted for 37.0 percent of the state’s male prison population and 40.0 percent of the state’s female prison population.

QUALITY OF LIFE
One in eleven Native Hawaiians (8.9 percent) reported being extremely or very dissatisfied with life, compared with 6.5 percent of non-Hawaiians.

Native Hawaiians were less likely than were non-Hawaiians to describe themselves as extremely or very happy (51.5 percent compared with 55.4 percent, respectively).

STRESS AND SUICIDE
Thoughts and behaviors associated with depression and suicide were more likely among Native Hawaiian high school students than among their non-Hawaiian peers.

One in fourteen Native Hawaiians (7.4 percent) reported sadness or depression for fifteen or more days in the past month, compared with one in eighteen adults (5.7 percent) statewide.

Among individuals ages 15–44, Native Hawaiians were more likely to commit suicide than were their counterparts from other major ethnic groups in Hawai‘i.

KEY IMPLICATIONS
Native Hawaiian material and economic well-being has improved slightly over the last decade. However, significant challenges remain within some of the most vulnerable segments of the Native Hawaiian population: family households with young children and single-parent family households. Education can serve as a vehicle of economic mobility and security, with higher levels of educational attainment in Native Hawaiians linked to increased earnings and livable income rates. Continued investments in education and postsecondary options for Native Hawaiians will be a key driver in future improvements in material and economic well-being.
PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

Relative strengths/progress over time

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
Uninsured rates within the Native Hawaiian population have steadily declined over time, from 9.6 percent in 2005 to 7.4 percent in 2009.

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH
The rates for late or no prenatal care, births to teenage mothers, and infant mortality among Native Hawaiians have decreased over time.

- Late or no prenatal care decreased from 22.4 to 17.6 percent between 2005 and 2010.
- Births to teenage mothers decreased from 19.1 to 16.1 percent between 2000 and 2008.
- Infant mortality decreased from 11.1 to 6.3 per 1,000 live births between 1981 and 2010.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
Native Hawaiian adolescents were more likely to participate in team sports and physical education at school and less likely to spend hours playing video/computer games and watching TV than were non-Hawaiian students.

Among Native Hawaiian students, 42.5 percent spent an hour or more engaged in physical activity five days out of the week, compared with 36.4 percent of non-Hawaiians.

Among Native Hawaiian adults, 37.3 percent engaged in muscle-strengthening activities two or more times per week, compared with 32.1 percent statewide.

RISK BEHAVIORS
The prevalence of smoking has decreased among Native Hawaiian youth and adults.

- The percentage of Native Hawaiian high school students who smoked cigarettes in the month prior to the survey declined from 36.5 to 9.0 percent between 1997 and 2011.
- The percentage of Native Hawaiian adults who smoke declined from 26.5 to 23.4 percent between 2005 and 2009.

DISEASE
The prevalence of certain chronic diseases has decreased among Native Hawaiians.

- The prevalence of diabetes decreased from 12.4 to 11.6 percent between 2005 and 2009.
- The prevalence of coronary heart disease decreased from 4.5 to 3.1 percent between 2005 and 2009; heart attacks decreased from 5.1 to 4.2 percent over the same period.

The incidence of certain types of cancer among Native Hawaiians has remained relatively low.

- The incidence of prostate cancer among Native Hawaiian men (106.7 per 100,000) was lower than the statewide average (131.0 per 100,000).
- The incidence of colon cancer among Native Hawaiian women (35.4 per 100,000) was lower than the statewide average (42.0 per 100,000).

LIFE EXPECTANCY
Life expectancy among Native Hawaiians increased from 71.8 years in 1980 to 74.3 years in 2000.
Areas of concern

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
The rate at which Native Hawaiians missed medical treatment because of cost was 11.1 percent in 2009, compared with the statewide average of 7.3 percent. In addition, Native Hawaiian adults had the lowest checkup rates of the state’s major ethnic groups between 2005 and 2009.

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH
Native Hawaiians have experienced the highest rates of late or no prenatal care and infant mortality among the major ethnic groups in Hawai‘i.

The proportion of live births to teenage mothers was about twice as high among Native Hawaiians (16.1 percent) as in the statewide population (8.4 percent).

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
Native Hawaiian high school students were more likely than non-Hawaiian students to be overweight (15.4 versus 12.7 percent) or obese (16.6 versus 12.0 percent).

The prevalence of overweight and obesity among Native Hawaiian adults (76.5 percent) exceeded the statewide average (57.5 percent) in 2009.

RISK BEHAVIORS
Native Hawaiian high school students were more likely than their non-Hawaiian peers to have sexual intercourse, drink alcohol, and try marijuana before age thirteen.

Among adults in Hawai‘i, Native Hawaiians were the most likely of the major ethnic groups to smoke cigarettes, abuse alcohol, and engage in activities that increase the risk of HIV infection.

DISEASE
The prevalence of asthma among Native Hawaiian children (24.7 percent) was higher than the statewide average (17.9 percent) in 2009. Similarly, the asthma rate among Native Hawaiian adults (26.7 percent) was the highest among the major ethnic groups in the state.

Native Hawaiian men were the most likely of the state’s major ethnic groups to be diagnosed with lung cancer, while Native Hawaiian women were most likely to be diagnosed with breast or lung cancer.

The diabetes mortality rate among Native Hawaiians (130.6 per 100,000) was nearly twice the statewide average (70.3 per 100,000).

The heart disease mortality rate among Native Hawaiians (135.4 per 100,000) greatly exceeded the statewide average (81.3 per 100,000).

MORTALITY
Native Hawaiians suffered the highest mortality rate among the major ethnic groups in the state at 857.9 deaths per 100,000 in 2005, compared with 626.2 deaths per 100,000 statewide.

KEY IMPLICATIONS
Physical well-being remains an area of significant challenge for the Native Hawaiian population. The high cost of medical services and lack of insurance continue to affect access to healthcare, which impacts the progression and prognosis for chronic diseases. Similarities in the health indicators of Native Hawaiian teens and adults suggest that patterns of behavior established early in life are critical. As individuals, communities, and organizations that serve Native Hawaiians seek to preserve recent gains and accelerate Native Hawaiian well-being, affordable healthcare and community-based outreach and educational programs will be essential.
COGNITIVE WELL-BEING

PREKINDERGARTEN YEARS
Preschool enrollment among Native Hawaiians has increased. The percentage of Native Hawaiian three- and four-year-olds enrolled in preschool programs increased from 47.5 percent in 2000 to 53.8 percent in 2010.

Kamehameha Schools-supported preschoolers (the only for whom we have access to test data) were less likely to score in the below-average range on a test of vocabulary development than were children in the national norm group: 14.2 percent scored in the below-average range compared with 23.0 percent nationally.

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12
Reading and mathematics proficiency rates among Native Hawaiian students (Grades 3, 5, 8, and 10) on the Hawai‘i State Assessment have increased over time.

- Reading proficiency among Native Hawaiian elementary school students increased from 50.8 percent proficient in SY 2006–07 to 61.6 percent in SY 2011–12. Similar gains were seen among middle school students. Increases at the high school level also occurred, although these were smaller.

- Mathematics proficiency among Native Hawaiian elementary school students increased from 33.4 percent proficient in SY 2006–07 to 55.9 percent in SY 2011–12. Again, similar increases were seen at the middle school level. Although smaller than at the elementary and middle school levels, gains in proficiency were seen at high school for Native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian students.

Reading and mathematics proficiency gaps between Native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian students have narrowed over time in certain grade levels.

- The reading proficiency gap in elementary school decreased from a high of 15.3 percentage points in SY 2007–08 to 11.6 percentage points in SY 2011–12.

- The reading proficiency gap in middle school decreased from 17.4 percentage points in SY 2006–07 to 11.5 percentage points in SY 2011–12.

- The mathematics proficiency gap in elementary school decreased from 15.8 percentage points in SY 2008–09 to 11.8 percentage points in SY 2011–12.

HAWAIIAN-FOCUSED CHARTER SCHOOLS
A longitudinal analysis of proficiency rates in a single cohort of Native Hawaiian students found that students who attend Hawaiian-focused charter schools showed improvement between elementary and middle school that was as strong as or stronger than that of Native Hawaiian students in conventional public schools.

- In reading, the proportion of Native Hawaiian charter school students who were proficient increased from 32.4 percent in Grade 4 to 57.7 percent in Grade 8, completely closing the gap with Native Hawaiian students in conventional public schools.

- In mathematics, the proportion of Native Hawaiian charter school students who were proficient increased from 18.6 percent in Grade 4 to 32.9 percent in Grade 8, an increase of 14.3 percentage points compared to a 12.6 point increase for Native Hawaiian students in conventional public schools.
**Key Findings and Implications**

**Areas of concern**

**FAMILY RESOURCES**

Research has shown that children with highly educated parents enter school better prepared for academic learning and subsequently achieve better academic outcomes than do children whose parents have lower levels of educational attainment. Native Hawaiian families with children were the least likely of the major ethnic groups in Hawai‘i to include a parent with a bachelor’s degree or higher.

**PREKINDERGARTEN YEARS**

Native Hawaiian children ages 0–4 in Wai‘anae, ‘Ewa–Waialua, and Hilo–Puna–Ka‘u were underrepresented in the population of Native Hawaiian preschoolers.

Kamehameha Schools-supported preschoolers were less likely to score in the above-average range on a test of vocabulary development than were children in the national norm group: 19.0 percent scored in the above-average range compared with 23.0 percent nationally.

**KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12**

Reading proficiency rates ranged from a low of 53.4 percent in Grade 5 to a high of 58.6 percent in Grade 10 (compared with 63.1 to 69.7 percent at the same grade levels statewide).

Mathematics proficiency rates ranged from a low of 23.4 percent in Grade 10 to a high of 49.1 percent in Grade 3 (compared with 38.2 to 57.7 percent at the same grade levels statewide).

The mathematics proficiency gap between Native Hawaiian students and statewide averages increased with each successive grade level, from 8.6 percentage points in Grade 3 to 14.8 percentage points in Grade 10.

Fewer than three in four Native Hawaiians completed high school within four years, compared with four in five public school students statewide.

Native Hawaiians in the public school system had the lowest rates of timely graduation of all the major ethnic groups in the state.

**CULTURE-BASED EDUCATION AND CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Although longitudinal analyses suggest that they may achieve greater gains over time, as a group, Native Hawaiian students in Hawaiian-focused charter schools lagged behind their peers in conventional public schools. On the whole, the Hawaiian-focused charter school students were less likely to score at the proficient level in reading and mathematics than were their peers in traditional public schools.

**POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

Compared with Hawai‘i’s other major ethnic groups, Native Hawaiians were the least likely to be enrolled in college. A total of 25.7 percent of Native Hawaiian young adults were enrolled in college, compared with 35.7 percent statewide.

The gains in bachelor’s degree attainment rates among Native Hawaiian students made between 1990 and 2000 have plateaued over the last decade.

**Key Implications**

There are many signs of progress in cognitive well-being over the last decade. Yet Native Hawaiians continue to lag behind their non-Hawaiian peers on key indicators of cognitive well-being, including reading and mathematics achievement, high school graduation, and postsecondary outcomes. Greater understanding of the personal, family, school, social-cultural, and political factors that promote or impede school success for Native Hawaiians is needed to develop programs and initiatives that eliminate disparities in educational outcomes. The identification and dissemination of successful methods used in Hawaiian culture-based education may help pave the way forward.
Ka Huaka‘i 2014 is an in-depth analysis of Native Hawaiian education and well-being. Recent findings point to both positive gains and persistent challenges among Native Hawaiian learners and families.

The journey to document the educational status and well-being of Native Hawaiians began with the Native Hawaiian Educational Assessment in 1983 and 1993, followed by Ka Huaka‘i 2005. Collectively, these studies demonstrate Native Hawaiian resilience and also highlight ongoing disparities between Native Hawaiian well-being and that of other ethnic groups in Hawai‘i.

Ka Huaka‘i 2014 was produced by the Strategic Planning and Implementation Division of Kamehameha Schools. Visit www.ksbe.edu/spi for online reference materials and additional studies on Native Hawaiian well-being.