

A Gathering of Mind and Mana'o

Kamehameha Schools' inaugural research conference on education and well-being draws from a deep well of Hawaiian scholarship

In September, more than 150 researchers and educators gathered at the Turtle Bay Resort for Kamehameha Schools' inaugural Research Conference on the Education and Well-being of Hawaiians. The result: an outpouring of intellect and *aloha* that enlivened and refreshed.

"We envisioned this conference as an opportunity to call on the talent, knowledge, and *mana'o* of practitioners and researchers who have made significant contributions to educating Hawaiian children and improving Hawaiian well-being," said Dr. **Shawn Malia Kana'iaupuni '83**, director of the Policy Analysis and System Evaluation (PASE) department at Kamehameha Schools.

More than forty organizations were represented at the three-day conference, many by graduates of Kamehameha Schools. They included **Maenette Ah Nee Benham '74**, Ph.D., associate professor in the College of Education at Michigan State University; **Lilikalā Dorton Kame'elehiwa '70**, Ph.D., director of the Center for Hawaiian Studies at UH Mānoa; and **Thomas Kaulukukui '63**, J.D., chairman of the Board of Trustees for Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center.

Presenters covered a wide range of topics, including the role of culture and ethnic identity among Hawaiian youth; innovations in classrooms and curriculum; community building and tribal colleges; cancer rates and at-risk behavior; brain-drain migration; Hawaiian perspectives on leadership; and the importance of indigenous ways of learning and doing.

"What I loved the most about the conference was its multidisciplinary focus," said Dr. **Martina Kamaka '78** of the John A. Burns School of



Inspiring poster presentations at the conference included "Hawaiian Children and Healthy Lifestyles" by V. Kealoha Robinson, a PASE research intern (left). Also pictured is Alma Trinidad of PASE.



From left, Elizabeth Murakami-Ramalho, Michigan State University; Ululani Makue, KS Literacy Enhancement; Miki Maeshiro, Literacy Enhancement; Maenette Ah Nee Benham, Michigan State University; Anna Sumida, Literacy Enhancement; and **Liana Iaea Honda '77**, Literacy Enhancement.

Medicine at UH Mānoa. Her presentation was titled "Increasing Colorectal Cancer Screening Among Native Hawaiians."

Kamaka said she usually looks at Hawaiian well-being through the lens of healthcare. "It was incredible," she said, "to share with such an enthusiastic, scholarly, and inspirational group of Hawaiians who are tackling the issues surrounding well-being through the fields of education, ecology, community development, and the law."

"By sharing and exchanging our work and experiences, we begin to build the collective relationships necessary to reach a much deeper understanding of the challenges facing Native Hawaiians today," said Kamehameha Schools Trustee Nainoa Thompson. "Through this process we will be better able to develop strategies and resources for finding meaningful and long-lasting solutions."

Conference proceedings will be published in the inaugural issue of *Hūlili: A Multidisciplinary Journal on Hawaiian Well-being*, expected out sometime in spring 2004.

For more information, log on to www.ksbe.edu/pase.

"In my years I have been privileged to work with or hear many of the presenters, and hearing them again was a validation to me about our Hawai'i, our ancestors, our people, our tomorrow."

– **BETTY KAWOHIOKALANI ELLIS-JENKINS '45**
RETIRED EDUCATOR

"Seeing other educated, professional kānaka maoli inspired me to continue trusting our na'au or gut as the foundation to seeking the truths about our own cultural ethnic identity."

– **KAMANAO'OPONO CRABBE, Ph.D.**
PAPA OLA LŌKAHI

| HAWAIIAN EDUCATION AND WELL-BEING AT A GLANCE | | |
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| | U.S. | HAWAII (ONLY) |
| Number of Hawaiians | 401,162 | 239,655 |
| Hawaiians enrolled in K-12 schools | 109,233 | 70,054 |
| Percent of Hawaiian students enrolled in public schools | 89% | 87% |
| Percent of Hawaiian students enrolled in non-KS private schools | 7% | 6% |
| Percent of Hawaiian students enrolled in Kamehameha Schools | 4% | 7% |
| Percent of all private-school Hawaiian students who are served by Kamehameha Schools | 39% | 55% |
| Percent of Hawaiians age 25 and older who graduated from high school | 85% | 85% |
| Percent of Hawaiians age 25 and older who completed a bachelor's degree or higher | 16% | 13% |
| Percent of Hawaiians living below poverty | 14% | 16% |