

Ho'olauna Kona, a new Extension Education Division initiative modeled after Kamehameha's popular Explorations program, is helping non-KS students learn more about the history and culture of their home island

# Introducing Kona



Mikahala Roy, executive director of Kūlana Huli Honua, discusses the intricacies of Ahu'ena Heiau with Ho'olauna Kona students.

In yet another example of Kamehameha School's strategic effort to extend its reach into the community, a new week-long boarding program was unveiled last summer in West Hawai'i.

The cultural learning experience, originally titled Ho'olauna (to introduce) Keauhou and recently renamed Ho'olauna Kona, was offered to non-KS sixth-graders residing on the island of Hawai'i.

The initiative is modeled after Kamehameha's Explorations program, a week-long summer boarding program held on the Kapālama Campus which has served more than 50,000 non-KS fifth-graders since 1967.

Housed at the 'Ohana Keauhou Beach Resort, students enjoyed daily educational excursions and nightly classes with units of study including Hawaiian culture, history, language, values and dance, crafts, place names, science and geography.

Five sessions were held in June and July 2003 with between 20 and 25 students from across the island attending each session.

"The main objective of this program is for our students to develop a sense of place," said **Tony LeBron '71**, Kamehameha's Enrichment Department director. "Kona has so much to offer in the way of history and culture, and as these kids learn about this place they really begin to develop an appreciation and respect for their Hawaiian heritage."

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LeBron said it was important to involve the Kona community in the project.

“One of the things we felt strongly about was that this program should engage the community itself, to allow them to tell Kona’s story – rather than bringing in staff from Honolulu and teaching the kids from our perspective,” he said. “I think we’ve succeeded. Our instructors, our staff, and many of the organizations we partner with to do the various learning activities and field trips all come from West Hawai’i.”

**Kalani Flores ’78**, a Hawaiian studies instructor at Hawai’i Community College and West Hawai’i site coordinator for Nā Pua No’eau, served as coordinator for the inaugural Ho’olauna program.

“From the feedback we’ve had from parents, they said it’s been a long time in coming – for Kamehameha Schools to have programs like this one coming out into our communities and bringing Pauahi’s legacy to those not touched by campus programs,” Flores said.

“Our families have long awaited these types of programs which educate our kids about their cultural heritage, and do it in their own backyards.”

Flores said he was very happy with the way the program has come together. “The students were excellent, and the parents were impressed with how much the kids have learned and what has been shared with them.

“Anytime you can extend education into the community, particularly to Native Hawaiian children and



**Top**, Peter Van Dyke, manager of the Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Gardens, points out the features of the *'ohia lehua* to Ho’olauna Kona students. **Above**, Ho’olauna Kona students and staff at the ‘Ohana Keauhou Beach Resort.



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HO’OLAUNA KONA COORDINATOR

## Ho’olauna Kona Learning Activities

- Ka’ūpūlehu Cultural Center at the Four Seasons Resort
- King Kamehameha Hotel
- Ahu’ena Heiau
- Birthsite of Kauikeaouli
- Lekeleke Battlefield at Kuamo’o
- Oceanic Institute at Keahuolū
- Ke’ekū Heiau
- Kapuanoni Heiau
- Lonoikamakahiki Heiau
- Mākole’ā Heiau
- Hāpaialī’i Heiau
- Ka’ūpūlehu Dryland Forest
- Queen Lili’uokalani Children’s Center at Papawai
- Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Gardens
- Wa’a Kaulua Adventures

their families, it can only benefit the community. It’s all positive.”

Another Kamehameha alumnus, **Malani DeAguiar Papa ‘77**, an English teacher at Konawaena Middle School, served as an instructor for Ho’olauna Kona.

“I teach in the state Department of Education, and there are a lot of our Hawaiian children who don’t have the opportunity to go to Kamehameha, and who don’t have the same opportunities as our Kamehameha kids,” she said.

“So, a program like this is just wonderful for these students.

And they’re not only learning Hawaiian history, they’re also getting a chance to see what is being done today to help maintain our culture.”

Kamehameha trustees have already approved plans to expand the Ho’olauna program to other islands.

“In the long term, we hope to have Ho’olauna programs on all of the islands,” LeBron said. “This year we’re planning for Ho’olauna Moloka’i and Ho’olauna Kaua’i. We’ll probably have spring pilot programs with the first sessions held next summer.



Students enjoy an evening Hawaiian language class.

“We’re also looking at programs for East Hawai’i and on Maui, and eventually on O’ahu as well. Every island has its own story to tell, and every program will be unique in that sense.”

LeBron’s foremost wish is that even more students take part in the experience.

“This is our first step,” he said. “We hope that word will get out, and we’re going to do our part and be more aggressive in advertising what we have to offer. I think the students who attended last summer will look at this program as a good thing and will tell their friends and family.

“We’re hoping that we can earn the same reputation as our Explorations program on O’ahu.”



Ho’olauna Kona students Kauanani Wall (left) and Maikalani Dias model Enrichment Department T-shirts.



# Supporting the Palace

*The Friends of 'Iolani Palace are asking for  
a little kōkua from the Kamehameha Schools 'ohana*

**C**ommissioned by King David Kalākaua at a cost of nearly \$360,000, 'Iolani Palace was built in 1882 as a tribute to the Kingdom of Hawai'i. The palace served as the official residence of Kalākaua and his successor, Queen Lili'uokalani, until the monarchy was overthrown in 1893.

The palace was then converted into legislative halls and executive offices, with the business of government conducted there until the state capitol was completed next to the palace grounds in 1969.

Through the dedicated efforts of palace staff and the nonprofit citizen's organization The Friends of 'Iolani Palace, the stately palace stands today as an enduring reminder that Hawai'i was once a thriving monarchy.

A national historic landmark recognized as the only official royal palace on United States soil, 'Iolani Palace was opened to the public in 1978. Guided tours and special lectures on Hawaiian history, art, language and culture are presented throughout the year to the more than 50,000 people who visit the palace annually.

"'Iolani Place is the most visible and lasting symbol of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. It houses

precious artifacts reflecting the richness and dignity of our Hawaiian heritage," said **Kitty Knight Kamaka '82**, who has served on the The Friends of 'Iolani Palace Board of Directors since 2000.

Kamaka is one of several Kamehameha Schools alumni who are contributing their time and energy to support the palace. The "Friends" organization was established nearly 40 years ago to help direct museum operations and oversee restoration efforts.

Former Kamehameha trustee **Oswald "Oz" Stender '50** has been a board member for more than 15 years, and currently serves as board president. Stender said he was invited to be a board member at a time when very few Hawaiians were involved with the group.

"Today, more than half the board members are part Hawaiian," he said. "Now's the time for alumni of Kamehameha to get involved, to be a part of the history, and to help protect and preserve the palace."

Stender added that fundraising is also a big issue for board members.

"It's one of our biggest challenges," he said. "We need funds for maintenance, restoration, security and acquisition of articles that previously

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