## 'Olelo Hawai'i Among Native Hawaiians

Responses from the 2023 'Imi Pono Hawai'i Wellbeing Survey

The majority of Native Hawaiians have a strong understanding of common words in 'Olelo Hawai'i. The percentage of Native Hawaiians who understand common Hawaiian words (59%) is higher than non-Hawaiians (50%).

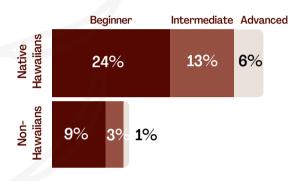




Hawaiians

Non-Hawaiians

The percentage of Native Hawaiians who report fluency levels with common Hawaiian words well exceeds non-Hawaiians.



A greater proportion of Native Hawaiians compared to non-Hawaiians report proficiency in reading and writing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.



2 out of 10 Native Hawaiians can write 'Ōlelo Hawai'i compared to 1 out of 10 non-Hawaiians



3 out of 10 Native Hawaiians can read 'Ōlelo Hawai'i compared to 0.5 out of 10 non-Hawaiians

The vitality of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i lives and thrives within the 'ohana and various social and community contexts. As a percentage of all responses, informal settings are nests for the proliferation of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i as opposed to more formal settings like work and school.



Home or with family



Social interactions/ community settings



Professional settings/



Educational settings

On average, Native Hawaiians engage substantially more in communitybased 'Ōlelo Hawai'i programs than non-Hawaiians. 32% of Native Hawaiians participate in school or community based 'Ōlelo Hawai'i programs at least once a month compared to 19% non-Hawaiians.

Once faced with near extinction, a revitalization of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i over the past few decades has contributed to a deepening connection and understanding of our cultural heritage.

Native Hawaiians are almost twice as likely (1.8x) as non-Hawaiians to believe that their wellbeing is linked to preserving their cultural heritage. This highlights how much Native Hawaiians value their cultural heritage, which underscores the importance of preserving and perpetuating 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

## Recommendations

- Sponsor 'Ōlelo Hawai'i events to engage community members and encourage its continuous use in informal settings.
- Increase the prevalence of bi-lingual ('Ōlelo Haole and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i) publications particularly within government professions and in educational settings.
- Host more community-based education classes to further support the language development of intermediate and advanced 'Ōlelo Hawai'i speakers.
- Conduct research on fluency levels of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and their connection to, or influence on, a positive cultural identity.



'Imi Pono is a collaboration between Kamehameha Schools' Strategy & Transformation Group, Lili'uokalani Trust, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Papa Ola Lōkahi, The Queen's Health System and contracted with Marzano Research. For more information on 'Imi Pono, including the methodology and survey respondents, see www.ksbe.edu/imiponosurvey.