Kamehameha Schools Hawai’i

The 312-acre Kamehameha Schools Hawai’i campus is located in Kea’au, eight miles south of Hilo in a remote, heavily forested and beautiful area. Founded in 1996 to serve more Native Hawaiians on the Big Island of Hawai’i, the campus enrolls more than 1,150 students in grades K-12 and employs about 235 teachers, support staff, and administrators.

Kamehameha’s Hawai’i Elementary (K-5), Middle School (6-8) and High School (9-12) programs are accredited by the Hawai’i Association of Independent Schools and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The curriculum is directed towards preparing students for success in post-high school endeavors and a rewarding and productive life. Christian values and Hawaiian culture are absolutely integral to a Kamehameha education.

“I desire my trustees to provide first and chiefly a good education in the common English branches, and also instruction in morals and in such useful knowledge as may tend to make good and industrious men and women.”

This directive of Ke Ali’i Bernice Pauahi Bishop, Kamehameha’s benefactor, coupled with her intent that Protestant Christianity would be taught and practiced in her schools, is the basis for a long-standing Christian tradition at Kamehameha Schools. Christian education, devotions, chapel services and character education are significant components of the Kamehameha experience.

Students are encouraged to embrace the values Pauahi embodied, such as mālama (caring), kuleana (responsibility), na’au pono (deep sense of justice) and kahiau (generosity from the heart). In order to develop empathy, social responsibility and servant leader qualities, Kamehameha students perform meaningful and significant community service each year.

‘Ike Hawai’i means knowing, experiencing, feeling and understanding things Hawaiian. To strengthen ‘ike Hawai’i at Kamehameha and within each student, the school integrates Hawaiian cultural knowledge, language, traditions, practices and skills into the curriculum and daily classroom activities at all grade levels.

Like Pauahi, students graduating from Kamehameha are expected to be competent and comfortable in both the Hawaiian and Western cultures, and capable of practicing and passing on their cultural heritage to future generations. Students are required as a condition of graduation to successfully complete courses in Hawaiian history, culture and language.
Kula Ha‘aha’a (the elementary school)

The elementary school’s program (grades K-5) focuses on developing the whole child—academically, physically, socially, emotionally and culturally. In addition to grade level teachers, our faculty includes specialists who teach science, art, music, P.E./health, technology, library skills, Christian education and Hawaiian language and culture. Cultural learning includes providing students with experiences beyond the campus in order to learn about our island’s special places like Puna, Kaʻū and Hilo. Other field based opportunities include huaka’i with a stewardship focus and service learning.

Kula Waena (the middle school)

Kula waena students (grades 6-8) occupy two classroom buildings, a gymnasium, and a specialty building that includes an art studio and gallery, vocational/technology work area, a computer lab, and Hawaiian language classrooms. In addition, elementary and middle school units share a library/learning center, band facility and cafeteria.

During the middle school years, students flourish in a school environment that offers a balanced curriculum with clear academic and behavioral expectations and prepares students to transition to high school. A block schedule allows students greater opportunities for in-depth study and to demonstrate learning through various projects. A solid core curriculum comprising of English language arts, math, science and social studies is enhanced by Hawaiian culture/language instruction and P.E./health. Electives are offered in art, band, Hawaiian ensemble, drama, and technology and media communications.

Enrichment courses provide cross-disciplinary, real-world learning opportunities to build mastery in content beyond core academic subjects, deepening skills and interests. Additional courses provide academic and social support for students. Co-curricular options include many leadership opportunities, student activities, service projects, and a strong afterschool sports program.

Our middle school 1-to-1 program expands teaching and learning of 21st Century skills,
empowering students to think critically, be creative and to communicate and collaborate with others, all essential skills in developing personal and social responsibility. Additionally, the middle school experience is enriched through grade level ‘ike Hawai‘i activities strengthening each student’s appreciation and understanding of their cultural background. Students also engage in multiple opportunities for social growth. Each student is assigned to an advisory group (13 - 14 students) for the school year where students participate in team building activities, study digital citizenship, and focus on Hawaiian values. Christian Education supports developing Christian values through scripture while Guidance emphasizes making positive choices, study skills and career readiness.

Kula Ki‘eki‘e (the high school)

Kamehameha Schools Hawai‘i High School (grades 9-12) graduated its first senior class in 2006. High school is designed into six academies to allow for consistent and constant monitoring and nurturing of its student body. The six academies are comprised of four academies for each grade level (9-12), a Humanities Academy and a STEM Academy, both of which provides interdisciplinary and real life application of learning for students in grades 11 and 12. The Humanities Academy consists of arts and communication, business and leadership, and human services pathways. The STEM Academy consists of engineering and design, science and natural resources, and health services pathways.

High school students are challenged by a curriculum that inspires them to become critical thinkers and reflective problem solvers. Instruction revolves around:

- Smaller learning communities that create relationships;
- College preparatory, career-related curriculum that is rigorous;
- Partnerships with employers, communities, and higher education that are relevant.

In addition, academics incorporate differentiated instruction, project-based learning, career education work-based learning, service learning and interdisciplinary planning and collaboration.

Within the block-schedule structure of the high school, Ke ‘Ano o Ka Liko Lehua program is provided to all high school students and focuses on four core components: Christian education,
serving over 1,500 children. An extension education program including Hawaiian studies, literacy enhancement and enrichment programs also serves thousands of people in Hawaiian communities statewide. Every year, about $18 million in college financial aid is awarded to high school graduates who demonstrate financial need.

The combined preschool through grade 12 student enrollment of nearly 7,000 makes Kamehameha the largest independent school in the United States. Preference is given to applicants of Hawaiian ancestry to the extent permitted by law.

Kamehameha Schools is also the largest private landowner in the state of Hawai‘i. Income generated from its residential, commercial and resort leases, as well as diverse investments, fund the schools’ maintenance and educational services. It subsidizes a substantial portion of the cost to educate every student. Families of students pay a modest tuition to cover the remaining cost. Special financial aid is available to students who demonstrate additional need.

Since its founding in 1887, Kamehameha Schools has graduated more than 24,000 good and industrious young men and women—a worthy legacy of a visionary princess.
Applying for Kamehameha Schools

Admission Entry Points, Process, Selection Criteria, Tuition Costs

Admission for all grade levels at all three Kamehameha Schools campuses - Kapālama, Hawai‘i and Maui - is competitive, as each year more applicants apply than can be enrolled.

- Admission to Kamehameha Schools Hawai‘i Elementary School: The primary admission point is kindergarten.
  Middle School: The primary admission point is grade 6.
  High School: The primary admission point is grade 9. Applications to grades 10-12 are accepted, but space availability at these grade levels is not guaranteed, as they are considered “replacement” grades.

- The Admission Process
  Preference for admission is given to applicants of Hawaiian ancestry to the extent permitted by law. Student admission to the Kamehameha Schools system is centralized. The main Admissions Office is located at the Kapālama campus on O‘ahu, however, branch offices are located at the Maui and Hawai‘i campuses.
  Prospective applicants for all campuses begin by submitting an application form by the September application deadline. All applicants to grades K-9 who meet the deadline are scheduled to take a standardized test.

Applicants to grades 10-12 who did not apply for admission to grade 9 at Kamehameha are scheduled to take a standardized test.

Other documents, such as report cards and references, are also collected. In addition, applicants to grades 6-9 complete a personal interview and essay. Other requirements, specific only to certain grade levels, are included with the application materials and listed on the admissions webpage.

- Selection Criteria
  Academic criteria, island/district and orphan/indigent quotas, and state residency are considered. Both the Maui and Hawai‘i campuses serve students islandwide.
  The Kapālama campus serves O‘ahu and the following neighbor island districts: West Hawai‘i, Hāna/Ke‘anae, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau.

- Tuition Costs
  Because Kamehameha Schools subsidizes a significant portion of the cost of educating its students, parents pay a nominal charge. Families must provide financial and tax information to qualify for financial assistance, which is awarded based on demonstrated financial need. Students who demonstrate eligibility may receive partial or full awards that may cover tuition, fees, meals, etc. Families are notified of awards prior to the start of school.
To apply for Kamehameha Schools Hawai‘i or for more information about the admissions process, please call (808) 982-0100 or visit our website at: www.ksbe.edu/admissions