NOWEMAPA 2026, VOL. 3, ISSUE 2

KE KUPUKUPU

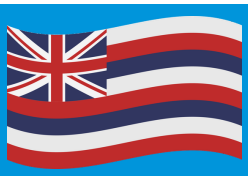
KS Preschools ʻOhana Newsletter Inspiring Growth and Connection

CELEBRATING LĀ KŪʻOKOʻA

On Nov. 28, 1843, the signing of the Anglo-French Declaration formally recognized the Hawaiian Kingdom as an independent nation. Through the foresight of Ke Aliʻi Kauikeaouli (King Kamehameha III) and the diplomatic efforts of Timoteo Haʻalilio, William Richards and George Simpson, Hawaiʻi secured its place among the sovereign nations of the world, an extraordinary accomplishment during an era of widespread colonization.

Once a national holiday of the Hawaiian Kingdom, Lā Kūʻokoʻa continues to be celebrated today as a testament to the vision, intellect and perseverance of our kūpuna. When we share this history with our keiki, we give them a powerful foundation of identity, pride and possibility for the future. E ola mau ka lāhui Hawaiʻi!

E AʻO KĀKOU!



Celebrate Lā Kūʻokoʻa by learning and practicing these ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi vocabulary words and phrases with your keiki.

Hae Hawaiʻi — Hawaiian flag

⭐ Haʻaheo — Proud, pride

🌿 Aloha ʻĀina — Love for land and country

🤝 Lāhui — Nation, people

Hauʻoli Lā Kūʻokoʻa!
Happy Hawaiian Independence Day!

Ola Hawaiʻi!
May Hawaiʻi live on!

E ola ka ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi!
May the Hawaiian language thrive!

Kū i ka pono
Stand for what is right



Nānākuli and Hoaliku Drake Preschools on the Waiʻanae Coast celebrated Lā Kūʻokoʻa, Hawaiian Independence Day, with lessons, sign waving and Hawaiian games.



MAKAHIKI : A SEASON OF ABUNDANCE AND GRATITUDE

Makahiki is a sacred season in Hawai'i traditionally honoring Lono, associated with agriculture, rainfall, peace and abundance. It is a time to celebrate the bounty of the ʻāina, give thanks, set aside conflict and strengthen relationships through games, gatherings and festivities.

As we celebrate Makahiki, we encourage our ʻohana to reflect on the abundance in our lives, practice mālama ʻāina and enjoy meaningful time together. Through these traditions, our keiki learn the importance of gratitude, generosity and living in harmony with one another and the natural world.

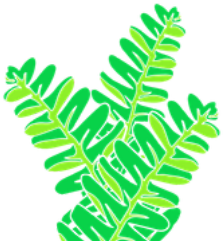
BRING MAKAHIKI TRADITIONS HOME

Bring the spirit of Makahiki into your home through these meaningful activities with your keiki:

- Play. Enjoy friendly competition with hukihuki (tug-of-war), heihei kūkini (footraces), kōnane (Hawaiian strategy game), ʻulu maika (stone rolling) and other traditional Hawaiian games.
- Mālama ʻāina. Plant kalo, ʻuala or other plants, tend to your mala and talk about how the ʻāina provides for us.
- Celebrate ʻāina. Prepare a meal together using locally grown ingredients and learn about traditional Hawaiian foods.
- Practice gratitude. Encourage each family member to share something they are thankful for each day.
- Share. Give fruits from your garden, prepare a meal for a neighbor or donate food to families in need.
- Foster peace. Encourage keiki to practice kindness, cooperation, patience and peaceful ways of resolving disagreements.
- Celebrate through mele and moʻolelo. Sing Hawaiian songs and share stories about Lono, the seasons and the traditions of our kūpuna.

Through these simple experiences, we help our keiki understand that abundance is not only measured by what we have, but also by what we share, how we care for one another and how we nurture the ʻāina that sustains us.

Learn more about Makahiki here.







Haumāna enjoy playing Hawaiian games at Nānākuli Preschool.









PAU