

# Nā Pua o Hawai'i

## Native Hawaiians in Education

By Summer Keli'ipio

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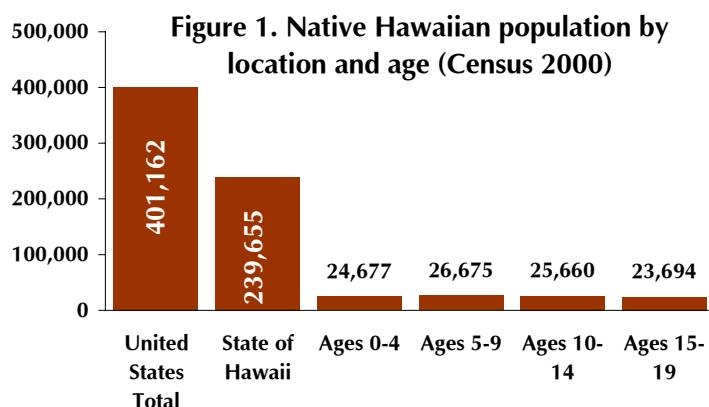
General Education Brief Series

Kamehameha Schools Research & Evaluation Division



### NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN HAWAII

According to Census 2000, 239,655 Native Hawaiians reside in the state of Hawai'i. Native Hawaiians comprise about 20 percent of the state population, which represents 59.7 percent of the total population of Native Hawaiians residing in the United States. Of the 239,655 Native Hawaiians in the state of Hawai'i, approximately 42 percent (100,706) are between the ages of zero and 19 (see Figure 1). This brief presents a detailed picture of the distribution of Native Hawaiian students across school types.



Data Source: Census 2000, Summary File 4

### NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

In 2000, 5,439 Native Hawaiian children were enrolled in nursery or preschool. This number accounted for 47.5 percent of Native Hawaiian 3- and 4-year-olds and 60.0 percent of 4-year-olds not yet in kindergarten. The percentages of Native Hawaiians attending preschool are low due in some part to the use of informal childcare, which includes care provided by 'ohana and family friends.

### NATIVE HAWAIIAN STUDENTS IN CONVENTIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

During the 2006-07 school year approximately two-thirds of Native Hawaiian school-age students (48,833) in Hawai'i were enrolled in a

public school. Of all public school students, Native Hawaiians make up 27.4 percent of public school enrollment.

Schools with particularly high numbers of Native Hawaiians as well as high concentrations of Native Hawaiians tend to be located in communities with high percentages of Native Hawaiian residents. Nānākuli Elementary, Keaukaha Elementary, Blanche Pope Elementary, and Maunaloa Elementary have the highest percentages of Native Hawaiian students of all conventional public schools during the 2006-07 school year. A total of 51 schools posted enrollment figures where Native Hawaiian students made up at least half the student body (including charter schools).

### NATIVE HAWAIIAN STUDENTS IN CHARTER SCHOOLS

Currently, there are 13 Hawaiian-focused public charter schools that enroll a total of 1,441 students, 84.3 percent of which are Native Hawaiian. These charter schools employ project and place-based curricula resulting in positive gains in math and reading for Hawaiian students. An additional 1,301 Native Hawaiian students attend other start-up and conversion charter schools.

### NATIVE HAWAIIAN STUDENTS IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Private schools enrolled a total of 34,486 students across the state of Hawai'i. Of these students approximately 25.7 percent (8,861) were Native Hawaiian (see Figure 2).

Before expanding K-12 enrollment to its Hawai'i and Maui campuses, Kamehameha Schools enrolled approximately 3,500 students or 39.5 percent of Native Hawaiians attending a private school. Kamehameha currently enrolls about 5,500 students on all three campuses.

**Figure 2. School enrollment by school type**

|  | 2006-07 SY |
|--|------------|
| Total Public School Enrollment                       | 178,203    |
| Native Hawaiians                                     | 48,833     |
| Total Enrollment in Hawaiian-focused Charter Schools | 1,441      |
| Native Hawaiians                                     | 1,215      |
| Total Enrollment in Hawai'i Private Schools          | 34,486*    |
| Native Hawaiians                                     | 8,861*     |

Data Source: Hawai'i Department of Education.

\*U.S. Census, Summary File 4.

### **NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN TERTIARY EDUCATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

A total of 13,032 Native Hawaiians in the State of Hawai'i were enrolled in a college or graduate institution in 2000.

The University of Hawai'i system encompasses Mānoa, Hilo, and West O'ahu campuses as well as 7 community colleges. Of the 50,157 total students enrolled in the system during the 2005-06 school year, 14.6 percent (7,329) were Native Hawaiian.

The community colleges enrolled both the highest number of Native Hawaiian students across the system and the highest concentration of Native Hawaiians (19.0 percent) in one location.

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**

Given the youthfulness of the Hawaiian population, the next fifty years will mean greater numbers of Hawaiian keiki in the state of Hawai'i. The majority of Native Hawaiian students continue to be enrolled in conventional primary and secondary public schools. Charter schools and private schools provide an alternative setting for some learners and their families, but the vast majority of Native Hawaiians will rely on educational programs in DOE schools and in surrounding communities.

The Kamehameha Schools Education Strategic Plan addresses this need with its priorities and

timeline for reaching more Native Hawaiian students outside of Kamehameha's K-12 campuses. For detailed information on the Education Strategic Plan, visit Kamehameha's website at [www.ksbe.edu](http://www.ksbe.edu).

Other education-focused organizations and initiatives are also working to increase the capabilities and success of Native Hawaiian learners. These organizations include Nā Lei Na'auao Charter School Alliance, 'Aha Pūnana Leo, the University of Hawai'i, Hilo and Mānoa, the Native Hawaiian Education Council, Nā Lau Lama, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and many others.

In addition to organizations that provide educational opportunities for Native Hawaiians, other organizations provide a variety of direct services including health care, housing support, employment training, and cultural activities. While each individual service addresses a particular component of well-being, each is necessary to improve the full capability of individual Native Hawaiians and support intergenerational change. Over time, the educational programs provided by Kamehameha Schools and its collaborators will reach Native Hawaiians and their families, schools, and communities.

**Figure 3. Well-being Model**



Source: Ka Huaka'i: 2005 Native Hawaiian Educational Assessment

#### **Sources:**

Census 2000. [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

Hawai'i Department of Education enrollment data, 2006-07.

Kamehameha Schools, Strategic Planning & Implementation website [www.ksbe.edu/spi](http://www.ksbe.edu/spi)

