Vision 2040 is a call to action to realize a thriving lähui within one generation. This bold and ambitious charge requires changes within KS, changes to the larger education system, and changes to systems outside of education in which Native Hawaiians live, work, and thrive (for example, healthcare, land management, sustainability, energy, and government).

Working toward a long-term vision elevates the discussion around Native Hawaiian well-being and underscores the need for culturally grounded indicators of a thriving lähui.

This isn’t a new conversation or one that KS is tackling alone – many other Native Hawaiian-serving organizations, such as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Lili‘uokalani Trust, and the Department of Native Hawaiian Health, are also engaging in similar discussions. Having a collective set of Native Hawaiian well-being indicators will help to synchronize multi-organizational efforts to address barriers to a thriving lähui.

Through conversations with strategic partners and a review of literature, a prototype of lähui well-being has been developed.

This prototype is multidimensional to include spiritual, emotional, physical, and cognitive health. It recognizes individual and collective well-being for känaka, ‘ohana, communities, our nation, and our ‘āina. And it comes from our Hawaiian epistemology – cultural values and beliefs that frame our ways of knowing.

Data play a key role in progressing toward, and ultimately reaching, a thriving lähui.

As KS Strategic Analyst Dane Carlson KSK ‘04 describes, “Collecting multidimensional data allows us to gain a more robust understanding of the lähui and the interdependencies of key systems to spur transformational change toward Vision 2040.”

Data provide information to gauge progress toward our vision, to understand Native Hawaiian strengths and assets from an indigenous worldview, and to develop, promote, and scale change. The challenge, however, is that the data for Native Hawaiians is largely incomplete and imperfect. As Strategy Consultant Brandon Ledward suggests, “We know there is a fuller story to tell, and we’re eager to share it.”

To remedy this limitation, we need to define, collect, interpret, and own the data that are meaningful to Native Hawaiians and empower us to make critical decisions throughout our journey to a thriving lähui.

As we continue to make progress on SP2020, we are learning more about the crucial role of data in community transformation and systems change. A thriving lähui consists of whole känaka, healthy kaiaulu, and pono systems. We need data that sheds light on each of these areas so we can navigate the best course to 2040.

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