



November 10, 2025

Aloha e nā hoa makamaka,

For more than 25 years, Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) has stood with Hawai'i's families, grounded in the belief that when our families are cared for, our entire community thrives. Today, we extend that same aloha and steadfast support to Kamehameha Schools as it faces renewed scrutiny of its admissions policy.

Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop created Kamehameha Schools with a clear and enduring purpose: to educate Native Hawaiian children. Her will was not only a legal document, but also a declaration of love and vision for her people. At PIDF, our programs such as Tūtū and Me Traveling Preschool, Nā Pono No Nā 'Ohana, Piha Me Ka Pono, and Ka Pa'alana Homeless Family Education share that same mission. We nurture the potential of keiki and 'ohana who carry stories of both resilience and generational challenge. When Native Hawaiian children are uplifted in spaces intentionally created for them, they flourish and uplift everyone around them.

Together, and in collaboration with community partners, PIDF and Kamehameha Schools form a vital continuum of care for Hawai'i's keiki. PIDF supports families through early childhood education and times of hardship, while Kamehameha Schools provides pathways for learning and leadership from preschool through adulthood. Our shared commitment ensures that Hawaiian families not only survive but thrive.

Some now question whether Kamehameha Schools should continue to prioritize Native Hawaiian learners. We see this not as a matter of exclusion, but as a kuleana, a sacred responsibility grounded in the will of Princess Pauahi, upheld by the courts, and embraced by generations of our community. To honor that kuleana is to remain true to her legacy and to the promise she made to her people.

PIDF stands firmly with Kamehameha Schools in a shared commitment to Hawai'i's keiki and community. When a Tūtū and Me graduate enrolls at Kamehameha Schools, the ripple of hope reaches their siblings, parents, and grandparents. When Kamehameha's lands protect watersheds and grow local food, the families we serve enjoy cleaner water, healthier 'āina, and stronger communities.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and the thousands of 'ohana we serve each year, I affirm our unwavering support for Kamehameha Schools and its enduring commitment to uplift Native Hawaiian children.

May we continue, side by side, to nurture families, empower learners, and strengthen the fabric of our beloved pae 'āina.

Me ke aloha 'imi na'auao,

**Shawn Kanai'aupuni, Ph.D.**

President & Chief Executive Officer, Partners in Development Foundation

*Serving Hawai'i's Families, Living Hawaiian Values*