



**STATE OF HAWAII
Kualapu'u School
Public Conversion Charter**

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Kualapu‘u School Receives \$270,521 OHA Health Grant
Project Integrates Childhood Health and Wellness with Student Learning on Moloka‘i

KUALAPU‘U, MOLOKAI – The Office of Hawaiian Affairs has awarded a \$270,521 two-year grant to Kualapu`u Public Conversion Charter School to conduct Project Pū‘olo: a school-based childhood obesity prevention and treatment pilot project for students in Kindergarten through 6th grade and their families.

The purpose of Project Pū‘olo is to reduce the rate of childhood obesity by empowering students in making positive health choices. Delivered with a focus on Hawaiian values and traditional food and nutritional practices, the project utilizes a whole-child approach to addressing the impact of health and wellness on learning by offering a coordinated array of direct and prevention health services that combats obesity, empowers students and families, and improves student functioning.

The project utilizes a school-based behavioral change model incorporating physical activity, nutrition and health awareness and education, life skills development, direct student support services, community-based clinical services, and strong family outreach and participation. Project Pū‘olo is conducted through a partnership between Kualapu‘u School and Na Pu‘uwai Native Hawaiian Health Care System.

Through nearly 50 years educating elementary children, Kualapu`u School recognizes the importance of student health and wellness on learning, as well as the school's ability to significantly affect the health and fitness of students while in school.

“For a while now, our efforts have been to address our students' physical health as well as their academic learning needs”, says Principal Lydia Trinidad. “This grant from OHA gives us the boost to fulfill a partnership with Na Pu`uwai Native Hawaiian Health Care System services to finally address the impacts of nutrition and obesity on a child's early learning years. Our goal is to fully engage our parents in this process so we can educate and prevent long term health issues for both our children and their families.”

Project Pū`olo is the only coordinated childhood obesity prevention and treatment program on the island and is designed to benefit the wider Moloka`i community. The project helps to fill a gap in childhood obesity services by establishing a sustainable health and fitness program at Kualapu`u School for future students, and by allowing Na Pu`uwai to expand its educational and clinical childhood obesity services.

For more information about Kualapu`u School or about Project Pū`olo, contact Lydia Trinidad, Principal, at (808) 567-6900 or lydia_trinidad@notes.k12.hi.us.

About Kualapu`u Public Conversion Charter School.

Kualapu`u School, located on the island of Molokai, serves 330 students in Pre-K through 6th grade of which 92% are of Hawaiian ancestry and 86% are low income. As Moloka`i's only accredited elementary school, only charter school, and only elementary Hawaiian language immersion school, Kualapu`u is an invaluable educational resource for the island's early learners.

About Na Pu`uwai Native Hawaiian Health Care System

Na Pu`uwai is dedicated to improving the health conditions of the Native Hawaiians of Moloka`i and Lana`i (including Kalaupapa) by maximizing their capacity to access and influence the evolution of a health care system responsive to and respectful of their cultural beliefs and practices.

About Ho`okāko`o Corporation

Ho`okāko`o Corporation is a non-profit charter management organization and local School Governing Board for three high quality, Hawaiian-focused charter schools, including Kualapu`u School, serving over 1,500 children in Pre-K through 12th grade from high-need communities on Oahu, Molokai, and Hawaii Island. Eighty-one percent of Ho`okāko`o students are from low-income families.