



ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING

Pūnana Leo o Maui

Established on Maui in 1987, Pūnana Leo o Maui was the third Hawaiian language immersion preschool in the State. The idea was born in the early 1980s when a group of parents, educators, Hawaiians and Hawaiians-at-heart recognized the fading of the Hawaiian culture due, in large part, to the shrinking number of Native speakers. From a humble beginning, there are today a total of eleven Pūnana Leo Hawaiian language immersion preschools serving communities throughout the Islands. The Pūnana Leo schools – and the Hawaiian language immersion programs that today extend through college and graduate studies – encompass, literally, many hundreds of students and their families.



photography by MARSHA AGUON • RON DAHLQUIST • LYNN JOHNSON • ROD SILVA

A culture can flourish

“A culture can flourish when its people have a strong connection to its past and a strong commitment to its future. We must all participate to ensure that the Hawaiian language continues in its homeland linking us to the past and illuminating the way for the future.”

Hökūlani Holt-Padilla
Co-founder and Former Executive Director
Pūnana Leo o Maui,
Hawaiian Language and Culture Specialist,
Master Kumu Hula,
Cultural Programs Director
Maui Arts & Cultural Center



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‘O ka ‘ōlelo ke kahua



*“‘O ka ‘ōlelo ke kahua
e pono ai ka hale
me ka nohona o kākou,
i kēia lā, a i kēia
mua aku.”*

The Hawaiian language is the foundation that we rely upon for the traditions we share, today and in the future.

Keali'i Reichel
Former Teacher Pūnana Leo o Maui,
Kumu Hula o Hālau Ke'alaokamaile,
Award-winning Musician



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Nā Leo Pūlama o Maui

A community-based, non-profit corporation, Nā Leo Pūlama o Maui is comprised of 30 Pūnana Leo families and four community representatives. The group's mission is to perpetuate Hawaiian language and culture on Maui by supporting a Hawaiian language school with an emphasis on preschoolers and to provide the children of Maui, regardless of ethnic heritage, with quality education through Hawaiian language immersion. Nā Leo Pūlama o Maui epitomizes the Hawaiian core value of laulima – many hands working together to achieve a common goal.





I kinohi

IN THE BEGINNING

Borne of a need for additional space for Pūnana Leo o Maui Hawaiian language immersion pre-school, the seed for this project was planted a decade ago and grew into an expanded vision. The idea, initial planning, design, and fundraising campaign for a centrally located, multi-purpose facility to perpetuate Hawaiian language and culture soon followed. The first major milestone was reached in March 1997, when the County of Maui approved a 55-year, one-dollar-a-year lease on a 1.68-acre parcel of land in Wailuku. Over the course of the last ten years, funds have been raised, certainly. And much hard work has gone into readying the site itself. As important, we believe, are the hundreds of individuals and organizations – representing a diverse cross section of the community – who have joined our efforts. They have come forward with innovative ideas for encompassing a wide range of Hawaiian-based cultural and educational activities, all of which will make the center live and breathe and sing. It is proof, we believe, that our original thinking – that the center must and will embrace every person of every age and every ethnic background in our community – was and is correct.

Ke ala nu'ukia

THE MISSION

We are committed to:

- raising community awareness of our Hawaiian language programs by providing classes which will assist children and adults to incorporate the Hawaiian language into their homes and daily lives;
- continuing to provide tuition scholarships to qualified Pūnana Leo o Maui families;
- continuing to provide opportunities for professional enrichment and development for Pūnana Leo o Maui staff;
- continuing to financially assist Pūnana Leo o Maui with operational expenses not provided through other resources;
- and completing the construction of a place for a Hawaiian language and cultural center for the education and support of the Hawaiian immersion project.

Ka nu'ukia

THE VISION

We are, simply stated, fully committed to providing the community with a comprehensive Hawaiian language and cultural complex in Central Maui. In addition to Pūnana Leo o Maui classrooms, we envision the center providing adult language classes, health and nutrition programs, kūpuna services, youth enrichment programs, family strengthening programs, hālau hula, and all manner of Hawaiian-based cultural events. It will be a place that is multi-generational, multi-cultural, that represents all of Maui and perpetuates the Hawaiian language and culture in an environment in which it will not only live but thrive.

E hi'ipoli i ka ho'oilina

EMBRACING THE LEGACY

The center, designed by Maui Architectural Group, combines traditional Hawaiian architectural styles and modern concepts. It will consist of six interconnected, “hale-style” buildings on the landscaped site. More than 8,000 square feet of interior space will accommodate three Punana Leo o Maui classrooms, allowing enrollment to double from 30 to 60 preschoolers. A multi-purpose community resource center, a large outdoor “gathering” area, a playground, native Hawaiian gardens, and a paved parking lot with school bus turn-around complete the complex. One unique feature of the site, discovered during initial inspections, is of archeological significance. These pre-contact Hawaiian home sites will be preserved.



In December 2003, we received \$1.5 million dollars. This largest gift to date came from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and illustrates the extremely high level of commitment within the Hawaiian community. With this strong support from OHA as the foundation for our renewed initiative, Nā Leo Pūlama o Maui has established an aggressive capital campaign to secure the additional \$3+ million necessary to support the total development budget of \$6.5 million. The project development budget, including estimated expenses and projected sources of support, is available on request as are project plans and a detailed line-item cost breakdown for the development.