

# Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School

Nurturing Our Children to Thrive in an Ever Changing World ~ E ola nā pua i ke ao huli au



© Photography by  
TED KANEMITSU

**K**ualapu'u School is a public conversion charter elementary school that serves students from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. The school opened in the 1966-1967 school year and has experienced many significant changes in its history: becoming the home of Molokai's Hawaiian Language Immersion elementary program, redistricting to accept more students, being the first to adopt a "year-round" school calendar, and opening a free pre-kindergarten program. Our Pre-Kindergarten Program will be accepting its 5<sup>th</sup> class next school year. Last but not least, Kualapu'u converted from a traditional DOE school to a conversion charter school ten years ago this fall. Watch for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations!

**Some facts:** Kualapu'u ranked in the top 25% of 168 public elementary schools in the June 2014 issue of Honolulu Magazine. We are Molokai's only accredited elementary school. 90% of Kualapu'u students are of Hawaiian ancestry. 83% qualify for free or reduced lunches.

*With our dedicated teachers and innovative programs, we are helping our children thrive and be ready for a life of learning.*

## EXPANDED LEARNING TIME

Kualapu'u School is the only elementary school on the island with an extended school day: one hour longer, from 7:45am until 2:45pm. The longer day allows us to have daily PE and weekly classes like Pū'olo and Visual Arts. The Pū'olo Program combines Physical Education and 'Ike Hawai'i (Hawaiian culture and values). In Visual Arts, children learn art foundational skills and art history. Art class projects also integrate with math, writing, science, and geography.



*This is an example of x-ray fish drawings by 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders after studying the Aboriginal people of Australia. The Aboriginal people often include the internal organs in their paintings of an animal to show their reverence for life.*



## **CONGRATULATIONS to Our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates!**

Most of our graduates will go on to Moloka'i Middle School. Four of the seven 6<sup>th</sup> graders accepted into Kamehameha Schools from Moloka'i are from Kualapu'u School. One of our young 6<sup>th</sup> graders, Aukai O'Sullivan, was accepted to Kamehameha, 'Iolani and Punahou. Aukai chose 'Iolani School.

**We are so proud of all our graduates!**



*6th Grade Graduate Aukai O'Sullivan*

## **Two Kualapu'u Alumni recognized for Top Honors in Moloka'i High School Class of 2014**



Kiloaulani Ka'awa-Gonzales was one of two Valedictorians in this year's MHS graduation. Kiloaulani was in the Kualapu'u Hawaiian Immersion program, Kula Kaiapuni O Kualapu'u. Kilo states that, "The support of my kumu, the entire school of Kualapu'u, and Hawaiian language preparation has helped me to be successful." He will attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins and plans to earn a Bachelor of Science in Ecosystem Science and Sustainability.



Taylor Tamanaha was the Salutatorian and plans to attend Grand Canyon University to major in pediatric nursing. She writes, "Kualapu'u school had a tremendous impact on me....The teachers take their lessons with students beyond the classroom and make it a priority to have no student left behind. Our class was like a little family.... For me, this is a very critical part of education."

We wish all of the Molokai High Graduates best wishes for the future!

*Photos courtesy of the Ka'awa-Gonzales and Tamahana 'ohana.*

## ***E Ho'oulu Kakou*** ***Let's Grow Together!***

Kualapu'u has a quiet secret. For many years, the school has on staff a Homestead Farmer, Kalani Han. Uncle Kalani has provided the children with an opportunity to grow their own vegetables during our after school classes. The program has been so successful that our garden is a supplier of fresh veggies to the staff, and the local markets. This past year, we served our fresh broccoli as part of our school lunch program. Plans are being made to use the garden as an outdoor "learning lab" for science instruction. Come check out our Garden!





# Yes! I support the Kualapu'u School Annual Fund

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (If an alumnus, year graduated)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY STATE ZIP CODE

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I PLEDGE MY SUPPORT OF: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 OTHER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I will pay my pledge in installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-Annually ☐ Annually

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ towards my pledge

☐ My check is enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (make check payable to Ho'okako'o Corporation)

☐ Bill Me Later

☐ Charge my credit/debit card the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

☐ Please contact me regarding a gift or stock or other asset.

☐ My employer has a matching gift program and I have enclosed the appropriate form.

**Your gift is to benefit Kualapu'u School. Return completed form to Ho'okako'o corporation, P.O. Box 11685, Honolulu, HI 96828**

## OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS



Kualapu'u School has been very fortunate to have the generous support from many organizations, especially since our conversion to a charter school. Key supporters are Kamehameha Schools (KS) and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). KS support helped our school start many of the initiatives related to our expanded learning time. KS was also instrumental in supporting our PreK program for its first 4 years. OHA has been instrumental in supporting bus service from East Moloka'i and for students within district.



**Verizon Foundation** has awarded a \$3,900 grant to Kualapu'u to launch Project Kūka'ike STEM Education Program, a school-wide initiative to expand STEM education for students in Kindergarten through sixth grades. Verizon's Bill Hozey, Associate Director of Business Sales, presented the grant check to the school in front of parents, grandparents, teachers and students at the school's Open House. "I am struck by the passion for the school," Hozey says. "This is a pretty cool thing to be able to do and the first of several things we will do together."



(l-r) Bill Hozey, Lydia Trinidad, Principal, Sue Forbes, Science-Math Curriculum Coordinator and Katherine Aki, Third Grade Teacher



## Hawai'i Tourism Authority Grant Awarded to Kula Kaiapuni o Kualapu'u

Kualapu'u School received a \$40,000 grant from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority this last January. Kumu Kamalu Poepoe and Kumu Opu'ulani Albino will create new books full of modern-day, place-based stories and lessons for our keiki in Grades 1, 2, and 3. Local artists will illustrate the books, which will be completed this fall. The books will be written to introduce grade-level appropriate vocabulary, sentence structure and grammar. This project helps fulfill a great need to have grade level Hawaiian language readers to help our keiki become fluent Hawaiian language speakers and readers.



**Look for our book party next fall!**

Ho'okāko'o Corporation  
Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School  
260 Farrington Highway  
Kualapu'u, Molokai, Hawaii 96757



*To our Friends of Kualapu'u School*

**10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary**  
*Charter Celebration*  
*in 2014-2015*

***Be part of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Charter Celebrations!***

*For more information call (808) 567-6900 or*



*Like Us on Facebook!*

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Kualapu'u Alumni and former staff of Kualapu'u School, we would like to keep in touch with you! What are you doing now? Where do you live? We would love to hear from you, and hear your stories of Kualapu'u School. "Like" our Facebook page (Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School) or add your contact information to our school board website: ***www.hookakoo.org***

## ENROLL IN KUALAPU'U!

Interested in having these exciting programs as part of your child's education? Come schedule a visit to see our campus.

***Please call us at 567-6900.***

**Who is Ho'okāko'o?** Ho'okāko'o Corporation is the local school board and the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for Kualapu'u School, Waimea Middle School (Hawai'i Island), and Kamaile Academy (Waianae, O'ahu). Check out ***www.hookakoo.org*** for more information.

## KUALAPU'U 2015 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

***Your tax deductible gift helps our students receive innovative programs and opportunities:***

- Core Instruction in reading, math, science, writing in BOTH English and Hawaiian languages
- A longer school day for Visual Arts, PE, and 'Ike Hawaii instruction
- Free Bus Transportation from East Molokai, and Field Trips to Wahi Pani (Cultural Places)
- After School Enrichment – Snacks, Tutoring, Gardening, Violin, Year Book, for example
- Expanding Science instruction and professional development aligned to the Common Core Standards
- Breakfast, Lunch, and Snack Program (in addition to the Federal food service support)