‘IKE AO PONO

A UH Mānoa Workforce Diversity Program for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Undergraduate and Graduate Students in Nursing*

*Refer to SONDH website for BS, MS, MEPN, & PHD program requirements
‘IKE AO PONO Mission:

- ‘IKE AO PONO envisions a lasting improvement, advancement and promotion of health for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander peoples and communities, the entire community of Hawai‘i and the Pacific, with special attention to at-risk, under-represented and under-served peoples and communities.
• By increasing the number of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander nurses in Hawai‘i's and the Pacific’s workforce, we will also increase the number of culturally informed and sensitive health professionals committed to improving health and healthcare.
Disparities: Needs of the People

• Native Hawaiians have higher rates of the following diseases:
  – Cancer – over 45% higher (in Hawai’i)
  – Diabetes and Obesity – over 130% higher than in the U.S. continent
  – Heart Disease – over 66% higher
  – Overall mortality rate – 79% higher than others in Hawai’i
  – Pacific Islanders are also at high risk for these diseases and are also over represented in health disparities.
  – 32% of Samoan household incomes are below the poverty level and represent the plight of other Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians

• All face barriers to higher education and healthcare
The PL-103-150, The Native Hawaiian Health Care Act and the Native Hawaiian Education Act have been enacted by the US Congress to acknowledge egregious wrongs done to the Native Hawaiian people. PL-103-150 also acknowledges the right of self-determination of the Native Hawaiian people to transmit their lands, language, culture, knowledge and traditions to future generations as an inherently sovereign people. These laws also constitute a commitment by the US government to address the needs and rights of the Native Hawaiian people in the areas of health, education and culture.
Progress

• **2000 Census showed:**
  - Native Hawaiians – 23% of Hawaiʻi’s population
  - Samoans – 2% of Hawaiʻi’s population

• **Fall 2001 at UHSON:**
  - 6 Native Hawaiian nursing students
  - No Samoan or Pacific Islander students

• **Fall 2009 at UHSON:**
  - 88 ‘IKE AO PONO students enrolled
  - 44 undergrad students, including RN, RN-BSN
  - 44 graduate students, including MEPN, MS, PhD
  - 82 Native Hawaiian students and 6 Pacific Islanders

• **Spring 2010:** ‘IKE AO PONO has helped graduate 100 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander nurses in only six years, including the first Native Hawaiian Nurse with a PhD in 2006 and the first Samoan Nurse with a PhD in 2009.

• Through ‘IKE AO PONO there are now fourteen times the number of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander nurses at the SONDH, and yet these cultures are represented in only 4% of Hawaiʻi’s nursing workforce. The program continues to be vital and relevant and now has KS support to graduate APHN/NP nurses.
Program Overview

• ‘IKE AO PONO focuses in three major areas:
  – Outreach, recruitment and skills building for students
  – Retention, enrichment, cultural experiences and support services for undergrad and grad students
  – Graduate education, job opportunities and placement
‘IKE AO PONO Support Services

- University survival skills: writing, reading, communication, organization, time management, study and test taking skills
- Learning strategies, professional development, research and presentations
- Cultural experiences
- Community service
- Financial Aid and scholarship support
- Participation in student study groups
- Tutoring
- Academic and cultural advising
- Family, Rural, Mental, Public & Community Health partnerships
- Community partnerships
- Lifetime friendships formed
- Native Hawaiian Clinical Co-hort and Co-op with Queens Medical Center
- Alliance with Kuali‘i and Puko‘a Councils, Hawai‘inuiakea and NH Student Services
- Recruitment partnerships with Manawa Kū Pono, PAC, Kōkua a Puni, Kua‘ana and Ho’ola Mālamalama
- Special partnership programs with Kamehameha Schools, OHA and Papa Ola Lōkahi
Special Mahalo To:

- Dean Mary Boland for her visionary support
- The UH SONDH faculty for their continuing support
- Chancellors Hinshaw, Konan and Englert for funding Native Hawaiian programs and ‘IKE AO PONO
- UH Presidents MRC Greenwood and David McClain for supporting ‘IKE AO PONO’s biennium budget
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Aloha  Mau e Mālamalama